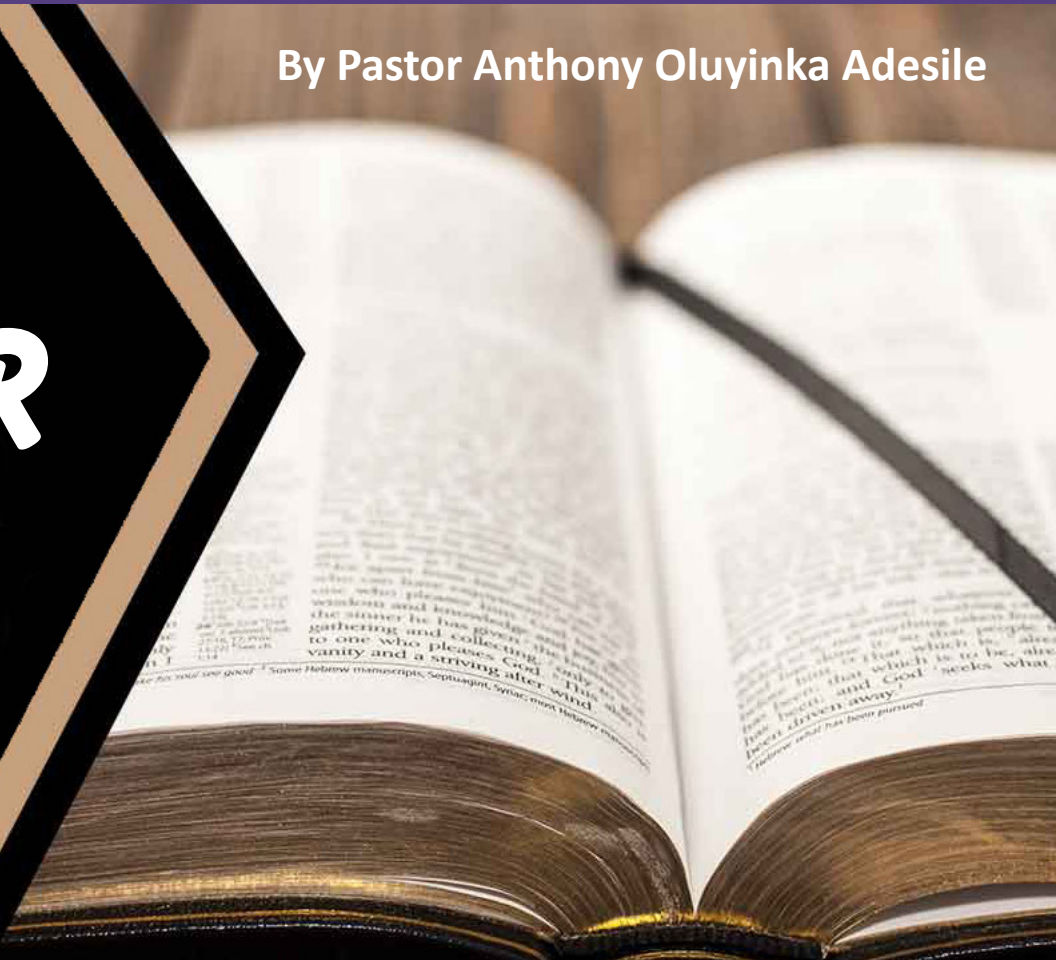




By Pastor Anthony Oluyinka Adesile

WAITING ON GOD FOR YOUR APPOINTED TIME



Saul was tired of waiting. The physical realities around him placed a demand for him to do something. The enemy continued to gain strength and advantage over his army. Worse still, many of his men were deserting him, choosing to escape from the looming force of the boisterous enemy. He was eager to engage the enemy but remained restrained because he had been commanded to wait seven days for Samuel the Seer to come and offer sacrifice unto the LORD. That was the LORD's requirement before Israel would engage in the war. It was easy to wait the first day and the next. But as the days passed, the situation on the ground put him in a dilemma; the more he delayed, the more he lost the respect of his men and the threat from the enemy. It was now seven days, and Samuel was nowhere in sight. His patience had run out. He had the urge not to wait anymore for Samuel but to offer the sacrifice himself.

