



April 2025

Power Seeds

...empowering your life.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL & GUIDE

GEORGE & MANUELA IZUNWA



WEDNESDAY

WORD

EXPLOSION

NOW 5:00PM

PHYSICAL & ONLINE SERVICES

with PASTOR
GEORGE IZUNWA



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APRIL / 2025

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POWER SEEDS

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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!

2025

HESED COVENANT CONFESSION

[Lift up your right hand & declare boldly]

- God is good to me!
- My life is sustained by His covenants!
- My covenant place is at the topmost top!

Today.... Standing on Romans 10:9-10, I confess that Jesus Christ is my Lord!

- He died in my place and rose from the dead!
- He took away my sins & gave me His righteousness!
- Because of Him, I am a member of the family of God!
- Jesus is my life; I live by His Word; I am led by His Spirit!
- And one day, I will meet Him face to face!

Because of Jesus Christ, my life is supernatural!

- I am the blessed of God!
- I walk in prosperity!
- I find favour everywhere!
- Sound health is my portion!
- Nothing dies in my hands!
- No power can hurt my destiny!
- Kings come to the brightness of my rising!
- Nations open their gates and treasures to me!
- My life is a testimony of grace!

2025

▶ HESED COVENANT CONFESSION

Today, I affirm that 2025 is my covenant year of HESED!

- I receive the loving kindness of God!
- Only good things are permitted in my life!
- 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 business works; my relationships work!
- Everything will work for my good in 2025!
- No good word, spoken over me will fall to the ground!
- There shall be no loss nor evil report in my life this year!
- The good hand of God is upon me!
- I am the evidence of Hessed!

INTEGRATED IN CHRIST.

KEY
TEXT

Psalms 45:10-11 "Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thine father's house; so shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord, and worship thou him."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: The essence of Christianity is sharing your life with Jesus and taking a journey into destiny with Him. Being integrated in Christ means making Jesus the centre of your life and everything that concerns you: your personal life, family, career, goals, dreams and even your worries. When Jesus died on the Cross, He didn't give His life only for the purpose of delivering you from eternal damnation. He also gave His life so He could share yours with you. This is why Christianity is a lifestyle, not a religion.

Many Christians go to church, pay their tithes and even serve in church but they are so alone. Alone is a combination of two words: all and one. Being alone in this regard doesn't mean you refuse or are unable to relate with others. A person who is alone does not understand that they can enjoy a quality, intimate relationship with God with no disappointment, fear, betrayal, hopelessness or uncertainty. Many Christians are yet to understand that God, in His vastness, awesomeness and mightiness, can be everything in one: a father, friend, brother, confidant and lover.

APPLICATION: Whenever you come across the name 'God', what readily comes to mind? The super-strict King in heaven who likes to punish His subjects or the loving Father who loves His children unconditionally? For sure, God chastises but He's first your loving Father who wants to share your life with you. He wants to guide, to help and to relate with you just the way you relate with your earthly father and more. It doesn't matter what may have happened in your past; open the doors of your heart and let Him in.



Father, help me to see You just the way You are.



Talk to God Him about something you felt He probably didn't care about. He wants to hear you talk to Him.



2 Samuel 1 – 3

YOU ARE REGENERATED.

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold all things are become new."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: When you're surrendered to Jesus, there is more to you besides just identifying with a church. When the Bible says that old things are passed away and that all things have become new, it means you never existed before your conversion. You are not only brand new, you're also righteous, not by reason of good works but through your acceptance of Jesus. Isn't it amazing to know that you are no longer condemned because of Calvary? Begin to walk today in the consciousness of who you are in Christ: free, forgiven and justified through grace.

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1) Lord Jesus, I thank You for the gift of salvation and redemption. I open my spirit, heart and soul to the wondrous gift of salvation.
- 2) Lord, grant me mercy for every wrong I've done. Let the precious blood of Jesus wash over me and give me a new lease of life.
- 3) Today, I declare I have a goodly heritage! By the sacrifice of Calvary and with confidence in my covenant inheritance, I declare boldly that I am God's child! I walk in confidence, in soundness of mind and in covenant assurance!
- 4) Nothing will stop me from living the Zoe life. I declare, that by grace, I am in charge! I shift from the position of condemnation to the position of justification!
- 5) I declare, I am walking out of every destiny prison! Every onslaught of hell threatening my commitment and devotion to the Lord, be consumed by fire!
- 6) By the mighty force of faith, I subdue every oppression of hell!
- 7) By fire, I curse every force of hell from my ancestry that has vowed that I will not serve God! I cast you out of my life now, in the name of Jesus!
- 8) Father, I declare that Gateway International is blessed! Lord, lead Gateway to greater heights and greater glory! Let the voice of Gateway be noised beyond her local and national shores!
- 9) Thank You for the life and ministry of Your servant, Pastor George Izunwa. May men and women assigned to help him actualize his kingdom assignment get connected to him.
- 10) Lord, stretch forth Your hand of healing and mercy over Nigeria. Let Your eternal purpose concerning this nation be actualized, in the name of Jesus.

DROP THE GUILT.

KEY
TEXT

Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified in 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."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: One of the greatest hindrances to being completely integrated in Christ is guilt consciousness. We can't operate in faith when we allow guilt to take root in our hearts. Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Paul, who was originally Saul, was known for his persecution against the Church before his repentance. On his way to Damascus, on the day appointed by the Lord, he had an encounter with the same Saviour he had persecuted. Paul was never the same again after that encounter. Paul fizzled away and Jesus took over his entire being because he began to see himself through Christ, not his past sins.

When we become integrated in Christ, He takes permanent residence in us. We become united with Him in Spirit. By virtue of our new birth, we take our permanent place as joint heirs of God's divine inheritance, one of which is the forgiveness of sin, past, present and future. We stand no longer accused, and no longer condemned, but justified by grace. Abiding in grace is not an excuse for sin but when we make the mistake of committing sin, we have the liberty to tap into grace to obtain mercy and move on as if nothing happened.

