



DAILY DEVOTIONAL & GUIDE

GEORGE & MANUELA IZUNWA

GC GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH





PHYSICAL & ONLINE SERVICES



ALTAR OF MERCY GROUNDS; St John's Ogbogoro Road, Rumuolumeni Port Harcourt

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GEORGE & MANUELA IZUNWA



POWER SEEDS

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Ø QUIET TIME PROGRAMME

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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

...empowering your life

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CINTRODUCTION

"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;

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

2023 OCOVENANT 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...

l cannot fail!

2023 OCOVENANT 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!

VICTORY IS HERE!

KEY TEXT 1 John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—As the year begins to wind down and the end of this age draws nearer, a lot will begin to happen and some things that are already happening will get out of control. Negative news will multiply. Accidents will be on the increase. People will die. Many will backslide and question the authority and integrity of Jesus. At this point in the year, people are retrospecting on how the year has been. Some of these people get worked up about what they have been unable to achieve and this leaves them confused, anxious, and discouraged.

These feelings of discouragement, anxiety and fear will become the devil's weapons against you if you let them. The devil has no power. He only leverages what you give to him as a tool against you. Have you ever noticed that when you begin to apply boldness and faith to situations, they seem to have never existed? With a little shift in your approach, you can cut the devil off your space and send him packing.

APPLICATION—Do life from the place of victory. Are you a child of God? If yes, then you have already overcome the world. You have overcome sickness. You have overcome oppression. You have overcome untimely death and miscarriages. You have overcome poverty, near-success

syndrome, witchcraft, barrenness and hardship. You have overcome because He (Christ) overcame. While you go after your dreams and pursue life with tenacity, don't think you are trying to be victorious. You already are! This month, stand firm in your place of victory!Victory is here!



Father, thank You for my identity in Christ Jesus. I declare that I am victorious and therefore, I live above situations, circumstances and the pressures of life.

Declare this to yourself as often as you can today: "Victory is here!"



Ezekiel 25 – 27

THE COVENANT OF PRESERVATION

Psalms 41:2 "The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive, and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Actions precede consequences. Today's verse is a psalm of David stating the reward for people who are considerate of the poor. As you know, nobody is entitled to life or preservation. People don't determine when or how they die. If they did, we wouldn't have cases of untimely death. This is true until a covenant is introduced.

Have you ever wondered why it seems occult people and those presumed to practise witchcraft don't die as early as you would expect? It's simple; they make sacrifices and renew their lives with those sacrifices. That's their covenant altar of preservation. A covenant is a formal agreement between two parties. Such agreements require certain responsibilities from both parties. In the case of a Christian who is in covenant with God through Christ, God has made certain promises which are part of our terms of agreement with Him. One such covenant promise is the promise of preservation. There is a way a child of God should not die! It's littered all over the Scriptures how the fathers of faith died, except those who were martyred.

APPLICATION—God wants to preserve you. If He did it with other men in times past, He can also do it with you. He is always the same; never failing and never changing. The question is, do you realise that you are in covenant with God and one of your covenant benefits is preservation? Have you read your terms of agreement with God (God's Word)? Do you understand it? Have you asked questions for clarity? Do you value it and take it word-for-word? God's Word is your Memorandum of Agreement.

It contains the terms of your covenant. Dig into them and hold on to them. As you have read in today's text, the Lord will preserve His people but His people must play their roles PRAYER because covenants are only valid when we keep to our terms as God keeps to His. Remember, every covenant failure is a human ACTION failure. Do your part and let God do His. May the Lord preserve you and keep you alive!



Covenant-keeping God, I thank You for Your covenants! Today, I declare that I and my household are preserved by Your mercy. We shall live and not die! In Jesus' name!

Study the Bible and write out as many promises as you can find therein.



Ezekiel 28 – 30

..empowering your life

TEXT

MOBILISING YOUR ANGELS

KEY TEXT Hebrews 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

Angels are messengers of God; some are assigned to believers to serve them according to the will of God. They excel in strength and help, empower, defend, protect and guide you. Many times, Christians do not benefit from angels because they don't realise they have guardian angels specifically assigned to them. And those who do, do not know how to mobilise them. In Psalms 34:7, the Bible tells us that "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them."

So, how do you mobilise your angels?

- 1) Immerse yourself in the word of God. Anybody who eats the Word becomes somebody that the angels can hear their voice because when you speak, you speak the voice of God.
- 2) **Speak in tongues.** When you speak in tongues, you are speaking in a language that motivates angels and gets them to move.
- 3) Keep your confession in line with your faith. You cannot be believing great and talking bad at the same time. Anytime you don't know what to say, shut up or say what God says.
- **4) Be faithful to your covenant obligations.** God is a covenant-keeping God and covenant activities promote angelic response.
- 5) Call for divine intervention when you need it. One of the things you need to know about spiritual forces is that they are very intentional

about jurisdiction; they don't work where they are not authorized. The greatest way to open yourself up for spiritual forces to work in your life is by going about the Lord's business.

Today, mobilise the angels to serve you!



Father, thank You for opening my eyes to Your divine provision. Today, I mobilise my angels! Angels of God, get to work, in the name of Jesus!



Practise the steps above to mobilise your angels.



Ezekiel 31 – 32

MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER SEED FOUR

YOU HAVE MORE **WITH YOU**

2 Kings 6:15-17 "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Once upon a time, the Prophet Elisha of Israel kept ruining the King of Syria's plans to destroy Israel. He would always reveal Syria's plans to the King of Israel, so they were steps ahead and never fell into Syria's traps. This got the king of Syria agitated when he was informed about Elisha. Angrily, he ordered Elisha's arrest such that his chariots and army surrounded the city where Elisha was. Waking up to the sight of this great ambush disturbed and frightened Elisha's servant who cried to him, asking how were they going to escape the looming danger? Elisha's answer was simple—"Lord, open his eyes!" Elisha prayed to God. Just then, his spiritual eyes were opened and he saw that though they were physically alone, they were spiritually surrounded by chariots of fire, greater than what the Syrian army had.

Many times, we are perturbed by life-threatening and dangerous situations. We wonder if we can escape the kidnap, armed robbery incident, ambush, shootout, and even demonic attack. Like Elisha's servant, all you need are illuminated eyes to see that you are not alone but you have more with you than your physical eyes can see.

APPLICATION—No child of God can be at a disadvantage in the battles of life. You are never at the mercy of the world or the devil who is the god of this age. Always remain conscious of this truth that you are never alone and, not just that, but those with you are far more than your opposition; for He that is in you is

greater than he that is in the world. You may never have seen them just as you have never seen God but they are there, standing beside, in front, behind and around you.

Don't lose to the enemy. Be bold about your place in Christ and stay conscious of the presence of the divine in your life. Make sure you win!



Father, thank You for not leaving me to myself. Thank You for the gift of Your divine entourage. I declare that I am surrounded by divinity, therefore, no weapon formed against me shall ever prosper.

Declare: I have more with me and I cannot be stranded!

Ezekiel 33 - 35



SLEEP THROUGH IT!

KEY TEXT Acts 12:1-3,6 "Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread). And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Have you ever had the opportunity to travel somewhere for the first time? Or perhaps, you got a new job or scholarship to study at your dream school; notice that you won't sleep the way you would normally do. I have never seen anyone about to die, sleep peacefully on the eve of his death. There's always a restlessness to find a way out of such an untimely death sentence. Peter's case was quite contradictory to what is naturally obtainable as he slept without interruption.