So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering. (1 Samuel 13:9)

We are not immune from the realities that confronted Saul: situations that challenge our faith and ability to wait on God. These realities will cause us to question our beliefs and challenge our faith in God. Also, with Saul, there was a time demand for him to wait, whereas Abraham believed in God in the face of his realities, where God did not put time

into the intervention. As it were, the trial or testing of our faith often puts us in an emergency default where our minds go free of options to escape the challenge. And when we do take an escape option, we justify it with thoughts like, 'Just this once' or 'I'll ask God for forgiveness.'

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." (Galatians 5:16-18)

In these moments, we fail to realize the battle against our faith and our ability to stand despite any situation in life. Can God trust you or me to stand and not yield to the realities even where it will take our all from us, just as it did with Job? Do we remain unyielding to the raging storm and not do the contrary as counselled by Apostle Paul in verse 17, "so that you do not do the things that you wish?"

Saul put the flesh above doing the will of God. He walked by sight and yielded to its will. By so doing, he disobeyed God and lost the throne to a more deserving person.

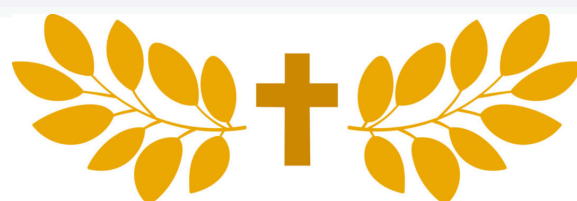
What Are You Waiting For?

Is what you are waiting for worth anything to you? How important is what you are waiting for? Let's be clear about this waiting. It is an expectation of something beyond our reach or ability. Waiting is birthed in the promise of something great beyond man's reach. That is why it takes God to give the promise and not man. Yes, man makes promises, but that promise depends on the promise-giver's mortality. As long as the person is alive, one can hope. But even that hope is suspect in that a man of excellent means today can lose all tomorrow.

On the other hand, God is not a man who is so constrained or limited. He is the Beginning and the End, the One who was, is, and is to come. His promise never fails, but His timing far differs from man's. Moreso, He is able to bring His promise to fulfilment, and He is not one who makes empty promises. He does what He says He will do.

"For when God made a promise to Abraham because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." (Hebrews 6:13-14)

The LORD who knows, loves, and cares about us through His unfailing promises, gives us a 'future and hope.' This future is beyond our human understanding and



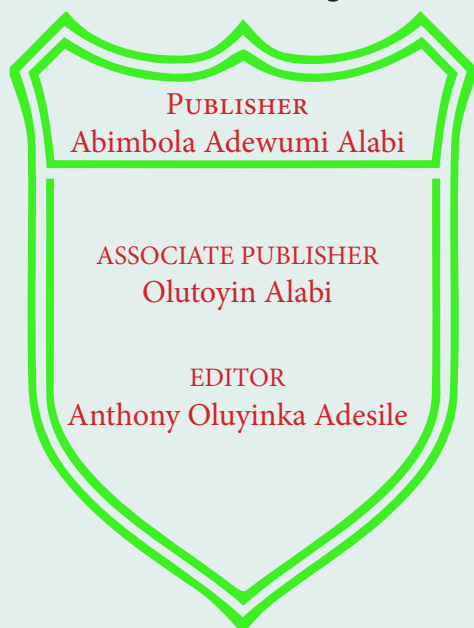
IN THIS EDITION:

WAITING ON GOD FOR YOUR APPOINTED TIME
DOING WHAT HE SAYS
FORGIVENESS IS NOT AN OPTION
WORDS OR WORKS?
THE LORD WAS PLEASED WITH NOAH
WHAT ARE THE THOUGHTS IN YOUR HEART TODAY?

Welcome to Panoplia.

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

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

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ability, so we trust Him to bring it to pass. Abraham learned to trust God for the revelation of His future.

“For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” (Romans 4:3)

This man represents a perfect example of waiting on God; more importantly, he knows what he is waiting for. Do you know what you are waiting for? Let’s try and clarify this. Yes, we know that Abraham waited for the promised child, Isaac, and it took 25 years to fulfill that promise. But God’s promise to him was much more. It was an eternal promise that exceeded our earthly needs or requirements. And that promise was the hope that kept Abraham going despite the trials and testing of his faith. He obeyed when asked to leave his father’s country for a land God would show him. And the book of Hebrews 11:8 says, ‘he went out not knowing where he was going.’

