



August 2025

Power Seeds

...empowering your life.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL & GUIDE

GEORGE & MANUELA IZUNWA

WEDNESDAY
WORD
EXPLOSION

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AUGUST / 2025



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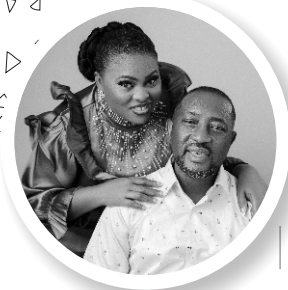
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QUIET TIME PROGRAMME

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 Hesed!

IT'S YOUR NEW SEASON.

KEY TEXT

Psalms 138:8. "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: Forsake not the works of thine own hands."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Welcome to a new season of God's divine favour, a release of fresh grace and an outpouring of God's goodness over your life. Can I encourage you to give the Lord a worship and a dance as a demonstration of thanksgiving in anticipation of the new things God is about to do in your life? Whether the manifestations of your heart's desires are visible or not, rejoice, knowing that the Lord who has promised, is able to meet you at the point of your needs.

When Prophet Eli said to Hannah in 1Samuel 1:17, *"In that case, go in peace. May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him."* Hannah exclaimed, *"Oh, thank you Sir!"* Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad." (NLT) The Bible indicates that Hannah had sought earnestly for the fruit of the womb and had become sad and deeply troubled when her desire wasn't forthcoming. In desperation and in quest for a divine intervention, she went into the Lord's presence one day at Shiloh where she met Prophet Eli who ministered to her. She believed that by the spoken word of God's servant, that a new season had begun in her life. Without a trace or evidence of pregnancy, the Bible says she began to eat again and she was no longer sad. What an awesome display of faith!

APPLICATION: You're the only one who has the power to douse or kindle the manifestation of the promises of God. Calvary has made the delivery of everything you've prayed for but it's your responsibility to enforce what God has promised. Manifestation begins at the exertion of faith. God yearns to fulfil His purpose and His promises in our lives so much that He's searching earnestly for people who are devoted to His cause through faith. No matter how things may look like now, after a season of committed prayer, God will never abandon you nor forsake you. He will bring to perfection, what He has started in your life. Hold on! Don't relent! Don't fret! You have an appointed divine season.



Oh God, I believe in Your power to turn my situations around. I declare, it's not yet.



Trust God for the best.



Isaiah 60 – 63

YOU'RE HIS MASTERPIECE.

KEY TEXT

Jeremiah 18: "And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hands of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Do you know that as God's beloved, you're actually His masterpiece? Being God's masterpiece is not commensurate with your financial, academic or social status though these few factors can serve as added advantages. Being God's masterpiece is determined majorly by your covenant identity. Masterpiece, as the name implies, is a word that's quite synonymous with artistic creativity even though it is applicable to every sphere of human endeavor. When something is described as a masterpiece, it means a lot of painstaking effort was invested in it to bring it to a state of excellence and precision. By your covenant birth, you were crafted by God with precision for excellent divine manifestations.

Too many people have been deceived by Satan into thinking that their future is hopeless, and that nothing good can happen for them. A lot of people have accepted these lies because of past failures and life's challenges, but no matter the challenges or the false identity your negative circumstances has given to you, God's thoughts towards you are thoughts of peace and not of evil to give you the future you envisage for yourself. Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh that you will bless me indeed and enlarge my territory; that your hand would be with me and that you would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" The Bible says that God granted him his desire.

APPLICATION: You were created to live a life of extra-ordinary impact in spite of the odds. If Jabez could have his life turned around by the mercy and intervention of God, by your covenant heritage, you possess a higher grace to make exceptional achievements in life. Never forget that you're highly favoured by God. Even if life presents dead-ends, but you were not created to end up at a dead-end. There may be realities but refuse to internalize those realities. There may be setbacks but don't let your setbacks define you. Refuse to be sad; refuse to feel inferior or rejected. Remain focused and intentionally begin to live your dream because you're God's masterpiece.



Father, by Your mercies, I will not be consumed. I will walk in exceptional favour.



Inscribe conspicuously on a large piece of paper, "I'M GOD'S MASTERPIECE" and place it where it will serve as a reminder of your true identity in Christ.



Isaiah 64 – 66

ACCESSING YOUR SENT MEN.

KEY
TEXT

Psalms 25:4. "Shew me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: For the rest part of this year, you will be an undisputed evidence of Hesed; the Lovingkindness of God. If you must arrive at the Topmost top, you need to recognize the importance of playing your part in order to actualize God's plan, purpose and promises for your life. God has promised that in this year, He will order our steps into destiny defining relationships. When God wants to help a man, He sends a man. Someone, somewhere is holding that which should be instrumental for your lifting but it is your responsibility to recognize your sent men and take advantage of what they have been predestinated by God to do for you.

How do you access your sent men?

- Walk in the power and direction of the Holy Spirit. You can't be at the right place, at the right time and for the right reasons if the Holy Spirit is not guiding and helping you. Allow God to order your steps.
- Make positive impact by investing in the lives of others.
- Destroy the veils of obscurity and anonymity. Choose to be relevant.
- Walk continually and intentionally in joy. Joy attracts favour but despair and depression repels it.



Father, You're the God who orders steps: Order my steps to the right places, to the right people and for the right reasons.



Jeremiah 1 – 3

KEEP YOUR FAITH ACTIVATED I.

KEY TEXT

Hebrews 11:2. "Through their faith, the people of old earned a good reputation." (NLT)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: It's not strange when Christians lower the bar and become spiritually careless after an awesome season of intercession but I would rather, you make the reverse the case. After you have gone through a major season of prayer and prophetic encounters, taking on a care-free disposition should not be an option whatsoever. It should instead, be a time to usher into manifestation, what God has released prophetically through positive confession, demonstration and thanksgiving.

When Hannah left the presence of Prophet Eli, she demonstrated her faith in what God had promised by going back to eating again and being intentionally happy in anticipation of a divine visitation. When the Bible says that Hannah went back to eating again, it literally means that she had gotten so grieved to the point of losing her appetite for food. After a release of the prophetic, there must be a conscious effort to validate God's promises through positive confession, demonstration and thanksgiving or else, you will end up confused and doubtful. In the natural realm, people believe they need to see before they can be convinced but in the realm of the Spirit, it is required of us to believe to see.

APPLICATION: Faith is the language of the bold, the strong and the courageous. Even when there is lack of physical evidence to authenticate what God has promised, as long as He has said it, be bold, be strong and be courageous in the face of life's circumstances. God is not limitless in power and in ability. The God we serve is a God of exponential expressions who can do anything when we put our trust in Him. Take a swipe at faith today; decide to go completely and committedly with God no matter what your circumstances are saying. He will bring His promises to pass.



