



May 2024

Power Seeds

...empowering your life.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL & GUIDE

GEORGE & MANUELA IZUNWA



WEDNESDAY

WORD

EXPLOSION

NOW 5:00PM

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MAY / 2024

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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!

2024

ROHI COVENANT CONFESSION

(Lift your right hand and declare boldly)

I confess that God is a good God!

He is my source; He is taking good care of me!

My life is sustained by His covenant!

Today, standing on Romans 10 vs 9-10, I reaffirm that Jesus Christ is my Lord

He died and rose from dead!

His sacrifice paid the price for all my sins!

He is in heaven now but His Holy Spirit lives in me!

Jesus is my life; I live by His Word; I am led by His Spirit!

I believe that in Him and through Him, I am a member of the family of God.

And very soon, He will come back to take me home!

Because of Jesus Christ, I am blessed of God!

My DNA is supernatural!

I walk in prosperity; I create my dreams; I find favour everywhere!

Kings come to the brightness of my rising

2024

COVENANT CONFESSION

Nations open their gates and treasures to me!

I cannot fail!

Nothing dies in my hand

No power can hurt my destiny!

Goodness and Mercy follow me at all times!

On my path, there is no sickness nor death!

This year, 2024, I receive the covenant of ROHI!

The Lord is my shepherd!

Gateway International Church is my spiritual family!

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 relationship works; my business works; everything works!

My covenant place is at the topmost top!

Every promise and prophecy of 2024 will be fulfilled in my life!

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

Only good things are permitted in my life!

THE GOOD THING

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY
TEXT

MATTHEW 7:11 *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"*

God is a good God. When He created the earth and put man in the Garden of Eden, He saw that everything He made was good. But shortly after, He noticed something was not good—man was alone. To remedy the situation, He brought in the woman. In other words, the woman became God's idea of "The Good Thing". God loves and honours marriages and families. So should we, as His children. Today, our prayer focus is for families and marriages to be established. Ask to experience the good in marriage.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. **James 1:17**—Father, thank You for Your good and perfect gifts. Thank You for having my best interest at heart.
2. Today, I proclaim the blessing of marriage upon my household. Let the unmarried be joined with their spouses. Let the married enjoy their homes. Let favour and grace be multiplied.
3. Father, upon my marriage and every marriage around me, let love, joy, peace, oneness and prosperity rule, in Jesus' name.
4. Oh God, let hurting homes be restored. Let revival take place in our families. Establish our homes in love. Release Your blessing over us, in the name of Jesus.
5. **Psalms 113:9**—I declare fruitfulness and increase over my home and my father's house. Let the yoke of barrenness and untimely death break! Let multiplication take place. None will cast her young or be barren in our land.
6. I take authority over every attack of hell in my family. I rebuke vexing spirits, familiar spirits and witchcraft operations in my home. I cover my family with the blood of Jesus!
7. Father, over the families of Gateway International Church, manifest Yourself. Let Your presence abide in our homes! Make our families models of Your intent for families around the world.
8. Gateway International Church, multiply! Increase! Go higher! Grow greater! Be established at the topmost top, in the name of Jesus!
9. Today, I cover Pastor George Izunwa and his family with the blood of Jesus. Lord, bless them, increase them and prosper them, in Jesus' name.
10. Nigeria, be blessed, in Jesus' name. Amen!



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Chronicles 7 – 9

FINDING GOOD

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Everyone prays to find good, and every man expects the favour that comes with finding a wife. We all want to enjoy the best of God and humans. However, there's a saying that “nothing good comes easy”, so, to have what we want, we must intentionally put in the required work. Many want the best out of life but are not ready to transit from making sense-guided decisions to following God's leading. Life doesn't always give us what we desire; it gives us what we demand and demanding involves insisting on God's will. How then can you insist on a will you don't know? This is why divine guidance is necessary if we must have the good we desire.

Even though today's text is about finding a wife, in the context of this devotional, the goal is to find good by finding the people God is gifting you. One of the most difficult errors to deal with is settling for a lifetime of negativity. It deters you from living your dream to the fullest and kills faster than poison. This is more than enough reason to prayerfully find that spouse, long-term business partner and finance/career-related team member(s) to work with.

APPLICATION: *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).* We are God's own, and with Him is every good we long for. Whatever good we desire is with Him, our Father and Maker, and there is no one anywhere whom God has not prepared good for. God founded relationships and, after creating man, He desired to have a relationship with him always. He knows the profitability of togetherness, hence, He encourages every man to value relationships and build friendships. Moreso, to enjoy the favour of God, seek the good in your spouse and intentionally work towards bringing out the best in your marriage.



Oh Lord, I will not fail in my journey of life! Holy Spirit, help me to connect to the right people for my destiny advancement.



Pray about your relationships; pray to discern the right ones and that they blossom.



1 Chronicles 10 – 12

LOVE IS A COMMITMENT

KEY TEXT

1 Samuel 20:16 NIV "So, Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, 'May the Lord call David's enemies to account.' And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Life is beautiful when we can have quality relationships with one another. When we say we love someone or a group of people, it doesn't mean that we won't have moments of misunderstanding. Challenges in relating with one another are very common and cut across every sphere of human relationships, including marriage. Challenges often occur because of certain differences, disagreements or discrepancies. Sometimes, when the odds are against our relationships, we tend to conclude more often than not, that the love and bond of friendship we once shared with someone or a group of persons is gone, never to be recovered again.

Love, in the true essence of the word, is not just about the emotional feelings two or more people share as they relate with one another. It goes far beyond emotional feelings or attachments. It's normal for friends, relatives or acquaintances to share an emotional bond, but it is also very essential that their understanding of what relationships are all about is not limited to how they feel about one another, but also the need to make sacrifices for one another when the need arises. Many relationships have broken down because of emotional feelings that deteriorated over time. This is quite common, especially among married people. Unfortunately, this faulty perspective has affected the mindset of so many Christians who have fallen prey to the temptation to call it quits without giving their relationship ample time for reconciliation. Love is not just a feeling but more of a commitment that stems from a strong determination to make the relationship work irrespective of how one feels.

APPLICATION: - Commitment in a relationship can be defined as people's decision to follow through whether they feel like it or not, or whether their partners are deserving or not. When there is an understanding of what true commitment entails, throwing in the towel ceases to be an option except in situations where life and well-being are threatened. We should show commitment by making the necessary sacrifices even when it is sometimes demanding. Just as no human being is perfect, no relationship is perfect. What sustains a relationship may not always be a 50/50 per cent commitment by both parties but sometimes a 70/30, 40/60 or even an 80/20 per cent commitment as the case may be. Treat those whom you relate with, with love, respect and understanding. Give what is required of you. If you are presently going through crises in one or more of your relationships, the Lord is ready and able to help you. The grace of God is more than sufficient.



Lord, please grant me the enablement to foster quality relationships, and the grace to make the necessary sacrifices where they are required, in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Prayerfully, make a list of the areas in which you need to make a conscious effort to make your relationships work and intentionally follow your decisions through.