But the story of Abraham did not end there. In obeying God, he left the comfort and world he had known and settled in the ‘land of promise.’ In this land, his cousin chose the best part and left him with ‘the worst’ before God’s intervention. Moreover, Abraham did not live the grand lifestyle he was used to, nor did Isaac and Jacob, for the same book of Hebrews says that they dwelt in tents! Abraham could have abandoned the promise and the promised land and returned to his father’s land, but he stayed and waited on God. So did Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. Why didn’t they leave? Why endure such a lifestyle when there were better options? Abraham chose to wait because he judged God faithful to fulfill His word. Abraham waited because;

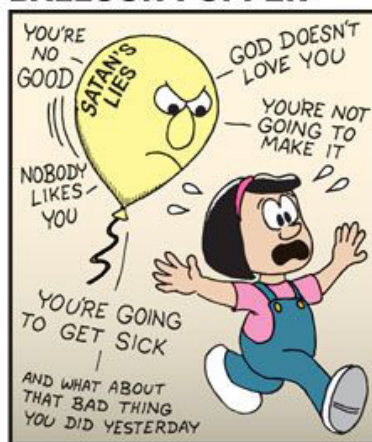
“He waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10)

This was what Saul failed to see. Abraham saw what God wanted him to see; Saul saw what he wanted to see. God taught Abraham how to see, but Saul failed to learn the walk of faith. God would take Abraham out to see the future, but Saul was only interested in the present. Therein lies the difference. One was a man of faith, while the other was a man of the flesh.

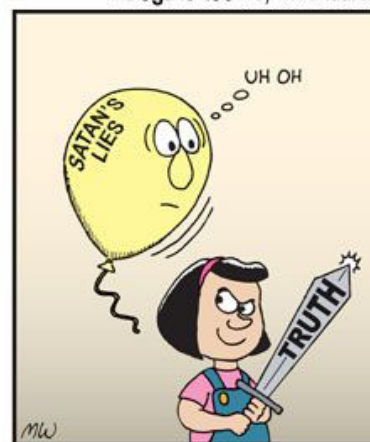
What It Means To Wait

To wait on God is to trust Him entirely despite earthly realities or challenges. Any man who chooses to wait on God must be willing to let go of everything and rest in hope. We do not see the troubles, but we see Jesus, the High Priest. As much as we wait on God to fulfill our earthly needs, we must never forget that which is more important: our eternal future in Christ Jesus. And just as God fulfilled the promise of a child to Abraham, He can fulfill His promise regarding our earthly needs and requirements, but we must learn the virtues of waiting. God alone knows the appointed time, and we must be careful not to lose like Saul because of his inability to wait until the end. More importantly, we must learn from the ‘cloud of witnesses’ in the book of Hebrews 11. While some received the promise in their lifetime, some did not but saw that which was more glorious.

BALLOON POPPER



A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
— JOHN 8:31-32 NIV

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13)

“Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise” (Hebrews 10:35)

May the LORD help us and guide us daily, even as we learn to trust and wait on Him for our everyday needs and the hope and future set before us in Christ Jesus. God bless

Moses told the people, “Be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you... Walk in obedience to all that He has commanded you’ (Deuteronomy 5:32-33). Long after Moses, Jesus urged His disciples to trust Him and to love one another.

This is still the kind of surrender of our hearts that leads to our well-being. As the Holy Spirit helps us to obey, it is good to remember that He “works in us to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose” (Philippians 2:13)