But then, why was he so comfortably asleep when he was just about to be killed? Was it carelessness, indifference or complacency? Didn't he understand the implication of being killed at that time? Didn't he realise the effect his death would have had on the church? Ironically, I think he understood the effect his death would have had on the church, hence, his reaction. Rather than react the way everyone else would have reacted in such a situation, he slept through the situation. To sleep through a situation is to remain calm in the face of challenges because quietness and confidence shall be your strength (Isaiah 30:15). Imagine Jesus and even Jonah (who was guilty of an offence) sleeping on a boat amid the storm. It may not make sense how deeply they slept but they showed us that it's possible to be in the storm and not feel it because you are resting in God.

APPLICATION— Some situations can never change, no matter what you do. Worry and anxiety don't solve problems. Neither does fear or panic change anything. For every problem, there must be a solution and the solution comes by strategy. Fear, anxiety or panic are not strategies for problem-solving. So, when you do not have a strategy, do well to provoke divine intervention. If you ever find yourself in a "no escape" zone, take the

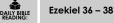
following steps to provoke divine intervention: (1) make the church a covering for you. (2) be conscious of the anointing of God on your life (3) transition from faith to trust; trust God every step of the way and follow His directives (4) control your mind with the Word of God (5) Most importantly, speak and exude peace. Sleep through it, assured that He gives His beloved sleep!



Father, thank You for Your promise of peace! I will not be swallowed up by situations and circumstances. I speak peace right now to every raging storm, in Jesus' name!



Practise the steps above and go about your day undisturbed.



I CLAIM MY HERITAGE

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT 2 Samuel 1:21 "No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD."

Before a man dies, he writes his will and hands it over to his executor who enforces his will after his death. The executor distributes the deceased's properties as he directed in his will. Whatever is handed over to anyone by the executor becomes his heritage—his rightful possession. That cannot be taken by anyone else except the heir chooses to let it go. You have a heritage in Christ as seen in today's text. Will you claim it or will you let it go?

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1. Father, thank You for the beautiful privileges and provisions You have made available to me in Christ Jesus! I celebrate my connection with You!
- 2. Today, I claim my inheritance by fire! I put an end to every robbery in my life! I take back my marriage, health, favour, job, opportunity, ministry, etc in the name of Jesus!
- 3. I declare; no weapon fashioned against me shall prosper! Every operation of hell against my life and destiny: be terminated! I will not be victimised! There shall be no loss nor evil report in my life and family!
- 4. I take authority right now over every conspiracy against me! I decree confusion in the enemies' camps! I judge every evil tongue, coven, throne and altar fighting my life, family and destiny, in Jesus' name!
- 5. I wear the mark of the covenants of Christ! Therefore, let no man or power trouble me! I announce, "No more evil!"
- 6. Today, I recover all I have lost to the enemy! My peace is restored! My sanity and destiny are recovered by the mercy of God! I judge every evil judge speaking over my life! I break every hold of darkness against me and my family, in Jesus' name!
- 7. Over the church, I judge witchcraft, occult and every evil manipulation in the name of Jesus! Every arrow of limitation fired against the church of Jesus; back to your sender!
- 8. Gateway International Church advances by grace! Every demon standing in our way, we crush you now by fire! We speak increase—numerically, financially, influentially, spiritually, etc!
- 9. Concerning your servant, our sent man, Pastor George Izunwa, let the eyes of the evil one towards him be blinded! Oh Lord, prosper your servant! Do a new thing in his life, ministry and family, in the name of Jesus!
- 10. Nigeria, we speak peace over you! Be healed in the name of Jesus! Let evil men die! Let evil systems fade away! Let light overshadow darkness, in Jesus Christ's name. Amen!



Ezekiel 39 – 40

NO MORE **EVIL OCCURRENCE!**

2 Samuel 1:21 "Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there, the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Today's text is a lamentation of David after Saul died in a battle. According to the text, Saul should not have died in such a manner, especially because he had been anointed with oil and served as the king of Israel. Many times, evil occurrences are a result of man's carelessness or simply an attack from the enemy. This, however, doesn't mean that it is God's will for man to face evil occurrences.

Whenever satan launches an attack against a child of God and succeeds, he is surprised. Does that surprise you? Truly, the devil is surprised when he defeats a child of God in battle because he knows how powerful even the newest child of God is. In **Psalms 105:13-15**, God already warned that His anointed ones should not be touched. And you are one of His anointed ones **(1 John 2:20)**. So, whatever and whoever touches you trespasses and goes contrary to God's commandment; they should be judged! Do you see now that evil occurrences are not permitted in your life?

APPLICATION—Today, say no to evil occurrences. Let your anointing work for you. Break yokes and lift burdens by the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Don't fight life's battles carnally. Wear your victor's crown and bring the supernatural into every battle of life. Take up your mighty weapons as

outlined in **Ephesians 6**. Never surrender to defeat. Remember that the anointing within you can track and judge the works of the devil while setting up a defence field around your life. Decide that you will no longer be a victim of satan's craftiness.



Father, thank You for Your anointing. I declare no more evil occurrence in my life and family, in the name of Jesus!

Spend time in spiritual warfare today; read the Scriptures mentioned in today's devotional while at it.

Ezekiel 41 – 43



...empowering your life

TEXT

FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER SEED EIGHT

A COMMANDER OF NATURE

KEY TEXT Jeremiah 22:29-30 "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Christianity is both interesting and rewarding when we know and acknowledge our identity in Christ and the packages that come with it. Do you know that occultic powers programme nature to work for them? They speak to the sun, moon, stars, roads, seas, animals and so on. These things work for them; they do their bidding and obey their instructions. Sadly, many times, they do all these against the children of God.

Imagine you own a company and a janitor in that company orders your child around even when the child occupies a managerial position. You would agree with me that this would only happen if your child is either mentally challenged, doesn't know his parent owns the company, is unaware of his position in the company and hierarchy that accompanies it or is simply hypnotised by the janitor. Whenever a child of God is at the mercy of an unbeliever, one thing is the cause—ignorance of his identity. Because the heavens and earth were created by and belong to God, His children should have more authority over them. Today's text is a representation of how men speak to the elements of nature and they obey.

APPLICATION—Have you learnt to command your mornings and nights? Have you learnt to speak to the elements of nature and programme them to work for you? Dominion is not accidental. It begins with a strong sense of identity and then, intentionality. You are a commander of nature; behave it. God created the earth by commanding nature. He said, "Let the earth bring forth, let the seas bring forth, let the heavens bring forth, let us make man..." and so on. You too

can frame your world. You can dominate. You can silence the devil and instruct the heavens and earth daily. Because you have power over the sun and moon, they shouldn't smite you. Your blood should not be spilled on the road, neither should the waters drown you. You are a commander of nature!



Father, thank You for my authority in Christ Jesus! I declare that the elements of nature come together and begin to work for me and my good.



Command nature to work for you.



Ezekiel 44 – 46

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER SEED NINE

DONT GET ÚNDRESSED!

KEY TEXT 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Adversity has everyone's address but adversity cannot undress everyone. As powerful and influential as Apostle Paul of the first-century church was, he didn't escape the troubles of life. He had no power to stop them from visiting but thankfully, he had power to determine their impact on his life. They visited him often but he didn't let them destroy him.