1 Chronicles 13 – 16

DON'T BE ALONE

KEY
TEXT

Genesis 2:18 "And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— God never designed anyone to be a loner. Although the master plan He has for our lives involves seasons of isolation like in the case of Apostle Paul (2 *Timothy* 4:16), God never intended for us to brave life alone. How you and I were conceived certainly bears witness to this truth. Even Adam, who was made from dust and had life breathed into him, was not alone. No, he wasn't! God himself, after forming the wild animals and birds of the sky, brought them to Adam in search of a suitable helper. Finding none right for him, He wisely put Adam to sleep and made Eve from his ribs. Child of God, this life simply wasn't meant to be lived alone.

The path of a loner is a thorny one. Pain, mistakes, scars, and traumas grace its lonely road. For Christians, though, it is much worse. Your decision to become a follower of Christ places an automatic bullsseye on your back. You practically become a target for the devil. It drafted you into the reality of the ongoing invisible war, and there is no sitting on the fence for this one. We are soldiers on this battlefield, and just like troops in human warfare, we are more likely to survive an assault when we are together than when we are alone.

APPLICATION— Find and hang out with people who love and respect you. How do you do that? **(1) Open your heart to love and healthy relationships.** You can't be bitter, cynical, critical, unfriendly and aggressive and still want to build relationships. Stop carrying a bad face. Open up your heart, and become more accommodating. **(2) Be there.** When things are happening in church, be there. Attend events, dress properly, package yourself nicely and make sure you are available and seen. **(3) Know yourself and set godly standards.** Remember that not everyone in church is a Christian, so be responsible. Approach those with the behaviour and character you like, and relate with the others at arm's length. Don't try to force anyone to like you. Above all, don't be alone.



Father, help me to open up my heart to positive and healthy relationships.



Think of all the positive values you can bring into your relationships. Start working on and executing them.



1 *Chronicles* 17 – 19

OBTAINING FAVOUR

KEY
TEXT

Psalms 84: 11 "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honour; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless."

No man gets to the top solely by hard work. For anyone to rise in destiny, he needs favour. Favour is an accelerator that multiplies your results. When a man encounters favour, he starts experiencing ease because favour breaks the barriers of struggle and stagnation. Abraham found favour in the sight of God and began to experience supernatural results. [Genesis 18: 1-14]. Esther found favour before the king and all who looked upon her and she became the crowned queen in the land where she had been a slave.

How can you obtain favour?

- **Genuinely walk with God:** To obtain favour, you must first realise that walking after the precepts of God is a necessity. *Good understanding giveth Favor: but the way of transgressors is hard. (Proverbs 13:15).*
- **Be a God seeker:** When a man who has nothing and knows nothing encounters and keeps company with a God who has everything, very soon that man will be known for something. Seeking God is a very crucial step in obtaining His favour. *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).*
- **Have a positive perspective about life and a friendly disposition towards people:** People always want to be associated with positivity. Be optimistic and accommodating. A mindset of possibility opens doors and connects channels that would ordinarily be inaccessible.
- **Lay a solid foundation for success:** Don't build your castles on sand. Prepare for the favour you are trusting God for. God needs a channel through which His help can be seen in your life. Take a course. Attend events. Network and make new friends. Dress properly and look approachable. Prepare!



O Lord, I yield myself as a candidate for Your favour. Father, surround me with Your favour, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Be intentional about all four tips above.



1 Chronicles 20 – 23

BUILD YOURSELF

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 3:13-14 "Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—When you admire a person, especially for their success, it is because you see something in them that is worth admiring. However, many times, you only see the person's glory. Not so often do you get to see the journey that led to the story you admire in people. The truth is that every successful person you admire has a story. No truly successful person is an overnight success. Many such people have been through years of hard work and personal development, with grace. These have made them the desire of people, and 'kings'. The reason is that when you are different, it's easy to know the difference.

To be in the company of kings and have access to people of quality, it is important that you also make yourself a person of quality by building or developing yourself. When you fail to develop yourself, the chances are that you will run down someone or someone else will run you down. Both are unhealthy. Build yourself enough to discern and identify with kings when you meet them. For instance, a Christian who treats the things of God with levity should not be taken seriously at all. How can you NOT identify an unserious Christian when you meet one? The simple answer is that you may also be unserious. Carry out a self-assessment today.

APPLICATION: Build yourself so that you will attract your kind (the kind that you wish to have around you) because quality recognises quality and is willing to pay a high price for it. No one but you will help you become a quality person. So choose to be very intentional about your life. Make a destiny decision today by developing your skills. Grow your communication skills. Grow in emotional intelligence. Grow your social and relational skills. Grow your corporate skills. Learn generosity, empathy and how to trust people. Learn to be an open, accommodating and forgiving person.



Lord, by Your grace and power, I tear every veil that conceals the quality in me. I make a choice today to be a person of quality. Help me take the right steps towards being a quality person, in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Take some time off to meditate on the areas of your life that need urgent attention in terms of self-development. Write them down and intentionally work on them.



1 Chronicles 24 – 26

BE STRAIGHT FORWARD

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 5:37 MSG "Just say 'yes' and 'no.' When you manipulate words to get your own way, you go wrong."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Honesty is of great importance in human relations. Every social activity or human experience requiring people to act in oneness is impeded when people are not honest with one another. The honesty I am talking about is not just truth-telling; it is truth-living. To be straightforward means to be accurate, honest, and transparent. Straightforward people don't mince their words or create falsehood. For example; you know you are not interested in a long-term relationship with someone, but instead of stating this, you decide to play the field by leading them on. Today's text admonishes us on the necessity of not being manipulative as being manipulative is a one-way ticket to being wrong.

Being straightforward is essential in every conversation and interaction that we have with colleagues, bosses, customers, friends, family, and people in general, including strangers. Without the ability and intent to be straightforward and honest, we cannot create and sustain relationships. The foundation for a true and lasting relationship is when those involved are straightforward with themselves. A major consequence of being dishonest in this regard is loss of value and integrity. The world is a fallen place and humans are always seeking people of good character. A Christian shouldn't be the deviant one.

APPLICATION—There are numerous benefits to being straightforward. When you are direct with people, they know where they stand and there is no confusion. This can save time and energy for everyone involved. A God-conscious person is always aware of God being included in everything, including conversations. This informs a life lived in truth. When you make a statement or decision, people should be able to know that you can stand by your words because this is your lifestyle. A person of integrity is a person of their words, whether or not they have something to gain. By all standards, this will require you to be straightforward in your dealings.



Father, thank You for Your Word. I pray for grace to be disciplined with my lifestyle. Help me to be a person not influenced by the world but a person of integrity, in Jesus' Name. Amen!



Henceforth, place value on everything you do and prioritise integrity.



1 Chronicles 27 – 29

DIVINE CONNECTIONS

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Exodus 17:12. "When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up--one on one side, one on the other--so that his hands remained steady till sunset."