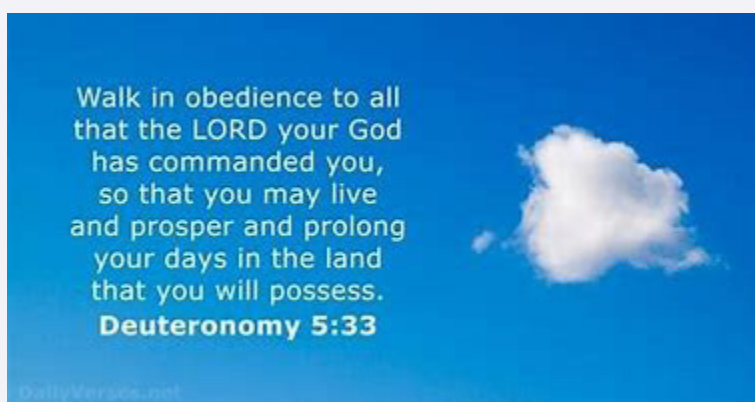
Lawrence Darmani

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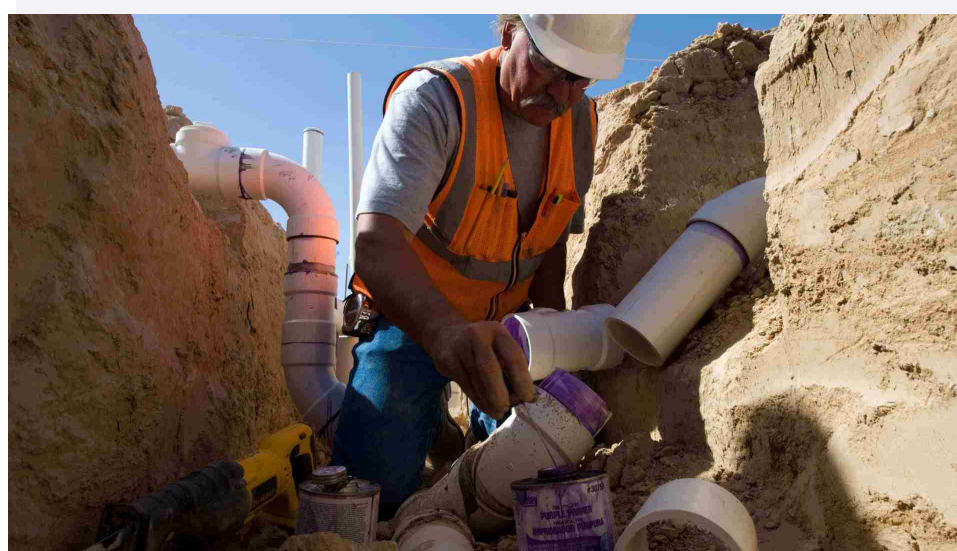
DOING WHAT HE SAYS

“Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you.” (Deuteronomy 5:33)



I needed an underground water tank and knew precisely how I wanted it constructed, so I gave clear instructions to the builder. The next day when I inspected the project, I was annoyed when I realized that he had failed to carry out my instructions. He had changed the plan and therefore the effect. The excuse he gave was as irritating as his failure to follow my directives.

As I watched him redo the concrete work, and as my frustration diminished, a guilty conviction swept over me: How many times have I needed to redo things in my life in obedience to the Lord? Like the ancient Israelites who frequently failed to do what God asked them to do, we too often go our own way. Yet obedience is a desired result of our deepening relationship with God.



**"Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you."
(Deuteronomy 5:33)**



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



Forgiveness Is Not An Option

It seems like sooner or later everyone gets mistreated and hurt. Many times the actions against us are unintentional, but other times they can be extremely malicious. Suddenly, this hurt begins to invade every other area of our life. We carry a heavy burden which we know we don't deserve - and which we certainly don't desire to keep - but it's a burden we can't seem to let go.

There is only one true way to relieve the burden of our hurt, and it always begins with forgiveness. True forgiveness can be difficult and require great humility. We want the other person to first ask (maybe even beg) for our forgiveness. We would like them to admit the hurt they caused; and, if we are honest, we probably would prefer them to suffer... just a little. But this is generally not God's plan.

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
(Colossians 3:13)

If we have come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, we have first come face to face with our sinful nature. Without an understanding that we are full of sin, we will never reach out for a savior. And if we have experienced the true meaning of God's love, "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8), we will be compelled to reach out and love others. If we truly understand His forgiveness of us, can we really withhold our forgiveness of those who have caused us pain?

Jesus told a parable of a man who failed to forgive a small debt when his master had just forgiven him a much greater debt: "Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed" (Matthew 18:33-34). Do we really understand how much we have been forgiven, or our inability to repay? Yet our debt has been completely forgiven by grace through faith in Jesus, and we are now commanded to forgive others.

