



grenepages

Issue 4

alive

4th Word

But I have come that they might have life...John 10:10

It is not a world just wary of the thief's coming. It is an already raided place.

Jesus was right on point when he said about the thief, that he comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy.

Daily, sometimes all their lives, men are robbed and killed. Lives are being destroyed.

One would want to ask; *“Why is our world still being vandalized?” “Why are we so helpless?”*

One should ask rather; *“Is the world really helpless?”* Truth is, *“No.”*

The world is not helpless. We do not have to be robbed, killed and destroyed. Man is not doomed to die. We have a saviour. He offers Life, if we would just take it.

He says, *“I have come that they MIGHT HAVE LIFE and have it in abundance.”*

In this edition of *grenepages*, our focus is on the *Abundant Life*. All articles in here are pointers to a path; the one that leads to life.

Wouldn't you rather choose Life?

Welcome to the 4th edition of *grenepages*. The words in here speak Life!

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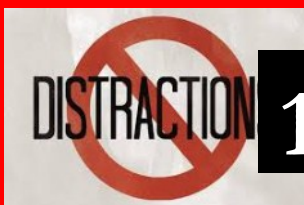
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YOUR FUTURE
IS NOW

Inside

*Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between
choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you*

The part we hate to hear yet;
A day is set for our last breath
In stillness, down to earth's 'nest' –
To some, eternal rest, to others, distress...

We don't always need a clock cry
Telling us time is not always on our side
We don't always have the might
Yet we always can live as the wise

Life is full of plain sheets
How you live it is the ink
Life is filled with all that
But we've got a choice to

What does your life speak
What's your reaction to
Are you stilled in the hand
Or move with the hope to

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Ministering Rhythms

-Joan Abimbola

<https://joanministeringrhythms.wordpress.com>

en blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the
u and your descendants might live! Deuteronomy 30:19 (NLT)

s
k
make one sick
to live it healed and free
ak
the spills
dship life may give
that you can win?

Those who live life in vain
Are those who wail in the grave...
Those who live allowing no waste
Are those who, even in death, life awaits...

Life is more than the surroundings you see
Life is how you choose to live
Life is more than the air you breathe
Life is what you make of it...



Life: Living or Leaving



Living Homes

“Home is where the heart is”
— Pliny the Elder

“For the two of us, home isn’t a place. It is a person. And we are finally home.”
— Stephanie Perkins

Your home is not your house filled with a spouse, children, some electronic gadgets, furniture et al.

NO! It is *‘the place’*; any place, where love flows freely in the heart of the occupants.

You need a home and not just a mansion. Your home can be the best, if you work towards it. However, it would be catastrophic for you to think your ‘job’ [of home building] starts after the wedding ceremony.

VERY CATASTROPHIC, I must confess

There are very few homes worthy of emulation today due to several factors.

No finger is being pointed neither is any praise being ascribed to these 'few'. However, we need to see these ones as a template for building a better home: a Godly home.

There is nothing that says yours cannot be one of these few...

HOME, I have been saying. Yes, HOME!

A man can only take you to his house BUT it will take two of you to create a home.

While a house is a structure with erect walls, a roof, and windows and doors a home is ANY PLACE where there is ALWAYS one CONSTANT inhabitant – Love. 1 John 4:7-8

We know that

'No other foundation can be laid aside that which has been laid... Jesus Christ our Lord.'

May I put forward these questions:

1. Do I want to raise kids or build a family?
2. Do I want to raise them in a house I built or in a home?

3. Am I building on the correct foundation?

4. Will I have a home that my community, Heaven and I will be proud of?

Kids, wife and possessions are just components- bricks, plaster et cetera. If the foundation is anything other



than love, then you might as well start pleading for grace.

A friend of a friend made a statement that hit me hard and got me thinking. He said, "Some men no longer attend marriage seminars because they have learnt enough about marriage and family life on how to (and how not to) treat a woman by merely observing the way and manner their father treated their mother"

Awesome!

Although I do not support boycotting marriage seminars, there is a point to ponder in there. Just how many men can boast to be one of such fathers? How many homes can be cited in this direction?

There will be storms. There will be troubles. The home that stands to the end is that which is built on HIM

Your home CAN be beautiful IF you want it to be.