Apostle Paul faced so many challenges in his lifetime. Often, he was in prison. Severally, he was referred from one court to another for trial. He spent days and nights travelling in storms that could have taken his life. He was persecuted, maybe even more than the rest of the apostles. What about his weakness which made him cry to God for intervention? Isn't that a challenge? Troubles will come in many unpleasant ways but rest assured that the grace to overcome them and escape destruction is to maintain your dressing.

APPLICATION—Clothe yourself with strength and never take them off. Dress up with courage, resilience and zest. The attitude of a victor matters greatly. No matter how wounded a warrior is, he never takes off his dress on the battlefield. There is a story of the captain of an army of soldiers who always asked for a red jacket whenever he was about to get into the battlefield. This always happened until one of his men asked him about it later. His answer was an eye-opener; he only wore a red jacket so that he was not seen bleeding in battle. The enemy wants to undress you. He wants to

see you bleed. He wants to expose your weakness to the world. He wants to put you in a state of perpetual shame, despair and nakedness. Don't let him! God has clothed you in His glory; wear it and enjoy your victory.



Oh Lord, You are my Glory and the Lifter of my head! I shall not be put to shame! Today, I wrap myself in Your garment of hope! I refuse to be undressed, in Jesus' name.

ACTION POINT

DAILY BIBLE READING: Today, take a moment to pray from Psalms 3.



AN ARK OF **SAFETY**

KEY TEXT

Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The real church is an ark of safety because it secures you from eternal peril and covers you from the evil on this earth. As in today's text, churches are built on the revelations of men that God gave them.

What Makes the Church an Ark of Safety?

- The Blood of Jesus continually speaks over the church. In Hebrews 12:22-24, we are told that when we come to church, we come to the blood of sprinkling.
- Jesus takes every attack against His people personally. In Zechariah 2:4-9, the Bible describes how precious we are to God. We are the apple of His eyes and He treats us exactly that way.
- No curse is permitted to rest on those dwelling in the tent of Zion. Recall how Balaam tried to curse the children of Israel but ended up blessing them. That's what happens with the children of God who are members of the body of Christ. No one can curse whom God has blessed. (Numbers 24)
- The agreement of the church can counter the attacks of the devil. The church is never at the mercy of the devil. Jesus has said He will build His church and the gates of hell SHALL NOT prevail against it.

Today, dwell within the ark of safety and enjoy God's protection. Ultimately, you are the church; you are an ark of safety. Enjoy your life in Christ!



Father, thank You for being mindful of me. Today, I declare the Blood of Jesus speaks over my life, therefore, I dwell in safety. Amen!

Thank God for being part of the church family!



Daniel 1 – 3

THE SECRET PLACE

KEY TEXT Psalms 91:1 "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— The secret place as mentioned in today's text is two things to the Jewish man. First, it's the Holy of Holies. Nobody goes in there except the High Priest. It is the place where God hides and mysteries are unveiled. In this place, the fullness of the revelation of God is seen. It is the third realm or compartment of the Tabernacle of God which many don't go into. At every point, only one person goes in there—the High Priest. The secret place, to the Jewish man, is the place beyond the veil where natural light cannot penetrate. In there, only the Shekinah of God shines. It is a sacred place and requires the blood from the sacrifice to be offered.

As sacred as it is, when Christ hung on the Cross, the veil that covered it was torn from top to bottom, indicating that those who were formerly in the outer and inner courts could take some steps further and come in. This event signified access into the Holiest Place. Any man could enter the presence and holiest place of God if he so desired. The second thing the Jews call the secret place is the covenants of God. The covenant is one of the three greatest destiny forces on earth. It binds man to God and immerses a natural man in the supernatural. God becomes predictable when a covenant is involved. By privilege, we have both the covenants of God in Christ and priestly access to the Holiest Place.

APPLICATION—The purpose of today's text is not just to acquaint you with knowledge of what the secret place is but what to do with it. Now that you know you have what you need to have direct access to God, take advantage of the opportunity. Dwell right there in the secret place. When you dwell in the secret place of the Most High, you make God your habitation. That means, whatever cannot come close to God cannot come close to you. Any attack that cannot be launched against God cannot be launched against you. In a

world of chaos and insecurity, dwelling in the secret place of the Most High sets up a cover of safety over you. When you walk down a dark alley at night, remain confident that evil eyes don't see you; they see God. Just ensure you are always under the Shadow of the Almighty. The way to do that is to keep dwelling in the secret place of the Lord.



Father, thank You for Your covenants and the gift of access. Keep me under Your shelter as I continually live in Your Secret place, in Jesus' name! Amen!



Commit to spending time in prayers every morning and night.



Daniel 4 – 5

TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER SEED TWELVE

LET YOUR ALTARS SPEAK

TEXT

Exodus 20:24 "An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name, I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— An altar is a place of sacrifice. It is a place where spirits traffic continually. Altars bear memorials of our spiritual transactions and record the decrees of oracles. Every altar creates the atmosphere around its environment, whether positive or negative, and a negative altar can weaken one's capacity for greatness. Altars do not die even when they are forgotten. Recall when Jacob stumbled upon the altar that his grandfather had built; the man who built the altar was dead and gone, yet, the altar he built was still speaking.

That was God putting his name on it. As today's text states, God recorded His name in that place and there, He blessed Jacob. The blessing is real. Covenants are real. However, they are not independent of altars. I believe you understand that altars are important and why they are. So, if you are finding it difficult or confusing, here's a guide to help you set up your altars so they speak for you and the generations after you.

APPLICATION— (1) Have a personal relationship with God by receiving Jesus as your Lord and personal Saviour (2) Pay attention to the instructions in His Word (3) Raise an altar by a painful sacrifice (4) Reference that altar in every spiritual transaction that you need to make, as David did in Psalms 74:20. Since altars don't die, be awakened to the

truth that the altars you raised in the past are still alive. They only need to be visited and quickened. Jacob sleeping on that stone that night stirred up the power of his grandfather's altar. In Gateway Int'l Church, we have raised Rehoboth, Ebenezer, Elsahddai and Zoe altars. They aren't dead! Awaken them! Let them speak for you!



Father, thank You for the altar of Calvary. I activate my divine altars with the blood of Jesus!

Revisit your covenant altars this week; reference them in your spiritual transactions.



Daniel 6 – 8

THE BURDEN IS DESTROYED!

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT Isaiah 10:27 "And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."

It is not God's will that His children bear burdens. Sometimes, it's easy to let go of our burdens as God has instructed when they are natural life issues that we expect Him to handle. But what do we do when burdens are loads placed on us by the devil? The anointing of God breaks that yoke and takes away the burden.