God established the standard for forgiveness. We are not called to forgive because someone deserves or has earned our forgiveness, we are called to forgive simply because God first forgave us. When we forgive, we must strive to make the forgiveness complete; "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12). Though we may carry a healthy level of new caution as the relationship continues, we must never place conditions on maintaining our forgiveness.

There WILL be times when we are burdened with hurt. But let's not seek revenge or try to withdraw and hide our pain. Let's follow the commands of God's Word and be set free! Let's grow closer to our Heavenly Father and see through His eyes. Let's share His love and forgive as He forgave.

Have a Christ Centered Day!

Steve Troxel

God's Daily Word Ministries



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New book by Abimbola Adewumi Alabi

Devotional For Youth



The young ones are the future of any society. You can tell what will become of a community or a nation by the way these young ones are raised. Many dysfunctional marriages are a function of two individuals whose foundation was distorted. That is the reason why the Bible says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." But you may ask, what way should a youth go? How should a youth be trained with an assurance that he would not depart from it? Ephesians 6:4 answers it. It says, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Dr. Abimbola understands that raising a child in the teachings of Christ is the only way to secure their future and align them on the path of truth and eternity. Through this inspiring devotional, you will learn to study God's word daily and develop the character of Christ. So, open your heart to hear His voice which will set the sail for your glorious destiny.



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WORDS OR WORKS?

By Olutoyin Alabi

John 10:38 KJV

“Jesus said, for what do you condemn me?”

My Works?

They said no, not for your work
but your Words.

Jesus said believe me then, for the Works!!

Ecclesiastes 8:4 KJV

Where the Word of a king is, there is Power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?”

From the beginning, the enemy contested the Word of God.

This was, in effect, contesting God Himself.

The Devil said to Eve-Hath God said???

Why was the enemy contesting God’s Word? And why is he still against it today?

John 1:1, 3-5KJV, introduces Who the Word of God is to us!

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

All things were made by him, and without him, nothing was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”

Why does the devil continue to contend with the Word of God in our hearts today?

John 6:63b-64a KJV

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:”

The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.”

The Word Spoken to us today is Filled with the Holy Spirit, which the devil cannot withstand!

So then, we need more of the Word of God, filled with the Spirit of God for our Victorious living.

Hebrews 4:12 KJV

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Therefore, the command is-

In Joshua 1:8 KJV

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

We must seek out the Word of God and not discountenance or disbelief it, like the Pharisees.

Jeremiah said-

Jeremiah 15:16 KJV

Thy words were found, and I did eat them, and thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

How does this Word, that is filled with the Spirit of God and full of Power, associated with Works??

This is how-

When the Word is Spoken in Faith, it produces Works!

IN
THE
BEGINNING
WAS
THE
WORD

Mark 11:23 KJV

“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

Words spoken in Faith, that manifest as Works, serve to show the Glory of God, the Love of God and the Faithfulness of God among men.

Psalms 92:4-5 MSG

“You made me so happy, God.

I saw your work and I shouted for joy.

How magnificent your work, God!

How profound are your thoughts?

Dullards never notice what you do; fools never do get it.

- Humanity, as typified by the Pharisees, are drawn to miracles—things that can be seen rather than which is unseen.

***Works are seen.

They are relevant to the world we live in.

Romans 8 tells us Humanity continues to wait for the manifestation of God’s works through men. But these Works will come through knowing God’s Word and Speaking it by Faith!

**Works manifest the Word.

It confirms the Word of God to men, making some Believe in God.

-Remember the Words of Jesus in John 10:38, as in our text-

If you don’t believe my words, believe the Works so it will guide you to the Father!

Therefore, as Christians, we need to step up our knowledge of the Word of God and speak it by Faith to produce life-changing Miracles—manifestations that leave men ‘doubtless of God’!

We must live daily with the Word of God.

As said in the scripture-

- The Centurion said to Jesus-

‘Just Speak the Word, and my servant will be healed.’

In conclusion-

- The Word, though it cannot be seen, is very Powerful.
- The power in the Word is Seen through Works.

- Jesus was dynamic in both Words and Works- we should do likewise.

Luke 24:19 MSG

“He said, “What has happened?” They said, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene.

He was a man of God, a prophet,

dynamic in Work and Word,

blessed by both God and all the people.