APPLICATION: God desires to display the riches of His grace through you. Jesus died for you and that makes you His greatest treasure irrespective of your past. You may have messed up as a child of God but don't allow the enemy to keep condemning you. God convicts, but satan condemns. If you have committed a sin you feel utterly guilty about, grace and mercy are available right where you are. Never conclude it's over for you. Drop the guilt and self-condemnation and move on. Jesus took it all on your behalf at the Cross. It's not over for you until you get to your destination which is heaven.



Father, I trust in You. I declare, I will reign in the victory Christ obtained for me through mercy!



Trust in the Lord.



2 Samuel 8 – 11

CALLED TO REIGN.

KEY TEXT

1 Samuel 16:1 (NKJV) "Now the Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.'"

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: One of the reasons many Christians get disappointed is because they seek only for material possessions and not God. Many desire to achieve great things, and many want to become influential without giving God His rightful place in their lives. If you want to reign in life, you must make God the centre of your life. It's important you're a God-seeker and a God-lover. You must be a Christian who is unreservedly devoted to God. No one chases after God and remains the same.

David, going by his human nature, committed more wrongs in the sight of God than Saul but he had a special place in God's heart because he was a God-lover and a God-seeker. David worshipped, served and followed God wholeheartedly all the days of his life. He was indeed a man after God's heart as the Bible says. To be a person after God's heart means to be completely devoted to pleasing Him in everything. Saul was still king when God found his replacement because Saul wasn't a man after God's heart.

APPLICATION: I want you to realize that as a Christian, anywhere you find yourself, you are automatically an ambassador of God. As you represent Him and serve Him with all your heart, you are sure to go higher and to reign with Him. Like David, learn to manage divine trust with diligence and faithfulness. Let people see and testify that you are truly a child of God.



Father, give me a heart that genuinely seeks after You.



Take note of the areas in your life you need to tidy up your relationship with God and get started.



2 Samuel 12 – 13

HUNGER AND THIRST FOR HIM (I)

KEY
TEXT

2 Chronicles 27:6 (NKJV) "So Jotham became mighty because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Anywhere you are found on earth becomes a place of divine trust. Building divine trust needs intentional and relentless work. When you build trust with God, you automatically earn His favour. Throughout the Scriptures, we can see God locating and lifting men who had an unquenchable thirst and hunger for Him. People who are thirsty for God always see themselves rise irrespective of their disqualifications or deficiencies. David was one of them and so are you.

When Moses and Joshua went into the tabernacle after setting it up, God began to converse with Moses. Joshua, who sat by watching and observing the ways in which God expressed Himself in the life of Moses, began to hunger and thirst for a personal and supernatural encounter with God. Because of this, God began to use him exceptionally. God favours men who hunger for Him, not primarily because of what they can gain, but because they love Him unconditionally. The favour of God may appear like it's random but many times, it manifests when you obey basic covenant principles.

APPLICATION: What does God see in you that provokes Him to lift you?

- His first place in your heart.
- A broken and contrite spirit.
- An unshakable faith in Him.
- Your eagerness to fulfil His divine purpose.



Father, may my success not reduce my zeal for You.



Decide that your light is going to shine brighter for Jesus.



2 Samuel 14 – 16

HUNGER AND THIRST FOR HIM (2)

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: You can't be like Jesus if you do not hunger and thirst for Him. The more you see Him, the more you will become like Him. If you want to change your lifestyle so you can please Him, He will give you the capacity to change and become a better and more fulfilled Christian. Those who handle kingdom issues lightly find it hard to see God. God wants the best for you, but His best can only come through your willingness to serve Him and to be like Him.

How do you behold God?

- By hungering and thirsting after righteousness.
- By pursuing daily spiritual encounters and power.
- By desiring to do big things for God.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as I behold You, manifest Yourself supernaturally in my life.



ACTION
POINT

Ponder on two things you need to do that will enhance your relationship with God and begin to do them.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Samuel 17 – 19

HUNGER AND THIRST FOR HIM (3)

KEY TEXT

Psalms 84:1-2 (NLT) "How lovely is your dwelling place. O Lord of Heaven's Armies. I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the Lord. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: The more you dig into God, the more you'll be able to understand spiritual mysteries. Spiritual mysteries are that part of human existence that cannot be logically or rationally explained. When you lack understanding of what spiritual mysteries are, there'll be limitations to how far you can go with God or how intensely He can manifest in your life. Life is first spirit before it is natural because the spiritual determines the physical, not the other way around.

For God to help you, bless you and use you, you must know Him and know His ways. In other words, you must understand spiritual mysteries. If you don't understand spiritual mysteries, carrying His presence will become a challenge to you because you won't understand how God speaks, what He's saying and where He's leading you to. So, how does access to spiritual mysteries begin? It begins with a passion to know Him deeper. David was a man who had an unquenchable desire for God. Despite being a king, he knew God intimately and understood His ways extensively.

APPLICATION: The hunger to know Him and understand spiritual mysteries is often triggered by deep passion for God. God will never be far away from you or far away from the issues that concern you once there is a burning desire to know Him intimately. There must be intentionality on your part to know Him. David said, 'A single day in the courts of God is better than a thousand anywhere else.' One you begin to place value on His presence, God will begin to unveil mysteries to you and give you understanding in areas that defy human comprehension.



PRAYER

Lord, You are full of unfailing love. As I hide in Your presence, teach me Your ways.



ACTION POINT

Meditate on Psalm 42:1-3.



DAILY BIBLE READING:

2 Samuel 20 – 22

BUILD SPIRITUAL CAPACITY.

KEY
TEXT

Psalms 78:70 "He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: The beautiful thing about carrying God's presence and becoming great is that it is not determined by gender, race, status or class. Everyone has the potential to become great including you, but a lot will be determined by how you choose to walk with God. When you walk with God, you're sure to take the thrones of life and live triumphantly. When you walk with God, circumstances are certain to bow before you. God indeed makes men, but every man must partner with God to facilitate their own making. God will not promote you beyond what you have built capacity for.