Father, bless me with the God-kind of faith. Help my faith O Lord!



Begin to see God for who He really is: Mighty, powerful and incredible.



Jeremiah 4 – 5

KEEP YOUR FAITH ACTIVATED 2.

KEY TEXT

Matthew 17:20b. "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder places; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Faith is a spiritual entity, not a mental assessment. One of the reasons a lot of people can't seem to have a strong grasp on faith is because they can't relate with faith as a spiritual entity. Every outstanding accomplishment in the lives of major bible characters in the Bible, happened through the application of faith. Faith is believing and acting on God's promises. Have you also observed that at every point God wanted to prove Himself in the life of an individual in the Bible, He either gave an instruction or impressed His will strongly in the heart of the person He wanted to use to achieve a purpose? This means that faith is executed via an instruction or a deep impression in the heart or spirit of a man.

In Exodus 32:9, God describes the children of Israel as a rebellious and stiff-necked people who had to be reminded again and again of His awesome power and ability to lead them to the Promised Land. Why did God threaten to eliminate His own children before Moses pleaded on their behalf? It was because He expected them to obey His instructions and trust Him to lead them to the Promised Land after all the signs and wonders He had displayed and the promises He had made, but instead, they chose to be cowardly and rebellious.

APPLICATION: If faith is a spiritual entity and particularly not a mental valuation, the question is; what do you sense God has been trying to say to you perhaps through dreams, through His Word or through the strong impressions He has laid on your heart that you are required to act on? If you have prayed and still waiting for answers, what are the pointers to where God is leading you or expecting you to do? You can't act in faith when God hasn't spoken or where there is no divine leading. God said to Abraham, *"I will make you a father of many nations."* Abraham's willingness to trust God even when his physical condition was saying otherwise, was counted unto him as faith. This is why you cannot afford to be bankrupt of God-encounters. Men who are bankrupt of God-encounters cannot boast of having faith.



O Lord, give me eyes to see and ears to hear.



From today, endeavor to spend quality time with the Holy Spirit.



Jeremiah 6 – 8

BELIEVE, BEHAVE AND YOU WILL BECOME.

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Hebrews 10:35-36. "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: When God informed Noah that He was going to flood the earth, by faith in God's promise to exempt him and his family from that catastrophic onslaught, Noah resolved to build the Ark. One of the major demands of faith, is creating substance around what is hoped for. In other words, faith is our practical expression of what God has promised in expectation of a physical manifestation. Most times, we loose out on God's promises not because we don't believe but because we don't give practical expression to what has been promised. I want to presume that you've asked God for quite a number of things; now create your anticipated results through believing and behaving, and then you will become.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Father, I thank You for the gift and the privilege of faith. Thank You for giving me access to the manifestations of the impossible. I declare, my life shall be a living testimony of Your grace and faithfulness.
2. I have the life of God in me: Sickness, poverty and stagnancy are not my portion. By faith, I declare, I am whole, I am sound and an excellent representation of Jesus.
3. Lord, help me to fulfil my purpose here on earth. That which You intend to accomplish through me and for me, by faith, I make myself available to be Your showpiece.
4. I refuse to be downcast, disturbed and discouraged. I shall not take Your grace for granted by neglecting to do the needful. I will not face life with the dispositions of cowardice and rebellion.
5. Everything laboring to keep my mind in a state of fear and confusion, I command you to be consumed by fire now. From this day henceforth, I will operate at a higher and supernatural dimension of faith.
6. I purge my spirit, soul and mind from the contamination of fear and spiritual laziness. Lord, fill me with a renewed faith and give me the grace to walk with a possibility mindset.
7. Father, convict the hearts and minds of men in Gateway International Church to pursue You with renewed commitment. As they turn afresh to You, may their lives be the evidence of the loving kindness of God.
8. I declare in the name of Jesus, Gateway is moving forward numerically, spiritually and otherwise. We are the icon of hope and righteousness in our city and nation.
9. Father, exalt and honour the ministry of Your Servant Pastor George Izunwa. May His prophetic utterances never fall to the ground.
10. Father, restore the peace of our nation. Lord, let the shackles of evil and backwardness in Nigeria be destroyed. We decree, no more bloodshed, in the name of Jesus.



Jeremiah 9 – 11

YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER I.

KEY TEXT

1 Jogn 3:16. "Hereby perceive the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: When Cain and Abel presented their offerings to God, God was pleased with Abel's but not with Cain's. This made Cain angry and downcast. God asked Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?" God went further to say, "But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door but you must master it." But jealousy and bitterness, took hold of Cain and he murdered his brother. When the Lord asked Cain about his brother Abel, Cain replied, "I don't know! Am I my brother's keeper?"

Cain's sarcastic and unrepentant reply is an example of the disdainful attitude a lot of Christians put up when the Lord impresses it on their heart to show kindness. We've deliberated so much on the need to recognize and take advantage of our destiny helpers but sometimes, for our own prayers to be answered, there's usually the need to become the destiny helper for someone else. For instance, if Ruth had departed from her mother-in-law like Orpah did, she would never have met and married Boaz nor become the maternal ancestor of Jesus Christ. In helping Naomi, little did she realize that she was also helping herself.

APPLICATION: I want to presume that you've asked God for a number of things but is it possible that the answer to your prayer could be in the goodwill God is expecting you to render to someone in need? Sometimes, the greatest blessings are wrapped in very unattractive packages. Most times, going out of your way for a sister or brother in need can be quite demanding but it could be the ticket to the answer you're looking for. There are certain levels in life that you can't attain until you take a step further towards actualizing someone else's dream. Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by getting, but we make a life by giving." There is a person or persons the Lord may be impressing on your heart to help. Do everything in your power to be the source of hope to such ones. Be your brother's keeper.



Lord, help me to live sacrificially for others.



Be the reflection of Jesus by helping others.



Jeremiah 12 – 14

YOUR BROTHER'S **KEEPER 2.**

KEY TEXT

Proverbs 17:22a. "A good heart does good, like medicine."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: The fact that conditions may not look favourable now, doesn't mean they're not good enough for the manifestation of a destiny moment. When conditions are not conducive, it's probably an indication that there's something you're required to do in the life of someone to enforce your own desired results. When we say that the greatest blessings in life sometimes come in very unattractive packages, it means that until you're able to see beyond your setbacks or above your challenges, you might miss out on a destiny moment. The ascension to the Cross was a very unattractive package but glory, power and dominion was wrapped in the pain and in the shame that brought redemption to mankind.