Men and women are your vehicles to your next level in destiny. When they are the right people, doors open, but when they are the wrong people or you mismanage such connections, they leave you in stagnation and misery. When God wants to bless and lift you, He sends someone into your life. Today, may God connect you to destiny helpers and detach you from destiny destroyers. May He also give you the wisdom to handle your relationships right.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. **1 Samuel 10:3**—Father, thank You for sending men and women into my life to beautify my destiny. Thank You for covenant relationships at home, work, church, etc.
2. Lord Jesus, make me a delightful land! Perfume me with Your favour! Immerse me in Your grace. Command men from all walks of life to seek after me, in Jesus' name.
3. By the blood of Jesus, I rebuke the curses of disfavour, rejection and betrayal. I refuse to hold on to hurts, abuses and scandals! I will never struggle in relationships ever again, in Jesus' name.
4. Today, I call in destiny enhancers, edifiers and beautifiers. I call in men and women who are assets, lifters, mentors, motivators and true friends into my life, in Jesus' name.
5. Father, I receive a discerning heart to know who is sent to me and who is not sent to me. I take authority over mockers and fair weather friends, in Jesus' name.
6. I repent and reject every negative attitude, habit or behaviour that destroys godly relationships. I receive grace to be a model of everything I want in a good relationship, in Jesus' name.
7. Oh God, use Gateway Int'l Church as a tool for harvesting the souls of men and depopulating the kingdom of hell. May men from all walks of life gather in Gateway Church and as they come, give them their testimonies.
8. In 2024, GATEWAY will go forward and grow greater! The gates of hell shall not prevail! Our projects will be completed with ease. The land is subdued by fire!
9. Oh Lord, lift the hands of my man of God, Pst. George Izunwa. He will speak as Your oracle at all times. Raise men and women that will lift his hands higher, in Jesus' name.
10. Oh Lord, heal Nigeria and the nations of the earth!



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Chronicles 1 – 4

LEARNING TO TRUST

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 5:37 "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—One of the many good things about trusting God is that you have peace of mind. In the same way, as humans, we tend to trust people when we believe we are interacting with their authentic selves and when they have shown care and faith in our competence. It is very rare to succeed in a long-term relationship with someone who doesn't trust you or who you can't trust. Be it a woman or a man, in a marriage relationship, business partnership or whatever kind of relationship, if every time one speaks and what he says sounds vague and exaggerated or demeaning and forceful, you can't vouch for such a person. However, it is important to note that without trust, you cannot build any form of close friendship or relationship with the people around you, even if they are members of your immediate family.

In John 1:47, Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Can the same words be said concerning you? To build trustworthiness, our key text for today says, "Let your yes be yes and let your no be no". This simply means that we need to build trustworthiness in ourselves, even before we start to find it in other people. To do this, we must first value long-term relationships, show empathy towards people, admit our wrongs and find ways to make amends, as well as practice honesty and integrity at all times.

APPLICATION: So how do we learn to trust? First of all, you must recognize your ability to trust. Understand what trust means. Begin to trust in yourself and your abilities. Give people access to you and lend trust on credit. Be excited about God's plan for you and be open to accepting the people He sends into your life. Loosen up and allow people into your space. However, wisdom is profitable to direct. That God

has a plan for you is not synonymous with being foolish and reckless while relating with people. Knowing His plan is knowing your worth and having clarity and direction. Whatever relationship you look forward to; marital, business or career-wise, pray before you begin and trust God for the best outcome.



Heavenly Father, thank You for the people You are sending into my life. Help me to be guided by Your Word and to trust You for the best.



Step out today with an open mind and prove yourself a trustworthy person.



2 Chronicles 5 – 7

BREAK THE WALLS

KEY TEXT

Deuteronomy 32:29-30 "O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end! How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?"

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— God made us to be relational. This is why many of us learnt about ecosystems in Biology and Basic Science. Attempting to do life alone can be extremely dangerous. A young man or a lady in church approaching 40 years of age and unmarried but desires to be, and yet is closed up to relating with people, unknowingly delays their answers. It is okay to be reserved or conservative but your human nature is not enough reason to make you lose out on God's desires and promises for you.

A lot of people are suspicious of everyone and anyone. While this may seem okay security-wise, you should also be aware that not everyone is gunning for your head in the world. Open up and allow destiny relationships to thrive in your life. Life isn't that hard. Even if one person betrayed or betrays you, it is not a trend and should not be generalised. Past issues should stay in the past because if they don't, they will ruin your present and future. Imagine if Jesus became bitter and suspicious of everyone because Judas and Peter betrayed Him. Many of us are fighting unnecessary battles because we have allowed our emotions to run all over the place.

APPLICATION— Deal with your mood swings. Confront your inner struggles. Break the walls. Reconnect the bridges you burnt. Step out of your shell. Build that connection you long for. See life beyond your perspective. This allows you to appreciate the beauty and dynamics of life. Will you come across wolves out there? Yes, you will. But whatever the case, deliberately decide not to allow the actions of one or a few persons to define the dynamics of your relationship with everyone else. This is how to connect to and establish destiny relationships. This is how to be well-positioned for the spouse or opportunity you seek.



PRAYER

Father, thank You for this insight. I receive grace to be a doer of Your Word. I pray that You strategically position the gift of men my way and help me to maximise these relationships, in Jesus' name. Amen!



ACTION POINT

Make it a point of duty to be more receptive to ideas and people this week.



DAILY BIBLE READING:

2 Chronicles 8 – 11

EASE BY UNDERSTANDING

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 13:15 "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of the transgressor is hard."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Life is more beautiful when you share it with someone, especially the one you love and the one who truly loves you. This is why the Bible says in Genesis 2:18, “*And the Lord said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make an helpmeet for him'.*” God was simply saying that He would make life good for the man, so He brought the woman. We should complement our partners and they should complement us too. However, because of all the ideologies many people have captured from romance novels, movies and peer discussions, they are very confused and many marriages are a far cry from what God originally intended.

Marriage is serious business that must be given attention through adequate intentionality. To make a relationship or marriage work, you must understand that love relationships can be challenging and require intentional effort. It takes a person of understanding to keep a home or even a friendship. But for someone who lacks understanding, the challenges will become worrisome. According to today's key text, your way will be hard when you lack understanding.

APPLICATION: God can restore your dying and hurting relationships if you can just apply a little wisdom. Life without wisdom will always produce pain, regret, shame and frustration, but wisdom will bring you favour, joy and fulfilment. Don't let your way be hard. Settle down and gain the wisdom that will bring favour into your life and marriage. Your education or intellectual capacity are quite needful but do not surpass wisdom. What is wisdom? It is an understanding of the way God expects and commands us to live. In other words, wisdom is the right application of knowledge. Do you know that you can know something without an understanding of how to apply it? What is God expecting from you? What does His word say concerning that challenge in your life and marriage? And how does He expect you to apply it to yourself? When you understand how to apply it and go on to apply it, that's wisdom!



Lord, by Your mighty power, I invoke the spirit of godly wisdom over my life, in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Starting from today and over the next month, read a chapter of Proverbs every day.



2 Chronicles 12 – 16

DON'T BE OFFENDED!

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 18:7 "Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offences cometh."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—It is normal to feel offended when we are treated in a manner we don't envisage as we relate with others. Because of our different family, societal and intellectual backgrounds, not ignoring the impact of our personal experiences, there is always a tendency for offences to occur in relationships. As a human being who has been trained and cultured differently from many people you will come across in life, not everyone will see life from your perspective or share similar opinions with you, especially on certain sensitive matters, hence the need to be very understanding, patient, tolerant and forgiving.

What to do:

- Be open to new ideas and ways of doing things.
- Learn to forgive, whether or not your offender deserves it.
- Make misunderstandings a learning curve and accept your mistakes too.
- Keep in mind that God forgives those who forgive others.
- Be humble enough to lose the argument sometimes.