Your home SHALL be beautiful IF you let him in it...

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Inked Words

<https://inkright.wordpress.com>

-Tosin Iosef Kehinde

Real Answers To Real Issues 2



QUESTION:

I know some people who are not Christians but have better character and behavior than many born again Christians. Are we saying they will not make heaven?

ANSWER:

This is not the first time I am hearing this question. Nobody will make heaven based on character or behavior. The bible is very clear about that.

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:3 NKJV

Those are the words of Jesus. It is Jesus that said that no one who is not born again would make the kingdom of God. I am not the one that said it. No amount of good behavior will get anyone to heaven unless he or she is born again. It is well with you!

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QUESTION:

My pastor has attempted to sleep with me on two occasions. Other than this issue, he is a very good man. What should I do Sir?

ANSWER:

Sister, there is one wise thing that you need to do; you should leave his church immediately without further delay.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV

Do not be deceived by his being nice to you. A pastor is supposed to be a shepherd but he seems to have become a wolf that wants to devour you. Leave the church immediately and find another good church to attend. If you do not leave the church, he may have his way with you. I do not think you want that to happen.

If the pastor is an associate pastor under a senior pastor, you should report him to the senior pastor with evidence to prove your claim. If the senior pastor does not do anything about it immediately, then leave the church. It is well with you.

WORD *Alive*

Sanmi Akintayo

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When I arrived home today, I dropped my bag on the couch and made straight to the kitchen. I was so famished; it had been a long day and I could not get to eat anything apart from the coffee I took in the morning. I stepped into the kitchen and I wrinkled my nose. Dirty plates and pots were lying haphazardly in the sink. No other person would have done it except Bola, my second flat mate, whom I had been exercising all patience in living with.

Bola was the weirdest person I had ever met. She could not be bothered to wash up her used plates or laundry, even down to her underwear. I remembered when we started to live together, and I asked to borrow her jar of mayonnaise. She was on her way out, so she asked me to get it from the fridge in her room.

When I entered her room, I stood at the entrance for some minutes in horror. Underwear, tops and used plates were strewn across the floor. Even though her curtains and bedspread were lovely, the musty smell that hung in the air tainted their beauty.

Then my eyes caught them and I cringed—

obviously used sanitary pads rolled back into their pink wrappers were bunched in a corner. I forgot about my craving for mayonnaise and left her room. Since that experience, I made it a point of duty never to eat anything Bola cooked in my absence, and I never went back to her room. It had been seven months.

God knew I would not have agreed to have Bola be the third occupant if I had known she was this messy. Sara had introduced us (they had met during NYSC, became friends and lived together in the same lodge) and had talked me into considering her because it was easier to live together with friends than with newcomers. Obviously, to Sara,

her friend, by extension, had automatically become my friend. Sometimes, I wished I had gotten a newcomer, maybe she would not be this dirty but who knew what else this new girl might get on her sleeves. So, I had resigned and lived with it, gently addressing this habit and praying and hoping that she would change.



The Daughter's Inspiration

<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>

-Adeyinka Oresanya

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the *Journey* of
AWELEWA

Episode 2

ADEYINKA ORESANYA

I ignored the offensive contents in the sink; Sara would wash them when she got home. Bola's habit was her responsibility; after all, she brought her in. I reached into the cupboard and started to put together my favourite after-work meal— sandwich, made with hotdog, cabbage, tomatoes and a generous spread of ketchup—when Sara's call came in.

Wait, did I remember to tell you that Sara's name was not Sarah of the Bible? Do not let the spelling fool you. Her name was Feyisara, a proper Yoruba name. My lovely friend obviously liked how the short form of her name looked like that of an 'oyinbo', it sure made well for her makeup business signature, and so she had stuck to it, and we have come to call her by that.

Anyway, her call came in and immediately I pressed the green button, I wanted to press the red button because Sara was screaming into my ears.

“Oh God, you wouldn't believe what just happened to me, Awe.” She wailed. “I know you would tell me I told you so?”

“Wait, slow down! What is the problem?” I asked.

“Are you home yet?”

“Yes, I am. What—”

“I'm on my way right now,” she cut in. “O God, I'm

beginning to hate men. I hate falling in love, I just...I'm on my way.” The line went dead.