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1. Father, thank You for Your anointing upon my life and the power I have in the name of Jesus.
- 2. Today, I break every yoke of the devil in my life and family! The burden of sickness, bondage, repeat affliction, etc upon my life is broken in the name of Jesus!
- 3. I declare; no weapon fashioned against me shall prosper! Every operation of hell against my life and destiny: be terminated! I will not be victimised! There shall be no loss nor evil report in my life and family!
- 4. Whatever has been a limitation to me in the past, today, I declare a new day has come! Weeping may endure for a night but my morning season is now! Hallelujah! I celebrate my season of Joy!
- 5. I wear the mark of the covenants of Christ! Therefore, let no man or power trouble me! I announce, "No more evil burdens!"
- 6. Right now, I declare my freedom! I recover all I have lost to the enemy! My peace is restored! My sanity and destiny are recovered by the mercy of God! I judge every evil judge speaking over my life! I break every hold of darkness against me and my family, in Jesus' name!
- 7. Over the church, Lord, change our story! Bring us to our season of elevation and mountaintop influence! Gateway International Church advances by grace!
- 8. Every demon standing in our way, we crush you now by fire! Let the burdens be lifted by the power of the Holy Ghost! We speak increase—numerically, financially, influentially, spiritually, etc!
- 9. Concerning your servant, our sent man, Pastor George Izunwa, let the eyes of the evil one towards him be blinded! Oh Lord, prosper your servant! Do a new thing in his life, ministry and family! Take away every burden! Bring Him into a season of ease and supernatural speed, in the name of Jesus!
- 10. Nigeria, we speak peace over you! Be healed in the name of Jesus! Let evil men die! Let evil systems fade away! Let light overshadow darkness! Let the yoke be broken, in Jesus Christ's name. Amen!



Daniel 9 – 12

THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER SEED FOURTEEN

MARK IT

KEY TEXT Genesis 35:3,7 "And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went... And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Jacob, while running from Esau and trusting God for an intervention stumbled upon Bethel—an altar which Abraham, his grandfather had built many years back. There, God revealed Himself to him, changed his name and gave him victory over his brother, Esau. After some time, when he was settled, he instructed his family to take a journey with him back to Bethel. His mission in Bethel was simple—to build an altar.

As seen in today's text, Jacob remembered his encounter with God and went back to the same place where he encountered God. There, he built an altar which he named God of Bethel. It was initially his father's altar but it became his. He may have been a son and the very one by whom Israel existed but he understood that his father's altars were different from his because their encounters were different. Abraham had indeed taught them this practice of putting a mark in their places of encounters by building altars. In Abraham's lifetime, he built about four such altars. These altars served as memorials for their encounters, just as Abraham's altar became a memorial that sparked up Jacob's encounter.

APPLICATION— Christianity is a journey of faith. It is a walk that should be documented. Have you ever heard of journaling? One beautiful way to walk with God is by journaling. Journal your experiences with God because they could serve as Chronicles for generations after you. But most importantly, learn to

mark your experiences. Mark your experiences by raising altars over them. Sow seeds and make sacrifices to God, acknowledging Him in that situation. As you read in this devotional some days ago, those altars will someday speak for you or someone in your family or lineage. Be intentional about your walk with God. Put a mark on it!



Father, thank You for visiting me in several ways! May my altars continue to speak for me, my family and generations after me, in Jesus' name!

Get a journal for your spiritual experiences.

DAILY BIBLE READING: Hosea 1 – 4

GIVE YOUR BEST

KEY TEXT Genesis 8:20-21 "And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Have you ever heard of the Rainbow Altar? Noah had been locked up in an ark for months because of a flood that covered the entire earth and swallowed up everything that wasn't inside that ark. The most unpleasant thing to me was that he had been in there with all sorts of animals. Who can stand that? Finally, God remembered him, dried the waters and brought him out of the "glorified prison" that saved his life.

If you were Noah, what would you do first? Heave a sigh of relief, fling the animals away, get a bed and sleep to your satisfaction, lament about how you needed time to recover, etc. Well, Noah built an altar and made a sacrifice to God. What he had been through was indeed an experience. But he didn't just give whatever he could lay his hands on. He chose clean animals and birds. I guess the animals must have been really dirty. So, imagine that he took his time to search for the clean ones. It was this altar that brought about the rainbow. God used that as a token of His promise to Noah. This reminds me of Abel. His sacrifice was accepted and that of his brother was rejected. Do you know why? He gave of the first and fattest of his animals.

APPLICATION— God is a God of premium quality, not a pauper. He is not beggarly. He doesn't do shabby. His standards are THE BEST! He only does and takes the best. Whenever you want to offer God anything, offer your best. Never give an offering that costs you nothing to God. Never sacrifice something to God that means nothing to you. Never give God low-quality service. Don't

exhaust your day with other things you consider more important, only to go to God with sleepy eyes like that's the best time for Him. Show Him that you reverence, adore and honour Him. Whenever you need to give anything to God, make it your best. Let your sacrifice go up to Him as a sweet-smelling savour. Prove Him and see if you won't be blessed.



Father, I repent for esteeming You so low and for the times I didn't give my best. Today, I make a commitment to only give my best as You help me, in Jesus' name.

Give God an excellent sacrifice today!

DAILY BIBLE READING:

Hosea 5 – 9

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER SEED SIXTEEN

NO CURSE 1S PERMITTED!

KEY TEXT Galatians 3:13-14 MSG "Christ redeemed us from that self-defeating, cursed life by absorbing it completely into Himself. Do you remember the Scripture that says, "Cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree"? That is what happened when Jesus was nailed to the cross: He became a curse, and at the same time dissolved the curse. And now, because of that, the air is cleared and we can see that Abraham's blessing is present and available for non-Jews, too. We are all able to receive God's life, his spirit, in and with us by believing—just the way Abraham received it."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— When Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God's command in the beginning, they not only lost their place in God, they were cursed by God. That incident brought about the fallen life of man. By it, man's nature was changed from God's to Adam's. Every man who came after Adam was then made in the image and after the likeness of Adam as opposed to Adam who was made in the image and after the likeness of God. This brought about the Adamic (sinful) nature of man.

The curse never left even after God destroyed the earth and kept Adam. With the law, it kept on multiplying as there was always a penalty for every sin. However, God's pattern was to have someone with whom He fulfils His purpose in every generation. One such person was Abraham who became the father of faith. Through him, the same grace that was introduced to us in the new testament began. God called him and blessed him such that he lived above the curse and limitations of life. One of the beautiful things about this blessing was that it was trans-generational. God promised Abraham that the blessing will extend to generations after him. Israel was born by the blessing. David was enthroned by the blessing. Jesus Christ, our Messiah, came by the blessing. And when the Messiah came, He redeemed mankind. The blessing extended beyond Abraham's seed (the Jewish people) to the Gentiles (non-Jewish).

APPLICATION— When Christ died, He who was the Blessing took the curse of mankind to Himself and gave Himself to mankind. So, whenever man receives Him and His redemptive work, he is redeemed from the previous curse of the Adamic nature and takes on the nature of Christ. This new man who now has Christ's nature is blessed and

cannot be cursed. No one who is blessed by God can ever be cursed. When God introduced Christ to the world, He released His blessing and lifted the curse of sin and death. Hence, no other curse can stand. Today, be conscious that you have been redeemed and blessed by God, therefore, no curse is permitted to stand in your life. Whatever looks like a contraction,
fight it and enjoy your victory in Christ.



Father, thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ! No curse is permitted in my life from today! I receive my freedom! I am redeemed!

DAILY BIBLE READING: Do something honourable to celebrate your blessed life in Christ.

Hosea 10 - 14

...empowering your life

24



KEY TEXT

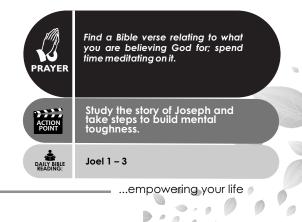
Psalms 89:34 "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."