When the widow of Zarephath gave her last meal to Elijah, she didn't realize she was creating room for a blessing for herself and for her family. When Joseph lent a helping hand through counsel to the king's cup-bearer and the butler while they were in prison, little did he know that his counsel would be the spring-board to an enviable position as the Prime Minister of Egypt. The questions are; what if he had treated his fellow prison inmates with contempt or disdain? And what if he had continued to whine away in self-pity? No one would ever have heard about Joseph. Unfortunately, many have lost their destiny moments with one shot at triviality, carelessness and insensitivity.

APPLICATION: Your present attitude determines your destiny's altitude. While we pray and seek for more from God, let's not forget that there are people God ushers our way for us to help and be a source of encouragement to. Sometimes, the way up is usually the way down. God has not only positioned people to help you; He has also positioned you to help someone. Because God is interested in the success of everyone, He sometimes ties our success to the people we help and vice versa. You have been programmed by

God to enjoy supernatural harvest but a bountiful harvest is the product of quality seeds. Sow love and generosity as well. There might be something very beautiful in that unattractive assignment. Don't turn away if God is leading you to lend a helping hand. Be your brother's keeper.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help me to demonstrate Your love in the lives of others.



ACTION
POINT

Strive to walk in the guidance and counsel of the Holy Spirit.



DAILY BIBLE
READING

Jeremiah 15 – 17

RAISE PERMANENT INTERCESSORS.

KEY TEXT

Genesis 22:15a. "The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, 'I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.'" (NIV)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Memorial altars are altars that stand as permanent intercessors. Altars can be reckoned as a memorial entity because they are a constant reminder of what one has done in the eyes of a deity. In the context of Christianity, when one raises a memorial altar, it means he or she has made an investment in the Kingdom that will speak for him or her and in forthcoming generations. I call them permanent intercessors because whether you're there or not, or whether you're praying or not, memorial altars will stand in the gap or intercede for the one who has raised it.

It is impossible for a man who has raised a memorial altar for his prayers to be ignored by God. One of the prerequisites for outstanding or providential breakthroughs is a memorial altar. As you anticipate the release of your reward after an exceptional intercessory season, I implore you to invest in your destiny by raising memorial altars. Memorial altars are however, not limited to the sacrifice of financial resources. For instance, the intended sacrifice of Isaac was a memorial altar that inducted Abraham's lineage into the lineage of grace. As Christians, we enjoy the provision of grace by reason of that singular act.

APPLICATION: What are memorial altars?

- They are altars of kingdom investment through faithful followership and kingdom service. It is following rightly and following faithfully.
- They are altars of extravagant love. When you show love in exceptional ways, expect the strange manifestations of God. Raise altars of unmerited kindness.
- They are altars of faithful covenant transactions: Tithing, seed-sowing, first-fruit sacrificial giving and giving of your offerings to the Lord. name of Jesus.



PRAYER

Father, I rededicate my life back to You and I vow to serve You with my life. My destiny must rise by kingdom addiction.



ACTION POINT

Meditate on the importance of putting God first.



DAILY BIBLE READING

Jeremiah 18 – 21

BE INTENTIONAL WITH GOD.

KEY TEXT

Psalms 16:8. "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken." (NIV)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: To be intentional means to be deliberate and purposeful in our decisions, actions and goals. When we relate with God with intentionality, we enjoy a more rewarding Christian life in all ramifications. By covenant, we are destined to be highfliers but if we must access our divine inheritance, we need to be very intentional when dealing with God. Calvary delivered the full package of all-round blessings but a great deal of intentionality is required of us in our kingdom pursuits in order to enforce what Calvary has already delivered. Prayer is one of the prerequisites to enjoying these benefits but it doesn't end there: We need to go a step further by being intentional.

What does it mean to be intentional with God? It means:

- We must live by the guidance of the Shepherd.
- We must take charge of our God-encounter routines.
- We must set boundaries that protect our values as Christians.
- We must be excited and intentional witnesses for Jesus.
- We must strive to fulfil divine purpose.



Oh Lord, I lay my life on Your altar, assured that You will not mismanage my life.



Jeremiah 22 – 24

KEEP GOING WITH GOD!

KEY TEXT

Psalm 23:4. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: We live in a very challenging world but despite the challenges, not every person is actually down-trodden, deprived and disadvantaged. In other words, not everyone is a victim of circumstance. Like I always say, adversity has everybody's address but not everyone agrees to be undressed by adversities. This comes with a deliberate choice not to. There are men and women who get undressed by adversities but there are others who keep moving forward irrespective of the odds against them.

At one time during the reign of King Jehoshaphat, opposing armies came against him and the people of Judah. In 2Chronicles 20:2-3 the Bible in NIV translation says, *"Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, 'A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar.' Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire from the Lord and proclaimed a fast for all Judah."* Who were these opposing forces? They were a coalition of the Ammonite, Moabite and Meunite armies. Jehoshaphat, turned to God who had the answer to every problem. In a reprisal move of God, the opposing armies ambushed themselves. Jehoshaphat didn't need to lift a finger to save himself and his nation and God delivered them.

APPLICATION: The world is full of challenges no doubt, but the best way to ensure your sustenance and relevance is by allowing God help you and lead you. What convinces a man to praise God in the face of a fierce battle when he should be armed with his weapons of war? It can only be God who knows exactly what we should do in the face of every challenge of life. Your greatest asset in destiny is the presence

and the help of God. It will help you escape the snares and the shame of this earth. Never go through life without God's help and guidance. Divine guidance fulfils destiny with ease and speed. No matter what you see in these trying times, keep going with God! He never fails.



I rebuke strange voices, distractions and destiny blunders. Lord, open my spirit to hear You.



Decide you will never be afraid again.



Jeremiah 25 – 27

YOUR PORTION IS TRIUMPH.

KEY
TEXT

2 Corinthians 2:14. "Now thanks be to God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: One of the challenges of many Christians, is their lack of humility in admitting they need God and that they cannot help themselves. Quite frankly, a number of Christians would rather beg, perch or impose themselves on others instead of humbling themselves before God to seek for help and guidance. In all sincerity, this is the most profound definition of pride. There is nothing wrong in engaging your personal abilities when trying to solve life's problems but you need to understand that there are limits you can't exceed without the help of God. Life is first spiritual before it's physical. Those who approach life from the supernatural, gain easy ascendancy. Triumph is already your covenant portion but if you decide you're going to do life all by yourself, you would encounter victory only in drops or trickles. As humans, we have limitations. It's quite certain that if Jehoshaphat had decided to wage war physically against the coalition that came against him, he would have lost that battle. Thank God for men who pursue God with all their heart. Anyone who is humble enough to come before God and acknowledge his weakness and limitations will be saved by God.

APPLICATION: The key text for today clearly highlights that God always causes us to triumph in Christ but you must make room for Christ in your life. If biblical personalities such as David, Jehoshaphat, Queen Esther, Abraham, Elijah, Joseph, Ruth, Rahab, etc. could make room for God, then what gives you the assurance that you can do life all by yourself? God has given you the grace to walk in dominion but you will limit God if you decide not to take advantage of His grace. Allow the Spirit of God to lead and help you and you will thrive with ease and speed.