I rolled my eyes. This was the fifth time (or was it?) that Sara had said she was beginning to hate men but she never did. I stopped counting after the third time. I would not bother my head with such frivolity but whom was I kidding? Sara was my friend and I was stuck to her daily drama.

Some minutes later, Sara burst into the living

room and flopped on the couch across from me. I muted the TV and moved towards her, alarmed. Her eyes were puffy, and she was crying unashamedly, very unlike Sara.

“Ayoade has done it again,” she sobbed.

I frowned. What was it again?

“I met another lady in his house. This one was cooking in his kitchen this time. Can you imagine? She was cooking for him!” She threw her hands up. *“When she saw me, she gave me the once over and went straight into his bedroom. Awe, we have been courting for two years and I have never been to his bedroom, just because I wanted to keep us. Why would he allow another woman, eh?”*

“None of these is your fault, Sara,” I finally said.

“I was so angry that I couldn't contain myself,” she continued. *“I started screaming at him. He told me to shut up and stay or keep screaming and he would throw me out. He threw me out, Awe, he threw me out!”* She broke down into more tears.

This time, the pain was real. I could see it.

Like I did the last four times, I gathered her into my arms and rocked her. *“It's okay, Feyisara. It's okay.”*

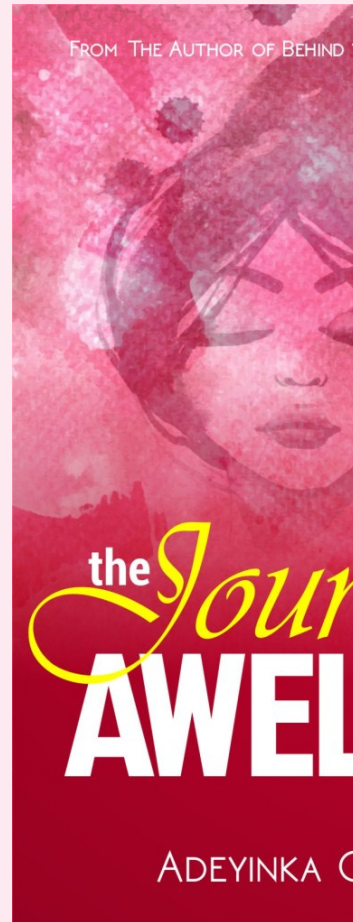
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To say I saw this coming would be an understatement. Although Ayoade was a fellowship brother during our undergraduate days, he was anything but a ‘Bro’. I warned Sara about this guy because his attitudes were nothing to write home about, but my friend was in love, and she was okay with him. Her spirit had said ‘yes’ and she had gone along with it, until issues started.

The first quarrel had been over phones—Ayoade forbade Sara to touch his phone but insisted on going through hers each time they were together.

The second issue was for Feyisara not to go for her Master's Degree studies now because he ought to go first as the man in the relationship, and he was not ready yet. The third issue was about a lady she had met in his house who had given Sara an attitude. Sara had suspected he was cheating but



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peace, genuine love and respect for our person? Is it the fear of the ticking biological clock or the investment of time and money or the sex that has happened between both parties in some cases?

I thought about this and came to this conclusion: We lack knowledge about genuine love and it is because of that lack of knowledge that we suffer. We lack the concept of love—the one explained by the one who created us. He took his time to explain what love is. He took his time to tell us who and what we are. He also told us what we should not delve into so as not to destroy what we are. We go against these and expect a man to treat us right? I think we sell ourselves cheap. Yea, we really do.

Do not throw your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn to tear you to pieces.

The Scripture I read some days ago came into my heart. I think it was Matthew 7:6. Now, I finally understood what it meant. I should NEVER continue to offer what is of value to me (my person, my body, soul and spirit) to those who have no appreciation for it because it will be despised and my efforts will be spurned. Hmm, Light!

I would patiently wait for Sara to wake up and share this with her but in the meantime, I reached out for my TV remote and settled back to enjoy my glass of juice.

he had denied it claiming the lady was a long-lost friend. The fourth was about him being a hot-blooded brother who could not wait until marriage to have sex; he needed to satisfy his urges and now this...

Each time, they had fought. Each time, I had admonished Sara to quit the relationship because it was not a godly one. Each time, she had gone back and begged him and they had made up.