God is a covenant keeper. He doesn't go back on His Word. God's covenants make Him predictable. Many times, a man who is in covenant with God can guess His next line of thought or action because something binds Him to behave a certain way. You may wonder what a covenant is but not to worry. A covenant is a spiritual contract, not signed with ink, but signed with an oath of God.

Points to Note about the Covenant

- It sets up a spiritual system around your life.
- It empowers you to handle whatever life brings.
- It assures you that your life is under control.

While you may not have all the answers, be assured that God does and because He has said it in the book of His covenant (the Bible which holds His Word), He will do it. He doesn't break or alter anything He says. Today, stand on His integrity and watch your life make progress.



GOTO WAR!

KEY TEXT Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— War for a child of God is not a physical battle of carrying swords, guns, spears and arrows. Oh no! The weapons of our warfare are not carnal. Our warfare is also not carnal. We don't fight against flesh and blood (living beings). Our warfare is against principalities, powers, thoughts and anything else the devil throws. Many believers would like to escape this war but, unfortunately, they can't. These wars must be fought despite what the outcome would be. You have three choices: fight and win, die fighting or die not fighting or disavowing the fight. I choose the first option. Take a shield but get to war. Wear a helmet but get to war. Wear armour but get to war.

Take up all your weapons. The most powerful of them all is the two-edged sword of the Spirit—the Word of God. Imagine having this two-edged sword and a shield (your faith). You can't lose to the enemy in the battles of life! Is not my Word like fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? (Jeremiah 23:29). God's Word is like fire and hammer; you judge mysteries by firing them with scriptures and break strongholds by hitting them with the Word.

APPLICATION— What battle are you currently fighting? What battle do you need to fight? This is the time to get to war. Don't sit back and watch the devil have you for lunch. If you have never been intentional about studying the Bible, this is the time to make a drastic change because the outcome of your life largely depends on it. With the Word, you will be able to guard yourself against the attacks of the

devil. But most importantly, you will be able to bring down seemingly powerful oppositions that stand in the way of your victory in life. Only cowards escape from wars and sometimes, cowardice is a result of unskilfulness. Train yourself to fight. Develop battle skills and see yourself excel in courage and strength! Get to war!



Father, thank You for not leaving me stranded. Today, I take up my weapons of war, ready to fight. Go before and with me into every battle of my life, in Jesus' name.

ACTION POINT

> DAILY BIBLE READING:

Amos 1 - 4

Get your bible and read, read, read. Begin with Ephesians 6:10end

YOU RANK **HIGH**

KEY TEXT Luke 10:19-20 TPT "Now you understand that I have imparted to you my authority to trample over his kingdom. You will trample upon every demon before you and overcome every power Satan possesses. Absolutely nothing will harm you as you walk in this authority. However, your real source of joy isn't merely that these spirits submit to your authority, but that your names are written in the journals of heaven and that you belong to God's kingdom. This is the true source of your authority."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— An army general in mufti ranks higher than a sergeant in his complete uniform. His authority is in his position and the badges he has worn in his lifetime. Some too, don't go through all the ranks. They become generals as soon as they are qualified for it. Similarly, in the spirit realm, there are ranks and one's authority is dependent on their rank. Recall the story of the centurion who wanted Jesus to pray for his servant. His statement was such that even Jesus was shocked. He said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." (Matthew 8:8-9)

When you become a child of God, you are qualified for a certain rank in the Spirit realm. This rank is way above the ranks of satan and his cohorts. As today's text explains, you (as a believer) have more authority than the devil. When you understand this, it's easier to function from the place of your ranking. You can command situations, demons, science, etc and get them to obey and submit to your authority.

APPLICATION— This, however, isn't all there is. As verse 20 of the text explains, the great victory is not that the spirits submit to you but that your name is written in the journals of heaven and you certainly belong to the kingdom of God. **Psalms 91:14** read, "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high because he hath known my name." Truly knowing and loving God is the key here. Loving God isn't lip service but intentional followership. When you love God, you seek

to know Him, you keep His commandments, and you are determined to please Him. But you know that without faith, it is impossible to please God. Hence, you please Him by being intentional about building your faith by giving attention to His Word. You rank high! Maximise your authority!



Father, thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ! Because of this gift, I enjoy my place in the Spirit realm. Today, I stand upon my authority in Christ and I put an end to the activities of the devil in my life and family!

ACTION POINT Take authority over the current activities of the devil in your life and family.

Amos 5 – 9



THE WALL OF FIRE

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

Zechariah 2:4-5 AMP "And he said to the second angel, 'Run, speak to that young man, saying, 'Jerusalem will be inhabited [like villages] without walls [spreading out into the open country] because of the great number of people and livestock in it. For L' declares the LORD, 'will be a wall of fire around her [protecting her from enemies], and I will be the glory in her midst.""

God wants to prosper you. He plans that you become great and without restrictions. But guess what? Your enemies won't let you prosper without staging a fight. Nevertheless, be assured that it's a lost battle because God Himself is a wall of fire around you. His protection cannot be penetrated. Recall when God challenged the devil in favour of Job. Satan said He (God) had put a hedge around Job and he was untouchable. If that was the case with Job, do you think it's any different with you?

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1. Father, thank You for being my Shield and Defence! Thank You for not leaving me helpless. Thank You for ensuring my prosperity.
- 2. Lord, I submit myself under Your covering. I let go of anything that breaks the wall you've put around me.
- 3. Let every power attacking my progress go down! I take authority over every force of darkness! I vanquish them in the name of Jesus!
- 4. Every attack of the enemy against my family, business, career, ministry, etc, go back to your sender, in the name of Jesus!
- 5. Every mystery of wickedness, delay, denial, and death working in my life, I judge you by fire!
- 6. Today, I recover all I have lost to the enemy! My peace is restored! My sanity and destiny are recovered by the mercy of God! I judge every evil judge speaking over my life! I break every hold of darkness against me and my family, in Jesus' name!
- 7. Over the church, I judge witchcraft, occult and every evil manipulation in the name of Jesus! Every arrow of limitation fired against the church of Jesus; back to your sender! There shall be no loss nor evil report, in the name of Jesus!
- 8. Gateway International Church advances by grace! Every demon standing in our way, we crush you now by fire! We speak increase—numerically, financially, influentially, spiritually, etc!
- 9. Concerning your servant, our sent man, Pastor George Izunwa, let the eyes of the evil one towards him be blinded! Oh Lord, prosper your servant! Do a new thing in his life, ministry and family! As his days, let his strength be, in the name of Jesus!
- 10. Nigeria, we speak peace over you! Be healed in the name of Jesus! Let evil men die! Let evil systems fade away! Let light overshadow darkness, in Jesus Christ's name. Amen!



Obadiah 1

THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER SEED TWENTY-ONE

TWO STDES OF THE COIN

KEY TEXT James 2:18,24 & 26 "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Every coin has two sides. For every opportunity harnessed, there is a problem created and every problem is a growth opportunity for somebody. The love of a father embraces and chastises. The mercy of God is both kindness and judgment. In **Psalm 139**, you will find the Psalmist talk about how the Egyptians were overridden in the sea while chasing the Israelites and he called it the mercy of God. God loves justice and with Him there is no unrighteousness.

