



March 2023

Power Seeds

...empowering your life.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL & GUIDE

GEORGE & MANUELA IZUNWA

WEDNESDAY
WORD
EXPLOSION

NOW 1ST SERVICE 4:00PM | 2ND SERVICE 6:00PM

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🕒 QUIET TIME PROGRAMME

Good Morning Jesus	1Min
Praise And Worship (Hymns & Songs)	6Mins
Power Seeds & Bible Reading	7Mins
Prayer For Self & Family	12Mins
Prayer For Church & Others	7Mins
Spiritual Warfare	5Mins
Quiet Moment To Listen For Divine Direction	5Mins
Final Song and Closing	2Mins
Total	45Mins



▶ INTRODUCTION

“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

Mark 1:35

PASTOR & BARR. MRS.
GEORGE IZUNWA

During King David's reign, the tabernacle (the movable tent) that Moses had made was erected at the high place in Gibeon. This tabernacle represented the presence of God among the people.

At one particular time when David sinned, he needed a more immediate and convenient altar, so God sent him to Ornan and told David to build on Ornan's threshing floor. **1 Chronicles 21:26** says, “*And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering.*”

Thanks to Jesus, the sacrificial system is out, the need to go through Levitical priests to get to God is out, and the need to stand before a particular altar whenever you pray is out. However, even though all those things are no more, the spirit of each part of David's worship is still necessary today.

You see, your body is now the temple. **1st Corinthians 6:19** says, “*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit...?*”

It is your responsibility to build an altar to the Lord in your heart, maintain it, and visit it frequently! Receive grace!

Open your Bible and prepare to find the power of His presence as Pastor George Izunwa and Co-Pastor, Manuela Izunwa are set to take you on a journey through the Scriptures in this monthly devotional.



THE GATEWAY STRATEGY

This is Gateway International Church!

Our mission is to help you genuinely encounter God.

There are three (3) values that drive everything we do in this church;

- i- We Love God Passionately,
- ii- We Love People Unconditionally, and
- iii- We Live Our Faith Intentionally!

There are four (4) things that define a true Jesus' follower;

- i- Every true disciple studies & **LEARNS** from the Bible!
- ii- Every true disciple **LIVES** in holiness before God!
- iii- Every true disciple **LOVES** & serves in the church!
- iv- Every true disciple **LEADS** others to Jesus Christ!

There are five (5) things that will help you get the best from this church;

- i- Always come expectant and worship with passion!



THE GATEWAY STRATEGY

- ii- Receive the man of God with an open heart!
- iii- Be regular and punctual in every church service!
- iv- Join a cell group & serve in a church department!
- v- Use our Welcome Centre for all your enquiries!

There are three (3) activities that define our God first culture as a church;

- I- God first quiet time!
- ii- God first yearly and monthly consecration!
- iii- God first tithing and first fruits!



2023

COVENANT CONFESSION

(Lift your right hand and declare)

I am a citizen of God's kingdom!

I am planted in Gateway International Church!

I live for God; I live by His Word; I walk in His Spirit!

I am a partaker of the 'I AM' covenant!

2023 is my year of ZOE - the GOD life!

Today.... In response to Romans 10:8-11, I reaffirm my confession of faith in Jesus Christ!

I believe the truth, that Jesus died and rose from the dead!

I believe that His sacrifice paid the price for all my sins!

I believe that He is seated in Heaven with God, the Father!

I believe that He is coming back again to take me home!

I believe that in Him and through Him, I am blessed with all the blessings of God!

I believe that Zoe powers me for destiny dominion.

Therefore...

I cannot fail!



2023

▶ COVENANT **CONFESSION**

I am free from every demonic bondage!

My DNA is supernatural!

I am a burning and a shining light!

Money multiplies in my hands!

Goodness and mercy follow me at all times!

Nations open their gates and treasures to me!

I put God first; I pay my tithes; I am a soul winner; I serve in God's kingdom!

My life works; my faith works; my relationships work; my business works; everything works!

I win every battle of destiny!

My covenant place is at the topmost top!

On my path, there is no sickness nor death!

Only good things are permitted in my life!

There shall be no loss nor evil report in my life this year!

I am an evidence of Zoe!

MONEY MULTIPLIES IN MY HANDS!

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Job 22:23-25, "If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver."

Financial poverty limits destinies! The more a good man has, the more his capacity to do greater good. Because you fulfill covenant obligations, your money is blessed to multiply!

PRAYER POINTS:

1. **Psalms 23:1**— Father, thank You for Your unending supply in my life. I declare today that You are my source! There is no place for smallness or scarcity in my life! Halleluyah!
2. Today, I decree that money will never again be a limitation to any vision of my life, whether in business, career, academics, marriage, ministry, etc. I receive resources for advancement!
3. Oh God, release fresh fire on me. Every mystery behind lack, disfavour, stagnation & poverty, catch fire!
4. Let ideas, concepts, inspiration, opportunities & connections flow in! My Father, take me from minor to mega; multiply my financial results!
5. Today, I call in destiny helpers, business partners, investors, etc into my life! I will not need help and not find it. Kings and men of relevance are coming to the brightness of my rising!
6. By fire, I rebuke devourers, money leakages & investment failures! I operate in divine wisdom. I have the gift of discernment; I know what to do at all times!
7. Father, thank You for the harvest of souls across the globe. Let the hearts of men be made flesh. Let the kingdom of hell be depopulated, in Jesus' name.
8. Today, I command speedy manifestation of every word spoken over Gateway Int'l Church. Let the voice of the accuser against her be swallowed by the Blood of Jesus!
9. Father, take Pst. George Izunwa higher in life, ministry, influence & affluence. Send him men that are lifters of his assignment. Announce him to the nations of the earth.
10. Today, by the mercies of God, let there be a turnaround for Nigeria. Let the reign of evil end. We enter our next level of development and improvement, in Jesus' name.

MONEY IS A DEFENCE

KEY
TEXT

Ecclesiastes 7:12, "For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence; but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Have you ever been to a football game where the cheerleaders were chanting “Defence! Defence! Block him! Push them back”? Perhaps you have been to a football viewing centre and you can hear everyone instruct the player to defend his team's goalpost? Regardless of the sport, “defence” means to stop the advance of an opponent. The 'opponent' in this context can be an adversary or enemy. So with this understanding, take a quick look at the key text again which says: *“Wisdom is better when it's paired with money, especially if you get both while you're still living. Double protection: wisdom and wealth! ...”* **Ecclesiastes 7:12 (MSG).**

The Hebrew word for *defence* is *tzel* and it means: “Shadow, shade, protection.” In other words, your defence should protect and shield you. One of the greatest adversaries of the world today is **LACK**. Lack steals more than your money; it robs you of your dreams, your future, your hope, your ability to bless those you love and help those God directs you to bless. Money is your defence.