“I’m not going back to him, Awe,” she said with strong determination in her voice, pulling me out of my reverie. “This is the last stroke. I’m not going back.”

In that moment, I knew change has come into her

life. I knew because she said it herself and she meant it.

Half an hour later, after some juice and cookies, Sara laid asleep on the big couch. Sitting on an armchair couch, a glass of juice before me, I glanced at her and my heart went out to her. I remembered my own past mistakes and shook my head, but that is a story for another day.

What kept coming to my mind was the question, *why do we girls continually hurt ourselves? Why do we keep staying in relationships that lack*



This afternoon, I laid on my back, with my leg crossed over the other. Lately, there has been a thriving controversy on whether that posture is healthy for us or not. While Claudia Hammond a BBC reporter highlighted the downsides to the posture in October 2015, Lecia Bushaka of *Medical Daily* five days later stated that maybe the sitting position notable with the British Comedian Kenny Everret in the 1980's, might not be necessarily harmful following some researches.

Anyway, the subject of discourse herein is not health related. It is so far from my training by the way.

As I laid on my back, a quality number of situations flashed across my thoughts, tedious times when I had to walk away from wrong decisions.

Making a wrong decision is never the end to the world. My Pastor; Olusola Areogun reminds me that in fact, making mistakes is a reminder that we are still part of the human race.

Expectedly, this is never a license to making mistakes, but often times than not, we at some points in our lives must have trodden the wrong path to be able to identify the right path.

I write to you today to remind you that irrespective of how long you tarry on the wrong track in life, it will never automatically make the route the suitable one.

I do understand that some life roads are covenant binding and you will definitely need to continually converse with God to find your way out. However, many times than not, we can always stop on our track and correct our mistakes.

I have observed a good number of times that even when people are aware that they have made wrong decisions, they struggle to deny reality. However, whether you struggle harder or not, it does not take the reality away.

Have you made a wrong decision in career, in your location, in associations or relationships, in whom you will serve the rest of your life?

Have you of your own accord chosen a detrimental path? You are not obliged to write me back, but you sure know the answer within you. I have good news for you from our Lord Jesus Christ- there is something greater than your past poor decisions. The bible in Hebrews chapter five, verse eight speaks



<http://mikeadeoye.blogspot.co.uk>



Walking Away From A Wrong Decision

about Jesus the Christ who although was a son, yet learned obedience by the things he suffered.

Our lives will follow several patterns; some are of the tribe of Jacob, who may have to have the hollow of their thigh disjointed because they are very strong willed, and there are some others who embrace folly over and over again, who make the wrong decisions yet and over again.

Nonetheless, you can stop the trend, forget the blame game and halt the presses. You can stop the music. I know from experience that the replay may be on standby in your mind for days that can roll into months and that's again because you are human, but I urge you not to let the devil have the last say. For you we can say you chose a wrong battle, but because of

Christ, it is not lost, you can fight it in Christ, by making a turn around. Do not beat yourself too hard for your folly. Once God has forgiven you by your repentant heart, I ask you to forgive yourself and start on the right road. It does not matter how long you have been on the wrong road, a single day on your path of right decision is immensely rewarding than your years of mistake.

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I commit you into the hands of the Most High God to heal and restore the years the canker-worm has eaten from you.

On Sunday we met to break bread. Paul was discussing Scripture with the people. Since he intended to leave the next day, he kept talking until midnight. (Many lamps were lit in the upstairs room where we were meeting.) A young man named Eutychus was sitting in a window. As Paul was talking on and on, Eutychus was gradually falling asleep. Finally, overcome by sleep, he fell from the third story and was dead when they picked him up.

Acts 20:7-9 GW

His name signifies one that had good fortune—Eutychus, *bene fortunatus*. Whether he was brought to the meeting in order to be healed or he was just an attendee, we know that the meeting was meant to do him some good especially due to the Word, which Paul was preaching.

Many Christians go to church, having the same intention but somehow, along the line -like Eutychus- we become distracted with things by which we ultimately are destroyed.

That the man Paul **'kept talking until midnight'** does not justify Eutychus' act of sleeping. We must do whatever we can to maintain focus when it comes to the things of God. Yes, you are married... You have a job that takes much of your time... Your leadership role in church is so demanding... You have children to look after... You are a student and you have many books to read. None of these should ever justify your act of turning cold feet towards the things of God (things that bring spiritual progress).