David did not lead Israel successfully only because God chose him. He led the nation of Israel successfully because he built both spiritual and physical capacities. When his opportunity came, he was prepared and ready for it. It is better to be prepared for an opportunity before it presents itself than be unprepared when it finally comes.

APPLICATION: When you sense a calling to accomplish something in life, the first thing you need to do is define what that calling is. A call could be anything from ministry to business or from teaching to buying and selling. Secondly, ask yourself what the purpose of that call is, and what it would cost to build the capacity to accomplish it. And lastly, ask yourself how you intend to begin your journey. If you fail to define these things, you might answer a call but end up a frustrated failure. Build capacity! Your life will produce only what you have structured it to produce.



PRAYER

Father, I declare, I'm walking into testimonies of greater victories!



ACTION
POINT

Ask yourself, "When, how and why does God want to position me and bless me?"



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Samuel 23 – 24

BETWEEN THE PROMISE AND THE PROVISION.

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Hebrews 4:1 (NKJV) "Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: There is a promise and there is a provision but between the promise and the provision, there will be problems, processes, protocols, pressures and even persecution. But there is something that is sure to give you an edge: it's called Partnership with God. Life is a journey but don't let your destiny fall apart because of the weights and the setbacks you may encounter on your journey. Pressures are not an indication that God has forgotten about you. So, stop complaining, stop hiding in fear and stop giving excuses.

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1) Father, thank You for the privilege of Your partnership. Thank You because I have the privilege of going higher.
- 2) Lord, I bless You for Your awesomeness in my life. You are the One who does great things. Thank You for choosing to do great things in my life.
- 3) Today, I declare, I am planted by still waters! Nothing will steal my destiny or uproot my future!
- 4) Lord, let Your favour and help be released over my life today. Lord let Your mighty presence continue to abide with me to the glory of Your name.
- 5) Lord, I declare, You are the Sovereign Lord! Let every voice of darkness speaking over my life and destiny be consumed by fire!
- 6) I release the fire of judgement against anything and anyone that is determined to frustrate my efforts to rise!
- 7) I address every enemy of progress, and I uproot and cast them out of my life! I decree, no more setbacks! Every demon bent on causing pain and frustration in my life and business, let the judgment of God prevail against you!
- 8) Father, I lift Gateway International Church into Your mighty and able hands. This year, we thank You because we know You are satisfying us with good tidings and bountiful testimonies.
- 9) Over Your servant, Pastor George Izunwa, we declare that this is his year of immeasurable testimonies in his life, marriage and ministry!
- 10) Oh Lord, deliver our nation from every form of affliction. We shall thrive in abundance and in prosperity.

DON'T LET YOUR HEART GET SICK.

KEY
TEXT

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV) "And let us not grow weary while doing, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: It's easy to get worried or depressed when prophecies or promises delay in coming to pass. Many people grow weary and disheartened when something God has promised them does not come to pass or manifest at the expected time. When God makes a promise to you in the day, even if it gets dark, never stop believing it. Never lose faith. Keep believing what God said.

David was seventeen when the prophecy of his kingship over Israel was given but that prophecy came to pass in his life at the age of thirty. It took thirteen whole years before he finally became king. And when he was crowned king, he couldn't lead the entire nation of Israel until after a few more years. Many believers start life's journeys with excitement, in anticipation of the fulfilment of a promise, but fall away because of disappointments and end up bitter and frustrated. The promise God made to Abraham about becoming the father of many nations must have seemed totally unachievable but Abraham, the Bible says, believed God without a doubt even when it didn't look possible.

APPLICATION: I encourage you today to stay connected to God by faith. Trusting God is a decision that will never fail you. God is indeed a covenant keeper and all He has said concerning you will surely come to pass. Play your role by trusting Him. Stay connected by doing what is expected of you. Even when it appears impossible or unrealizable, don't let your heart get sick because God may be working in ways you may not understand. It may be delayed but it has not been denied.



PRAYER

Father, I believe every word You have spoken concerning me. I am assured that Your promises will come to pass.



ACTION
POINT

Meditate on your past victories and thank God for them.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Kings 3 – 5

HOPE AGAINST HOPE.

KEY
TEXT

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV) "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him"

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: When you want God to come through for you, never forget that you also have a role to play. Many times, promises and prophecies don't manifest because we fail to do our part. The Bible rightly says when hope is deferred, the heart becomes sick. While this is true, the reason for the supposed 'failure' of God is usually our failure to do our own part of the process.

When God made a promise to Abraham about becoming the father of many nations, Abraham must have been very excited. The Bible didn't tell us categorically whether it was an easy journey or not but at some point, the enemy proposed to help bring the prophecy to pass by tempting him to sleep with his maid, Hagar. When that happened, Ishmael, who wasn't the seed of Promise, was conceived and God parted ways with Abraham for thirteen long years. For thirteen years God was silent. But God, still in His infinite mercy, showed up again to keep His promise because Abraham maintained his faith in God.

APPLICATION: God is a covenant keeper and when He says a thing, He brings it to pass but you've got to do your best to please Him by remaining committed to His divine cause. How could Sarah, who had been confirmed as barren, bring forth a generation? But just as the Bible says, Abraham hoped against all hope. Just like Abraham, hope against all hope. There's nothing too hard for the Lord to do. Even when it looks impossible, hope against hope.



PRAYER

Father, You're too faithful to fail me. Help me to remain focused on You.



ACTION
POINT

Thank God ahead of time for what He has promised He will do.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Kings 6 – 7

REMAIN PASSIONATE FOR GOD.

KEY
TEXT

2 Chronicles 26:5 (NKJV) "He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: When God confirms a man's passion for Him, the next phase of that man's life becomes supernaturally sponsored. Passion in this regard can be defined as your personal commitment or unrelenting devotion to God and to the things of God. It can also be described as being Kingdom-minded. God must confirm that you are passionate about Him and His Kingdom before He can lift you. Don't expect God to promote you until you are passionate about Him and about His Kingdom.