Your resolve to avoid offence or do away with it as quickly as possible is one of the strongest keys to sustaining a rewarding relationship. Offences must come but it is largely our responsibility to put them where they belong—in the trash can.



PRAYER

Release everyone who has offended you and let go of every offence. Call them and tell them you have forgiven them.



ACTION
POINT

Begin or keep up your journey into more of God's presence. Give yourself to spiritual exercises.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Chronicles 17 – 20

COMMUNICATE WITH GRACE (1)

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 12:18 "There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise is health."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Communication is the lifeblood of any relationship. When communication stops flowing, the relationship begins to die. If for instance, a person and their spouse are having challenges chatting and discussing like friends without being antagonistic and defensive, then that marriage is in crisis. Communication is key. The words you say and how you say them and the many unsaid words we express daily determine the outcome of our relationships with the people God has positioned in our lives. Also, understand that communication goes beyond words. Your tone of voice, your body language and your facial expressions send a message, good or bad.

Experts tell us that communication is 7% words, 35% voice tone and 58% per cent body language. From this trustworthy analysis, we can see that an individual communicates more with their body language and tone of voice than with their words. Someone can be hurt even by what wasn't said. Many destiny-lifting and life-giving relationships have broken down, not necessarily because of what was said but because of what was left unsaid. Communication in marriage is about establishing connections. So it is important to ask yourself if you are connecting positively with the person you claim you are relating with.

APPLICATION—The most important forms of communication are those that make meaning, and the most touching communicators are those who speak with courtesy and compassion. You don't communicate to hurt; you communicate to hold, help and heal. Don't be like a double-edged sword described in today's text, that continually pierces the soul and spirit of your neighbours just because you must prove a point. Even when you're hurt, communicate with love, courtesy and respect. Most times, when you think you are defending yourself by trying to prove a point, you may be destroying your home by hurting your partner.



Holy Spirit, please help me refine my words and actions. I cast every proud and vexing spirit out of my life and I put on the garment of humility and courtesy, in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Decide from today that you are going to be more attentive to your loved ones. You will discover that the more attentive you become, the less troubles you will need to handle.



2 Chronicles 21 – 24

COMMUNICATE WITH GRACE (II)

KEY
TEXT

Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—The beginning of marital communication is genuine friendship. In marriage, you must learn to have heart-to-heart discussions, talk regularly and be friendly towards each other. When you approach relationships with a friendly disposition, your partner feels loved and accepted. Make it easy for your partner to communicate with you. Every problem has a solution if communication is done early and appropriately. If you notice that your partner does not know how to communicate in the way that you do, find out how they communicate and begin to make changes where necessary. If you fail to make the necessary adjustments to your partner's way of communicating, struggles, arguments, fights and a gradual pulling away from each other will begin, leaving toxicity to gradually settle in. Adjusting to your partner's pattern of communication does not mean you should indulge in the use of abusive language, keeping malice or getting physical. When strange outbursts occur, the first thing you need to do is calm down and refuse to respond.

In life, you'll discover that a lot of people have challenges trying to communicate well, especially in marriage. This happens because of various reasons. Firstly, a lot of people were raised in homes where toxic language was the order of the day. Secondly, a lot of people expect their partners to be mind readers. Thirdly, angry people make issues a 'no-go area'. And lastly, many spouses are distracted with their careers and children.

APPLICATION: The most important part of communication is learning to listen. Everybody has a time when they are most effective and responsive. This means that every discussion has a time it would be most effective. Never pounce on anybody and insist on settling an issue when the person is not ready. Take note of how you phrase your words and your voice tone. Whenever you are bringing up any issue your partner needs to respond to, be patient and give your partner some time to think it over.



Precious Holy Spirit, help me to bridle my tongue. Lord, give me ears that listen, in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Decide from today not to respond negatively to your partner or anyone else. Give yourself time to think over issues before you respond. This approach will save you the stress of saying or doing things you might regret later.



2 Chronicles 25 – 28

BLESSED AND HIGHLY FAVOURED

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY
TEXT

Psalms 84:4 AMP "Blessed and greatly favoured are those who dwell in Your house and Your presence; They will be singing Your praises all the day long. Selah."

Serving God is beneficial. Your life shouldn't look like that of an unbeliever. If unbelievers have to work hard for everything they get, the rules should be different for the child of God. The anointing of God and your relationship as His child who serves Him qualify you for favour and blessing. Today, receive favour and enforce your blessing.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. **Ephesians 1:3** — Father, I thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus into my life! Thank You for the abundant life I now live in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah!
2. I declare that Jesus Christ supplies all my needs, spiritually, financially, physically, maritally, ministerially, etc. Every aspect of my life will yield abundant fruit, in Jesus' name.
3. I declare that I shall be blessed with supernatural abundance that will bless and transcend generations. Men will call me blessed, in Jesus' Mighty name.
4. **Psalms 5:12**—I declare that I am showered with an abundance of divine favour. I receive favour that no man can gainsay!
5. I declare that the power fighting abundance in my life is put to shame now. Let any garment of disfavour upon me tear to pieces. I will not see shame!
6. I declare that abundance flows in my house! Every hand of hell fighting our rising, be uprooted now! I declare: "We are blessed and highly favoured!" We begin to live the good life now!
7. Oh God, use Gateway Int'l Church as a tool for harvesting the souls of men and depopulating the kingdom of hell. May men from all walks of life gather in Gateway Int'l Church. As they come, give them their testimonies.
8. In 2024, GATEWAY will go forward and grow greater! The gates of hell shall not prevail! Our projects must be completed with ease and speed! The land is subdued by fire!
9. Oh Lord, lift the hands of my man of God, Pst. George Izunwa. He will speak as Your oracle at all times. Raise men and women that will lift his hands higher, in Jesus' name.
10. Oh Lord, heal Nigeria and the nations of the earth!

CALM DOWN

KEY
TEXT*Proverbs 18:6 "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes."*

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Calmness is an important ingredient for maintaining peace. Your ability to remain calm at all times will do you a lot of good. Sadly, many people do not possess this virtue of calmness, hence, they end up not only losing their peace but also messing up their relationships. Understand that without a level of calmness, opportunities will easily slip out of your hands and you won't need to try too hard to ruin your relationships. No matter how angry you are, there's a manner in which you shouldn't talk. Some people, men and women alike, feel the only way they can express themselves in a critical situation or make their opinion known is by raising their voices in anger.

The Bible says in Proverbs 19:11 *"The discretion of a man deferreth his anger, and it is his glory to pass over a transgression."* This simply means that any individual who chooses to overlook anger or overcome the urge to respond to provocation will be celebrated or commended for it. When issues get to a breaking point where words and tempers are compelled to fly without restriction, it's usually tempting to want to get on with the vibe, most times, in order not to look like the fool. But before you vent your anger, have you thought about the effect of your unbridled words and emotions on your spouse, friend, colleague, child, sibling, neighbour, etc? Usually, it's the one who throws caution to the winds who has a lot more to apologise and make up for, not the one who controls themselves.