Despite the **'many lamps (that) were lit in the upstairs room where (they) were meeting'**, this man was still bent on sleeping off. There might be people around him who tried to call him to order and maybe he just did not listen. Just like when people begin to call you up to know why you were not at rehearsals, the prayer meeting, church service and you do not have logical explanations but you just continue in your absenteeism. That is the Eutychus spirit at work and it always heads toward self-destruction.

Distraction creeps in gradually into an individual's life **'Eutychus was gradually falling asleep'**.

For this reason we must pay closer attention to what we have heard. Then we won't drift away from the truth.



The Prevailing Word

-Tosin Babalola

<http://tosinbabalola.blogspot.com>

DISTRACTIONS

Distracted Unto Death

Hebrews 2:1 GW

To drift is a gradual process. When a man begins to drift/is distracted from the Word of God (prayer and fellowship), he begins to die (experience dryness).

The problem at the all night meeting where Paul preached was that Eutychus made a wrong decision of sleeping off. Sleep in the life of a Christian connotes spiritual dormancy or stagnation, better put, 'spiritual retrogression'. The will of the devil is to get people to the sleeping position where they begin to lose appetite for spiritual things and they become sense-ruled Christians. His desire is not only to make them sleep but to make them fall.

The ultimate goal of the devil is to see Christians

become so distracted that they fall and are taken up dead.

I urge you to remain focused on God and His word in the face of (legitimate) distractions for this is the way to prosper in God.

All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 MSG

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Where Have You Laid Him?

Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, "Where have you laid him?"

John 11:33-34a NKJV

Lazarus was their brother. They were supposed to take the best care of him. Something went wrong along the line. Lazarus got sick and died. Jesus came and asked; *"Where have you laid him?"* They showed him the tomb. He woke Lazarus from the dead and gave the three a new beginning.

The vision was given to you to nurture. You are supposed to labour and see it manifest, yet you were so careless. The vision died in your hands and it has started to decay. Jesus, the one who gave you that vision is asking today, *"Where is that vision? Where have you laid him?"*

That child was given to you by God to nurture and bring up in His way. Yet you were either so careless or busy with other things that the child has gone wild in the streets. People keep wondering; *"Does this child have a parent at all?"* The master; the one who gave you that child is here and he asks; *"Where is that child right now? Where have*

you laid him?"

That church was handed over to you to pastor. Things were so right when you stepped in. Somewhere along the line, life has gone out of your church. A mere societal gathering, Zion has been reduced to. The High Priest is here, asking; *"Where is the church I handed over to you? Where have you laid him?"*

That book was given to you to write. You received it open-heartedly. Yet all you could do was to keep it under your cloths. You keep a revelation so great to yourself. You keep wondering if the book is good enough for the prints. You keep being concerned about how you will sell it. The one who gave you the inspiration has come, and He is asking; *"Where is the book? Where have you laid him?"*

That company was in a good shape before you came into office. You came in, had access to money and forgot all you ever learnt about greed. Now your purse is fat, while the company is dead and buried. Jesus asks you today, *"What has happened to this company? Where have you laid him?"*

That Country used to be the chief among its equals. You came in and reduced it to a bag of corruption. The master is asking you today; *"What has happened to your country? Where have you laid him?"*
... They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

John 11:34b NKJV

It is still the season of grace. He asks because He wants to help you. The master is not here to punish yet. He is not here to apportion blames. He is not here to judge who is right and who is wrong. The master is not here to see who caused it and who did not. The master is here, asking questions because He wants to help and give you a new beginning.

When Mary and Martha showed Him where they laid Lazarus, they had a new beginning.

Would you stop hiding from Him and show Him the tomb? Roll away the stone and let him call forth your Lazarus. Do not be like Cain who answered wrongly, *"Am I my brother's keeper?"*

"Master, come and see..." That response brings a new beginning... a new Life.

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gracedpages



Tobi Olowookere

<https://gracedpages.wordpress.com>





Get Breathing

Fool! When will you ever learn that faith that does not result in good deeds is useless? Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was declared right with God because of what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. His faith was made complete by what he did--by his actions. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, so God declared him to be righteous." He was even called "the friend of God." So you see, we are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. Rahab the prostitute is another

example of this. She was made right with God by her actions--when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. Just as the body is dead without a spirit,

so also faith is dead without good deeds.