APPLICATION— Get to work! Work is a command from God and He designed work for you to be satisfying and fulfilling. Poverty comes unexpectedly and unstopably when you laze around. Satan is trying to attack every part of what God's word has established in your life and his greatest strategy is laziness. **Proverbs 12:11** says, *“He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, but he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.”* Tilling land as referred to in Bible times is the same today as hard work. God says hard work has a reward; you get to eat bread. Defend yourself; get to work!



PRAYER

Dear Lord, I thank You for Your constant supply into my life. Everything I need for success is made available. I receive the spirit of diligence to take my portion in destiny. So help me God.



ACTION
POINT

List out 3 things you want to achieve by the year's end. Outline steps to achieving them and begin working on them.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Deuteronomy 28 – 29

GOD IS NOT POOR

KEY
TEXT

Haggai 2:8, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— You probably knew that God is rich. But have you thought about what that means? Since God is not poor, surely He would not desire His children to suffer poverty. Misunderstanding has developed because most Christians think Jesus Christ was poor and that His followers should also be poor. Ask yourself, why did God create all the wealth of this world? Surely not for the devil and his crowd, but for you!

God does not withhold good from us but desires blessing for all His children. If it were otherwise, God would not even be as good as earthly parents. Any court would condemn an earthly father who, although rich, withheld support from his children. Do you think your Heavenly Father is any less loving and caring and giving than an earthly father? NO! Jesus taught that your Heavenly Father is much more gracious and generous than any earthly father. Just because you are yet to receive the fullness of God's blessing does not mean God does not desire that you have it.

APPLICATION— Your transition into the realm of abundance begins with understanding; an understanding that when you became born again, you stepped out of poverty into prosperity. When you understand this, declare that you are done with poverty and that prosperity is yours in Christ. Do away with words like lack, insufficiency, inadequacy, suffering, etc. from your vocabulary. Refuse to admit and acknowledge lack in your life. God is not poverty-stricken, and He doesn't produce poverty-stricken children. Believe and confess that you are the seed of Abraham and you are blessed with and in all good things of life.



I declare today that God is my wealthy Father who loves me and delights to bless me. I receive the flow of abundance in my life; poverty catch fire now!



Read Psalms 35:27 in multiple versions, and meditate on it.



Deuteronomy 30 – 32

JESUS, MONEY AND A FISH

KEY TEXT

Matthew 17:27, "Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Today, take a look at one of the most incredible miracles Jesus did. The miracle is quite simple to understand. He tells Peter that they are going to pay the tax to not give offense. How will they get the money? From a fish. Yes, from a *fish*. So, he tells Peter to go catch a fish, and he promises him that the first fish he catches will have a shekel inside (or literally, a *stater*, which was a silver Greek coin worth about a shekel).

Imagine Peter's reaction when he was told to do this! At this point, his disciples already knew Jesus could do anything. They had seen him perform miracles. Yet I still don't think this shekel-in-a-fish situation would've been an everyday command for Peter to receive. But then, Jesus nonchalantly did two amazing things here— first, was making a silver coin appear inside of a fish. Secondly, He orchestrated things so that this one fish (with a coin in its mouth) would be the first fish Peter caught when he went fishing. This means He's not only someone who materialized a coin in a fish, but then He sovereignly guided that fish. He controlled the fish and ordained that it would bite Peter's hook. And then he made sure that no other fish would bite Peter's hook before this fish did—it had to be the first fish Peter caught. He was clearly in control.

APPLICATION— Trust in Him. The Jesus who put coin in the mouth of a fish has not changed and He will meet you at the very point of your need. Keep believing for the very best!



Lord Jesus, I worship You today! You are the miracle working God and I believe that You will make a way for me today!



Expect a miracle today.



Deuteronomy 33 – 34

THE BLESSED MAN

KEY
TEXT

Psalms 1:1-2, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

Do you feel blessed today? Blessed is what the Bible says you are. In the beginning, when God created the first humans, the very first thing He did was to bless them; it was sort of like their birthday present. If you have never called yourself "BLESSED" you need to have a rethink and proper overhaul! You are BLESSED and no one can take that away from you.

3 MARKS OF A BLESSED MAN—

- A blessed man doesn't stand in the way of sinners
- A blessed man will always put others ahead of himself.
- A blessed man delights and meditates daily on the Word of God.



PRAYER

Father, may Your blessing rest upon me afresh today. I declare that everything around me is blessed, in Jesus' name.



ACTION
POINT

Declare and say,
"I am BLESSED!"



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Joshua 1 – 4

GOOD SUCCESS

KEY TEXT

Joshua 1:8, "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...have good success."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— If you observe today's theme scripture carefully, you will notice it didn't say God shall make your way prosperous, but that you shall make your own way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely in the affairs of life and have good success.

Not all successful people can say they have good success. Good success comes without sorrow. It is wholistic—it affects your spirit, soul and body (**3 John 2**). It brings peace with it. If your 'success' does not give you peace, you are not truly successful. Above all, good success is a way of life that comes from being established in the Word of God. It comes from hearing and obeying the Word so consistently that it begins to guide your actions even when you're not consciously thinking about it. But for this to happen, you must follow the instruction given to Joshua in our key text. It does not come by accident. Good success comes by the intentional deployment of kingdom principles. It is a product of investment in kingdom principles.

APPLICATION— Kingdom principles are vested in the Word of God. You can deploy kingdom principles by meditating on the Word. The subject of your meditation should be words and things that are consistent with the Word of God. Meditating on anything else will not produce lasting results. When you meditate on God's Word often, not only will you have good success, you'll find yourself dealing wisely in the affairs of life, and satan will find it difficult to carry out his nefarious acts in your life. In other words, the wisdom of God will function in you so much that when you make decisions or take actions on something, they'll be just right.



PRAYER

Today, I receive a fresh burning passion and hunger for the Word of God. My mind is receptive and I declare that the Word of God richly dwells in my spirit, in Jesus' name.



ACTION POINT

Memorize one verse of scripture today; repeat it out loud at various intervals before the day's end.