APPLICATION: Every human being has flaws and imperfections. As a human being, you've got flaws and imperfections as well. When you can come to this realisation, accommodating and understanding others wouldn't be such a hard nut to crack. So, if you are required to submit by keeping calm, it doesn't mean you are foolish. It makes you the wise one instead. After all, the Bible admonishes us to submit to one another (**Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5**). Fix your faith in people. Relationships demand a lot of sacrifices from you, one of which is learning to remain calm no matter how provoked you are. Remaining calm will keep at bay every tendency for outbursts such as words you cannot take back, abuse, third-party intrusions, etc.



Father, by Your power and authority, I curse the power of uncontrolled negative emotions, in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Discuss your marriage with your spouse. Discuss your fears, your expectations and your vision for your marriage.



2 Chronicles 32 – 34

BE HAPPY!

KEY TEXT

Revelation 2:4-5 "Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Beloved, do yourself some good by being intentionally happy. If your happiness is dependent on how you are treated or not treated, or what you got or didn't get, or what you hoped for that came or didn't come to pass, you will most likely end up being a very unhappy and miserable individual for most of your life. When we talk about being in one flesh with another, it doesn't mean we are to give up our identity or uniqueness or trade our values for another's or anything less. You can still be yourself and yet be fully integrated into the lives of those you love and hold in high esteem as you relate with them. Integration simply means fitting into one another's lives to foster a sense of belonging but take note that while you do this, never let anyone become the determining factor to your happiness.

Life in general comes with its challenges. As we relate, integrate, share ideas, voice out our diverse opinions, climb up the ladder of success and depend on one another for support, we are bound to encounter rifts and misunderstandings that may compel us to throw in the towel of solidarity and just walk away. But make a firm decision today that no matter what anyone does or says to you, you are going to be happy. Marriage, for instance, comes with its share of issues that could trigger unhappiness; relationships in our workplaces, neighbourhoods, churches and social circles can be sources of unhappiness but giving up, imploding and being resentful will only cause you more emotional strain. Do everything in your power to maintain some level-headedness when you feel hurt, alone or misunderstood while relating with others. Draw grace from the Lord.

APPLICATION—**What do you do when your happiness feels threatened?** (1) **Take responsibility** for your happiness. (2) **Decide to be** a passionate giver and not just a receiver of love. (3) **Satisfy the basic** and routine obligations of every relationship. (4) **Address offences** and resolve disagreements speedily. (5) **Create an atmosphere** for fellowship and fun with your spouse, relatives, friends and acquaintances. (6) **Go the extra mile** to spice up your relationships. (7) **Beat the odds** by taking the initiative to mend and build broken relationships. Emotions follow action, not the other way around. Don't wait to feel good or right about your loved ones to do something that will recover your joy and happiness. Do the right things until your feelings catch up with your actions.



Lord, empower me to surmount every obstacle that brings unhappiness into my life, in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Happiness is a decision and not a feeling. Make a decision today that no matter what you're going through, you will be happy.



2 Chronicles 35 – 36

LET GO OF RESENTMENT

KEY TEXT

Galatians 5:17 NIV "The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Resentment can be described as a deep, bitter abhorrence for something or someone. Unfortunately, many relationships have been wrecked and shoved down the depths of resentment because of issues that couldn't be resolved over time. Factors such as betrayal, insensitivity, abuse, unmet expectations, unpaid debts, third-party intrusions, back-stabbing, etc, can be triggers for resentment among spouses, relatives, acquaintances, friends and even business partners. Unfortunately, when life throws challenges such as these, most people find it easier to deal with their emotional pain through resentment, but no matter how justified you feel in your resentment towards another person, resentment in the long run, always becomes counter-productive to your well-being.

As much as this is quite difficult to accept, there is a better way to deal with the issues that may have triggered resentment in your life, and that way is God's way. God's way is simply the application of the Fruit of the Spirit to those challenges that contend with the peace and presence of God in our lives. **Galatians 5:17-19** admonishes us on the need to inculcate the Fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control into our daily walk with the Lord. These are the basic attributes we must work with to conquer the external forces of negative emotions. What triggers resentment in our relationship is not what matters. What matters is our willingness to allow the Lord to heal us where and when needed because offences will always come. According to today's key text, bear in mind that our sinful nature wants us to do evil. It continues to war with the Spirit but it is our responsibility to ensure we do what the Spirit wants.

APPLICATION: Be a person of strength and have a strong determination to allow the Holy Spirit to live through you. Allow your life to exude God's grace at every point in time. Don't allow resentment to settle in your heart. Resentment, no matter how justified, destroys everything that makes your life fulfilling and colourful. It will destroy the love and respect people have for you. It will destroy more relationships in your life. It will destroy your opportunities for lifting. And it will also destroy your health. Make your life a place where others can draw strength and energy from. If your life can be free of anger, bitterness and resentment, you will be able to handle whatever life brings your way.



Father, I apply for mercy today. With Your precious blood, cleanse me from every negative attitude I have exhibited in my home and relationships, in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Study Romans 8: 1-17.



Ezra 1 – 4

DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 13:20 "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but the companion of fools shall be destroyed."

Why would you want to settle for less when God's will for you is to have an expected end? (**Jeremiah 29:11**). Do you have healthy expectations of your spouse, business partner, friends and family members? Do you have expectations of your future but everything seems to be going south? Keep your hope alive and refuse to settle. Imagine if Joseph had settled for the offer of Potiphar's wife as an option since his life seemed to have been going in the opposite direction of his dream. An abusive partner is not your rest. A job that can hardly feed you is not your rest. Throwing away your standards to survive is not your rest. Please, don't settle. God's plan for you is to turn your expectations into reality.

Why do people settle for less?

- **They feel like they do not deserve the best.** If Jesus can pay for you with His life, you have no right to settle because you think you are not good enough. Jesus' sacrifice for you is proof that you are worth having the best of everything life has to offer.
- **They are under pressure and tired of waiting.** Understand that God's time and yours are not the same and to get the best of God, you must practise patience. Calm down and joyfully wait for God to show up for you.
- **They are over-committed.** Some people commit to relationships too soon and find it difficult to walk away even when they know they should. This happens in many relationships including corporate ones. Never give more than is required to any venture or relationship. Over-commitment is not the same as going the extra mile.
- **They do not know the difference.** Discernment and wisdom are non-negotiable attributes of a child of God. It is important to distinguish good enough from not good when making decisions. Your ability to discern the difference and act accordingly sets you apart as a wise person.

Never be afraid to miss an opportunity that doesn't align with God's best for you.



Father, give me a discerning heart, wisdom, grace and patience to expect and receive Your best for me, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Don't settle. If you have already settled, arise and make a change because you are not in your place of rest.



Ezra 5 – 7

FROM ABOVE

KEY
TEXT*Romans 8:6 TPT "For the sense and reason of the flesh is death, but the mind-set controlled by the Spirit finds life and peace."*

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— The natural man cannot be led by the Holy Spirit because he is in the flesh. Right from the moment he is born, he has been taught and trained to make sense-guided decisions. Hence, it is more appealing for him to trust in what he sees rather than trust in what God says, just like the man who doubted Elisha's prophecy that there would be an abundance of food the next day. Because of the famine, the sense-guided man who was not able to comprehend spiritual realities let alone believe in the impossible, ended up attracting a curse to himself (**2 Kings 7:1-2**).