One of the greatest undoings of many Christians is religious faith. Faith is not God's responsibility alone. Any faith that puts all the responsibility on God is an irresponsible one. As today's text has established, there is a work part to faith. If Noah heard God and began to pray without building the ark, we won't hear about him today. Have you ever realised that God could have asked Noah to go somewhere else, maybe relocate to Mars, Pluto or Jupiter? Alternatively, He would have taken Noah by Himself to an entirely different location from where he was. He did so with Lot and his family before destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. But that wasn't the case. He is God and chooses His methods. Notice that the same flood that drowned the rest of the people kept the righteous (Noah and his family) afloat. Again, I ask, what if Noah didn't build the ark or did anything different from exactly what he was told?

APPLICATION— Many times, we complain about life's events. We cry, pray, hope, and ask God questions, hoping for a miracle. Yet the miracle is in listening for His voice and obeying His instruction. This we fail to do and judge God as unfaithful, whereas we are the ones unfaithful. In a country where there is an economic decline and people are

sinking daily into poverty, you can keep your head afloat or not even be in the river of poverty if you choose the way of responsible faith—working out your faith. What ideas is the Holy Spirit calling your attention to? What do you need to do to turn those ideas into a reality? Examine that situation critically; your case won't be like those of others. Find out what you need to do differently to get you out of the situation. Work your faith!



Father, thank You for revealing Your Truth to me. Today, I apply my heart to understanding and I commit to doing the work You have required of me, in Jesus' name.



What has God asked you to do about a situation? Do it now!

DAILY BIBLE READING:

Jonah 1 – 4

YOU ARE **PERSONAL**

KEY TEXT Zechariah 2:8 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— I once watched a movie where the Crown Prince of a great kingdom beheaded one of the soldiers in his kingdom for attempting to touch his wife. Against the laws of the land and the warning of the Queen Mother (his mother), he did this and got banished from the palace. That movie demonstrated what it means to cherish someone and take that person personally. You could call it being possessive; it is what it is.

Some people cannot stand seeing their loved ones being oppressed or hurt and would go to any length to cover them. They would fight battles they never bargained for and risk making enemies for themselves to defend those they love. In today's text, God likens us to the apple of His eyes. The apple of one's eye refers to the pupil—the very delicate part of the eye protected by the eyelids.

APPLICATION— God cherishes you. What a privilege that is! As the apple of God's eyes, you are delicate and dear to Him. You matter to Him. He notices you. He takes you as His "personal" project. He doesn't wish to share you with anyone else or have anyone else take your place in His heart and mind. He is mindful of you. Therefore, no operation of the enemy against you can succeed because God delights in ensuring your safety. And you know, He

doesn't lose battles. Just as no real groom ever wants his bride to feel insecure, Jesus our Bridegroom does not want you to be or feel insecure. Today, rest in the truth that you are personal to Him and He takes you personally.



Dear Lord, who am I that You are mindful of me? I'm thankful! I cherish you too!

ACTION POINT What has God asked you to do about a situation? Do it now!



FROM FAITH TO TRUST

KEY TEXT Hebrews 4:3a AMP "For we who believe [that is, we who personally trust and confidently rely on God] enter that rest [so we have His inner peace now because we are confident in our salvation, and assured of His power]..."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Buzz Williams, an American Basketball coach said, "Trust is the tie that binds any and all relationships with God, our spouses, our friends, and our community. The more trust we have, the more influence we have". Faith is the foundation of Christian living. It keeps you expectant about what God can do. At some point in our walk with God, faith doesn't seem to be enough. We may need to remind ourselves of the previous acts of God; how He came through for us and how He showed up in the lives of others. These testimonies of faith leave us with an assurance that what we hope for is certain.

Faith is believing that God can, because He said He will, and you have a relationship with Him. Trust is a step further; it is having confidence that God will, because He has done it before. An example of faith is when the three Hebrew boys in the days of Nebuchadnezzar said their God was going to deliver them but even if He didn't, their minds were made up. On the other hand, trust is illustrated by David when He said if he had killed bears and lions, Goliath was nothing. Simply put, trust is a function of proven faith and results over time while faith is hope in the abilities of God. We transition from faith to trust when we experience God and interact with Him more intimately.

APPLICATION— When you transition from faith to trust, you can go to bed because you abandon yourself and your cares before God, knowing that He cares for you and won't leave you stranded (1 Peter 5:7). At this point, your life is surrendered to Him and a surrendered life is never in peril. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah 26:3. Restlessness is only a sign of incomplete trust in God. So today, could you move from wondering if He'll come

through to being confident that He will? Stop fretting and pause! Reminisce on His faithfulness in times past. Do you think He has changed? Of course not; God cannot change. Move to trust!



Lord, I trust You and I rest in You!



Cast your cares on God today.

Micah 5 – 7

A SURRENDERED UFE

KEY TEXT Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Life is more interesting and fulfilling when you surrender it to the One who gives it. You know that thing about honouring someone to buy favour, right? When you surrender your life to Jesus and partake of His death, you let Him know that you trust Him. He's not going to betray that trust or trade it for anything else.

POINTS TO PONDER:

- It is impossible to kill an already dead person. The fear of death feeds the power of death. It makes you a captive of death. However, when you surrender your life to God, you lay it at the altar and die to yourself. No man who is dead is afraid to die. Hence, a dead man is in covenant with God and has no fear of what any man or devil can do to him.
- When you lay your life at God's altar, let it go. Many times, people who don't trust God are so concerned about the outcome of their lives that they retrieve it from the altar after a period of restlessness. Friend, realise that you can't handle your life better than God can.
- When a man is willing to sacrifice all in trust with God, God stands up for that man. You die in His time and live at His pleasure when you live for God. Make the move! Take the step! You won't regret it!



Father, I surrender my all to you! Have Your way completely, in Jesus' name. Amen!

What are you still holding on to? Drop it at the altar today!

Nahum 1 – 3

ACTION POINT

> DAILY BIBLE READING:

LICHTED

KEY TEXT Psalms 119:130 "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— When a candle stick is lit, darkness disappears. No matter how dim it is, as long as it's not hidden or covered, it gives light to the room where it is placed. When we receive God's Word (not the letter but the Spirit), we receive light. Light, here means revelation and understanding. To be lighted is to be full of a revelation of God's Word. The same way a dark room suddenly becomes full of light and someone who is stumbling or careful to move because he can't see the way begins to move about freely, a lighted person has clarity of vision and purpose. Such a person experiences divine direction as the Scripture says His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

A person who is lighted becomes a terror to darkness. The devil cannot stand a man who knows, understands and lives by God's Word. A lighted man can walk through any difficulty. He can overcome any temptation. He can't be a candidate for shame. Most importantly, just as no one lights a candle and hides it under a bushel, our revelation of God should not be hidden. We are lighted so that we can light up our world as **Isaiah 60:1-3** says. God is not a secret to be kept. When light passes through a spectrum, all its colours are revealed. When God's Word is revealed to man, man is expected to reveal all of God's colours to his world.

APPLICATION— God's Word is the answer to the questions and confusion of our hearts. It is the foundation of Christian living and the platform upon which our lives are built and we experience victory. You can make the power of light shine on your path in these four ways: (1) Be sold out in consecration and uprightness (2) Fill your

heart with the revelation knowledge of the Word of God through studying, meditating and journaling (3) Keep speaking light over darkness (that is, the Word over reality) until every manifestation of darkness is destroyed (4) Never let the light go out of your sanctuary; don't faint in pursuing revelational knowledge.