One of the things that ensures God's lifting and blessing in a man's life is kingdom mindedness. Your desire for kingdom advancement has the potential to raise you and establish you. Abraham, David, Joseph, Daniel, Moses, Joshua, Caleb are a few examples of men who were exceptionally mindful of God and the things of God. I want you to realize this: it's not men who use God but God who uses men.

APPLICATION: How passionate are you about Him? Are you committed to God and to Kingdom advancement? Even when it's not convenient, can you go all out for Him just because you love Him? Is your commitment an offshoot of your needs or because you sincerely love God? It's one thing to be committed because you want something, its yet another to be committed because you sincerely love the Lord. When God comes down to look for men, He searches for those who do what they do for the Kingdom because they love Him. 50%, 60%, 80% or 90% commitment is not enough. God wants it all and He wants all of you (100%).



Father, from this day, I give you pre-eminence over my life. Take it all Lord!



Ask the Holy Spirit this question, "What would You have me do?"



1 Kings 8 – 9

GOD'S CANDIDATE FOR STRANGE HELP.

KEY
TEXT

2 Chronicles 26:15 (NKJV) "And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skilful men, to be on the corners and on the towers, to shoot arrows and large stones. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvellously helped till he became king."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: You're God's candidate for help. Everyone needs help! God also knows that you need help and has promised to help you. One of the reasons so many people fail along the path to success is because they want to do life alone. They have their personal dreams and plans that don't align with the place and purpose of God which often results in confusion and regret. But when God commands help for you, it's breath-taking and amazing: You will know what to do, where to go and who to work with. You will walk in ordered steps and make decisions that are divinely guided without fear. You will thrive in God's preservation and protection. Where others sink, you will not sink, and your results will continually defy the norm.



PRAYER

Today, I'm recovering every destiny moment I lost, in the name of Jesus.

ACTION
POINT

Ask God to direct you in the paths He has chosen for you.

DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Kings 10 – 12

AIM FOR THE GIFT OF MEN.

KEY TEXT

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NKJV) "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labour."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Men are the channels for the expression of God's grace and goodness and, quite remarkably, men are the only gifts we can gainfully interact with. Men were created to interact with one another, not walk alone. This is why God has endowed us with communication skills. Our ability to communicate with one another is what enhances our ability to support and help one another.

In life, when you walk alone, you walk a lonely path. It's the people you meet in life that become instruments of help and support. You can't walk alone and expect to accomplish something substantial or meaningful in life. It's important that you have a destiny support system throughout life. A destiny support system is a group of people who are connected to you to help you achieve your goals. David, for instance, had the gift of men. He began with the mentorship of Saul and his close relationship with Jonathan. Later, he built connections with the rejected men of his city who later became his mighty men of valour. David was also submitted under the spiritual covering of priests and prophets such as Samuel and Nathan. These were men who were given as gifts by God, who helped him achieve his purpose. Take note of the men God has given to you and nurture those relationships.

APPLICATION: How do you access the gift of men?

- Discern the spiritual force behind every relationship.
- When you meet people, give room for friendship and partnership.
- Draw strength from mighty men and from men who make impact.
- Submit to the authority of spiritual leaders.
- Never forget that your confidence comes from God, not man.



Father, I receive grace to be exceptional in my relationships.



Evaluate your present relationships: How have they impacted your life?



1 Kings 13 – 15

THE SURE MERCIES OF GOD.

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 28:13 "He that covereth his sin shall not prosper: but who confesseth and forsaketh it shall have mercy."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: David enjoyed the mercy of God so much that mercy was attached to his name. Mercy saved David from the hands of Saul and mercy gave him an everlasting royal lineage. But what was it about David that gave him access to the mercy of God? Why did God describe David as a man after His heart although he sinned even more than Saul? The answer is this: David was a man who was humble enough to go before God no matter what. David was a man who was constantly broken before God whenever he felt the need to confess and plead for God's mercy.

The enemy, who is the accuser of the brethren, does nothing but continually accuse us of sin. When we fail to confess and genuinely seek for God's mercy when we sin, we expose ourselves to a life of stagnation and limitation. Sinful acts have a way of re-surfacing when destiny appraisals come if we fail to seek for mercy. This can make us cheap victims of Satan's tricks. Many Christians have gotten to a point where they were supposed to be promoted to their next level but failed to gain access because they didn't seek God's mercy.

APPLICATION: When Christ died on the Cross, mercy was released to all who would believe and accept His mercy. Glory to God! You don't have to spill the blood of birds or animals anymore or access God through intermediaries. Because of Calvary, you have complete access to God's mercy. All you need to do is ask and mercy will be shown to you. Perhaps the reason stagnation and limitation have lingered for too long is because you have failed to seek God's mercy. Go to God in genuine repentance whenever you feel the need to seek His mercy. Ask Him to forgive and cleanse you. Ask Him to lift away every burden of accusation over your life and destiny freedom is guaranteed.



PRAYER

Lord, I receive Your grace today to walk in uprightness. Give me the grace to walk in the consciousness of my divine heritage in Christ Jesus.



Think about the Cross. Ponder on the sacrifice at Calvary. How does it affect your life as a Christian?



1 Kings 16 – 18

ACCESSING THE GIFT OF MERCY.

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

2 Samuel 7:15 (NKJV) "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: One of the attributes of God that defies explanation is His mercy. Mercy is the hope of every living being. When the Bible talks about 'The sure mercies of David', it's because David enjoyed the mercies of God to the full. How do you access God's mercy? (1) Walk in brokenness before God. (2) Keep dwelling in the secret place of God. (3) Raise altars of mercy as you relate with men. (4) Before you make any major decision in your life, pray for direction and seek counsel. (5) Maintain unbroken relationship with your spiritual covering.

