



Sunday  
School  
Class



**YOUR DESTINY MARRIAGE**  
Find Your Soul Mate



YOUR  
DESTINY  
EMPOWERMENT



## 31 Years of Empowering Christian Leadership

At the commencement of our home in **December 1990**, the Late Rev (Dr) Samuel Odunaiké who at the time was the retired General Superintendent of the Foursquare Gospel Movement in Nigeria told my wife and I that God has a specific role He wanted our home to play in the body of Christ. He shared with us the following Scripture:

***Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men (Psalm 12:1; KJV)***

Alone together, we began to seek the face of the Lord on where to start and He gave us the mandate to Empower Christian Leaders who are actively serving Him. Often times they are too busy to refuel and equip themselves for the assignments given to them. We were to start reaching out to them, encouraging and empowering them to fulfill their God-given assignments.

We were led to start writing them encouraging words from the Scripture that were laden with leadership principles. When the first letter was ready, we needed to have a title and the Lord again led us to call it the Armour Of God. However, as we formally registered the Newsletter, we were told that the Armor Of God had been taken. That was when the revelation came to use the Greek version, *Panoplia*.

The name 'Panoply' comes from the Greek word panoplia, which referred to the full suit of armor worn by hoplites; heavily armed infantry soldiers of ancient Greece. Panoplia is a blend of the prefix pan-, meaning "all," and hopla, meaning "arms" or "armor. What then is the Greek word for Armor of God?

The phrase 'Armour of God' (Greek: πανοπλία τοῦ Θεοῦ, panoplian tou Theou) is derived from Ephesians 6:1 which says, 'Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.' (King James Version)."

This was how Panoplia was born; a newsletter that is focused on leadership empowerment. By the grace of God, Panoplia has faithfully been produced quarterly every year since then. Here is the link to some of the past editions of Panoplia: <https://destiny-empowerment.org/panoplia/>

In **May 2008**, City Of Refuge Ministries Inc was formally registered as an outreach platform with a Church base to empower the people of God to fulfill their God-Given Destiny.

You can check out how the ministries are being carried out to fulfill these mandates at <https://destiny-empowerment.org/>.

Also in **December 2008**, 18 Years after the birth of Panoplia, the Lord instructed us to start the Empowerment Newsletter regularly sent days of the week.

For the past 13 years, this has been made available to the subscribers and partners of our ministry.

All the publications of the Empowerment Newsletter series can be found at <https://destiny-empowerment.org/panoplia/>.

In **June 2018** A Daily Devotional Book, titled "Empowering You to Fulfill Your Destiny" was published and printed as a result of demand for the Inspirational and Encouraging Newsletter.

In **December 2018**, being burdened as to how young adults were handling the issue of getting married and how to navigate a God-fearing Relationship / Courtship that will blossom

into a healthy and God-glorifying marriage, Yourdestinymarriage website was launched along with counseling windows for the young adults who desire to be guided on this path. In fact, our First Book, 'Made For Relationship', published and **printed in 2016**, contains our own testimony of coming together in marriage and other tips on how to make the marriage relationship work.

The website for yourdestinymarriage is: <https://www.yourdestinymarriage.com/>

In **December 2020**, God instructed us again to start a Television media ministry called Sunday Class School to visually reach out and share some of those Empowerment Principles He has been teaching us in our home to benefit the body of Christ.

This is now available through various social media platforms. All the episodes recorded are available at <https://sunday-class-school.com/blog/>.

The Lord has truly been gracious in leading and ordering our steps towards fulfilling His perfect will and we trust and look forward to many more active years of service in His vineyard.

*Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men (Psalm 12:1; KJV)*



**YOUR DESTINY MARRIAGE**  
Find Your Soul Mate

Your Destiny Marriage believes in the God ordained marriage, where the man and woman come together to become one. And for the man and woman seeking for a spouse, there is a God-ordained person for you. The challenge for you is how to find your partner. That is where this platform comes in, to facilitate your search. As you interact on this platform, you will be able to locate that special person. And together, you can start building that enduring and fulfilling home that will meet your needs as well as be a blessing to the world.