Father, I love Your Word. Help me to give attention to it and as I do, reveal Yourself to me in glorious ways, in Jesus' name.



Share God's Word with someone today!



Habakkuk 1 – 3

THE WORD-CONTROLLED MIND

KEY TEXT Romans 12:2 NIV "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Life's struggles are real and inevitable. Everyone has a fair share of what it means to struggle, each person in his way. Many times, we either give up, keep going or thrive. The first shouldn't even be an option for a child of God. Oftentimes, people grow to believe a certain thing, not because it's true but because their minds have conformed to a certain perspective and way of thinking.

Generally, whether it's about life's struggles or our perspectives, our minds should work differently. The world thinks suicide or fate, we think our light afflictions are temporary. While the world around us sees poverty, we see our riches in Christ as the problems of others become our opportunities for lifting. It is God's desire that His children think and act like Him. If we are truly His, we should look like Him. This, however, may never be so if we are not steadily conforming to His Word. It is our relationship with His Word that leads to mind renewal and ultimately a transformation.

APPLICATION— Your transformation begins when your mind and the entirety of your being is controlled by the Word. A Word-controlled mind is filled with the Word of God. It responds to everything by the Word. It weaponizes the Word in warfare and never accepts defeat or anything that

contradicts God's Word. It practices the Word and is insistent on the results of the Word. A Word-controlled mind is one major proof of spiritual maturity; no wonder the Scripture says it's not the hearers/readers of the Word that are blessed, it is the doers. Engage God's Word today!



Father, transform me by Your Word today! Let Your Word affect all that I am and will ever be, in Jesus' name.!

Share God's Word with someone today!



Zephaniah 1 – 3

WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

SEED TWENTY-SEVEN

DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP!

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 ESV "When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The sting of death is sin. To overcome sin is to overcome death. When you get born again, you overcome sin and by extension, death. Today, claim your victory in prayers.

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1. Father, thank You for the life I have in Jesus Christ! Thank You for giving me the victory in all things.
- 2. Today, I arrest any spirit of death hovering around my life, family or workplace! I put an end to untimely death now!
- 3. Let every power attacking my progress go down! I take authority over every force of darkness! I vanquish them in the name of Jesus!
- 4. Every attack of the enemy against my family, business, career, ministry, etc, go back to your sender, in the name of Jesus!
- 5. Every "death-magnet in my life, be shattered ad destroyed in Jesus' name! I arrest the spirit of fear and sin in my family! I separate myself from inherited bondages and any altar in my father's house!
- 6. Today, I recover all I have lost to the enemy! My peace is restored! My sanity and destiny are recovered by the mercy of God! I judge every evil judge speaking over my life! I break every hold of darkness against me and my family, in Jesus' name! The covenant of "There shall be no loss is activated in my family"!
- 7. Over the church, I judge witchcraft, occult and every evil manipulation in the name of Jesus! Every arrow of death fired against the church of Jesus; back to your sender! There shall be no loss nor evil report, in the name of Jesus!
- 8. Gateway International Church advances by grace! Every demon standing in our way, we crush you now by fire! We speak increase—numerically, financially, influentially, spiritually, etc!
- 9. Concerning our man of God, Pastor George Izunwa, let the eyes of the evil one towards him be blinded! Oh Lord, prosper your servant! Do a new thing in his life, ministry and family! Preserve him and his family!
- 10. Nigeria, we speak peace over you! Be healed in the name of Jesus! Let evil men die! Let evil systems fade away! Let light overshadow darkness! Let bloodshed cease, in Jesus Christ's name. Amen!



Haggai 1 – 2

THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER SEED TWENTY-EIGHT

A CLOSED MOUTH IS A CLOSED DESTINY

KEY Hebrews 11:3 "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— There's this story of a man whose life was going sour. One day, he decided to visit a fortuneteller. On getting there, the fortuneteller welcomed him and began to carry out an incantation. He brought out a lizard and two bowls, one bowl representing a bright future and the other representing a miserable and poverty-stricken life. He told the man that any bowl the lizard falls into is a picture of what his life was destined to look like. So the lizard began to move. It moved slowly towards the bowl representing a bright future but abruptly turned towards the second bowl. The client who was excited about the direction of the lizard suddenly got up in bewilderment as he watched the lizard navigate towards the second bowl. But just when the lizard was about to get into the bowl representing poverty, he picked it up and put it into the first bowl. He said he wasn't going to sit down and watch his life end in shame.

Many times, we sit too still. We sit right where we are and allow the devil to mess our lives up. Some believers are afraid to talk about what they believe in. They are afraid to talk about their dreams and aspirations. They are too timid to reject the negative and frame their worlds with their words. They watch their lives fall apart and end in shambles. Realise that a closed mouth is a closed destiny. If God never spoke, there would be no earth today. I guess if Joseph never talked about his dream, maybe he wouldn't have been sold into Egypt. His situation may not have looked like the best route but it was God's route because he wasn't silent about his dream.

APPLICATION— When life is not adding up, what do you say? Do you say nothing? Do you speak defeat? Or do you speak God's Word? Even God spoke His Word, how much more you? When you got that dream, did you kill it on the spot because all you saw was impossibility or did you speak life to it by declaring God's Word? Whenever you are silent

about a situation, many times, you consent to it. Sometimes, silence is not golden! Knowing when to speak up is important for the building of any destiny. Don't shut up over your destiny. Don't have a "Que sera sera" attitude towards life. Frame your world by opening your mouth to speak God's Word over your destiny!



Father, thank You for Your plans to give me an expected end. Today, I speak life to my destiny! I declare: I won't die small! In Jesus' name!



Speak God's Word over your life!



...empowering your life

Zechariah 1 – 5

DEMYSTIFYING FEAR

KEY TEXT Hebrews 11:3 "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Fear is described as (F)alse (E)vidence (A)ppearing (R)eal. The dictionary defines it as an unpleasant feeling that is triggered by a threat of danger. You will agree with me that many times, threats are empty but empowered by the response of the threatened. The threat of danger isn't danger and even if it were, only weak-minded people run away from danger when there is no certainty of failure. Lions don't flee from other animals even when they threaten. Eagles never flee from other birds no matter how dangerous they look. God always likens His children to these two animals, not to chickens and goats that flee at every threat. Lions and eagles are confrontational, so should the children of God be.

Many times, when people are empty of the Word and Spirit, they are full of fear and other negative feelings, including demonic manipulations. Fear is a spirit and certainly not a spirit from God. So, what do you do with evil spirits? You cast them out! It could be the fear of failure, things, people, animals, events, etc. Whatever the fear, none is valid. Conquer it by filling your life with the Holy Spirit. Pray in tongues more often. Fast more often. Many times, what you are afraid of is afraid of you too. Face your fears and refuse to be chicken-hearted.