James 2:20-26 NLT

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You are alive not because you have a body but because you are breathing. There are bodies in the mortuary but you count them as dead because they are no longer breathing. That is the analogy to describe the relationship between works and faith. That is why it should be your concern to produce good works. James said just as a body without breath is dead, so also is faith without a (visible) commensurate work.

Works in this context refer to works of grace and not dead works of trying to appease God, to be in good term with God. These works spring out of a life that God is already pleased with. Your work is not to get God's attention. It is a reflection of what God is doing in your life.

You do not have to tell anyone that you have faith; it should be seen. A life of faith is tangible.

We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV

And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Greece, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it,

1 Thessalonians 1:8 NLT

Faith can be seen. The work their faith produced made others to know that their faith was alive.

In the spiritual realm, your faith is the body. The breathing of that faith is works. Therefore, someone who claims to have faith without works has only body without breathe. That person is dead. That faith is dead when there are no works.

What are those things that affect the breathing of men that men do not breathe?

HEREDITARY FACTOR

Some people have breathing challenges because of the gene that was passed on to them.

One of the things to check if you claim you have faith and do not have works is your lineage. Check from whom you were born. Check the faith you claim you have received. Some are born into the kind of, "Come, Jesus will solve all

your problems." They did not receive that kind of faith that teaches holiness, service and commitment from them. If those are not part of the faith received, such faith will have the challenge of not breathing. The demand might be to bring your life to Christ genuinely.

DIETARY FACTOR

Some people have breathing problem because of what they eat and drink.

The food of faith is the word of God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing of the word of God. Are you receiving a balanced diet? When it comes to feeding your faith with the word of God, with what word are you fed? You eat only carbohydrates no protein, no fats, no vitamin, only carbohydrate. That person will not live a healthy life.

All the word of God some receive is that which talks about money. It is time to go back and take a balanced diet. Do not just only stop at taking the word of God that boost your faith to receive money and excel, what about the faith that demands obedience from your life? Do you digest the word of God that demands service, sacrifice and more commitment from your life?

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR

There are places where the polluted air is causing breathing problems to the people staying there.

Ope Rowland <http://operowland.blogspot.com>

thrive

In the world we are, everywhere we get to, there is that pollution in the spirit realm. The air around is that calling people to ungodliness. You do not require much temptation to do wrong, it is everywhere around you. You look left and right, it is ungodliness. It might disturb your work production: producing the works of saying, "No to ungodliness."

You cannot run away from this world as you have been sent to this world on a mission. You stay! However, you can carry and wear your nose mask everywhere to filter what comes into you.

And the LORD God formed a man's body from the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life. And the man became a living person.

Genesis 2:7 NLT

For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 NLT

Carry your nose mask and receive the correct gas into your nose. A constant fellowship with the Holy Spirit will save you.

INADEQUATE EXERCISE

Some people have breathing problem because they do not exercise enough. To regularize your breathing, you will have to improve on your exercise. Exercise is to generate heat energy in your body and channel them to the appropriate quarters and your breathing become normal.

That is the work of prayer!

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16 KJV

A prayer that is fervent in nature will produce

works. Your lack of works indicates something about your prayer life. Something needs to be corrected if men cannot see our faith by our works and we need to keep telling them we have faith. It is time to exercise in the spirit. It is time to start praying. It is time to take your spiritual fervency to another level. It is time to pray. It is time to travail. That is your spiritual exercise.

OVER ACTIVITY

When you overwork your system, you might have breathing challenges.

And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.

Mark 6:30-32 KJV

Come and take a rest. Some do have works but are no longer breathing regularly again. Their good works is not coming forth as it ought to again. It is because they are over laboring themselves with activities.

Come back to Sabbath. You must never lose sight of the principle of Sabbath. The principle of Sabbath is not all about doing nothing but that you might spend that time with God. *How much time do you spend with God?* A man, who is far from the presence of God, a man who is far from his personal altar, will have little work to show for his faith.

Get breathing again because your faith without breathing, your faith without good works is zero; it is a dead man on the street.