[www.yourdestinymarriage.com](https://www.yourdestinymarriage.com)



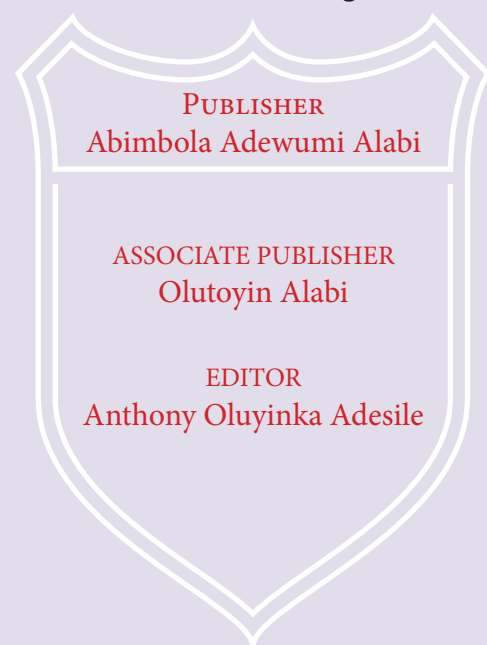
## IN THIS EDITION:

31 Years of Empowering Christian Leadership  
Where Is Your Conversation?  
Father Abraham  
The LORD came and stood there  
What did Ruth see that Naomi did not initially see?

## Welcome to Panoplia.

The mission of Panoplia is to help believers develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. It emphasises spiritual growth and leadership.

It is published quarterly by City Of Refuge Ministries Inc. and is distributed free of charge.



Most quotations in this newsletter are from the **Holy Bible, King James Version.**

Feel free to write to us if you have comments, contributions, observations or reactions to articles published in this journal.

All correspondence should be directed to:

The Editor  
Panoplia, P.O. Box 53277,  
Falomo, Ikoyi,  
Lagos, Nigeria.

The Editor Panoplia,  
P. O. Box 110808 Cambria Heights,  
New York, NY 11411.

For Free subscription  
email us at :  
info@destiny-empowerment.org

Designed and Produced by  
Deetee Consulting

Copyright © 2012  
Deetee Consulting



“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

Phil. 3:20-21. (KJV).

It's been Summer Time.

Almost over, I hear you say.

Some have travelled on Holidays.

Perhaps you still planning some more.

When you prepare to go away for a holiday:

What do you talk about?

Perhaps you do some planning?

There will also be preparations to do.

You still recall with nostalgia some places you have been.

Do you talk about Heaven?

It's a trip you will undoubtedly take one day.

The journey will be the most significant ever.

The destination is beyond words.

Are you excited about it?

Are you prepared?

Are you looking for the return of Our Savior?

Why don't you talk about it at all?

Our Conversation is in Heaven.

Are you aware that you are a Kingdom Citizen?

Heaven is Real. Hell is real too.

Does Heaven feature in your conversation at all?

Application to the Christian life:

Prepare for the place Jesus has prepared for you.

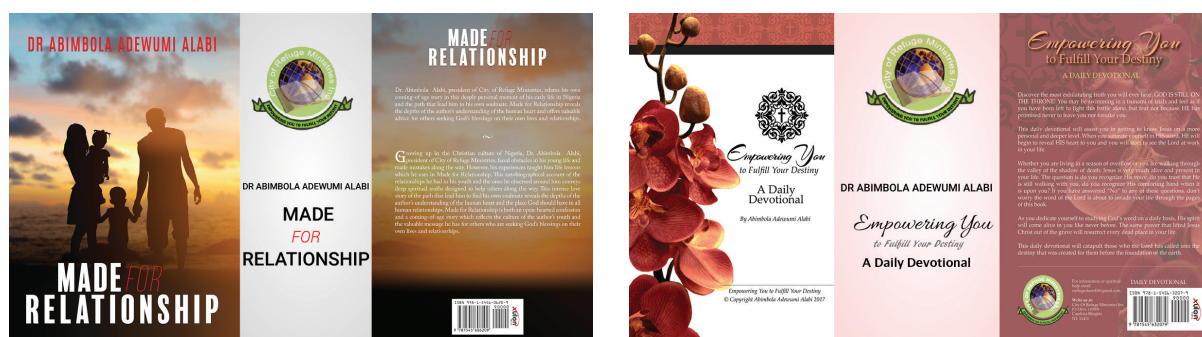
Talk about Heaven to someone.

Today. Yes, today.