APPLICATION— From today's text, God has given us three kinds of spirits in place of the spirit of fear. If you must conquer fear, you must stir up these three kinds of spirit—power, love and a sound mind. God has given so much power to His children; if really there is danger, then the power of God at work in you is more than able to defeat it but you must put that power to use. Secondly, according to **1 John 4:18**, there is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not

made perfect in love. Sometimes, when you are afraid of something or someone, a little expression of love changes everything and puts an end to fear. Finally, your mind is the seat of your consciousness. It is the essence of your being. To successfully overcome fear, you must be mentally sound. Don't give in to fear, you have all it takes to conquer.



Father, by Your Word today, I cast out every spirit of fear! I activate the Spirit of Power, of Love and of a Sound Mind, in Jesus' name. Amen!

ACTION POINT Meditate on today's key text throughout today and remember to quote it whenever you are afraid.

Zechariah 6 – 10



LIGHT HAS COME!

TEXT

Isaiah 60:1-3 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— When Light comes, God's glory descends. God's glory speaks of His radiance, His beauty and His power. Whenever the light of God's Word shines on a person, that person radiates God's personality, epitomises His beauty and reflects His power. Every child of God needs a combination of these three aspects of God's glory to positively influence and impact their world for Jesus.

To radiate God's personality is to behave like Him. In a world, where wickedness is the order of the day, a little kindness can brighten up someone's day and help them see God for who He is. To epitomise His beauty is to display how beautiful God can be by just wearing a smile, becoming successful and excellent at whatever you do, having a positive attitude, and so on. Our world needs to know that God is amazing and that people can be joyful, successful, excellent and yet, godly. To reflect His power is to demonstrate His almightiness to our world. The demonstration of his power is followed by healings, miracles, deliverance, etc.

APPLICATION— How are you shining this light that you have? God is committed to the expansion of His Kingdom and those who reign with Him are those who are also committed to Kingdom expansion. You are saved to

save others. Remember Jesus' charge to His disciples; "Go into the world and make disciples of all nations". This is an agelong responsibility of Christians—to introduce light to a dark world and help many others find and become light. Be a carrier of God's glory. Beyond that, radiate the glory of God.



Father, help me to reflect your glory always, in Jesus' name. Amen!

Write down what you need to start doing to radiate God's glory and start doing them.



Zechariah 11 – 14

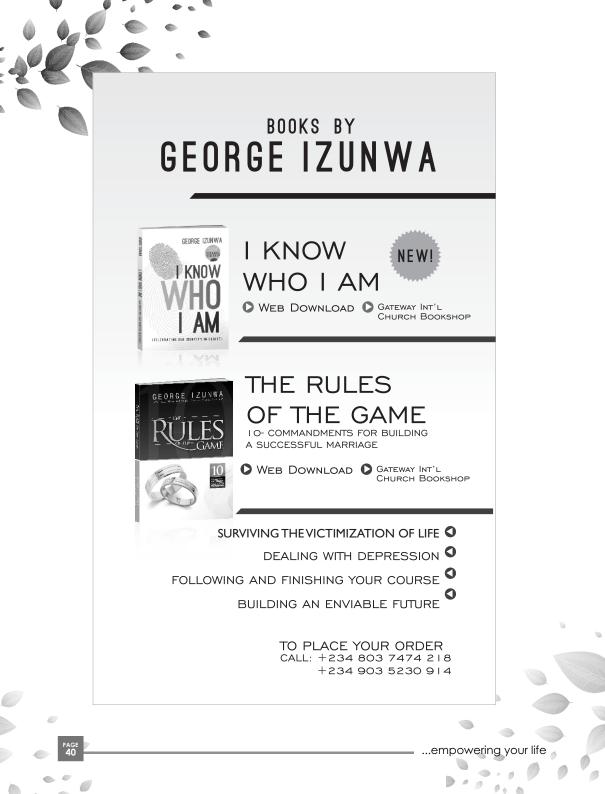
Prayer Of Salvation

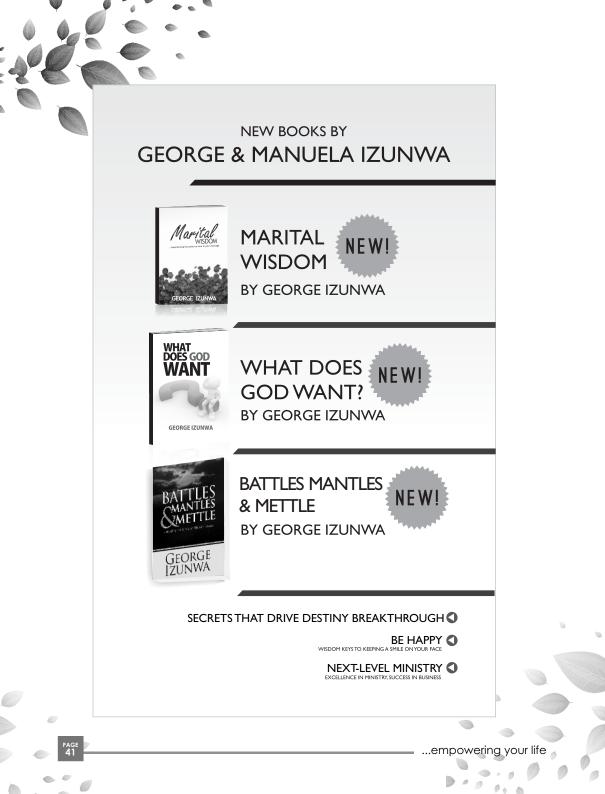
Lord Jesus, I ask you to come into my life today and forgive all my sins. I confess with my mouth that

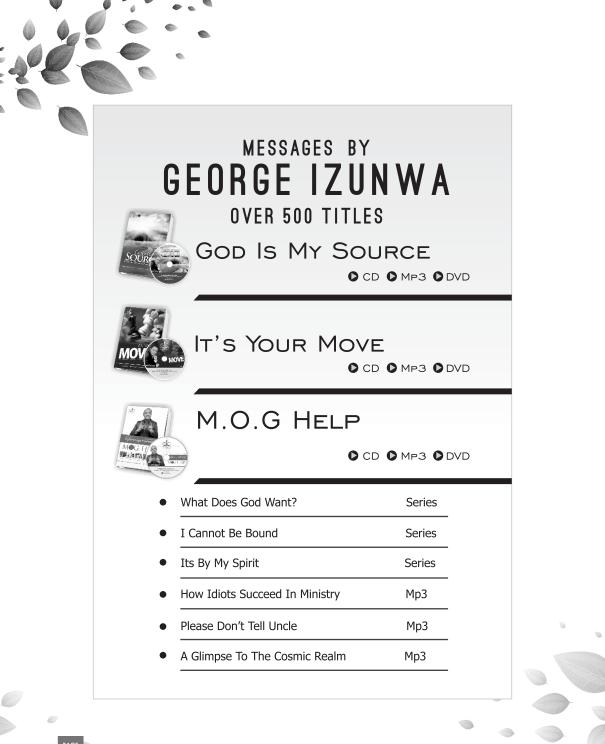
You are the Lord of my life and I believe with my heart that you rose from the dead. I am saved! Thank you Father for saving me in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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:

Email:pray4me@gicfamily.org Tel: (+234) 908 777 7712 (+234) 908 777 7713 God bless you.







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ALUU SATELLITE CHURCH Omuado Hall, along Ado Road (Redeem Road), Mbodo Community, Aluu, Ikwerre LGA, Rivers State. Contact- Pst. Clinton S. Nwaigwe +234 806 3700 126

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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 nongovernmental 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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