Father, by faith, I receive grace to walk in dominion.



Ask the Holy Spirit to quicken your mind and sharpen your spiritual perception.



Jeremiah 28 – 30

YOUR CASE IS DIFFERENT.

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Genesis 26:12. "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year, an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: The Bible says that Isaac reaped a hundredfold because the Lord blessed him. What was particularly symbolic about Isaac's experience, was the fact that he continued to prosper even in the state of famine. No matter the negativism, operate by your covenant right to divine protection, provision and preservation. Don't participate in the complaints and in the negative confessions of spiritually blinded people because your case is different. By biblical injunction, your path is as a shining light that shines brighter and brighter until the perfect day. This means that your yesterday should not be better than your today. It's getting better for you, not worse because champions walk through challenging times.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Father, I thank You for taking pleasure in my advancement and prosperity. No matter what is going on around me, I declare, I have a better testimony.
2. Lord, every attitude and belief that robs me of joy and peace, remove them from my life. By Your grace, I receive peace that surpasses all understanding. I refuse to be perturbed by the negative activities around me. I'm empowered by grace to win.
3. Advancement and progress are my covenant inheritance. I will excel in business, career, marriage, ministry and in every other endeavor I set out to accomplish.
4. Lord, help me to access every resource I need for sustainable advancement in life. I access every financial, material and spiritual assistance that will be instrumental to my rising.
5. Today, I scatter every physical and spiritual conspiracy against my life and destiny by fire. No enemy, no political or cultural defiance, no economic policy will bring me down. I will prosper in this land.
6. I build a wall of fire around my life, family, business and career. The light and favour of God shines on my path. I judge every wickedness trying to drag me down into failure and mediocrity.
7. I gain supernatural advantage over everything that concerns me. I will reach and exceed every goal I have set for myself this year. I declare, nothing will die in my hands!
8. Every destiny assassin and saboteur trying to hurt the lives and destinies of members of Gateway International Church, be consumed by fire. I declare, There Shall Be No Loss.
9. Lord, I declare, Your Servant Pastor George Izunwa is growing from glory to glory and from strength to strength. Only goodness and mercy shall follow him.
10. Oh God, show Nigeria mercy in this second half of the year. Lord, let peace reign in every state and in every community in Nigeria. We decree, no more bloodshed, in the name of Jesus.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Jeremiah 31 – 32

YOU MUST GET THERE.

KEY TEXT

Joshua 11:23. "So Joshua took the entire land, just as the Lord had directed Moses; and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war." (NIV)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Life can be very competitive and every advantage we get is very crucial for our lifting. As a child of God, you already have the supernatural advantage. This means that in Christ, you have the potential to be a step further and shoulders higher than your peers. But do you know that in spite of these covenant advantages, one can truncate his journey to achieving greatness or slow it down considerably by making certain mistakes that should otherwise be avoided?

Success is in dimensions. This means that success comes in phases and in variations. What one might term as success, may not necessarily be regarded as success by another. But nevertheless, at whatever stage or variation you choose to define what success or great achievement is, it's important you adhere to the fundamentals or basics that facilitate success or great achievements especially in very trying times.

APPLICATION: What are the factors that hinder great achievements?

- Inflexibility in changing times. Be able to adjust to changes that cushion challenges.
- Inability to manage setbacks. Life needs elastic people. In life, when you fall, fall facing up. When you keep facing up, at some point you will be able to bounce back.
- Fixation on distractions. Brain focus is critical to high performance. Learn to focus mentally on what you intend to achieve by avoiding distractions.
- Having a success-arrival mentality. A false sense of achievement destroys tangible accomplishments.

Your competition is not with others but with the potentials God has deposited in you. Paper qualifications are needful but they are not a proof of your actual educational level. Your true educational level is seen in the attitude you display towards life. You have an inheritance in God. So, say this to yourself; "I will get there." Motivate yourself towards achieving your dreams.



Father, I thank You for my appointed blessings. I know I will get there.



Ask the Holy Spirit to endow in you, the capacity to dream and achieve great things.



Jeremiah 33 – 36

RETIRE TO RE-FIRE. RE-GENERATE TO REINFORCE I.

KEY
TEXT

Joshua 13:1. "When Joshua had grown old, the Lord said to him, 'You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over.'" (NIV)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Very many times, our measure of success does not fit into what God regards as good success. Many people stop fighting for relevance when they think they have achieved all they possibly can and then retire. Another set of people who retire, are those who find it extremely challenging to actualize their dreams and they give up trying. A man doesn't stop living when he ceases to breathe: A man actually stops living when his dreams die. In other words, when he retires from life. A lot of people died when they stopped fighting for relevance, and it may shock you to realize that quite a number of Christians are in this category.

Death occurs when enthusiasm dies and many died upon retirement. i.e. at the loss of enthusiasm. Retirement, can be defined as giving up work or active life as a result of old-age or physiological defectiveness or self-demotivation, but in the Kingdom, we make bold to say that retirement is the intentional act of "re-tiring;" putting life back in your tires. It means, getting your drive back in motion. Tires, are necessary facilitators for quicker and easier movement. For instance, a car whose engine has broken down but has its tires still intact, has a better chance of movement than a car that hasn't got tires. That's just how important tires are. And that's basically how important our inner drive is. In Judges 11, the Bible says that Joshua already in his old age, rested from war but there were many more lands to conquer. It doesn't matter how old you are; there's more to conquer.

APPLICATION: Life may have written you off because you don't seem to fit in anymore but in the eyes of God, there's more for you. Don't retire in order to whine away in self-pity or bask in a false sense of arrival. There's still room for more accomplishments. Retirement, is not the end of life but the beginning of a new season. Re-fire to re-generate; re-generate to reinforce a new vision. You were made for notable exploits.



I receive an advancement mentality. I won't end where others ended. I won't die small!



If you feel unaccomplished, ask God for grace to re-inforce. It's not over for you!



Jeremiah 37 – 39

RETIRE TO RE-FIRE. RE-GENERATE TO REINFORCE 2.

KEY
TEXT

Psalm 92:14. "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Quite a remarkable number of encounters in the Bible occurred in the advanced age of several people God wanted to use to His glory. Having left his father's house at the age of 75 at God's instruction, God Abraham to accomplish a profound divine agenda which was founding the nation of Israel. Moses was commissioned by God to lead the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt at an advanced age of 80. Elisha was called into the office of a prophet also at a considerably matured age. These men, just to mention a few, may have been considered as too old by secular standards but with God, it was the dawn of a new beginning. God isn't through with you.