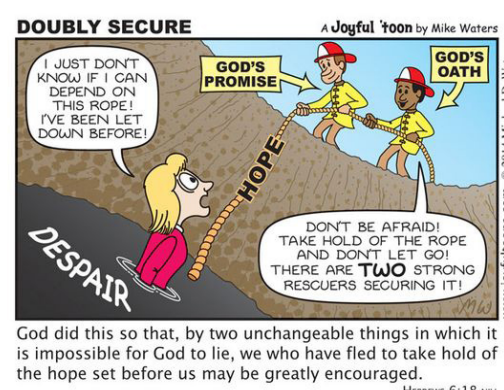
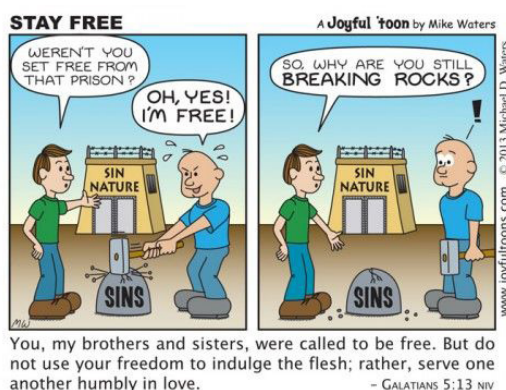
It is a good tool for evangelism.

It Changes your perspective on issues.

By Dr. Abimbola Alabi



The books are available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Nobles and other leading Christian bookstores





# Father Abraham



By Paul Onifade

*“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him, he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.” Isaiah 51:1-2 NIVUK*

These verses encourage everyone who hopes for deliverance and seek the Lord to do something. To look closely and consider Father Abraham. When God asked us to think about Abraham, I suspect there are vital life transforming lessons to learn about his life especially what God did with his life.

This led me to spend some time thinking about who Father Abraham was/is. I think I found at least 12 features about this great man. Please indulge me as I intend to share one characteristic per day over the next few weeks.

Please let us feel free to comment on each of his identified features.

## Lesson 1

*“Listen to me... look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him, he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.” Isaiah 51:1-2*

### Mud beneath his pond-

Abraham was not born a holy or righteous man. He was a common sinner and an idol worshipper. Josh 24.2-3. So, it was God's grace that fished him out of the ocean of sin. That means, any of us (including me) can be as great as Father Abraham since it was “God who took Abraham...” It was not his efforts or goodness that distinguished him. It was grace. The grace of God has appeared to all men in the person of Christ. To every believer is the promise of God. Anyone who is hungry or thirsty is invited to God's banquet of grace to feast. Your background is no limit. Your sins are no barrier. God loves us and wants us to be like our Father Abraham.

## Lesson 2

*Listen to me... Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.” Isaiah 51:1-2*

### Abraham Sinned but Mercy Prevailed

Abraham lied to resolve his immigration problem in Egypt and had that ugly situation with Haggai albeit with the consent of his wife. Gen 12.10-20; Gen 16 and Gen 20. I am always amazed that God didn't include any of his wrongdoings in the

New Testament. Not once! But all the time - only his faith is what God allows to shine through. Alleluia!

This speaks to the mercy and goodness of God. God's closest friends are not religious bigots and Pharisees but sinners like the woman caught in adultery. Jacob was a criminal deceiver. Joseph was a pompous and arrogant brat. David an adulterer and murderer. Zacchaeus was a boot licker and a traitor, working for the enemy. Paul, a murderer, and a chief sinner by his own confession. Yet God embraced all these people and made them His greatest trophy. I am fully convinced that God loves each of us in this forum and can do wonders in our lives just as He did with Abraham if we let him.

## Lesson 3

*Listen to me:... Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.” Isaiah 51:1-2*

### Not a Preacher - Just an ordinary Man

We all have the tendency to see bible characters with a halo on their heads. We think of them as unique people with special abilities. Whilst that may be right but not the way we think. Abraham had no idea that God was building an eternal indestructible edifice around him and his name. He was an ordinary man with a need. He desperately wanted a baby. His life represents the struggle of an ordinary man. The bible account of him is the journal of an ordinary man who couldn't understand why God is not (or why God delayed in) fulfilling His promises. Abraham was a man who made choices and some of them were pretty bad choices with serious consequences like we all do. Yet God mercifully weaved a most amazing tapestry from the story of this ordinary man. Thinking



about us as ordinary people, I will say please DO NOT DESPAIR. God may well be weaving something wonderful with your life's ordinary circumstances. Please let God use all your struggles in life - miscarriage, career failure, divorce etc to make you who He wants you to be for Him.