It is too risky to be carnally-minded because it leads to death. Think about how full of life and peaceful you would be if you are guided by God. Imagine the financial, marital and general experiences you would have amid life's chaos. As believers, we must understand that we may be in this world but we are not of this world. Rather, we are born of God and placed far above principalities and powers. When you begin to see life through the lens of the Spirit, you can rest assured that you will bask in God's blessings as He will only give the best gifts to the sons who are led by His Spirit.

APPLICATION—A flesh-guided man cannot discern spiritual realities and as such, he cannot receive anything from God. Even when God is speaking, such a person will not believe. Dear child of God, when it does not make sense, trust in God and obey the Holy Spirit, especially when making decisions—major life decisions. Remember that if you want to enjoy every good and perfect gift from our Father, you cannot afford to be carnally minded. What will it cost you to trust God? Your ego? Your intelligence? Your qualifications? Your independence? Your relationships? None of these things matter. God wants you to be surrendered to Him. Like Apostle Paul, He wants you to count your achievements as nothing (**Philippians 3:4-8**), and like Jesus, make yourself of no reputation (**Philippians 2:5-8**). Men who follow God become nothing so that they can win Christ and live in the reality of their identity as people who are from above. Today, let go of the flesh and embrace the spirit.



PRAYER

Father, I surrender my mindset to You. Help me to set my mind on things that are above, in Jesus' name. Amen!

ACTION
POINT

Fix your mind on spiritual matters and connect to the reality of the Spirit.

DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Ezra 8 – 10

GOD WANTS TO GUIDE YOU

KEY
TEXT

Isaiah 30:21 "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left'."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Trusting in God and allowing Him to guide your life can be a source of comfort, strength, and direction in times of uncertainty and decision-making. Letting God guide you involves surrendering control and placing your faith in a divine plan that surpasses human understanding. God never superimposes Himself on anyone. The free will of every man is of great importance in our walk with God. The one who chooses to be led by God has only made such a decision out of free will and absolute trust in the leading of God. This person knows and trusts God enough to believe that God will not mismanage their life.

Letting God guide you requires a deep sense of faith and trust in His divine presence that is loving, full of wisdom, all-powerful and all-knowing. By surrendering your worries and fears to God, you acknowledge that He has a greater plan for your life than you can ever have. This will overall direct every single step you take and every decision that is to be made.

APPLICATION— Communication with God through prayer and reflection is essential in seeking guidance. Take time to connect with God, seek answers through prayer, and listen for the voice of His leading. Be discerning because you may not be led in your way but in the way God deems fit. Discerning God's will for your life also requires attentiveness to signs, intuition, and the inner voice of conscience. So pay attention to gut feelings and opportunities that align with your values and purpose. God's timing is not always what we expect, and trusting in divine guidance may require patience and surrender to the unfolding of events. Embrace uncertainty with a sense of peace, knowing that you can never be disadvantaged and things will always end in testimonies. Letting God guide you is a profound act of faith, trust, and surrender that can bring clarity, purpose, and peace to your life's journey. By opening your heart to divine guidance, you can navigate life's twists and turns with grace and courage, knowing that you are never alone. Yes, you are never alone.



Father, thank You for my life up until now. I surrender myself to Your leading. I pray you continually guide my steps, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Intentionally seek God's counsel on every single step you decide to take, no matter how insignificant it may seem.



Nehemiah 1 – 3

MY FAMILY RISES

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Genesis 47:6 "The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle."

You are not successful if members of your family are not successful. Because of Joseph, Jacob and his children were blessed in Egypt. In a short while, they rose to abundance and prominence in the best part of a strange land. You and your family can have the best parts of the earth. You can inherit things and places you never thought were possible. Today, reject smallness and rise to a place of dominion.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Father, I thank You for releasing the mantle of greatness and global relevance on my family! We are the head and not the tail! We are above and above only! Hallelujah!
2. The blessing of God is upon my family: smallness is not our portion! We are blessed in career, business, ministry, marriage, and every other aspect of life!
3. Oh Lord, give us help to rise; let everyone be sponsored to greatness! May the doors of nations swing open unto us, in Jesus' name.
4. Let all ancestral altars, embargoes & judgments be destroyed by fire! Every strongman working evil against my family dies without mercy!
5. Father, lay your hand of speed upon every major project in my family. My family must record achievements that invite celebrations this 2024!
6. I speak life to anyone under the attack of sickness or evil; be set free now, in Jesus' name.
7. Oh God, use Gateway Int'l Church as a tool for harvesting the souls of men and depopulating the kingdom of hell. May men from all walks of life gather in Gateway Int'l Church and as they come, give them their testimonies.
8. In 2024, GATEWAY will go forward and grow greater! The gates of hell shall not prevail! I speak love, unity, peace and God's blessing over the #IamGateway Family! We rise high, in Jesus' name.
9. Oh Lord, lift the hands of my man of God, Pst. George Izunwa. He will speak as Your oracle at all times. Raise men and women that will lift his hands higher. Preserve him and his family, in Jesus' name.
10. Oh Lord, heal Nigeria by Your mercy!



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Nehemiah 4 – 7

YOU CAN HEAR GOD

KEY
TEXT

John 10:3 "To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— God always has good plans for His children but where things get tough is when we can't discern His voice, especially when we need to make major life decisions such as marriage, ministry, career, etc. One of the benefits of hearing from God is the confidence it brings, so much so that even when you are facing hard times, you can hold onto His word, and trust that God can never lie. It is similar to having a compass or map to guide you when you embark on a journey.

You do not need a special anointing to hear God. Just as we were physically born with the ability to hear, when you are born again, you are equipped with the spiritual ability to hear God and discern the things of the Spirit. Where most Christians fail, feel frustrated and give up is when they do not train themselves to recognise God's voice and understand spiritual things. They stray far away from their Shepherd and so never get familiar with His voice or close enough to hear Him speak. You cannot hear someone who is far away. You can at best recognise that he's saying something but never clearly hear what it is until you draw closer. This is the very reason people like David, Anna, Joshua, Samuel, Moses and even Jesus were regularly attuned to the voice of God; they stayed in close fellowship with God.

APPLICATION— When God is speaking to you, will you know? Every sheep can hear its shepherd. Paying attention and listening to what He actually says is fundamental to your Christian experience. When you stay connected and attuned to the Holy Spirit's leading at all times, it becomes easier to hear God. The following are practical ways you can hear God more clearly and easily. (1) **Engage in personal study, meditation and application of His Word.** Many times, God guides us through His Word. (2) **Learn and grow under the leadership and counsel of your spiritual authority figures.** (3) **Pay attention to your dreams and visions.** (4) **Trust your inner witness and intuition.** When we get born-again, the Holy Spirit indwells us and our spirits become one with His.



PRAYER

Dear Lord, open my ears to hear Your voice and give me the grace to obey You at all times. Amen!



ACTION
POINT

Be intentional about paying attention to what God is saying at every point in time. Write them down and act on them immediately.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Nehemiah 8 – 10

DEVELOP YOUR SPIRITUAL FACULTIES

KEY
TEXT

1 PETER 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— Spiritual faculties are the skills or abilities which a believer must possess to navigate spiritual realities. A believer's strength stems from their ability to hone these spiritual faculties to exercise the authority and dominion made available to them in Christ. Guidance is confusing to those who have not developed their spiritual faculties and the mere reason that you are born again does not mean you have developed into a mature Christian. To grow in faith and spirituality, closeness to God is important. The closer you are to somebody, the more you can know the person's voice and behaviour. When a person spends quality time with God, they know Him better and will not miss even His wink. People become mature Christians who are guided by God because they spend time with Him.