Retirement, is just a phase in the course of life once we're able to comprehend purpose from a divine perspective. It isn't the end of active-life like many wrongly presume, which has compelled quite a number of retired people to remain stuck with health challenges such as fatigue or exhaustion, changes in appetite and sleeping patterns, headaches and muscle tensions and a weakened immune system as a result of feeling unwanted and unmotivated. Emotional symptoms include feelings of hopelessness, loss of interest in activities, mood swings and difficulty in concentrating. These factors diminish productivity, strain relationships and decrease motivation.

APPLICATION: Never accept to stop living. Never accept to stop aiming for greater achievements at any point in your life no matter what. When a particular phase is over, it clearly means that another has begun. Be consistent at building capacity and improving your self-worth irrespective of your age or personal experiences.

How do you get re-fired to regenerate and reinforce? Find something worthwhile to do and invest in it, impact lives positively, build a credible support system, make the best out of every situation and take advantage of talents that have been dormant over a long period of time. Go on an adventure. Explore opportunities. In other words, catch a new vision!



I open my heart to the wisdom of God for my next level. This year, I'm gaining new grounds.



Prepare to re-fire. No! 'Re-tire'!



Jeremiah 40 – 43

IT'S NOT OVER!

KEY
TEXT

Jeremiah 17:7. "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord, and have made the Lord their hope and confidence." (NIV)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Life can be complicated sometimes but you need to understand that it is God who has the final say over you, not your negative circumstances. The Word of God in Isaiah 43:18-19a NIV version says, *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up."* Halleluia! The next line says, *"Do you not perceive it?"* In other words, God is asking, *"Can't you sense that I have more for you?"*

Jesus paid the ultimate price for your salvation, your dominion over Satan and your success. Therefore, no other voice other than God's voice and your voice is permitted to frame your world. Never permit circumstances, negative reports and evil verdicts to hinder you from walking in grace and in peace. Everything may be screaming at you to retire from life but keep moving. Your right to a fulfilled life makes you a candidate for exceptional results. It's not over until you agree it's over. As you transcend from one phase of life to another, be hopeful, be intentional and remain purposeful with God. Walk in the consciousness that there's more for you.



PRAYER

I receive grace to make every destiny dream a reality. I command everything that is fruitless in my life to begin to work and yield positive results.



ACTION
POINT



DAILY BIBLE
READING

Jeremiah 44 – 46

GO FURTHER. ASCEND HIGHER.

KEY TEXT

Proverbs 12:24. "Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labour." (NIV)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: One of the reasons people don't go far in life is because of a false sense of arrival. There is nothing wrong in celebrating little achievements, but it's counter-productive to remain settled in those little achievements. When you start praising yourself and celebrating too early, you lay down your defenses and give room for eventual failure. An arrival mentality creates an avenue for the enemy to slip in and ruin things. When the Amalekites attacked and plundered David's country and took away his wives and children and the families of his men, David and his men were able to recapture everything that was stolen because the Amalekites stopped half-way on their journey home to celebrate their victory. They felt they had arrived. If they had been home in their fortified territory, it wouldn't have been an easy recapture for David.

The only way a man can be relevant in whatever he does is not to have a false sense of arrival. A false sense of arrival often causes stagnation for two reasons. **1)** It douses one's drive for greater achievements. **2)** One hardly notices when others have moved on. Life is lived in levels and experienced in stages. God's intention for us is to keep going higher. Never be satisfied with being at a particular level. If you're seated with Christ in heavenly places, then it means you're connected to the lineage that empowers you for exceptional exploits.

APPLICATION: How do you advance?

- Focus on a progressive vision. The more you advance, the more you see to conquer.
- Be excellent driven. Strive to do things excellently and your results will announce you.
- Pursue personal development. Get to know the relevant information that are critical for your success and intentionally imbibe them.
- Draw grace from the supernatural. Let God be your life and success partner.



Father, as I put my trust in You, make my life a testimony of Your faithfulness.



Think of ways you can begin to tailor the needed adjustments required for your ascension to your next level.



Jeremiah 47 – 48

BE CONTINUALLY **RELEVANT**.

KEY TEXT

Deuteronomy 2:24. "Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the River Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: To be continually relevant means making achievements in a progressive order. Motion is not movement and activity is not accomplishment. The fact that you're in motion or active is not an evidence that you're actually making progress. A lot of people are in motion and visibly very busy but quite a few are making meaningful progress. In spite of what they relate to as progress, many are yet to comprehend the fact that they are still stagnated.

What is stagnation? Stagnation is not the absence of motion or activity or even results, but the absence of the kind of results that are commensurate with your level. For instance, if a young man who should be sitting for his O-Level examination, decides to write the Common Entrance Examination instead and passes excellently, he has produced excellent results but not results that are commensurate with his level as an aspiring undergraduate. Quite unfortunately, many people are still producing results that are not proportionate to their level in spite of their potentials. God has given you territories, kingdoms and nations; rise up and claim them! Be self-motivated, audacious and courageous.

APPLICATION: How do you become continually relevant?

- Don't do things for survival. Do things for significance.
- Get curious and become teachable. When a man is teachable, destiny doors open up to him.
- Take big risks. Don't do things because you have the money but because you have a big faith.
- Continually draw from the supernatural. Wherever you're going to, you need God. If you get spiritually careless with life, you won't go far.



Lord, reveal to me what I need to do to trigger a destiny shift.



Ask the Holy Spirit for mental illumination today.



Jeremiah 49

DISTINGUISHED FOR EXCELLENCE.

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Deuteronomy 28:1. "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Everyone who followed God in the Bible was distinguished from the rest of his peers. Often times, the choice to live a distinguished life can be quite demanding but when one decides to distinguish himself for God's glory, he will experience all-round fulfillment. David, Daniel, Joseph are a few examples of men who distinguished themselves by walking circumspectly, diligently and purposefully with God. They were not perfect men but they loved and served God with all their heart. If you don't want life to eat you up; if you don't want situations to break you and if you want to enjoy an enviable life, distinguish yourself for the glory of God.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Father, I thank You for Your amazing and abiding presence that has set me apart for Your mighty works. I receive grace to advance forward in every area of my life.
2. I thank You for Your protective covering over my life and destiny. Father, my future is in your hands. My destiny and my expectations will not be cut short.
3. I command an atmosphere of spiritual revival over my life's endeavours. Father, empower me for greatness as I commit totally and intentionally to You.
4. I declare, my life and destiny will not be hindered by challenges and negative circumstances of life. I will live to fulfil my days in the land of the living.
5. I separate myself from mental and spiritual limitations. I command my faith and confidence to be quickened for exceptional exploits.
6. Every satanic cohort that has been released to drag me down the paths of failure, poverty and shame, I curse you by fire now. I cast you out of my life, in the name of Jesus.
7. Father, position men to do me good and show me favour. May everyone You have positioned to assist me, locate me. I destroy by fire, every veil of disfavour the enemy has placed over my life and destiny.
8. The rod of the wicked is not permitted to rest over Gateway International Church. Lord, we command Your peace, goodness and mercy to rest over every life, family, business, career and ministry in Gateway Church. We must advance!
9. Father, we decree the release of a double portion of Your favour and blessings over Your Servant Pastor George Izunwa. As the husbandman, may he continually be the first partaker.
10. Father, we ask for Your mercy to prevail over our nation. Lord, we ask for the reign of peace over Nigeria, in the name of Jesus.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Jeremiah 50

MORE THAN A CONQUEROR.