## Lesson 4

*"By faith Abraham obeyed when God called him.... He went not knowing where he was going" Heb 11.8*

### Faith Without Works is Dead

There's been a lot of debate about the place of works in Christian faith. Is it only by faith or is it by works we please God and obtain His favour? Well, here is the answer! The proof of Abraham's faith is in the fact that he obeyed. If you received a letter from a solicitor saying, you have *"inherited £xxxx from your late Auntie... Please return the attached form by post..."* The proof that you believe is not in claiming and confessing that you believe the lawyers. The proof that you believe is in actually completing the form and posting it. Many of us fuss over words and the meaning of faith. But for our Father Abraham, there was no fussing. He heard and responded. Human experience has taught us to know where we are going before setting out but by faith Abraham obeyed "not knowing where he was going". He wasn't stupid. Heb 11.19 says, Abraham "reasoned". He thought carefully about it and concluded that God is trustworthy. God says the death of His son has forever removed the barrier between you and Him! Do you believe?

## Lesson 5

*"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations..." Romans 4:18*

### Hoping against Hope - Wrestling with Doubt.

"Hoping against hope" is a clear indication that Abraham wasn't an automaton. He wasn't programmed! He had his own mind. He could think. He figured out that what was before him was a total impossibility. He assessed the complexity and the immensity of the situation and yet he decided to trust God.

In spite of the glaring evidence that it was over for Abraham to father a child, he was audacious and insisted that God's authority was superior to the apparent evidence of impossibility. Faith doesn't mean you ignore evidence or pretend that there are no obstacles. This is not ignoring facts or merely making a positive confession. It doesn't mean that you don't have questions or even doubts. Faith means you rely on God's word to wrestle down and handcuff your doubts. How does it work? The bible says, "he believed". He relied on what God told him. Heb 11.11 tells us that the reason why this couple of faith was able to become parents in old age was that they "judged God faithful" - worthy of being relied upon rather than the evidence. I repeat, God says the death of His son has forever removed the barrier between you and Him! Do you believe or is the evidence more powerful?

## Lesson 6.

*If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Hebrews 11:15*

### No Turning Back

Nowadays, we tend to look on Father Abraham with envy, forgetting the incredible pressure and hardship he went under. Yes, he had loads of cattle and slaves but he also faced unbelievable challenges in the promised land. Think about the consequences of famine on his crops and cattle. Not just that his harvest failed (equivalent to losing an annual salary when he had over 318 soldiers and their wives and kids to feed). Then the animals began to die one after the other because of the famine. The negotiation between him and the Hittites in Gen 23 suggests that those people were not to be

trusted and by the way Isaac was treated, it is easy to imagine the racial hostilities that Abraham faced. These were sufficient grounds for him to return to the land of his ancestors. There would have been strong temptations to cut your losses and run. There must have been the suggestion of Job's wife "curse God and die" But no! Abraham was tenacious! Abraham relied on God day after day. He refused to go back to Ur. Faith is relying on God's truth no matter what befalls. Like a child, stranded in the farm, tired and scared but insisting that "I know my father is coming for me. My father will not go to bed without being sure I am safe". That was what Abraham did. He held to God's word in the face of adversity.

## Lesson 7

*So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarrelling between you and me... for we are close relatives... If you go to the right, I'll go to the left.' Gen 13:8-9.*

### Managing Adversity God's Way

One way, you know a true man of God is how he handles conflicts. Here, Father Abraham who adopted his orphaned nephew, Lot, proved his true mettle. The insolence of Lot was breath-taking - especially since Lot was the closest to a son as far as Abraham was concerned. But when a dispute arose, Abraham could have forcibly ejected Lot from that covenant community or claimed his rights as the one with the divine calling. Abraham didn't do any of that. Rather, he did not grasp at his rights but let it go - letting his opponent set the rules of the game. This is an amazing godly character!