DAILY BIBLE READING:

Joshua 5 – 7

WALKING WITH EL-SHADDAI

KEY TEXT

Genesis 17:1 NLT, "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai—"God Almighty." Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— When the Lord God revealed Himself to Abram in Genesis 17:1, He used the Hebrew name *El Shaddai*, which the *King James Version* translates as "Almighty God." Scripture says that the LORD appeared again to Abram, 13 years after the birth of Ishmael. We do not know what Abram's relationship with the Lord had been like during those 13 years of silence; but no doubt there had been moments of guilt. Perhaps at times there was the tendency to wonder if the Lord still loved him. Perhaps there was a lingering fear that he would never be a father as God had promised.

But the LORD is gracious. Even during times of silence, God is still there and His promises do not change. They are 'unconditional'. 'El-Shaddai, God Almighty' says three things about God— sovereignty, omnipotence and faithfulness! Whether you believe it or not – God is God and He has supreme power and control over all there is. The word omnipotence means – {unlimited power}. God not only has supreme power; the power that He has is unlimited. Above, you can trust Him to never fail. What a blessing it must have been to Abram on that day when the LORD revealed Himself again. Thirteen years of silence and then, when Abram least expected it, El-Shaddai showed up. Isn't that just like God? When we think that all hope is gone, He comes to us and reassures us of His love and presence.

APPLICATION— You can only walk with El-shaddai in faith, trust and complete obedience. Just as He spoke to Abram about keeping his end of the bargain, He is also instructing you today. God is set to release on outpouring over you this season. Have respect for His covenant with you. Keep your end of the bargain!



PRAYER

Oh God, You are the God who is more than enough for me! Thank You for Your outpour of MORE! I walk in Covenant and I will enjoy the benefits of El-shaddai, in Jesus' name!



ACTION POINT

Reaffirm your commitment to your covenant with God.



DAILY BIBLE READING:

Joshua 8 – 10

I RECEIVE RESTORATION AND COMPENSATION

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

2 Kings 8:6, "And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now."

In God, nothing is a permanent loss. Lost opportunities, glories, relationships and years can be recovered with compensation. This is the year of taking back everything you have lost!

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Psalms 100:1-4; Father, I thank You for giving me a better future and hope in Christ Jesus. I know that my future is secure in You! Halleluyah!
2. 1 Chronicles 4:9-10; Oh God, I ask You to change my life's story! May my destiny journey take a turn from shame to glory. I am restored all round!
3. Today, I declare: No more shame! No more evil stories! No more stagnation! No more delayed testimonies in my life and family.
4. 1 Thessalonians 2:18; I break every satanic roadblock and invisible barrier hindering the manifestation of my blessings.
5. Everyone related, connected & associated with me, living under any demonic oppression is redeemed today! I break the horns of oppression. Let destinies around me begin to rise!
6. Oh heavens! I command you to continually be open. Let the siege over the heavens break. No more brass & iron. No more rain of dust. Let there be showers of blessing.
7. Father, thank You for it is Your will that no man should perish but that all should come to repentance. May hearts and souls be turned to You in this season!
8. **Psalms 138:8**— I declare that Gateway International Church will increase with multitudes of people. I declare that we are going higher on every side, in Jesus' name.
9. Father, strengthen Your servant, Pst. George Izunwa, by Your mighty Hand! Make him Your voice to the nations!
10. Oh Lord, envelope Nigeria with Your presence. Let wickedness be uprooted. I declare peace is restored in every sector, in Jesus' name.

GOD OR MONEY

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Jesus makes clear that we must choose who will be our master—God or money. As God's servant, He wants your total allegiance. Let's compare these two masters.

The Lord tells us to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Money says hold on to what you have so that you can be secure. God says that we reap what we sow (**Galatians 6:7**). Money says you should do whatever it takes to get ahead because “the person with the most toys wins.” Jesus said, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's [in taxes] and to God what is God's” (**Mark 12:17**). Money says it's OK to cheat the government because they are poor money managers anyway. God calls us to be generous. Money calls one to be selfish and to hoard wealth. God says, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (**Acts 20:35**). Money says you should not give, because you will not have enough to provide for your needs. As a true child of God, you make a difference in your world by living in a way opposite to the god of money. As your faith in Jesus grows, your life should be marked by selflessness, generosity and love. Let God lead, not money.

APPLICATION— One way to choose God over money is to use money God's way. God expects you to have certain attitudes when it comes to

money and one of such is contentment! As you journey to your season of abundance, be grateful for the much you have. Discontentment makes you slave-bound to money and this is not the will of God for you. Remember, “...godliness with contentment is great gain...”



Father, thank You for the entrance of Your Word. I am grateful for everything You have blessed me with. I declare that I am not a slave to money or materialism; I find peace and joy in what You have blessed me with, in Jesus' name.



Make a gratitude list today to boost contentment.



Joshua 14 – 17

WHEN HOPE IS ALL YOU NEED

KEY TEXT

1 Kings 17:12, "And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Feel like you're at the end of your rope? Don't see a way through your circumstances? Then today's seed is for you. Because the end of your rope is the middle of God's story. Elijah the prophet had gone to King Ahab, Israel's most wicked king, to declare a drought. There would be no rain, not even dew, because of Israel's evil idolatry until Elijah declared it over.

By divine orchestration, he landed at Zarephath. At the city gates, he spotted a young widow gathering sticks. She had no bread. In fact, she was preparing to die. She was at the end of her rope. While the text doesn't say, one can imagine her head hanging low and warm tears brushing her cheeks as she described her plight. Elijah answered: "Do not be afraid." He instructed her to make a small loaf for him first with this promise from God: the flour jar would not become empty nor the oil jug run dry until the day the Lord sent rain again. The widow did as Elijah said. And afterward? Her flour jar never became empty and her oil jar never ran dry just as God had promised. In fact, the widow, her family and Elijah had food through the entire multi-year drought.

APPLICATION— In the midst of her plight, she trusted God! When she trusted God with everything she had, God provided everything she needed. Friend, there is no hopelessness in God. And while there are tests of faith, there is no lack in God either. The same God who provided for Elijah and the widow of Zarephath, is the same God who is faithful as well. Just trust and obey.



Father, forgive my unbelief and doubts! I receive grace to trust You and follow You through this phase of my life. My confidence is in You and I believe that You won't let me down, Amen!



That instruction God has laid in your heart, do it.



Joshua 18 – 20

APPROACHING QUIET TIME WHEN LIFE IS HARD

KEY
TEXT

Mark 1:35, "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Stress and a busy schedule can make it impossible to quiet your racing thoughts. When trouble weighs us down, or heartache seems to grow each day, we're not able to focus long enough to even sense God's presence, much less hear what He might want to say to us.

During times of trial, getting through the day can take all your physical and spiritual energy. And just when you need God most, you lack the strength to draw near to Him or the ability to focus on prayer or Bible reading. When life becomes hard, you need to embrace simple ways to invite more of God into your life.