In **Acts 20:32**, Paul was bidding the Ephesian church farewell with these words; “...And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” In other words, Paul said he would love them to grow and among everything that could help them grow, he recommended God's Word, not only as a tool for their growth and edification but as the key by which they would enjoy their inheritance in Christ.

APPLICATION— When you build up your spiritual faculties daily, it becomes easier to walk with God. You can develop your spiritual faculties by learning to spend quality time with God: worship privately, pray in the Holy Ghost, fast regularly, study your Bible, listen for and obey God's voice, fellowship with and minister to other believers, intercede for others, exercise faith and engage in soul winning. In Gateway International Church, we recommend 4 Ls for intentional disciples of Christ. They are Learning from Christ, Living for Christ, Loving the Body of Christ and Leading others to Christ. The practical ways to develop your spiritual faculties as listed above are encapsulated in these 4 Ls. Practise them more often and watch your life grow beyond bounds.



I receive the grace to develop my spiritual faculties in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Spend time worshipping and praying in the Holy Ghost for at least 30 minutes today.



Nehemiah 11 – 13

SET GODLY STANDARDS

KEY
TEXT

1 Corinthians 6:12 "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— In today's text, Paul opened up something a lot of people should be paying attention to but are not. Failure to do this is why many have been degraded. Many things are lawful but not all things are necessary or expedient. For example, while it is okay to desire physical intimacy with someone you are not married to, it is an unnecessary distraction to pursue this desire when you have not yet married that person. Most of the time, the things we pursue at the detriment of the necessary things afford us short-term "benefits", often at the expense of the long-term.

The truth is that only short-sighted people who have no vision of tomorrow hold on to short-term pleasures. God's ways might be slow but they are always sure and, sometimes, all you need is the ability to delay gratification. Gehazi was Elisha's servant who may have succeeded him as Israel's major prophet but lost everything to greed and his inability to discern what was needful at the time (See **2 Kings 5:19-27**). Joseph, a young boy was also offered an opportunity to sleep with Potiphar's (his boss') wife, of course, with a lot of benefits attached. He probably wouldn't have been caught, but his words in **Genesis 39:9b**, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God" sank deep as I expect it to also sink into you. This is someone who purposed to set standards and maintain healthy boundaries for himself.

APPLICATION— Setting godly standards involves reflecting the character of God in our lives. This includes virtues such as love, compassion, forgiveness, honesty, integrity, humility, purity, patience, self-control, faith and righteousness. By embodying these qualities, we can strive to emulate God's character in our interactions with others. Godly standards require personal integrity and consistency in our thoughts, words, and actions. In our relationships, it would involve establishing boundaries that honour God and promote healthy interactions. By holding ourselves accountable to these standards, we cultivate a life of authenticity, transparency, and moral uprightness. Set your standards according to God's expectations.



Father, I pray for Your grace to help me in this life's journey. Help and strengthen me as I uphold Your Word and set healthy boundaries for myself, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Do a thorough review of your life. Highlight areas where you need to create boundaries and set them.



Esther 1 – 5

ACTUALISE YOUR DREAM

KEY
TEXT

Genesis 27:40b NKJV "...And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Everyone has dreams and many people want what you want.
- Life will not give you what you desire; it will give you what you demand.
- People who demand don't beg; they violently go for what they want.

Has God put a dream in your heart? He will make it happen. However, He won't be the only constant in the equation of that dream; you will also be a constant. Your dream will require you to be consciously and desperately involved in its actualisation. Desperation is a state of unrest. It is the force that propelled Cain to build a city even after God cursed him. It is the same force that drove Esau to succeed even without his father's blessing. When you are faced with challenges that threaten your results or promises, don't sit down and begin to whine and complain. Become desperate and start fighting back. Seek God and be determined to succeed against all odds. You will succeed!



PRAYER

Lord, I receive the spirit of courage and desperation. By Your help, I create my dreams, in Jesus' name. Amen



ACTION
POINT

Revisit every abandoned project, dream and vision, and build momentum for actualising them.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Esther 6 – 10

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WILL

KEY
TEXT

Ephesians 1:11 "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT— God's will for our lives is woven throughout the scriptures and is rooted in His love and perfect plan. If you don't know your purpose right now, I hope that you begin to have an understanding by the end of today's seed. God's plan for believers is not to walk this earth confused about this delicate truth; rather, it is that we walk boldly in the assurance of our faith and purpose. Every human was born with the intrinsic urge to know why they were brought on earth. Many people do discover this, but unfortunately, the majority do not, so they spend time wandering. A fundamental aspect of understanding God's will is having faith in His plan. Trusting that God has a purpose for each of us every day of our lives and that His will is ultimately for our good can provide comfort and direction in times of uncertainty.

In **Isaiah 43:18-18**, a question was posed; *"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, **do you not perceive it?** I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."* A person in alignment and understanding of God's will, most times will perceive or discern the moves of God. The Almighty God becomes predictable because a man is sensitive and understands His will.

APPLICATION— God's will is primarily communicated via His Word. Your ability to interact with the Word of God gives you direct access to His voice, ways and acts, being led by Him and developing a sustainable relationship with Him. Personal reflection can help us understand our purpose and calling in life. Paying attention to our innermost thoughts can help us align our lives with the will of God because He certainly guides us through them. Through prayers, individuals can seek directions, clarity and wisdom to discern God's plan for their lives. It is important to approach prayer with an open heart and mind, listening for God's voice and being receptive to His leading. Don't be careless; discern God's will for your life and live it out.



PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your Word. I pray this day, that You reveal to me Your perfect will for me. Lord, show me what You would have me do and how to go about it, in Jesus' name. Amen!



ACTION
POINT

Set a time for daily study of God's Word.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Job 1 – 4

GO THE EXTRA MILE

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 22:4 NIV "Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Love and affection in a relationship can sometimes depreciate, leaving behind heart-aching, resentful and grieving persons who may have lost the hope of enjoying a blissful relationship once again. Usually, the devastating impact of such a sour relationship is not felt until some level of toxicity has settled in. Even though it is quite normal for every relationship to go through challenges, when the parties involved conclude that nothing can be done about their dying relationships, truly, nothing is done.

If we could only hope more, do more, communicate more and explore other options to revive our relationships, especially the marital ones, some of our relationships can be saved. We would suddenly find out that something can be done about the unrest we experience. It doesn't matter what has compelled the break-up of a relationship or the depth of the anguish that has been experienced, there is always hope for restoration. The warmth and affection that once existed in your relationship can be restored if you're willing to try. One of the reasons a lot of relationships are hitting the rocks is not because of ignorance of what to do but humility to do what is needed.

APPLICATION: One of the avenues that is often needed for restoration to take place is the resolution to go the extra mile. Going the extra mile would often make a demand on your pride, ego and self-worth. However, every important investment often requires an extra effort to make it work when the time comes. Your marriage is an important generational investment that must be preserved by taking the pains to go the extra mile if and when required. Your extra mile may not be the same as mine but it is instrumental to the well-being of your relationships. Your extra mile might be your resolve to apologise, take up certain responsibilities, accept your faults when necessary, or just listen. Whenever you are faced with a challenge in any of your relationships, be the bigger person. Advocate for peace and restoration. Let your desire to be reconciled always be greater than your need to be right. Making the first move will not kill you; it will rather bless you. The Lord grant you grace in the name of Jesus.