The reason why Abraham could let go was that he truly trusted God. He knew that his real treasure is God Himself and not a geographical space. He knew that Lot had no capacity to take away what God had given him. Abraham knew his God could turn fertile an otherwise barren land. So, he concluded why fuss? Today, too many lustfully grasp at power. Defending their rights by every kind of means. Such conduct betrays the true faith of Abraham. For Christ, "When they hurled insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." 1 Pet 2.23

## Lesson 8 - Gen 14

### \*Rescuing Lot - Blessed are the Merciful\*

To be honest, I couldn't see why Lot should be rescued - after all, sin has consequences. He'd chosen the "better part" - luscious and fertile land. His decision has now come home to roost. He had become a victim of power struggle between warring nations and a prisoner of war! However, Father Abraham who had received so much mercy had no problem risking his own life and that of his troops (318 of them) to rescue an insolent and greedy Lot!. This is what grace does! It changes you deep within. Abraham the Iraqi wouldn't have done that, but the man touched by grace will. He's been forgiven much and so he loved much. Sometimes, the best way to recognise people who have met the God of grace is how they treat fellow sinners. I don't think Lot will ever be the same after that experience. 2 Pet 2.8 refers to him as "righteous Lot". This





is what grace does. It teaches us to deny ungodliness. Tit 3.10. It never encourages lawlessness. As for Abraham, little wonder, he was brought in to feast with the King-Priest Melchizedek - The man who had no beginning of days nor end of life but lives by the power of endless life. There Abraham learnt that God is El Elyon!

## Lesson 9 - Gen 15

*But Abram replied, "O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Genesis 15:2 NLT*

### Help When Our Faith is On Trial

Oops! Did Father Abraham say that under pressure? Bet he did! God had sought to encourage him after a battle and promised him that He Himself will be his shield and his reward. Instead of bursting out in praise and worship, Father Abraham lashed out at God. "Of what use are your promises if you won't even give me a son?" he said. I had expected God to immediately withdraw his promises if only to teach him a lesson because that's what I would have done. But no! **Your God** is not like that... Rather, God took him outside and began to explain to Abraham how the promise will be fulfilled with graphic illustrations of the innumerable stars. God helped him until he got it! Oh! God did more than that. God cut a "one-sided covenant" with him by way of butchered animals. In effect, God was saying "may I become like these butchered animals, if I don't fulfil my promises to you". Almost blasphemous! What love is this? This speaks to the very character of God. Here, I learn that God justifies wayward sinners like Abraham. Rom 4.5 He understands the frustration of a 75 year old man who is still praying for a baby, So I know He understands my frustration too. I also learn that I should tell God how I feel as Abraham did. Our God is big enough and he can handle our nonsense talks.

## Lesson 10 - Gen 17 and Rom 4

### Being Prepared for the Blessing

As Abraham turned 99, God knew that Abraham had to be prepared to receive the promised Blessing. He needed to know God better and understand the covenant and the Blessing more clearly. So this time, God introduced himself not just as the El-Elyon, the Most High - The Supreme Commander of the Universe but as El-Shaddai, the All Sufficient One. This means that Abraham would never lack a thing that's necessary for the purpose of becoming the Blessing. Abram and Sarai's names were changed, the Blessing and the Covenant were spelt out clearly in this chapter.

God said two more things. "Walk before me and be blameless". Secondly, "you must be circumcised". Rom 4 makes it abundantly clear that whatever these statements means, we must understand that they are not prerequisites for becoming righteous because Abraham has been made righteous in Gen 15. These instructions came only after he had been made righteous. So we should all understand that righteousness comes from God to us only by faith and not by "walking blamelessly" or "being circumcised"

God was saying that because I am El-Shaddai, you will walk before me and you will be blameless. I will supply you with all the wherewithal to be blameless. All that you will ever need in your journey is in Me. Therefore son, get on with it and start walking the walk!

Circumcision is a seal of the covenant, the proof that Abraham believed and agreed with God. If you believe in El-Shaddai, you will cut off fleshly living.

## Lesson 11 - Gen 18

### Interceding for a Nation of Sinners

On the eve of a Gay Pride in mid 90s, at a Christian prayer meeting, we came together to "bind and cut off" all the gay people in London. But God's word came to us saying, "You are not like your father Abraham who prayed for the Sodomites". It's difficult to forget that! Yes, Father Abraham who had received so much mercy was the first to pray for wayward sinners. (By the way, the Sodomites were not

just ordinary gay people, they were violent enough and would easily rape God's angels!) But the story of mercy here is not Abraham's. It is about God! "Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

Genesis 18:21. Does God really need to come down and inspect? Of course not. He knows the extent of their wickedness, yet He wanted to give them the benefit of the doubt. What an amazing God. Does God need to tip Abraham off to start intercession? Who does that? Finding a way to help offenders!, Yes, it was God in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself not counting men's sins against them. 1 Cor 5.19. The whole story shows that God is unlike what we think. God, the Judge of the whole earth is reluctant to judge these sinful people. "For 50, ... even for 10 righteous people I will save" What a truly gracious God we have.