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I was wondering what was stinking. Is there a gutter close by? Could it be a dead rat somewhere, an exposed soak away or a leaking sewage from a broken pipe? The stench was much and I am personally allergic to odour. I was restless and nauseated as I surf the internet in the school's café. I felt like vomiting. All windows were shut, as the café was AC tight. I could not find a solution to the problem until the man who was sitting beside me left. Lo and behold, he was the one exuding such disgusting odour. I was immediately relieved. Then, I kept wondering how an elderly, well-dressed individual would be emitting such ionizing radiations of reek. *What could have been the cause? Could it be a health problem or a demonic attack?*

There are many myths about body and mouth odour. However, the one that readily came to mind, as I thought about this man, was that of improper washing at birth. When a child is born physically into the world, the child is expected to be thoroughly washed. In fact, there are situations where certain specialists are traditionally employed to wash newborns so that they can be

clean. It is believed that if the child is not properly washed at birth, the child carries the odor all his/her life. Could it be that this man's case was due to this omission at birth?

This portends a great spiritual implication. Many believers today have "body odour" in the spirit. You just know that something is not right about the brother or sister even though he claims to be born again. The spiritual stench is palpable. You can discern that something somewhere in his/her life is not straight. I have come to realize that this syndrome may be due to an omission at birth; many believers were not properly washed when they were born into the family of God. They were spared of the hyssop by the contemporary midwives who do not want them to cry because of the brunt of the sponge.

Many a saint today still carries the scent of the old man. You wonder why certain believers are not free from the hold of sin, Satan, self and world even though they are born again. Something about them is just creepy. Their garment is yet spotted with flesh. They still carry all around the taints and the wrinkles of worldliness, lust,

anger, pride, and the likes. The unfortunate thing is that this spiritual reek has become normal flora with many of them. They cannot perceive their own stench.

Judas Iscariot was the Treasurer of Jesus International Ministries (JIM) in Israel. He was signatory to the ministry's



Fresh Bread

-Olufemi Babalola
<https://olufemibabalola.wordpress.com>



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Spiritual Stench

account. Jesus cannot withdraw money from the ministry's account except Judas counter signs the cheque. Much more, Judas was anointed. He had been part of many evangelistic outreaches of Jesus. He had preached eloquently and convincingly with hundreds running out for altar calls. He had bashed demons out of people, raised the dead and healed the sick. He has also seen raw miracles performed by Jesus. He saw how thousands were fed with five loaves of bread and two fishes. He saw him walk on the sea and many others. He had reached the apex of ministerial breakthrough but concerning this man Jesus said, ***“People who have bathed and are clean all over need to wash just their feet. And you, my disciples, are clean, except for one***

of you.’ Jesus knew who would betray him. That is why he said, ‘except for one of you.’” (John 13:10-11)

He was washed but he was not clean. I guess it was an omission at birth. There was no way Judas would have been found among the disciples if he was not born again. There was no doubt about his birth; what was spooky about him was his washing at birth. He was not clean. One can still palpate the revolting stench of the sinful nature. He was a thief (John 12:6). Like Joshua the high priest on whose right hand Satan stood because he wore a filthy garment, the dirt in Judas' life attracted demons to him. Eventually, Satan got a chance and entered into him (Luke 22:3; John 13:27).

Friend, I hope you are not emitting spiritual odour. Are you clean? Are you washed in the blood of the lamb? Was your washing thorough at birth?

While it is good to give altar calls, I have come to realize that this “raise up your hand and come to the altar” gospel has not helped much. I cannot count how many times I have raised my hands and went to the altar but it did me no good until I reported personally to the Great Physician. That was when I began to know the victory in the name and the blood of Jesus.

Judas thought he could subdue the spiritual odour he was emitting with the body sprays and perfume of church activities. He was never sincere! Peter did not hide his instability hence the Lord was able to help him and pray for Him. The sifting reed became the solid rock on which the church was built. Nathaniel was sincerely wrong. He was the Israelite in whom there is no guile.

Thomas did not hide his doubts. He frankly told the rest of the disciples when he was told the Lord had appeared to them, “*Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.*” (John 20:25 NIV). Jesus was compelled to reappear so that Thomas will be helped.