APPLICATION— **Remember He is Near.** Friend, Satan's greatest goal is to separate you from God. When you're struggling, the father of lies whispers, "God doesn't care, and He isn't there." Yet Scripture tells us God is always near: "The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth" (**Psalms 145:18**). It only takes a one-word prayer: "Jesus."

Get Real with God. You don't have to put on a happy, holy face to draw near to God. When you're struggling, you can show up with your pain, discouragement or even your anger. Pour out your hearts to God just as you would to your best friend.

Embrace Silence. When your struggle is great, sometimes you have no words. All you can do is sit in silence. If you're experiencing one of those wordless times, ask God to pour over you a deep sense of His presence.

Read a Psalm. Psalms provide familiar comfort and encouragement. When you don't know how to pray, the Psalms offer words you can read aloud to God. Receive grace and help today with your quiet time!



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I come before You and I pour out my ALL to You. Search my heart and take away every hindrance in my walk with You. Pour out Your spirit afresh on me and help me to build my relationship with You. Amen.



ACTION
POINT

Practice the steps listed above. Take note of the impact it has on you.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Joshua 21 – 22

THE BLESSING OF KINGDOM SERVICE

KEY
TEXT

Exodus 23:25-26, "And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil."

It is clear that your service to God provokes the blessing of God on your life. A person who wants to be blessed without service is like someone who demands salary from an organization he isn't working in. It pays to serve God. When you serve Him, He services you. Receive grace for kingdom service today!

Now, what kind of service can you render to God?

- Service in the house of the Lord.
- Serving God with our lives, time and resources.
- Soul winning service or assignment.
- Being generous to others.



PRAYER

Today, I make a commitment to serve in God's house. My gifts and talents will not be wasted. My life brings glory to Jesus, Halleluyah!



ACTION
POINT

Serve!



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Joshua 23 – 24

CONNECT TO SPIRITUAL RICHES IN CHRIST

KEY
TEXT

Philippians 4:19 NIV, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Need courage, strength, money, patience? When you put your faith and trust in Christ, God will meet all your needs. Today's verse is a promise that God will never forsake those who seek Him. He will provide for your financial, physical, and spiritual needs. One special meaning in this verse also has to do with God's desire to reward you for your hard work. When you are generous in giving of finances, talents, and your time for God's kingdom, God delights in being even more generous to you. You can't out-give God!

In the original context of this verse, Paul—who was in prison at the writing of this letter—was thanking the Philippians for abundantly and generously providing for his needs. They helped him when no one else did. He was thankful, but he also reminds us that we should learn to be content in all situations, whether we have the bare minimum (only his basic needs met) or plenty, because we can rely on God, who will never let us down.

APPLICATION— In the preceding verses of Philippians 4, Paul says, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* If you live by faith in the promise of Christ's riches, it will be very hard for anxiety to survive. God's "riches in glory" are inexhaustible. He really means for you not to worry about your future. Beloved, follow this pattern that Paul lays out for us. Battle the unbelief of anxiety and connect to the unending flow of Christ's riches.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for supplying my every need. I cast off the spirit of worry, doubt and anxiety. I believe and I receive my answers. My expectations will not be cut short!



ACTION
POINT

Share your worry to a trusted counselor and pray about it using today's key text.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Judges 1 – 3

BREAKING NEGATIVE CYCLES

KEY
TEXT

John 5:6-7, "When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— A cycle is a series of events that are regularly repeated in the same order or a course of events or operations that re-occur regularly and usually lead one back to the same starting point. Life operates in cycles, both in the physical and spiritual realm.

If you don't understand that life is in cycles, you may miss your season of blessing. A negative cycle can keep a man bound timelessly. Take for instance, the man at the pool of Bethesda. His story is the perfect illustration of a painful cycle. For 38 years, he went through the same process and series of events; when an opportunity appears for his miracle, he returns back to square one! When the enemy sees that a blessing is coming your way, he brings problems, even tangible excuses to deny you from getting the blessing. No! That is a cycle that must break today!

APPLICATION— To break out of any cycle, you need to first identify the presence of one. The man at the pool of Bethesda knew what his problem was and what he needed to do. Secondly, set yourself free from the limitations of the mind e.g mentality of captivity or prison of the mind. Some people are so used to their cycle or problem that they have accepted it as their fate. Don't become too used to your situation that you don't notice when your moment of deliverance comes. Instead of grabbing his healing, the man at that pool started describing the story of his life. Lastly, engage the power of His Spirit to break the cycle. To everything in life there is an end. The end of every Negative Cycle and Evil Pattern is Now!!!!



Father, thank You for the entrance of Your Word. I declare that the negative cycles are broken. I am bailed out totally and completely!



Pray in tongues on any cycle around you.



Judges 4 – 5

BUSINESS BREAKTHROUGH!

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Deuteronomy 8:18. "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

If the Gospel has to reach the very ends of the earth, then it is paramount that you break through in business. Yes! God needs you and your resources to further and advance His cause on the earth; this is why He wants you to break through in business more than you even want.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Father, I give You thanks for all things; thank You for inspiring me with the wisdom and the skill to start business and entrepreneurship.
2. Lord Jesus, fill me with divine wisdom at this point in business to be able to birth ideas and actions that make for real breakthrough, in Jesus' name.
3. Today, I receive innovation in products and services creation and also in packaging and delivery of the products and services. I am the best and I stand out as the best, in Jesus' name.
4. Oh Lord, by Your Hand, I receive administrative and managerial skills to be able to administer the affairs of my business for business breakthrough, in Jesus' name.
5. I declare that the earth makes room for me. In the midst of the millions of enterprises, my business venture stands out. Every power of obscurity, catch fire!
6. Today, I receive my mighty men. I receive help and destiny helpers. That help that would push my business to the next level, come upon me now!
7. Father, thank You for it is Your will that no man should perish but that all should come to repentance. May hearts and souls be turned to You in this season!
8. **Psalms 138:8**— I declare that Gateway International Church will increase with multitudes of people. I declare that we are going higher on every side, in Jesus' name.
9. Father, strengthen Your servant, Pst. George Izunwa, by Your mighty Hand! Make him Your voice to the nations!
10. Oh Lord, envelope Nigeria with Your presence. Let wickedness be uprooted. I

declare peace is restored in every sector,
in Jesus' name.