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

As God’s designated Kings and Priests, as those created in His Image, and as His Ambassadors,

We should go and do as He did.

“Ecclesiastes 8:4 KJV

Where the Word of a King is, there is Power (Works):

And who may say unto him, What doest thou?”

Are you trying to fool someone? – Abimbola Alabi

“The Lord replied, “Are you trying to fool someone? Won’t anyone of you untie your ox or donkey and lead it out to drink on a Sabbath?” “This woman belongs to the family of Abraham, but Satan has kept her bound for 18 years. Isn’t it right to set her free on the Sabbath?”

Luke 13:15-16 CEV

Are you trying to fool someone?

Are you playing someone?

Are you fraudulent?

Jesus rebuked the deceivers who were doing double standards.

The religious leaders told people they had influence and control over doing something different from their personal practice.

What is going on in your personal relationship with God?

I mean, who are you, one-on-one with God?

When Brethren ask you for advice, what type of counsel do you give?

Be always sincere and truthful.

Don’t make things more difficult for those coming after you.

Some people literally remove the ladder they have used to climb up. Making it difficult for others to grow but virtually impossible for another leader to emerge.

Just as the Lord saw through the Hypocrisy of those leaders.

He sees yours, too.

What you sow, you will also reap.

Be consistently fair to others.

The measure you judge, so shall it be measured back unto you.

“For you’ll be judged by the same standard that you’ve used to judge others. The measurement you use on them will be used on you.”

Matthew 7:2(TPT)

Don’t be a hypocrite.

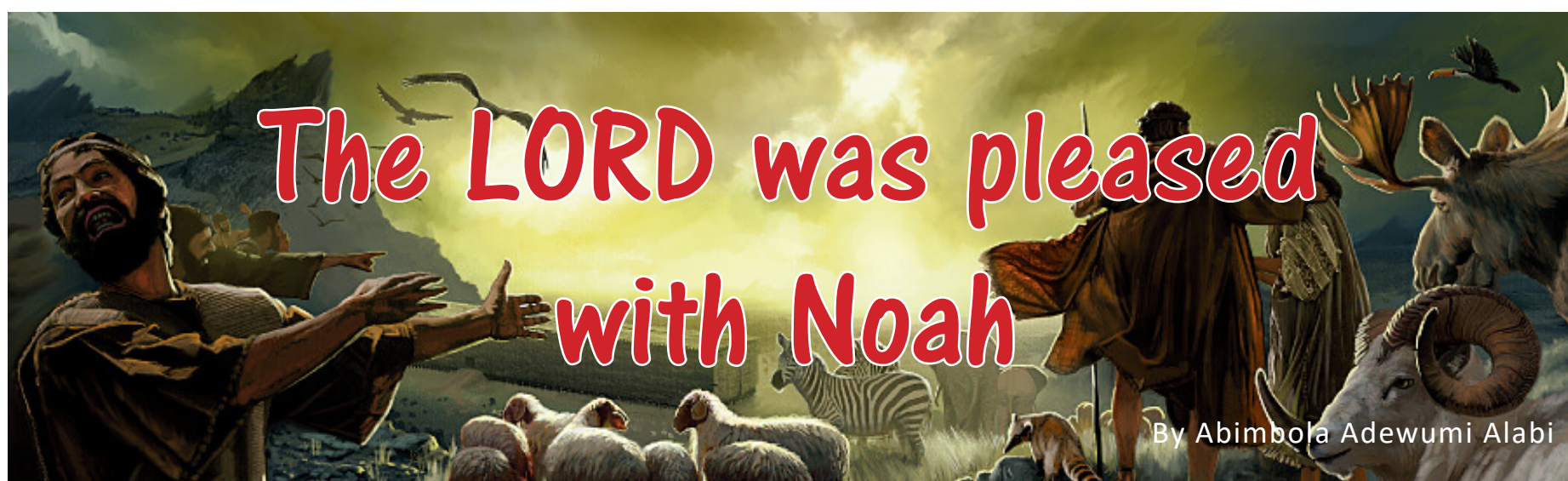
LIFE MANAGEMENT LESSONS FROM ZACCHAEUS

New book by Dr Abimbola Adewumi Alabi



With The Management Lessons from Zacchaeus, Dr Alabi deftly weaves the story of a self-made man who wanted more in life.