KEY
TEXT

Romans 8:37. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: God has not called us to be victims but conquerors. A conqueror is one who emerges as the winner after a struggle, a fight or a battle. Now, having established who a conqueror is, it should also interest you to know that by virtue of our covenant identity, God has renamed us, His covenant children as not just conquerors but "More Than Conquerors". If a conqueror is someone who emerges as the winner after a fight, who then is More Than a Conqueror? Someone who is More Than a Conqueror, is one who emerges as a winner without a struggle or a fight. But is it even fathomable that someone can be referred to as more than a conqueror without a fight? Let's see!

Let's take a cue from this scenario: A boxer wins a boxing match and receives a huge financial reward of perhaps a hundred million dollars and gives his prize-money instead to his spouse; he is the conqueror but his wife who has receives the prize-money becomes the one who is referred to as More Than a Conqueror. Let's not forget that this boxer may have probably gone home with body pains, bruises, a few facial lacerations and may be some minor broken bones, but he doesn't get to enjoy the prize-money. But his wife who didn't take part in the fight but who receives the prize-money becomes More Than a Conqueror.

APPLICATION: When Jesus went to Calvary to die for you and I, and suffered the pain and the shame we should have suffered, He became the Conqueror but considering the fact that we didn't need to lift a finger to redeem ourselves, we became More Than Conquerors. By virtue of that sacrifice, we joined Him in triumph. No wonder Satan hates and envies us so much! Isn't it amazing to know that you have been empowered through Christ Jesus to arise out of any adversity? Refuse to be confined in stagnancy, mediocrity, helplessness and confusion. Jesus gave you salvation and a glorious destiny on a platter of gold. So, at every phase of your life's journey, you're expected to shine forth to the glory of God. You are a champion. You are More Than a Conqueror.



PRAYER

Father, by Your mercies, my life and destiny is preserved. I will win!



ACTION
POINT

Arise and shine. Say to yourself, "I am More Than a Conqueror."



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Jeremiah 51 – 52

MISTAKES DON'T DEFINE YOU I.

KEY
TEXT

Job 23:10. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Everyone makes mistakes but in as much as there are minor and major mistakes, mistakes don't necessarily have to define you. An example of a minor mistake could be wearing two different types of stockings or wearing your shirt or blouse inside-out. Such mistakes don't cost much except a little embarrassment which can be dismissed with a few jocular moments. But major mistakes are the kind that can have dire consequences on you and on the lives of the people close to you. A few examples of major mistakes are thus; a wrong financial investment that can throw your family and your posterity into extreme poverty, an immoral scandal, the painful betrayal of friends, acquaintances or relatives you shouldn't have trusted, etc.

One of the people in the Bible who was tragically defined by a mistake was King Uzziah. Uzziah began his reign as a great king at the age of sixteen but ended tragically. He became powerful but allowed pride lead him to his downfall. Well, mistakes happen but they don't have to be fatal; not even major ones. When Abraham made the major mistake of putting Hagar in the family way, Abraham didn't let his mistake define the eventual outcome of his life. Abraham took responsibility for his mistake and went back to God to sort himself out. And the day came when God fulfilled the long-awaited promise of making him the father of many nations. Today, we can attest to the fact that Abraham is not defined by Ishmael but by Isaac, the son of covenant.

APPLICATION: Don't let your mistakes define you, not even the costly ones. The fact that a mistake has knocked you down, doesn't mean you can't rise again. God will not stop loving you because of a mistake you made. Abraham was not perfect but his faith and obedience to God led to the founding of the nation of Israel through his descendants. God is not waiting for you to be perfect: All He wants is your willingness to put your trust in Him and obey Him even after you've made mistakes. You can trust God to handle the deep concerns of your life no matter how far you have gone in the wrong direction. It's only God who writes our final story, not our mistakes.



PRAYER

Father, I acknowledge that I'm not perfect. Today, I receive grace to break forth on every side.



ACTION
POINT

Never forget this: God is in total control.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Jeremiah 51 – 52

MISTAKES DON'T DEFINE YOU 2.

KEY
TEXT

Luke 15:18. "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: When people relate with the story of the prodigal son, they often perceive this naughty, greedy and wasteful individual who failed to place the right value on his inheritance and on his father's love. But it beats my imagination whenever I recount the story of the prodigal son, that most people who condemn the prodigal son, may not have had the courage to retrace their steps if they had found themselves in the same situation. When the prodigal son walked away from his father and wasted his inheritance on riotous living, it was a major mistake. It was in fact, a very bad one.

The reason the story of the prodigal son seems quite intriguing, is the fact that he came back to his senses after he realized he had made a mistake and resolved to return home. There are so many people like the prodigal son who have betrayed confidence but often feel they're too unworthy to make a U-turn because they consider their mistakes too weighty to be forgiven. Jesus forgave Peter after Peter denied Him three times. What could have been more heart-breaking than that? The difference between Peter and Judas was not their denial of Jesus but Judas' inability to take advantage of forgiveness.

APPLICATION: No matter how grievous the mistake you may have made is, there is grace for a fresh start. No matter how long you have travelled on the wrong journey, you're not guaranteed arrival at the right destination until you take responsibility and make the needed U-turn. Wandering farther and farther away in the wrong direction instead of returning in repentance, will only keep you closer to the plan and purpose of hell. Don't give the devil that chance. Jesus is our Senior Advocate who is prepared to help you no matter how grievous your mistakes are. There is forgiveness and a new beginning if you can just acknowledge your need for God's help.



PRAYER

Father, thank You for the precious Blood of Jesus that is able to cleanse me and make me new.



ACTION
POINT

Believe this; it's not over yet for you.



DAILY BIBLE
READING

Lamentations 3 – 5

RETURN TO RENEW.

KEY
TEXT

1 John 3:1. "Behold, what manner of love that the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not because it knew him not."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: What great blessings and precious things we miss when we underrate or misjudge our Father's love. No matter how much we think we believe we have let God down, the best of God is still in store for us. There is still grace for forgiveness and mercy for a brand new start.