DAILY BIBLE
READING

Judges 6 – 8

A WISE RESPONSE COOLS HOT HEADS

KEY TEXT

1 Samuel 25:23-25, "And when Abigail saw David, she hastened, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground... Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— When Abigail heard the report of how her husband treated David's troops while camped in the Wilderness of Paran, she acted fast and wisely. Abigail had a cantankerous spouse in Nabal. He was known for foolishly belittling others with his quick, harsh and cutting gestures. His unruly behaviour instigated David's hot pursuit of him and caused his wife, Abigail, to take matters into her own hands. Abigail went courageously to meet David, knowing her life and the lives of others depended on her courage and wisdom.

Abigail's story is a reminder that you can become the best version of yourself. She acted courageously and moved swiftly; above all, she chose peace. She could have as well told the messenger, "He is my husband and he is right!" but she knew that, "*a gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare*" (**Proverbs 15:1**).

APPLICATION— This year, commit yourself to learning and displaying humility and kindness. Even though Abigail was a rich woman, she remained humble. She had the courage and strength to shoulder the blame for something she didn't do. She begged forgiveness on behalf of her entire household. She chose to do the right thing. Instead of escalating an already existing upheaval, she calmed the situation. Always bear this in mind: your words and actions are powerful. They can produce good or bad results for you. If you begin to approach situations and people with words of wisdom and acts of gentleness/kindness, you will have a smoother sail through life. Remember, you can't control the actions of others, but you can control your reaction to ensure it's in line with God's will.



Holy Spirit, fill my life with grace and peace. Help me to be humble and find wisdom to handle what everything and everyone I face today, in Jesus' name.



Read the story of Abigail in another Bible translation for a deeper understanding.



Judges 9 – 10

BE SLOW TO ANGER

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 14:29 NRSV, "Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but one who has a hasty temper exalts folly"

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— We live in a world full of tempers. On our streets, in our homes, and on our social media, people tend to express their temper often and loudly. Anger seems to simmer under the surface of our society, and it's destructive.

Proverbs does not say, don't have a temper or don't ever get angry. Rather, it instructs you not to have a hasty temper. As humans, we get angry. God even gets angry in the Bible. We have tempers but your response in the moment of emotion causes you to move from understanding to folly. Paul notes in Galatians that self-control is one of the fruits of the Spirit (5:23). One who is slow to anger controls him or herself. Such a person stands out increasingly wherever they are found. Most people excuse their irrational behaviour and outbursts under the guise of 'freedom of expression'. Your freedom of expression, especially in moments of anger, rarely brings about anything constructive. Rather, it often causes more harm than good. But when you exercise self-control and are slow to anger, you will find opportunity to build instead of tear down; you display understanding and wisdom instead of foolishness. And, ultimately, you show that God's Spirit works in you!

APPLICATION— How can you be slow to anger? WAIT! Patience, the Bible says, is a virtue! God is relentlessly patient and He wants you to display patience as you deal with people and life in general. Just before you blurt out that offensive word you cannot take back, try pausing for just one minute; you will find out what difference just a minute of patience can do for you. Receive grace for patience today!



Father, may Your Spirit bear fruit in my life, enabling me to exercise self-control at being slow to anger, in Jesus' name.



The next time you get angry, try counting to 60 before you say anything.



Judges 11 – 13

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

KEY
TEXT

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law"

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Watch the news, look on social media, or just take a walk down the street. This world is filled with the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit. Instead of love, people express hate or indifference; instead of joy, misery and despair. Violence and restlessness are predominant over peace. We struggle to show patience to others or ourselves. And so on and so forth.

Two important things you should note about the fruit of the Spirit. First, they don't grow naturally. If you, as a believer, do not nurture them in your life, they will not grow. If you do not obey God's commands and the Spirit's leading, you will not produce them. You have to choose to grow them and manifest them in your life. They do not happen naturally, and our world does not foster or encourage their growth. Second, the fruit of the Spirit pertains primarily to our relationships with others. You don't manifest gentleness with God; you show it to those around you. The world may not naturally produce the fruit of the Spirit but they recognize them whenever they genuinely see and experience them. The world may not encourage their growth, even in you, but does respond to their sweet taste.

APPLICATION— What kind of fruit are you producing? Paul's list of the fruit of the Spirit is a handy guide to see how you are doing in your walk with Jesus. Ask the Spirit today and every day to work in your heart to produce good and wholesome spiritual fruit.



PRAYER

Father, lead me in Your ways, so that Your fruit will grow in me. Help me to show the goodness of Jesus wherever I am found, in Jesus' name.



ACTION
POINT

Speak in tongues for 2mins and stir up the fruit of the Holy Spirit.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Judges 14 – 16

MAKE YOUR GIVING A GIFT

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 18:16 NIV, "A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great."

God knows the power of a gift. That's why He didn't institute a "church tax." He wanted every gift to be given from your own will so that when the blessings come, you will understand how He worked through your gift to prosper your well being. You have a moment of opportunity to be ushered into the presence of God by giving to him, as He so graciously has given to us. Will you enter into the presence of God by worshipping Him with your gift?

What/how can you gift God today?

- By giving your heart first.
- By giving with cheerfulness.
- By giving as commanded.
- By giving in prophetic seasons.
- By giving with expectancy



PRAYER

Father, as I give and gift You today, may the blessings of giving rest upon me! The best of God is my portion, in Jesus' name.



ACTION
POINT

Gift God today.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Judges 17 – 19

TO HEAR AND TO DO

KEY
TEXT

Exodus 24:7 HCSB, "He [Moses] then took the covenant scroll and read it aloud to the people. They responded, 'We will do and obey everything that the LORD has commanded'"

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— This event occurs after Moses has been on top of Sinai and received the covenant from the Lord. When he comes down to the people and reads the covenant to them, they respond “We will do and obey everything that the LORD has commanded.” The words “listen” and “obey” appear frequently within the Bible; indicating to us that the biblical authors drew a connection between hearing God's word and doing it. In fact, that was their definition of obedience: to hear and to do.

Often when one says “I hear” or “I have listened”, it does not necessarily translate into action. Yet, within the Bible, obedience required action; both parts were necessary. To hear and not do meant for the writers of Scripture that judgment was imminent. In the New Testament, Jesus also emphasized our hearing and doing. He compared those who hear and do His words as like one who built his house upon a rock; while the one who only hears but does not do, he is like one who built his house on the sand (**Matthew 7:24-27**). Paul likewise states that it is not the *hearers* of the law who are righteous, but the *doers* of the law who will be justified (**Romans 2:13**).

APPLICATION— James encourages us to ask God for anything we need because He liberally gives. No one else can strengthen You to do God's word better than God would. As you hear His Word, ask Him for the grace to apply it to your daily life. Thereafter, be intentional about reading, studying and meditating on the Word. Let the voice of your conscience be the voice of the Word. Grace is made available for you to hear and do His Word.