## Lesson 12

### Abraham, the Sacrifice and the Provision Gen 22

God had cut a covenant with Abraham and he in turn had willingly committed to the relationship with God by circumcision. The son of promise had arrived but Abraham would have hardly known the difference between a son and the Seed. Our God was in the business of linking Abraham to His eternal redemption plan. So by this test, God wanted to do at least two things. First, to share with Abraham and make him experience the very path to His redemption plan for mankind. Secondly, God wanted to further reveal another of His great names, Jehovah - Jireh. "On the mountain of the Lord, God's provision shall be found". Gen 22.14

Abraham passed the test in flying colours and God lauded his obedience. The truth however is that Isaac was only foreshadowing the true Lamb of God who takes away the Sin of the world. Indeed, it was Jesus who took the fall and bled for Adam's helpless race. The Lamb was provided to take our place.

A misreading of this narrative assumes that closeness to God is achieved by works - fasting, tithing and great sacrifices etc. On the contrary! The great lesson here is that even when God makes a demand of us, He Himself is the Provider of the means and ways of meeting the demand. God's holy name - Jehovah-Jireh is hereby revealed. On the mountain of the Lord His provision is seen. Today, we erroneously associate this great name of our God with £ and \$. But Jehovah-Jireh is far greater than perishable gold or silver. Thanks be to Jehovah-Jireh.

### Final Point

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many."

Isaiah 51:1-2 NIVUK

My brethren, thank you for following me in the study of Abraham's life. In a nutshell, it's not about Abraham but about his God. He said, "When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many." I hope you see what God did to Abraham in this study. It is what God did with Abraham that God is inviting us to consider. May God bless you as we learn to trust and rely on the God of Abraham.

Paul Onifade

August 2021

*Paul became a Christian in his early teenage years in Nigeria his home country. He was mentored by a British Missionary - Pa S G Elton. He together with his dear wife Yetunde, moved to the UK in 1990, shortly after their marriage. They have two adult children. Paul is a lay preacher, and he enjoys sharing the gospel - the good news of Christ is often his theme. He is a practising solicitor. He enjoys playing tennis, scrabble, and chess.*





“Then the LORD called Samuel. “Here I am,” Samuel responded. He ran to Eli and said, “Here I am. You called me.”... “Go, lie down,” Eli told Samuel. “When he calls you, say, ‘Speak, LORD. I’m listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his room. The LORD came and stood there. He called as he had called the other times: “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel replied, “Speak. I’m listening.” *1 Samuel 3:4-5,9-10 (GW)*

ADONAI came and stood.

The LORD then stood beside Samuel.

Then GOD came and stood before him.

And the LORD came and called as before.

We are all familiar with the story of God calling out to Samuel.

However, we need to pay attention to these scriptures again today.

Notice the three times God initially called Samuel:

He kept going to Eli.

He only heard the voice.

Even though he was living in the temple, he did not know God’s voice.

“Samuel had no experience with the LORD because the Lord’s word had not yet been revealed to him.” *1 Samuel 3:7(GW)*

Are you familiar with being in God’s environment?

Do You know Him as your Lord and Savior?

You may have been born into a Christian family and are pretty familiar with the religion.

You still need that personal encounter with Him.

Remember *Cornelius (Act. 10)*. He was a good man but did not have a personal encounter with God. In a vision, God directed him to Peter to lead him to Christ.

You may hear God’s voice, but HE has to be made known personally to you.

Finally, when he was guided on knowing that it was God calling:

Two things happened.

He stopped running to Eli.

Are you still running from one prophet to another to tell you who God is and what He is saying?

God wants to personally speak to you and daily guide you to victory.

Stop running to man

He focused his attention on God.

It was then God came and stood by Him.

God called previously to get his attention.

Now when he recognized God’s voice and turned to Him

God Spoke.

Before now, God had been calling, but God did not speak.

You can hear God’s voice and if your focused attention is not on him.

You may still be running to Eli.

Are you hearing God’s voice, but your attention is still on a man?

For God to speak to You, He demands your complete attention.

From that encounter, Samuel learned not to let go of God.