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1) Lord, it is your mercy and favour that has brought me this far. I thank You for the help of Your Spirit, men and angels You have used to help me enjoy Your mercy.
- 2) Lord, I thank You for the privilege of relationship with You through Christ Jesus. Through this relationship, I have become Your candidate for mercy.
- 3) Lord, please show me mercy for every disobedience towards You. For every act of disobedience and rebellion that has cut short Your good hand from manifesting over my life, Lord please show me mercy.
- 4) By Your Mercies O Lord, position men and women in strategic places for my lifting. I declare, I will not die small!
- 5) By Your sure mercies, I decree, I am walking through open doors of divine opportunities and hidden riches!
- 6) Every hand of hell orchestrating my downfall through pain, shame and iniquity, let the fire of God destroy you, in the name of Jesus!
- 7) Father, by Your grace and mercy, restore me to my place of honour. I take my throne of dominion and rulership.
- 8) Lord, bless every member of Gateway International Church. Let Your mercy prevail over our lives, our families and over the work of our hands.
- 9) Thank You for the life and ministry of Your servant Pastor George Izunwa. We command men and women You have released over his ministry to locate and help him!
- 10) Father, let Your good hand rest over our nation Nigeria. Let Your mercy prevail over our nation, in the name of Jesus.

SUSTAIN GRACE.

KEY
TEXT**2 Corinthians 12:9** "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: There is no great man who didn't go through difficult times. One of the things that cripples the mindset of so many people is their refusal to accept the fact that the people they often celebrate and look up to never encounter issues that compel them to seek God's help. There is no one on earth who doesn't have something that compels him to kneel before God to ask for help and mercy: It may be physical, spiritual, mental, moral or emotional.

Life can be quite brutal but despite what we go through at times, there's always sustaining grace to pull through. Sustaining grace is that enabling power that sustains one during life's challenges. Sustaining grace empowers you with the ability to be mentally tough when the need arises. People who have sustaining grace don't quit or throw in the towel when life throws a brutal punch at them. They tap into a divine ability that is higher than them to pull through whatever life brings. This was the difference between David and Saul. David had sustaining grace, but Saul didn't or, rather, he despised it.

APPLICATION: There are times in life that we encounter negative situations that may have resulted from our own carelessness, ignorance or laziness but when sustaining grace is applied, we can be sure of victory at the end. Have you ever wandered out of the right path or encountered a situation you felt you may never recover from? No matter how badly you've been wounded by others or how much you've let yourself down, tap into God's sustaining grace. Challenges come in diverse ways but don't give up on life. Don't give up on yourself, don't give up on others and don't give up on God. God's grace is right there for you. A grace that is more than sufficient. There is grace to prevail.



PRAYER

Father, by faith, I tap into Your grace today. I declare, 'I am an overcomer.'

ACTION
POINT

Decide you're going to walk in faith no matter your situation.

DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Kings 21 – 22

LOVE LIKE NO OTHER.

KEY
TEXT

Philippians 2:8. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Christian author John Killinger wrote, *"I believe in the love of all mothers and its importance in the lives of the children they bear. It is stronger than steel. A mother's love closes wounds and melts disappointments and enables even the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the midst of adversity."* How great, how pure and unconditional is the love of a mother. Many success stories in life can be attributed to the depth of a mother's love and in exceptional cases, a mother's continual prayer for her child.

John Killinger gives an account of his personal views and conviction about a mother's love but in spite of the depth of a mother's love, have you ever tried to also fathom the depth of God's love? Even the Bible says that a mother can forget (discard, reject or abandon) her suckling child but God never forgets us. So, we can categorically say that a mother's love is not as dependable as God's love. When Man sinned and fell short of God's approval, there was no way for Man to be redeemed except through sacrifice, yet God chose to sacrifice His Son Jesus. That needed sacrifice took place at Calvary thousands of years ago. For you and I, Christ gave His life. There's no love wider, bigger, deeper, stronger and higher than this.

APPLICATION: Regardless of who, where and what you are today, I want you to realize that Jesus gave His all for you. He gave His life to give you an assurance of eternity and access to His covenant blessings. Your right to sonship made you also a co-heir with Christ which entitles you to everything Calvary offers. No matter what your situation is, God will never discard, reject or abandon you. If you were the only human on earth, He would still have died for you. He would go to the Cross all over again just for you if He needs to. As you ponder on Christ's death today, remember His love is like no other, not even a mother's love.



Lord Jesus, You are the Lord of my life. Thank You for saving me and giving me eternal life.



Reflect today on the beauty and significance of the most beautiful tree, Calvary.



2 Kings 1 – 3

HEIR OF ALL THINGS (1)

KEY TEXT

1 Chronicles 29: 11-12 "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all, both riches and honour come from thee, and thou reignest over all, and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: God cannot lie, nor can the Scriptures be broken. By virtue of salvation, we have been called to experience God's blessings in every ramification of life. We have complete access to the inheritance Christ offers. An heir is someone who is entitled legally to inherit a fortune or occupy an enviable position. Knowing that you're somebody's heir is important but it's more important to know just how much that person is worth. As an heir of God, you became a joint heir with Christ. What God is worth is your actual worth as a Christian. Please believe it.

What God is worth is more than enough to blow your mind. But quite unfortunately, many Christians fail to experience life and enjoy the promises and provisions of God. It's because many of us have continued to rate ourselves through worldly concepts and earthly standards. We allow the state of the economy, our background and personal limitations determine our faith in God and in His promises.

APPLICATION: By virtue of sonship, you are an heir of God, not a destitute, irrespective of your past experiences, limitations or deficiencies. Your stand in righteousness qualifies you for everything Calvary offers. When you answered the call to salvation, you were adopted into the family of God where you are expected to experience every good thing life has to offer. But if you continue to rate yourself by the state of the economy or your background or limitations, you'll continue to experience dryness. As co-heirs with Christ, we live by heaven's economy, not the world's economy. I implore you to begin to see yourself as God sees you: an heir of all things.



PRAYER

Father, by Your mighty hand, I declare I am the head and not the tail! Through sonship in Christ Jesus, I take my place at the topmost top!