Father, as I seek to draw closer to You, may I obey You by hearing Your word and doing it. May Your name be glorified through my obedience to You and Your word.



Pick one verse of scripture and before the end of today, try practicing what it says.



Judges 20 – 21

WHERE WISDOM IS FOUND

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— We usually equate wisdom with our capacity to understand knowledge. Knowledge equals wisdom. Some may add that wisdom is the proper application of knowledge.

The Bible, however, teaches that wisdom equals the fear of God. That's a rather odd equation, because when we speak of fear, we refer to an emotion connected with dread or terror. Those aspects are part of the biblical idea of fear, but within the Old Testament, fear of God is often synonymous with love of God. **Deuteronomy 6:5** called upon the children of Israel to *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."* A few verses later, within the same spirit, they are commanded: *"You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name"* (**Deuteronomy 6:13 NKJV**). Loving God means fearing Him and serving Him wholeheartedly. In other words, you fear (love) God by obeying (serving) Him in everything that you say and do. Wisdom, then, comes from obeying God, which is what your relationship with God should look like—love, fear and obedience.

APPLICATION— After Abraham obeyed God and took Isaac to offer him up, God said to Abraham, *"For now I know that you truly fear God"* (**Genesis 22:12 NLT**). Abraham feared God because Abraham obeyed. You cannot know God without obeying God. God learns your degree of commitment

through your obedience to Him. Do you daily pursue the wisdom and insight of God? To acquire it, you must fear (love and obey) Him.



PRAYER

Father, may I grow in my fear and knowledge of You today as I obey You with all my heart, soul, and strength. I reject the spirit of compromise; I declare that I will live for You all the days of my life!



ACTION
POINT

Name one thing you will not do because of your fear of God.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Ruth 1 – 4

1 ARISE BY FIRE!!

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Acts 12:7, "And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands."

God wants to take you from your present level to the next. But nothing frustrates divine assistance like an inability to move. Today, whatever will not want you to get up must be broken, in Jesus' name.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. **Psalms 121:1**— My Father, thank You for every mercy, grace and favour You have shown me. Thank You for Your ever present help at all times; thank You!
2. I refuse to settle in mediocrity, shame and idleness. I get up from every comfort zone! I march to my higher calling, in Jesus' name.
3. I release fire over every power, agent, demon and evil man resisting my lifting! Whoever is set against my lifting will go down for my sake!
4. I take authority over every mystery sponsoring near success syndrome, rising and falling, rejection, delays and financial stagnation in my life. I cannot be down!
5. **Proverbs 18:16**— Oh God, release Your touch on every gift, talent, and potential I possess. My gifts will make room for me. I will come to prominence and influence, in Jesus' name!
6. **Leviticus 26:40-42**— Today, I separate my family from every evil altar, ancestral iniquity, covenant and judgement by the blood of Jesus.
7. Father, thank You for it is Your will that no man should perish but that all should come to repentance. May hearts and souls be turned to You in this season!
8. **Psalms 138:8**— I declare that Gateway International Church will increase with multitudes of people. I declare that we are going higher on every side, in Jesus name.
9. Father, strengthen Your servant, Pst. George Izunwa, by Your mighty Hand! Make him Your voice to the nations!
10. Oh Lord, envelope Nigeria with Your presence. Let wickedness be uprooted. I declare peace is restored in every sector, in Jesus' name.

WHAT IS YOUR SOURCE?

KEY
TEXT

Jeremiah 2:12-13 HCSB, "This is the LORD's declaration. For My people have committed a double evil: They have abandoned Me, the fountain of living water, and dug cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that cannot hold water"

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— God spoke to the people of Judah through the prophet Jeremiah using an image that they would understand. Within the land of Israel, water was a necessity of life. Rains provided water, but only roughly from November to April. The rest of the year people relied upon springs, rivers, wells, and cisterns. Springs, rivers, and wells provided water coming from the earth, running water, purer water—living water. Cisterns offered merely a pit cut into the rock into which water was diverted. Cisterns simply held water. Unlike spring water, water in cisterns could go bad or be poisoned.

Jeremiah knew a thing or two about cisterns because his hometown, Anathoth, did not have a natural source of water. His village sat on the edge of the dry wilderness to the northeast of Jerusalem, and water had to be brought to the village and gathered in cisterns. He compared Judah's disobedience in pursuing other gods and rejecting the God of Israel to those preferring cistern water, broken cisterns at that, to living, life-giving water. By choosing other gods, Judah forsook God, the source of living water. The thing about substitutes is that they fail in the end. When you look for other sources outside God, you forsake your supply of life-giving water like the people of Judah. Make God your one and only source.

APPLICATION— You can make God your source by putting Him first. To put God first means to love Him more than anyone or anything else. It means choosing your attitude, values, responses, and how you use your time with Him in mind. When someone asks you to do something, run it by Him first. Make a commitment to God as your source.



Father, today, I choose to follow, obey, and pursue You, the source of life and life-giving water in my life. Bring life into the dry places of my life, for Your glory, in Jesus' name.



Tell God three things You need this season.



1 Samuel 4 – 7

BRING GLORY TO YOUR FATHER

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 5:16 NKJV, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Have you ever thought seriously about Jesus' statement from our key text? It is common for Christians to blame the secular world, the media, government, politics, etc., for the decline of faith and godly values in our world. But if you would take Jesus' statement seriously, then you'll understand that God's reputation is at stake in you! You are the reason people glorify God or not.

The problem, however, is that most believers have a tendency of viewing their "spiritual life" as separate and distinct from other areas of their life. Consequently, our faith does not always inform and permeate every aspect of daily living. What did Jesus say would draw people to praise and glorify God? It is when your faith is lived out and your good deeds are on display for all to see. It is how you choose to live in the common and mundane moments of your life that shines a light in the darkness, directing people to the Lord. Without question, God's reputation is far more at stake in how you choose to live your life and particularly how you choose to treat other people.

APPLICATION— When you shine your light, you bring glory to your Father in Heaven. How then can you shine your light?

Think of others. Consider other people's needs and help to meet them.

Encourage instead of criticize. Be patient. Give others the benefit of the doubt. If you hear gossip, distance yourself from it or change the subject. When you encounter a difficult person, remember that they were made and are loved by God. Above all, "*Treat others the same way you want them to treat you*" (**Luke 6:31**).



Father, help me to live my life in such a way that, in everything I say and do, I bring honour and glory to Your great name, in Jesus' name.



Consider practicing the above application tips.