PRAYER

Father, I declare, I will not be an instrument of pain in anybody's life. I receive Your grace to go the extra mile, in the name of Jesus. Amen!



ACTION
POINT

Take a critical look at your marriage. What are the things you have continually failed or refused to do that you know will restore love in your relationship? Allow the Lord to strengthen and guide you.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Job 5 – 8

GOD IS MAKING ME

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Genesis 12:2 AMP "And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you [abundantly], And make your name great (exalted, distinguished); And you shall be a blessing [a source of great good to others]."

When God promises to make a man, it's nothing like the promise any man can make. No matter how good a man is, if he promises to make you, how much can he sincerely do for you? Look at the men in the Bible whom God promised to make—Abraham, Peter and the other disciples whom Jesus told that He was going to make fishers of men. He fulfilled all His promises. Today, we still refer to these men. God has promised to make you. This means that you will be wealthy and have more than enough to help others. It means that you will have influence and fame. It means that you will be distinguished and generations after you will speak of you. May God make you!

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Oh Lord, I thank You for the release of supernatural help. I am not alone; I am not hopeless or helpless. I am helped by the Lord. Hallelujah!
2. Today, by the force of divine help and helpers, I fulfil my life's assignments and goals—in business, career, family, ministry, etc. I receive help in the name of Jesus!
3. Right now, I refuse an inconsequential life: I break the yoke of smallness! Let every curse of rejection, mediocrity and smallness be destroyed by fire!
4. Lord, raise me! Help me! Make me! Let my life be a testimony of Your goodness in the name of Jesus!
5. **Isaiah 51:2**—Father, make sense out of my life. Grant me my destiny portion. Remember me this year for good! Lead me into Your best for my life, in Jesus' name.
6. I rebuke and resist powers that are hindering my progress, in Jesus' name. I am a great nation! I am a blessing to my world!
7. Oh God, use Gateway Int'l Church as a tool for harvesting the souls of men and depopulating the kingdom of hell. May men from all walks of life gather in Gateway Int'l Church and as they come, give them their testimonies.
8. In 2024, GATEWAY will go forward and grow greater! The gates of hell shall not prevail! Our projects will be completed with ease and speed. The land is subdued by fire!
9. Oh Lord, lift the hands of my man of God, Pastor George Izunwa. He will speak as Your oracle at all times. Raise men and women that will lift his hands higher, in Jesus' name.
10. Over Nigeria, Oh Lord, heal our land!



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Job 9 – 12

BE A LIFE-GIVER

KEY
TEXT

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT—Life does not give a man what he wants. Life gives a man who he is. If you're going to have good relationships, be a good person. Decide you're going to be a life-giver. To be a life-giver means to add flavour to the lives of the people around you and leave a mark on your world. Your life and nature will likely be corrupted or be negatively influenced by the people you associate with. Remember: evil communication corrupts good morals. Running around in search of the best people is not what our world needs; the best you can get is the 'flawed best'. The goal, therefore, should be that we become the best people.

When you become a life-giver, you become the delight and desire of quality people, your discernment gets awakened to notice toxic behaviour and you activate the covenant of God that attracts the goodwill of God and the right people to you. People are quick to change when those around them choose to become life-givers. People won't change by being ridiculed, scolded or humiliated like many of us do to others. Contrary behavior orchestrates anger, resentment and, sometimes, rebellion.

APPLICATION: Be intentional about living your new nature as a new creation in Christ. Why do we claim to be born again without the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit? A lot of Christians go to church but their behaviour, character and disposition are nothing similar to Christ's. Being like Christ in character doesn't just happen. In addition to the enablement of the Holy Spirit, it requires a lot of spiritual effort and intentional practice of God's presence to exhibit His character and treat people right. Everyone deserves dignity and respect. That is why you are a Christian. You have been endowed with the grace to give and restore life.



In the name of Jesus, I come against selfishness and I cast it out of my life by the power of the Holy Ghost. Amen!



Prayerfully choose today, to be gracious to people irrespective of their flaws.



Job 13 – 16

DON'T GO TO BATTLE

KEY
TEXT

Isaiah 32:18 NIV "My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON TEXT—A battle is a fight, clash or war. Believe it or not, one of the areas we find the most fights, clashes or war, is in marriage, which has led to countless cases of separation and divorce. Battles in marriages are often triggered by several factors, many of which we have highlighted over the past few days. Despite what may be the cause(s) of the friction in many homes, one thing is sure—when one or both parties refuse to seek solutions to their troubled marriage, the home will always be a battlefield. Beloved, your home does not have to be a battleground. Marriage was meant for love, companionship, sexual satisfaction and, of course, posterity.

There might be a lot of anger, bitterness, betrayal, poverty, infidelity and the like but it can end today. The true but invincible enemy of your marriage is no other person than satan who can manifest himself in many ways. For instance, there are many homes whose finances have been attacked, leaving only one party to cater for the needs of the home. A situation such as this, especially when the burden is too heavy or when the other spouse is finding it difficult to understand the pain of their partner, can trigger anger and resentment.

APPLICATION: When challenges like these happen, don't go to battle. Don't allow the enemy to get a foothold in your home through fights, complaints, nagging, gossip, hatred, insults, infidelity or physical confrontation because that is exactly what he wants. Instead, go the extra mile by showing love to your partner even when you feel cheated by them. Fight your battles in the place of prayer. Your partner is not your source; God is. Your partner may not be capable of giving you the unconditional love you deserve or crave; only God can. When your partner fails to understand your pain and anguish, God will. So, when the chips are down and you feel so overwhelmed that you want to throw in the towel and back out, the best place to be is in God's presence.



Holy Spirit, let Your refining fire burn all over me; let everything that has troubled me and caused setbacks for me, be consumed by Your fire, in the name of Jesus.



Take a worship song that lifts your spirit; sing and meditate on the lyrics of the song until you are filled with peace and joy.



Job 17 – 20

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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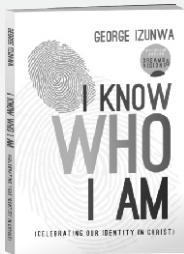
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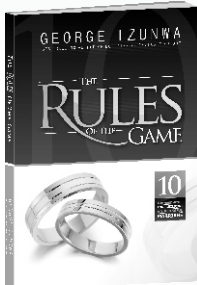
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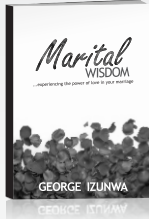
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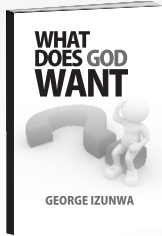
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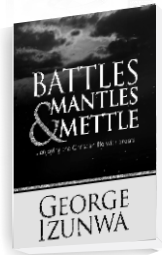
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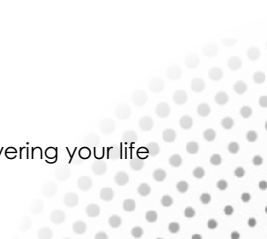
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About The Authors

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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