ACTION POINT

Reflect on the glory of the Cross.



DAILY BIBLE READING:

2 Kings 4 – 5

HEIR OF ALL THINGS (2)

KEY
TEXT

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

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Health, wealth, favour, long life and peace are part of your covenant inheritance in Christ. Being a joint heir with Christ and yet experiencing lack, sickness, shame and disfavour is a wrong picture of grace. Isaac was one of our covenant fathers who inherited much from a father who was equally blessed with much. Isaac's and Abraham's lives exemplify just how much we can inherit from God through Christ. Abraham could not have given that much to his son Isaac if he didn't have much. Isaac, Abraham's heir, didn't experience anything less than wealth and the Bible says that he continued to wax great to the envy of the Philistines.

What does the life of Isaac reveal to you about your identity and your inheritance? You have an inheritance in God. You are not permitted to be poor, sick, oppressed, downtrodden and rejected. True inheritance is a blessing and a supernatural support that gives you destiny advantage.



PRAYER

Father, help me to constantly walk in the consciousness of my heritage.



ACTION
POINT

Declare to yourself, "I will prevail, and I will win."



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Kings 6 – 8

GET THE POWER CONNECTION.

KEY
TEXT

Genesis 41:12 "And there was there with us a young man, and Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: We can agree that it takes more than one ingredient to prepare a delicious meal. Success is not achieved through the application of just one essential. It requires a combination of several factors, one of which is the ability to connect or network appropriately. This year, get the power connection!

Connection means to join, to link, to associate, to relate or to establish. Connection is a human bridge that grants us access to our intended destinations. No man can make it on his own. Therefore, it is necessary we get rightly connected. Anyone you observe who doesn't network well in life never goes far. Your inability or refusal to function in worthy relationships or networks will lead you to loneliness, frustration and poverty.

APPLICATION: Beloved child of God, someone knows what you don't know. There is someone who can inspire you positively; there's someone out there who has what you need for your lifting and there's someone who can put a stop to whatever evil intention anyone has against you. One connection is powerful enough to give you access to other connections but first, you need to identify and get connected to the right people. It was one connection to the butler that Joseph needed to be asked to come before Pharaoh. What if Joseph had related to the butler with a negative attitude? He might have remained in jail for longer than necessary.



PRAYER

Father, give me the grace to distinguish destiny relationships and the wisdom to nurture them.

ACTION
POINT

Decide you're going to be intentional with every relationship from now on.

DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Kings 9 – 10

FOSTER DESTINY-BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS.

KEY
TEXT

Joshua 6:25 "And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Relationships that can convey you to God's intended destination for you don't just happen. They are supernaturally programmed. Many relationships you probably assumed happened by chance were either programmed by God or by Satan. There are quite a few things we might regard as coincidences, but they are not because in the realm of the spirit, there are no coincidences. You can say something happened by chance when the power behind an event remains anonymous.

Do you know that there are people you meet in life whose purpose is to wreck your life and render it useless? Such people are sponsored by the devil. When Samson met Delilah, he thought he had found a wife, but little did he realize that Delilah was a tool in the hands of the devil to bring his life and divine assignment to a close. There are people God brings into your life and there are those sponsored by the enemy but how can you spot them?

APPLICATION: Guidelines to discerning destiny-building relationships.

- Test the spirit behind every relationship. (Is it tended towards helping you set definite standards with the purpose of achieving destiny? Is the relationship founded on godly standards?)
- Pray and ask God sincerely to reveal to you, the purpose of the person in your life.
- Don't be too quick to share your dreams and personal intentions but give room for quality friendship.
- Make it a point of duty to learn from every person that comes your way, good or bad.



PRAYER

Lord, open my eyes to see beyond the physical in all my relationships.



ACTION
POINT

Draw a scale of preference for every relationship in your life and rate them between 1 and 10.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Kings 11 – 13

WALK WITH THE WISE (I)

KEY
TEXT

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

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Rahab discerned grace in the lives of the Hebrew men who came to spy out Jericho and she decided to work with them. Her decision to protect the spies drafted her into God's divine plan which saved her and her entire family. Biblical genealogy shows that Rahab became a maternal ancestor of our Lord Jesus Christ. When you walk with the wise, your future and your destiny will be established and secured. When you discern grace, value it and invest in it.

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1) My Father, I thank You because You have distinguished me for greatness.
- 2) By grace, I begin to walk in the light of Your promises. I thank You because You have handpicked and chosen me to fulfil divine purpose.
- 3) In the name of Jesus, I rebuke every veil of spiritual blindness and darkness that has hindered me from walking in truth and spirituality.
- 4) I destroy every mental stronghold that has been cast over my mind and spirit. I command my spiritual eyes to begin to see clearly. I curse the root of obsession over any individual. I walk in the strength and might of God's grace.
- 5) Father, I am committed to bringing glory to Your name. My life will not fall short of Your expectation. I boot out every evildoer whose purpose in my life is to drag me down the paths of shame and reproach, in the name of Jesus!
- 6) Lord, put upon me an atmosphere of grace that breaks the resistance of hell on my path to success and significance.
- 7) I come against every spirit of complacency and nonchalance working against my destiny! I command the fire of the Holy Ghost to consume you now, in the name of Jesus!
- 8) I command a complete restoration of everything the enemy has stolen from the people of Gateway International Church through ignorance, unhealthy relationships and faulty investments. Lord, restore us!. By Your Spirit, release every gift, connection, opportunity and blessing that has been lost.
- 9) Father, let Your hands continually rest upon Your servant, Pastor George Izunwa. We decree He will grow from glory to glory in every area of his life and ministry!
- 10) Let Your mighty hands of restoration rest over our nation Nigeria. We decree, Nigeria will flourish once again, in the name of Jesus!