The book is available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Nobles and other leading Christian bookstores



By Abimbola Adewumi Alabi

“But the LORD was pleased with Noah, and this is the story about him. Noah was the only person who lived right and obeyed God.” Genesis 6:8-9 (CEV) What is God’s testimony about you today? We are living in a world almost akin to when Noah lived. As God looks down on His children, what is God saying to you? “When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said, “Now here comes a true son of Israel—an honest man with no hidden motive!” Nathanael was stunned and said, “But you’ve never met me—how do you know anything about me?” Jesus answered, “Nathanael, right before Philip came to you, I saw you sitting under the shade of a fig tree.” John 1:47-48 (TPT) As you go about your daily life’s assignment, like Nathaniel above: What is Jesus Christ saying about you? What are your motives for doing all that you are doing? “So Peter went with them back to Joppa, and upon arriving, ... There were many widows standing next to Peter, weeping. One after another showed him the tunics and other garments that Tabitha had made to bless others.” Acts 9:39 (TPT) Tabitha had good witnesses of her deeds. Tabitha, like Abraham, became a blessing to others. What are the people around you showing that you have done? Like Noah,

Nathaniel, Tabitha, and many others. Let your life count. What is being said about You? What do you think about Me? Today, I celebrate my birthday and another year of being available for God to continually use for His Glory.

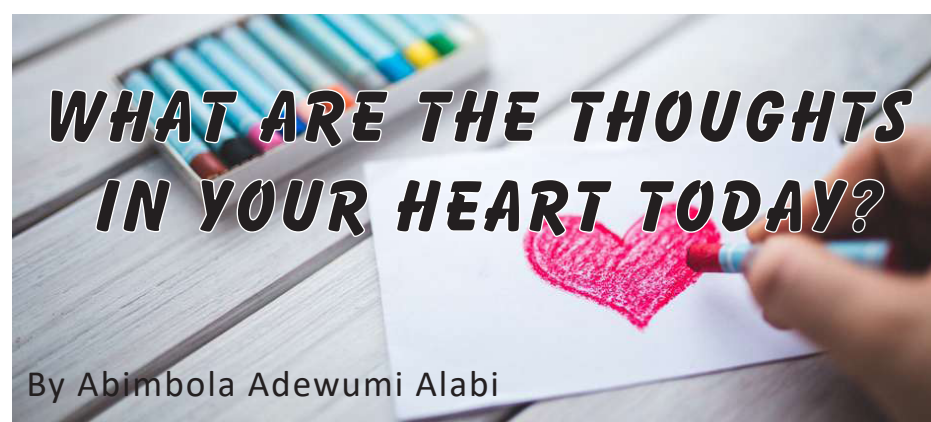
As you read this, I Pray that God will continue to be PLEASED with me. I pray for you, too, my friend, that God will be pleased with your life.

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By Abimbola Adewumi Alabi

“But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?” Luke 5:22 (KJV)

What are the thoughts in your heart today?
Should Jesus “perceive” your heart right now?
What do you think about yourself?
How do you see yourself in life today?
Are your thoughts aligned with what God has said about you, or are you importing different opinions from the various things you have exposed yourself to?

You are a product of your thoughts, and if you can control them, the Bible describes you as a Great person.

“He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.” Proverbs 16:32

Once again ask yourself if Jesus could ask you openly about your thoughts what would HE be saying to you?

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philippians 4:8

Examine the contents of your thoughts about yourself.

Speak to the challenges you are facing right now using the right words to guide the outcomes that you desire. “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.” Proverbs 23:7

God says concerning you that His thoughts towards you are superb. “ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11

Once again Jesus is asking you what type of thoughts are you thinking in your heart about yourself.

It’s not about what you are thinking of the other person or me in your life, today’s reflection is about what are you thinking about yourself. It’s so easy to let your thoughts lose on other people especially those who you perceive that they don’t like you or you already classified them as your enemies. Such ideas come about so quickly because of the nature of a man’s heart.

However, the productive thoughts that will personally change your destiny and empower you to fulfill your God-given destiny require discipline and focus.

Today resolve that your thoughts about yourself will be in line with God’s purpose for your life and the assignments He has given you. What’s going on in your heart right now about You?

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

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