On arrival, the prodigal son began to profess his unworthiness but his father wasn't interested in that. Instead, he ordered his servants to fetch the best robe, a ring and a pair of shoes for his son. To crown it all, a fatted calf was killed for a massive celebration. In spite of what you've done wrong, you were destined for the best. It gives the Father joy when you enjoy the best of His resources. Great things have been programmed by God for you. Don't feel inferior no matter what you've done. God's best is still waiting for you to come to Him. God loves you more than you could ever imagine. When you return wholeheartedly to the Lord, your life will be renewed. Never allow your past sabotage your tomorrow.



PRAYER

O Lord, I refuse to die as a mediocre. Give me my portion of greatness, in the name of Jesus.



ACTION
POINT

Whatever Isaac God is demanding from you, let it go.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Ezekiel 1 – 4

LIVE BEYOND YOUR MISTAKES.

KEY TEXT

1 John 2:1. "My little children, these things I write unto you that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the father Jesus Christ the righteous."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: God's reaction towards Adam after Adam had sinned, was a reflection of His love and compassion. When God showed up at the place they usually met, Adam was nowhere to be found. Then God called out to Adam; "Adam, where are you?" Still in hiding, Adam replied, "I heard your voice and I ran away because I was naked." Then God asked, "Who told you, you are naked?" In other words, God was saying, "I didn't tell you, you are naked. Whose voice have you been listening to besides mine?" God knew that Adam and Eve had sinned but out of love and compassion He still showed up to commune with them.

The question is; whose voice do you listen to when you make mistakes? Adam listened to the voice of fear and self-condemnation. Mistakes happen going by the characteristics of our human nature, but we can minimize their fatal consequences considerably if we know the right things to do.

APPLICATION: What are the things you must do when you make mistakes?

- **Don't engage in covering up your mistakes.**

Just as injuries covered up decays the flesh, sin or mistakes covered up decays the soul.

- **Don't trivialize or normalize your weakness.**

Making excuses for doing the wrong thing only destroys your sense of reasoning. It destroys your relationships including your relationship with God and certain privileges. It will stop you from going far.

- **Don't live within the boundaries of your mistakes. Break out and move on.** Allowing your mistakes to affect you negatively can be very detrimental to your well-being. God will save you when you call upon Him but He doesn't permit you to remain in self-condemnation.



PRAYER

Father, let Your goodness and mercy follow me at all times.



ACTION POINT

If you feel condemned, forgive yourself. Seriously; move on like nothing happened.



DAILY BIBLE READING

Ezekiel 5 - 8

THROW OFF THE GARMENT OF CONDEMNATION.

KEY TEXT

Mark 10:50. "Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus." (NLT)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: In Mark 10:46-52, the Bible describes the situation of Blind Bartimaeus who sat by the road-side begging for alms. When Bartimaeus learnt that Jesus was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." "Be quiet!" The people around rebuked him but he shouted louder. The Bible says that when Jesus heard him, He stopped and asked him to come. The crowd then beckoned on him to go to Jesus, but before Blind Bartimaeus approached Jesus, he did something very remarkable: he threw his coat aside, jumped up and ran to Jesus. That encounter with Jesus gave him back his sight.

Bartimaeus threw aside his coat in anticipation of not only receiving his sight, but getting a new lease of life. There's a dress pattern that's quite synonymous with the class of beggars, destitute and people of like manner. I want to believe it wasn't just an ordinary coat but an outfit that was probably worn-out, filthy and riddled with holes. His likely worn-out coat was a symbol of his identity: Blind, poor and rejected by society. But thankfully, Bartimaeus knew that Jesus was going to heal him. And since that was going to happen, he was no longer going to live a life of poverty and rejection. He threw aside his former identity and ran towards a new opportunity.

APPLICATION: Are you wearing a garment that is a reflection of bondage? Are you putting on fear, self-condemnation, guilt, emotional anguish and rejection like a garment? Tear off anything that is a representation of a negative past. God wants a new you to emerge in grace and in glory. He wants you to enjoy His goodness but it's a choice you must make boldly and intentionally. A lot of people know they have to be daring in the face of rejection but because they often sense condemnation from

the people around them, they give up trying. Be bold irrespective of what people think or say about you. Boldness, is taking action in the state of fear. In other words, do it afraid, do it alone and do it not expecting any form of commendation from anyone but do it anyway.



I receive grace to live above condemnation. I step out boldly today to encounter the best of God for my life.



Be bold!



Ezekiel 9 – 12

LIFT YOUR CALL, NOT YOUR FALL.

COVENANT DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

KEY TEXT

Psalm 51:17. "The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God." (NLT)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: No one can redo or relive yesterday but every Christian has what it takes to make his tomorrow remarkable. No matter where you fell from, your call is higher than your fall. Judas and Peter both betrayed Jesus but Judas felt too incapacitated to rise above his fall. Don't die like Judas. Instead rise up like Peter! There's a reason you have been redeemed by God, and whatever it is, it is far more important than where you fell from. Make a decision to produce outstanding results no matter the insults being meted out at you because of your mistakes. Stop mourning your failures and move forward. No one can face the future with is eyes still on his past.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Father, I thank You for being my hiding place. I return all the glory to You for the privilege of encountering Your grace and abiding love.
2. Lord, thank You for how far You've brought me. For everything I have been through I give You thanks, knowing that You're turning my mistakes into stepping stones.
3. I come boldly before Your throne of grace to obtain mercy. Jesus cleanse me with Your Precious Blood. Cleanse me from stigma and dishonour.
4. Oh Lord, help me to live and lead the kind of life that reflects Your goodness and glory. I make a commitment today to live a life that glorifies You.
5. I make a decision to step out in boldness and in faith regardless of my faults and mistakes. Fear, you no longer have a hold on me. Get out of my life, in Jesus name!
6. Anything orchestrated by hell to keep me in shame and in pain, I reject it right now and consume it with the fire of the Holy Ghost. I declare, I am free and going from glory to glory!
7. I command every wall of limitation around my life to fall down right now. Let every mountain confronting my life and destiny become a plain.
8. Lord, pour out Your goodness and mercy over Gateway International Church. Let the hidden riches of secret places continue to pour over us. We shall not want! We will continue to advance forward.
9. Lord, let Your presence continue to abide with Your Servant Pastor George Izunwa. We command an acceleration of his ministry to greater heights. Make him a voice of authority in this generation. His word will never fall to the ground.
10. Father, heal Nigeria! Show us mercy and restore every area of our nation, in the name of Jesus.



DAILY BIBLE
READING:

Ezekiel 13 – 15

LEARN FROM GOD.