Philip was very objective. He did a critical analysis of every situation even when he was expected to apply his faith. Jesus did not despise him because he was sincere, but how will God help an insincere man? One could have thought

Judas was speaking from a caring heart when he rebuked the woman who seemed to be wasting a precious ointment on Jesus. However, the Bible made it clear that he did not care for the poor. He rebuffed the woman’s action **“not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. He carried the money bag and would help himself from it.”** (John 12:6). He missed his opportunity to be completely cleansed from the stigma of stench. He eventually betrayed his Lord, sold Him for 30 pieces of silver and committed suicide. He lost his life and ministry eternally and he was thereafter replaced.

I believe this is a timely word from the Lord Himself to the church, His Bride. This is a call for us to check our garments. He is sending this word as water to wash us from every spot or stain. He wants to sanctify and cleanse us so **“that he might present (us) to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that (we) should be holy and without blemish.”** (Ephesians 5:27 KJV). Let us sincerely report our case to the Great Physician. Let us expose every dark spot in our hearts. Stop using empty perfume of activities; they are temporal. Ask Him to heal you of every odour wherever it may be hiding. This is what He says, **“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”** Remember, **“nothing unworthy will be allowed to enter (the new Jerusalem). No one who is dirty-minded or who tells lies will be there.”** (Revelation 21:27 CEV).

Many at times the future seems far, especially when we are still young. For instance, a 12-year-old child thinks it takes eternity to clock 30 years of age. Sooner than imagined, they celebrate 25th birthday and become close to 30 years.

A wise child therefore starts planning now, having realized that the future is nearer than we are thinking. Serious commitment into today guarantees a better tomorrow. Wealth, success and affluence are not accidents, neither are they destined for special set of people. Anybody anywhere can be successful, wealthy or become affluent, if only they can pay the price.

Do you want to become an employer of labor in the future? On the other hand, you want a good marriage, you want to break a record, or you want to be a successful business tycoon, just name it, any-

thing you want to become all starts NOW, not tomorrow. Tomorrow is only a manifestation of yesterday input. Do not think it is too early to start planning, preparing and praying about future NOW. Do not spend your teenage hood or youthful days playing, partying or catching fun. Your future is right at your doorstep, waiting to enter. Remember, early preparation equals early arrival in most cases.

You want to be a medical doctor at 22 years; then start planning NOW. You want to be a PHD holder before 30 years of age, then start preparing for it NOW. Time waits for no man. **Time is equivalent to life, so please spend it well so that your future will not be gloomy and full of regrets.**

This is just to charge you up. In our subsequent publication, we will discuss keys to planning your future. Until then, remain blessed and be charged up in your spirit to take your future in your hands by planning NOW.

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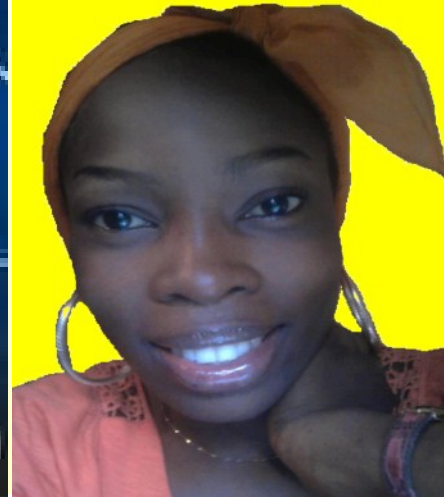
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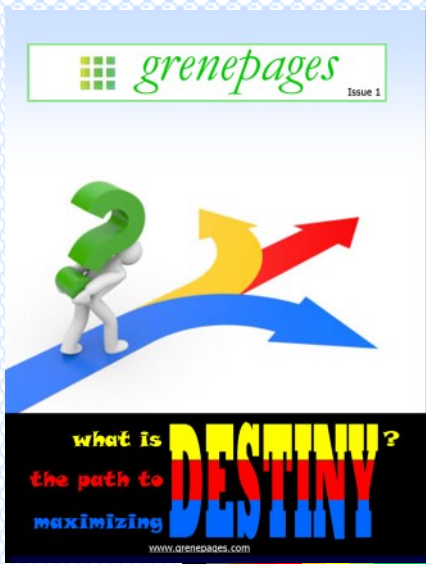
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