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Kings 14 – 16

WALK WITH THE WISE (2)

KEY
TEXT

Colossians 2:3 (NLT) "In Him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Every good life is just one step away from one rotten relationship, one traumatizing experience or one destructive impact. Lives, marriages, businesses, careers and ministries, through the influence of demonic manipulations, can be destroyed when relationships are handled carelessly. When your life is going well, never lose sight of the fact that evil strategies have been programmed by the enemy to drag you down the path of shame, reproach, stagnancy, and even death.

The devil is a rebel, and he never gives up until he has achieved his aim. When we look at Samson for instance, the person who often comes to mind is Delilah. But the Bible clearly points out that before the Philistines caught up with Samson through the assistance of Delilah, Samson had been involved in previous relationships with women who were not approved by God nor by his Jewish heritage. Samson had a taste for heathen women because the enemy succeeded in turning his attention away from the boundaries needed in his relationships. Rather, he chose to be carefree, stubborn and foolish. Samson, a Nazarite, a battleaxe in the hands of God, was shamefully reduced to a piece of bread because he continued to walk with the heathens.

APPLICATION: It would do you a lot of good once you're able to comprehend that every good life is a target of the enemy. If you must overcome the wiles of the enemy, you've got to be wise and walk with the wise. Even when you lack understanding about certain decisions you should take, the fear of God will help you tread cautiously and keep you out of trouble. When God becomes the focal point of your life, you will walk in wisdom. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. It will keep you on the path of conquest every day of your life.



Lord, help me to forsake the foolish and to walk in godly understanding.



Study Proverbs 9:1-6 and meditate on it.



2 Kings 17 – 18

IMBIBE EXCELLENCE.

KEY TEXT

John 7:46. "Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Excellence can be described as being the best or doing your best in whatever you do. It is doing whatever it takes to be better than your equals and competitors. Excellence is displayed in the values or qualities of one's life. Anyone can appear like an excellent person, but his true level of excellence can be seen in the unsupervised areas of their life. People will ultimately get to know if you're truly an excellent person through the unsupervised areas of your life when you think no one is watching.

Excellence attracts. When people see excellence in you, they will naturally be attracted to you but if they don't, they'll be unwilling to identify with you. You can't nurture quality relationships and enjoy a quality life if you're not an excellently disposed person. God is ever ready to bless His people, but the children of God need to learn how to build excellence into whatever they do. Without excellence, you can't build strategic relationships. When God connects people, He has only one purpose in mind: to pour out His blessings but the outpouring of God's blessings is usually triggered by excellent relationships.

APPLICATION: There are five areas you must apply excellence if you want to build credible and strategic relationships. They are:

- Personal packaging
- Humility
- Attitude
- Excellent work ethics and dependability



Father, help me to do what it takes to become an excellent person.



What areas of your life do you need to work on to improve excellently?



2 Kings 19 – 21

BE A PERSON OF VALUE.

KEY
TEXT

Philippians 2:5 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: When you fail to be a person of value, you lose your worth. Favour can give you valuable connections, but it is what you bring to the table that sustains your connections. One of the mistakes people make very often is wanting to take advantage of the benevolence or generosity of others, especially those they consider as more privileged. The moment you start begging for assistance at whatever level, you lose your value and credibility as a person. This dishonourable attitude can cause the doors of favour to remain shut against you.

Great connections may not yield fruits at the onset because such connections must be wisely and patiently nurtured. What you need to do is give it time. It took two years for the connection between Joseph and the king's butler to yield results. At the right time, Joseph found himself giving advice for a problem that only his wisdom and counsel could solve. Joseph was a man who added value to himself by adding value to others. When you concentrate on giving value to others, value and respect will naturally come after you.

APPLICATION: To make the best out of your relationships, you need to forget about yourself and turn the spotlight on others even when you're in dire need. Don't be in a hurry to take advantage of the help of those you presume are highly placed than you. Concentrate on adding value to others first. Needy and beggarly people tend to scare away even those God has planted in their lives to help them. Have an excellent disposition towards your relationships. Let people see excellence in your personal conduct. Excellence attracts and when you face life with an excellent demeanour, God will use people to usher in favour into your life.



PRAYER

By grace, I receive an excellent spirit for excellent living.



ACTION
POINT

Consciously begin to work on areas you feel you need to add a touch of excellence.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Kings 22 – 23

DON'T WALK AWAY.

KEY
TEXT

1 Timothy 4:11 "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee, for he is profitable to me for the ministry."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Connection is the human bridge that gives us access to God's destination for us. God connects destinies together to bring lifting and fulfilment to both. Destiny relationships don't just happen; they are divinely programmed. This is why you're required to do your best at sustaining such relationships and refuse to walk away when challenges surface.

Walking away from destiny relationships is walking away from destiny fulfilment. When Lot walked away from Abraham, he walked away from destiny and got lost in transit. There are 5 values you must build in your effort to sustain destiny relationships. They are **(a)** Your enthusiasm about life. **(b)** Your ability to inspire ideas. **(c)** Your decision never to be a beggar. **(d)** Your willingness to be dependable. **(e)** Your ability to create visible results.



PRAYER

I call forth human assets into my life: helpers, lifters and enhancers.



ACTION
POINT

Intentionally let go of people who will not allow you move forward.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

2 Kings 24 – 25

CHARACTER AND CONNECTIONS.

KEY
TEXT

Proverbs 11:22 (MSB) "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout, is a beautiful face on an empty head."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: The quality of your character goes a long way in sustaining relationships, especially divinely orchestrated relationships. Favour can attract people into your life, but a bad character can repel them. One of the reasons many people complain about things not going favourably for them is their repulsive character. Nothing wrecks relationships, especially destiny relationships, like a bad character. And no one loves to associate with someone who puts them under pressure.

God has given us access to men and women He has positioned to beautify and enhance our lives but unfortunately, because of the negative character many of us sometimes display towards others, we can't lay hold on what God has promised. A life of constant pain, shame and humiliation is not God's plan for us His children. God has prepared a good life for His children, but He needs people to orchestrate His goodwill. This is why we cannot do without people, and this is why we cannot afford to live with a bad character.