God stood by him.

He stayed daily focused and waited on Him for His Word.

When God instructed him to go and anoint a new king to replace Saul, who was living in disobedience to God. He almost missed it. He was initially carried away by the physical appearance of the other sons of Jesse, especially Eliab.

However, Samuel never stopped being in God’s presence, and God also stood by Him. Quickly he corrected himself and asked Jesse for his other son. They all stood waiting till David arrived and was anointed.

Peter, too was close to the Lord. He heard Him say come when he requested to work on the water. However, his focus shifted and started sinking, He cried out to God, and God reached out to him. Did not sink. He and the Lord, with the other disciples, got to their destination.

Have you been close to God before now, and challenges have made you lose focus.

Turn to Him again today, and He will restore you back to your calling.

No wonder the testimonies:

“Samuel grew up. The LORD was with him and didn’t let any of his words go unfulfilled.” *1 Samuel 3:19(GW)*

Everyone knew God was with Samuel.

There was no publicity stunt, no manipulations.

“All Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew Samuel was the LORD’s appointed prophet.” *1 Samuel 3:20(GW)*

Daily Hearing from God, Walking, and Working with Him produces Results.

Is the Lord still standing by You?

Are You still abiding in His Presence?

*“Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel replied, “Speak. I’m listening.”  
1 Samuel 3:4-5,9-10 (GW)*





## What did Ruth see that Naomi did not initially see?

By Dr. Abimbola Alabi

“ And Naomi said, See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law. And Ruth said, Urge me not to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God.” *Ruth 1:15-6.*

Naomi, Ruth’s mother-in-law, had seen so many tragedies and failures that made her put limitations on what God can do and had resolved to just fold her hands in an all hope is lost attitude.

Ruth had inner convictions.

While Naomi was looking at the facts of life.

What we sometimes call empirical evidence.

Apparently, Naomi had knowledge of Yahweh that she and her late husband shared with their two sons from where Ruth as a wife to one of the sons, had a purposeful encounter with the God of destiny.

Ruth, in the text above, positively confessed that Naomi’s people shall be her people.

She knew inside of her that her journey to the purposeful fulfillment of her life destiny was in following Naomi to connect with her people.

She did not allow the incidents of the death of her father-in-law, her husband, and his brother to shake her off her God-given destiny.

How are we today allowing one or two incidents to derail our God-given destiny?

One experience of disappointment had made some people walk out of marriage, business, and personal relationships.

Yet precisely at the beginning, you know what God has explicitly told you about the relationship.

We quickly find offense with the church, pastor, or ministry where God has specifically assigned us to blossom and be fulfilled.

(Please check out this link on the Subject of “Blossoming Where You Are Planted.” <https://sunday-class-school.com/blossom-where-you-are-planted/>)

It could even be an idea that heaven has revealed that will prosper us, but two or three disappointments have made us abandon that dream.

To some, it might be the failure of an examination.

Has that made you given up on the career and profession altogether?

Today I want to remind you of the inner conviction of Ruth that made her stay true.

She believed, confessed, and acted on her purpose.

Her life today is linked with the lineage of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Many Christians today wrongly depend on social media to form opinions and make crucial life decisions that should be Bible-based.

Are you one of them?

Let God be your guide, search the scriptures and spend time in prayers.

Be like Ruth and stay true to your destiny, and do not limit yourself to life’s current circumstances like Naomi initially did.

First Posted 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 by DESTINY EMPOWERMENT

**“ And Naomi said, See, your sister—in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister—in-law. And Ruth said, Urge me not to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God.”**

**Ruth 1:15–6.**



### EMPOWERING YOU TO FULFILL YOUR GOD GIVEN DESTINY



*‘How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.’*

**ACTS 10v 38**

Olutoyin and Abimbola Alabi,  
City Of Refuge Ministries Inc,  
P. O. Box 110808  
Cambria Heights,  
New York, NY 11411.

“EMPOWERING YOU TO FULFILL YOUR DESTINY”  
Phone:1-646-496-5046  
Please visit: [www.destiny-empowerment.org](http://www.destiny-empowerment.org)  
[counseling window–Understanding The Throne](http://www.destiny-empowerment.org/counseling-window-Understanding-The-Throne)  
Email: [cityofrefugechurch8@gmail.com](mailto:cityofrefugechurch8@gmail.com)  
City of Refuge Ministries Inc