1 Samuel 8 – 12

FORGIVEN TO FORGIVE

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 18:32-33, "Then his Lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee?"

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— This parable should trouble you. Why? This teaching of Jesus does not fit well with many contemporary theological views about salvation. Yet, Jesus plainly states that if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us. The debt God forgives you means little if you do not show mercy toward others. That should bother you.

Believers often live as if what truly matters is God's forgiveness— but that is not the message of Jesus. If you do not allow the mercy that God shows you to lead you to show mercy to others, then expect God's wrath against you. This is what happened to the servant who chose not to forgive his fellow servant. According to Jesus, you cannot love God without loving your neighbour. Jesus commanded His disciples to “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (**Luke 6:36**). Think about the world we live in. How much differently would it look if we all showed mercy to others as God has shown mercy to us? Can people look at your life and see God's mercy? Is it clear to them that you forgive others because God has forgiven you? If not, can you truly consider ourselves followers of Jesus?

APPLICATION— Forgiveness is not easy; it is a choice. But if you truly appreciate God's mercy, and your need for that mercy, you must then show mercy toward others in the same way. If you do not, you run the risk of facing His judgement against you. Therefore, extend the mercy you have received today.



PRAYER

Father, You have been so merciful to me; may I show that same mercy and forgiveness to others, wherever I am found, in Jesus' name, Amen.



ACTION
POINT

Think about one person you should forgive today.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Samuel 13 – 14

A PROPHET'S REWARD

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 10:40-41, "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward"

What is a prophet's reward? When a prophet speaks words of blessing into your life, the reward is that those words come to pass, and you're blessed as a result. If a man of God says to you, "God bless you," you're blessed indeed! However, this doesn't happen just because he's a man of God. It happens because you received him as a man of God. Have you received the man God has sent into your life?

TO RECEIVE THE PROPHET'S REWARD—

- Receive the sent man as you receive the Lord.
- Refuse to be familiar with the oil.
- Serve the vision.
- Love other believers in church.



PRAYER

Dear Father, I allow myself to be taught, inspired and strengthened by Your Word. By the Word of Your servant, Psf. George Izunwa, I move from one level of glory to a higher level, in Jesus' Name.

ACTION
POINT

From now on, show more reverence to your pastors and leaders.

DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Samuel 15 – 16

LITTLE IS MUCH

KEY
TEXT

Luke 13:20-21 NKJV, "And again He said, "To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened"

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— A little leaven can leaven a larger amount of dough. Why did Jesus use this image to speak about the kingdom of Heaven?

Jesus continually spoke about people entering the kingdom. For Him, one entered the kingdom of Heaven through acts of charity and compassion. He described the kingdom as a treasure in a field—when one finds a thing of such value, he goes and sells all he has to buy the field. So, what's the connection with leaven? A little has a great impact. It's easy for us to look down on small acts of kindness and compassion. We figure; "Oh, that doesn't matter much". Jesus confronted such limited thinking and conveyed that little acts of charity and mercy had an ability to dynamically impact the world. So, do not undervalue them or think lightly of them. Your little acts of charity and compassion provide the opportunity for God to enter situations and people's lives; moreover, in as much as you do to them to others, you do that unto the Lord.

APPLICATION— Through kindness you can make your 'little' much! Kindness means giving to the needy a substantial part of what you are blessed to have. It means being patient with those who try that patience. And it means forgiving, with no strings attached. The best thing about kindness is that it comes with a double blessing. The person who offers a kindness gets as much or more out of the deed as the recipient. So make a conscious effort today to be *kind* to everyone you meet. It will make them—and you—feel better!



PRAYER

Father, may I never despise the little things that I can do in the lives of others. Help me to be faithful and choose daily to take part in releasing Your unconditional love into the world through random acts of kindness, in Jesus' name.



ACTION
POINT

If you don't have money to give to any one today, package a neat piece of clothing from your wardrobe and bless somebody.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Samuel 17 – 18

IF IT HAD NOT BEEN THE LORD

KEY TEXT

Psalms 124:2-5 NKJV, "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive, when their wrath was kindled against us; then the waters would have overwhelmed us, the stream would have gone over our soul; then the swollen waters would have gone over our soul".

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— When things get difficult, whom do you turn to for aid? Do you try to figure it out yourself? Do you look to family or friends? Or do you look to God? When you come out of moments of difficulty, do you recognize that God was near and that He was with you through it all? Do you acknowledge His deliverance and help? Do you recognize what would have happened had He not been by you?

Psalms 124 does that. It recognizes God's nearness to His people, and it acknowledges what would have happened had He not come to their aid. The psalmist was not merely looking to God as a safety valve in a moment of trouble, although he acknowledged Israel's reliance upon God. God wants to help His people; He desires to deliver them. Like any good parent wants to help and protect their children, God loves to help you, and He enjoys it even more when you recognize His divine intervention. He gains glory by what He does for you. Where do you look for help? Is He the One you look to? When you come through hardship, do you recognize how God was with you?

APPLICATION— Throughout the book of Psalms, you can tell David had a burning desire to be close to God. His intimate relationship with God caused him to experience the help and deliverance of God despite everything he passed through. When you pursue a personal relationship

with God, you will always have an anchor in times of need and difficulty. Build your relationship with God!



Father, You are my help. If weren't for You, I certainly would have perished. May Your name be blessed for the protection and deliverance You have given me. Help me to draw near to You that I may continually experience Your mighty power to save!



Tell God about the challenge you are facing currently and ask Him to come through for you.



1 Samuel 19 – 21

DELIVERING DREAMS AND MEGA PROJECTS

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

1 Kings 6:1 & 14, "And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD... So Solomon built the house, and finished it."

God is still in the business of sponsoring destinies! If you can believe for it, then you can have it! But then, it takes great travail to birth greatness! Today, as we pray, mega destinies will be born!