APPLICATION: Has it ever occurred to you that what your relationship needs now is not another listening ear but a heart that is large enough to manage offences and disappointments? Your ability to manage offences and faults effectively is a clear indication of your maturity as an individual. Faults, disappointments and offences would always rear their ugly heads considering our human nature but there are times you must manage negativity effectively because of how important your relationships are to you.



PRAYER

Lord, I reject and repent from any negative attitude that has been a stumbling block to my advancement in life.



ACTION
POINT

Learn to resist anger, bitterness and strife.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Chronicles 1 – 2

DON'T COMPROMISE.

KEY
TEXT

Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: To compromise means fitting into worldly standards that do not align with Christianity. Worldly standards have been set by the evil one with the intention of disproving the authenticity and credibility of God. We live in an era where godly standards have been compromised to make ends meet, to fulfil personal dreams and to attain significance. Quite sadly, many Christians are compromising their godly principles but our key text today enjoins us to conform our lives to godly principles and values.

One of the outstanding attributes of Daniel was his decision not to defile himself with the king's food. Daniel defined himself by not compromising his godly standards. Joseph is another perfect example of someone who refused to compromise his godly standards. Biblical accounts attest that God lifted, prospered and sustained these men among others. These men not only prospered, but they also fulfilled purpose. They arrived at God's intended destination for them and left legacies that have lasted till this day.

APPLICATION: Whatever difficulty or challenge you're going through is temporary. It is not meant to last a lifetime but to prepare you for God's best. What you're passing through is a phase that has an expiry date. If you can just hold unto the Lord and unto His promises, you're going to make it through to the end of that dark tunnel. The strains, challenges and troubles of this world have an expiry date but unfortunately some people never arrive at the expiry dates of their problems because somewhere along the line, they bowed to pressure and threw in the towel through compromise. But not you! God has a plan for you! While you're in that challenging situation, learn your lessons and build faith. If you want to be approved by God, you've got to prove yourself.



PRAYER

Lord, help me to renew my mind and grant me the grace to stand for You.



ACTION
POINT

Decide to live for Christ even when it isn't pleasant.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Chronicles 3 – 4

DISTINGUISHED FOR DIFFERENCE AND GREATNESS.

KEY TEXT

1 Peter 2:9. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Because you are now in Christ, you are a carrier of God's light and His glory. Glory to God! This means that you and all that is connected to you are exempted from darkness, from sickness, poverty, pain, frustration, oppression and death. But if you must be distinguished for difference and for greatness, you've got to begin thinking, speaking and acting like God. It does not matter how long the enemy has ravaged your life and destiny, God can turn your life around for good. Walk steadfastly in Christ.

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1) Father, I thank You because I know You have selected me for something good and for something beautiful.
- 2) Thank You for Your promise of greatness. You have given me everything I need to rise in destiny. By Your grace, my life shall not be a waste. I shall fulfil destiny.
- 3) In the name of Jesus, I declare that I have a godly heritage! I will excel in every area of my life: in my marriage, ministry, job and career!
- 4) I subdue every opposition standing against my rising! I will not be a destitute in destiny!
- 5) No power can hurt me or hold my destiny to ransom! Every voice speaking against my life, every evil hand orchestrating downfall, I consume you by fire, in the name of Jesus!
- 6) I call forth men and women whose hearts God has touched to help me! Let sent men and women be positioned in the areas I need help!
- 7) I declare, I'm operating in excellence! I have an excellent spirit and an excellent mind!
- 8) Father, we ask You to bless Gateway International Church and all her installations. Every member of Gateway will experience a new move of God's mercy and favour.
- 9) Over Your servant, Pastor George Izunwa, let there be an outpouring of the fresh manifestations of Your Spirit in signs and wonders, in Jesus name.
- 10) Lord, uproot every evil sponsoring backwardness, ill-will and poverty in Nigeria, in the name of Jesus.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

1 Chronicles 5 – 6

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:connect@gicfamily.org

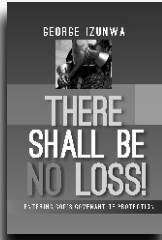
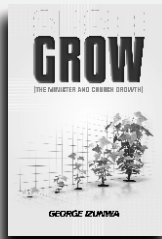
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God bless you.



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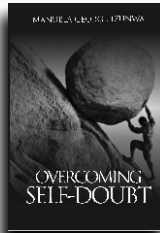
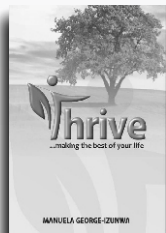
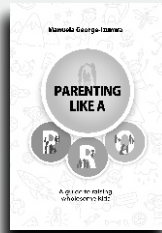
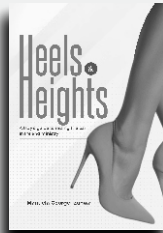
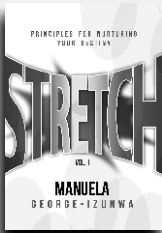
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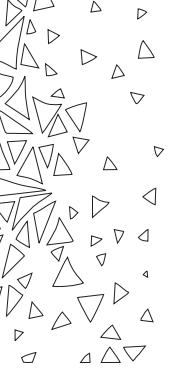
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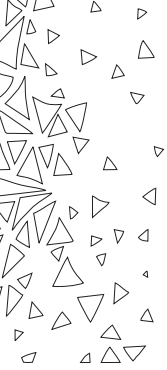
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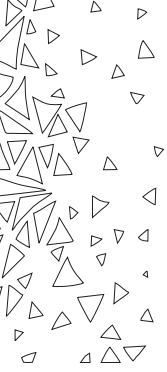
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About The Authors

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.

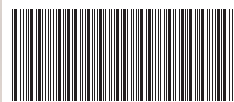
Pastor George spends a lot of his time in Pastoral and Leadership Mentoring projects through Impact Ministers Mentoring Outreach. More than 2000 pastors are active participants of the program. He meets every month in mentoring sessions with at least 500 pastors/leaders. He is the author of a number of 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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