PRAYER POINTS:

1. **Zechariah 4:6**— Lord, thank You for Your covenant promises, prophecies and pathways into 2023! By Your Spirit, my covenant inheritance is secured, in Jesus' name!
2. **Matthew 16:18**— I sanctify every destiny dream and project for this year and I declare that each one must be fulfilled, in Jesus' name. As God builds His church, He will build me a destiny.
3. **2 Kings 19:3**— Today, by the hand of God I receive whatever it takes to pursue & achieve mega projects in 2023! Wisdom, strength, favour, resources, helpers, etc. I will have on-time testimonies!
4. **Luke 1:35**— Father, I invite supernatural involvement. I invoke angelic help. I receive boldness to advance. I declare that 2023 will be my year of record-breaking supernatural achievements, in Jesus' name!
5. **Nehemiah 4:7**— I speak to every mountain of 2023 to move! No human agent will successfully truncate my destiny projects! I release fire on every opposition. My dream will not die!
6. Today, whatever has been resisting my destiny dreams all these years must perish by fire! I must deliver this destiny pregnancy! I receive angelic help to birth my dreams this year, in Jesus' name.
7. Father, thank You for it is Your will that no man should perish but that all should come to repentance. May hearts and souls be turned to You in this season!
8. **Psalms 138:8**— I declare that Gateway International Church will increase with multitudes of people. I declare that we are going higher on every side, in Jesus name.
9. Father, strengthen Your servant, Pst. George Izunwa, by Your mighty Hand! Make him a voice to the nations!
10. Oh Lord, envelope Nigeria with Your presence. Let wickedness be uprooted. I declare peace is restored in every sector, in Jesus' name.

GOD COMES FIRST

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 6:24, NIV, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Although money is not necessarily a bad thing, it can be easy to let it consume and guide our actions when only God should have that power over our lives.

Matthew 6:24 talks about two masters— God and money. You cannot serve both. You have the opportunity to choose who gets your devotion and attention. So, do you follow God's word and His will when it comes to finances? Or do you act out in greed and follow your own desires when it comes to money? Money can become an obsession that can take your eyes off God and His work in your life. It is easy to constantly want more and more. **Ecclesiastes 5:10, NIV** says, "*Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.*" However, in view of eternity, money is meaningless. You can never find true satisfaction from money or from anything outside of God; you can only find this completion through our salvation and relationship with Christ Jesus. The love of money can also lead to sin or, as **1 Timothy 6:10** puts it, all kinds of evil. When you let yourself be consumed with gaining money, you will forget what God has commanded. It is important to steer clear of the love of money and pursue Christ above all else.

APPLICATION— God knows that we are imperfect people and we still may become anxious about things such as money and finances. However, in the midst of these feelings, we can trust in God. Matthew 6 encourages us to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. God will be faithful and honor our desire to seek Him as the master of our lives.



Father, thank You for the entrance of Your Word that brings light into my life. Help me to place and prioritize You before any other thing. I reject the spirit of greed and selfishness today!



At your level, in what ways can you place God above money?



1 Samuel 25 – 27

FINDING GOD IN THE DROUGHT

KEY
TEXT

1 Kings 17:1, "Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.'"

BACKGROUND & THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— The Old Testament prophet Elijah is a man most of us can relate to. God asked him to do and say some difficult things. He also got an all-access pass to the God-Is-Awesome show as he experienced epic miracles at the hand of the Almighty. Even so, at one point he became gripped by fear and tried to run away from his problems. He knew exhaustion, and sank into a pit of depression that darkened his hope. He felt alone, yet was provided for when God sent angels to care for his every need.

I think it's important to point out here that even Elijah, God's faithful servant and great prophet, had to endure the drought. He was provided for, but not kept from the strain and struggle just because he was living for God. Deep thirst, hard times, and hunger impacted Elijah's days just like those of the rebellious Israelites. Just like yours. Droughts and difficulties are a reality. Yet, in spite of the desperate times, God has a fresh and fruitful mission for you just as He did for Elijah.

APPLICATION— The Lord didn't simply want Elijah to survive the drought, He wanted him to serve and trust Him in the arid, arduous trenches of it. God used the drought to lead Elijah to new places of ministry – places that brought hope and life to others – places where he had to walk with fresh faith in the unfamiliar. God is using the dry season you may be

experiencing to usher you into your season of abundance. Trust Him and follow His leading. You will surely win!



Lord Jesus, thank You for every provision You have sent to me. I receive them and I trust You for this season because You are bringing me to my expected end, in Jesus' name.



Simply reflect: Are you experiencing any drought? How can you trust God in this season?



1 Samuel 28 – 31

Prayer Of *Salvation*

Lord Jesus, I ask you to come into my life today and forgive all my sins. I confess with my mouth that

You are the Lord of my life and I believe with my heart that you rose from the dead. I am saved! Thank you Father for saving me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

If you just prayed this prayer, please email or call us, we would love to help you understand more about this new life in Christ:

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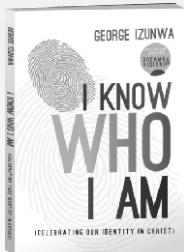
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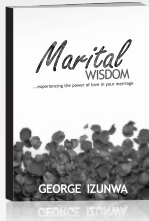
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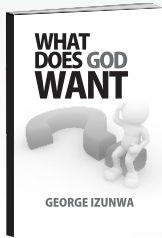
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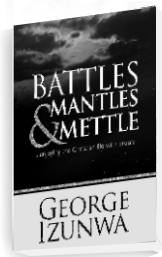
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📍 About The Authors

George Izunwa is the Lead Pastor of Gateway International Church, a dynamic and vibrant growing church with headquarters in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. He is called, anointed and commissioned by God to 'Go teach my people Strength'. Thousands have been positively affected by his pulpit ministry, TV ministry, books, tapes, crusades and special empowerment seminars.

He is the host of "THE GATEWAY", Which brings God's word to countless souls through television. THE GATEWAY is broadcast live on Silver Bird Port Harcourt – Saturday by 11:30am. Pastor George Izunwa also ministers live on radio on the programme "GATEWAY HALF HOUR" every Monday-Saturday by 7:30am-8:00am on Radio Rivers PHC 99.1 FM and on Garden City Radio every Monday – Sunday 5:30pm-6:00pm.

Pastor George spends a lot of his time in Pastoral and Leadership Mentoring projects through Impact Ministers Mentoring Outreach. More than 2000 pastors are active participants of the program. He meets every month in mentoring sessions with at least 500 pastors/leaders. He is the author of a number of life-transforming books, among which are these best-sellers, The Uncommon Life, The Rules of the Game, High Impact Living, Dreams and Destiny to mention a few.

Manuela George Izunwa is an administrator, counsellor and pastor. She is also the mother of three amazing children. Her passion is women empowerment and youth development. Presently she runs two non-governmental organisations: Girls' Organisation For Leadership And Development (G.O.L.D) and WIM(Women In Ministry) & WIL(Women In Leadership) of Deborah's Cradle.

Pastor Manuela is the proprietress of SITRID INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL in Port Harcourt. She also heads the Children's ministry (Exceptional Teens and Children Church) of Gateway International Church. She frequently writes inspirational quotes and messages on her blog: Deborah's Cradle. You can follow DC on facebook, twitter, Instagram and visit her website on www.deborahscradle.org



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