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 11:29. "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (NIV)

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Every man's destiny is a function of how much grace he carries, not how much strength or intellect he possesses. If you lack grace, you can't rise. There's a limit to what you can accomplish with your natural abilities when it comes to confronting and overcoming certain issues of life. If you claim to be a Christian yet devoid of grace, you will not go far. It is your willingness to learn from God and follow Him diligently that determines your level of grace and just how far you can go. Giving attention to God, opens you up to guidance, healing and revelation that empowers you to handle whatever life brings.

One of the reasons many Christians get overwhelmed with the issues of life is because they position themselves too far away from God. I believe very strongly that if Samson had stirred up some level of fortitude, he would not have ended the way he did. Unfortunately for him, somewhere deep down in his heart, he considered his life already over because of the shame he suffered and the loss of his sight. He would have remained blind no doubt, but God would not have run out of use for him if he was determined to live. Grace helps us to make up for lost time, lost opportunities and lost relationships if we can be humble enough to learn from God.

APPLICATION: When strength fails, you can trust God to carry you through tough times. There are times you will be unable to figure out all the answers or get right back on your feet within stipulated time no matter how hard you try but when Jesus steps in, He gives strength, wisdom and support that has the potential to defy oppositions. Grace is stirred by abiding in God's presence through prayer, studying of His Word, worship and committed service. When grace is stirred, nothing takes you unawares. Grace empowers you for great exploits. Revelation and strategies to help you overcome will be released as you learn from Him.



Holy Spirit, help me to walk in the counsel of Your might and grace.



If you're not yet baptized in the Spirit, ask God to pour Himself afresh on you.



Ezekiel 16 – 17

YOUR TRUE IDENTITY.

KEY
TEXT

2 Peter 1:2. "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: A Christian without an adequate knowledge of his Maker and understanding of his identity in Christ, is an individual who is lost. Anyone who lacks knowledge of His Maker, is like a person who goes to an occasion dressed in an immaculate white outfit and sits on the ground and soils himself. This is the situation many self-acclaimed Christians have found themselves. They lack answers to life's questions, they lack understanding about the dealings of the Spirit and the power to face life headlong and emerge victorious because they don't really know who they are and the spiritual virtue they carry.

The greatest thing that can happen for you as a Christian, is to discover your spiritual pedigree. And the only way you can achieve this is by staying in touch with God. When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, He didn't limit his identity to just being Jewish even though He was sent to the lost House of Israel. He also carried the identity of the Messiah. In course of interacting with this woman at the well, He gave her life. There are many closed doors before Christians primarily because they are devoid of adequate understanding of their covenant identity, rights and heritage.

APPLICATION: By virtue of covenant, firstly, you have an identity as a co-heir with Christ. Secondly, your covenant identity makes you a carrier and a giver of life. You have been empowered by grace to occupy the places and spaces He has created specifically for you. When you have a clear understanding of the power and the grace you carry, even when challenges come, they won't swallow you or the people around you. Don't forget that everything responds to the supernatural. Life is lived satisfactorily and purposefully when grace is at work.



PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I declare, what stopped others will not stop me.



Remind yourself that your case is different.



Ezekiel 18 – 20

KNOW THE COMFORTER.

KEY
TEXT

James 4:7-8a. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: Inspired dissatisfaction in the spirit of a man is actually Spirit-born. A time comes when God desires that we begin to yearn for a deeper or more intimate relationship with Him so that we can grow into maturity in the things of the Spirit and function satisfactorily in the places of our assignment. Sometimes, when people sense a vacuum in their spirit, it's not a sign of depression or despair like many wrongly presume but sensitization for a deeper revelation of God. Without the Comforter, you'll encounter only a fraction of what God has in store for you and for the people whose lives you're called to impart.

We experience the fullness and the best of God only when we're completely yielded to Him. God wants us to yield totally to Him because He wants us to enjoy His best. But what does it really mean to be yielded to God? It means to relinquish personal control in order to give God total control over your life. When we're completely yielded to God, we enjoy every benefit the Comforter gives: We would be led, counseled, comforted, healed and empowered for exploits. This is why the Holy Spirit is called the Comforter. Until you understand just how much God loves you and is willing to help you, you may not appreciate the need for intimacy with Him.

APPLICATION: There is so much more to learn and discover when you take out the time and effort to build a thriving relationship with the Comforter. Draw nigh to Him and He will draw nigh to you. God, in His infinite mercy is willing to unveil the secrets of the Kingdom and relevant information about your life and destiny. Every information that is beneficial for your success in ministry, business, career and

relationships is tied to your relationship with the Holy Spirit. When you get to know Him intimately, there are errors and blunders you will never make because of His guidance. 2Chronicles 16:9a says, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards him."



Lord, You're my helper and ever-exceeding reward. I will walk with You.



Decide to have a conversation today with the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to reveal more of Himself to you.



Ezekiel 21 – 22

THE POWER OF **CONSISTENCY.**

KEY
TEXT

Matthew 14:23. "After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone."

BACKGROUND AND THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT: If you keep on doing what you always do, you'll keep getting what you always get; good or bad. Improving your behavior, will improve dramatically, the outcome of your life. Everything about life boils down to the choices and decisions we make. Nothing in your life will change until you make a deliberate personal choice to change them. Even if you're disadvantaged by reason of a poor background, negative experiences or certain inadequacies, you can still make good choices that will restructure your life for good.

One of the things that shapes the lives of successful people are the good habits they inculcate into their lives. Habits include your daily spiritual and physical routines. Making the right choices is not limited to doing the right things but doing the right things consistently. From several portions of the Bible, we can deduce that Jesus often retired to a solitary place to pray as one of his consistent or daily routine. It empowered Him greatly for the needs and challenges of His ministry. Make the right choices and get your life back on track.



PRAYER

Lord, give me the grace to learn from You and to make the right choices that will shape my destiny. I declare, no more rising and falling!



Pray in the Spirit for a few minutes and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you.



Ezekiel 23 – 24

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

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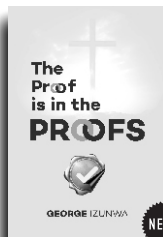
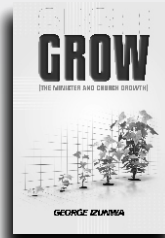
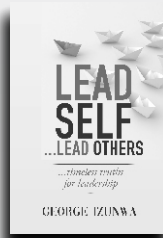
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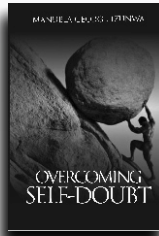
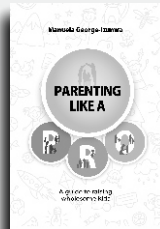
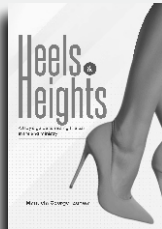
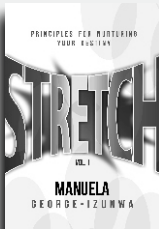
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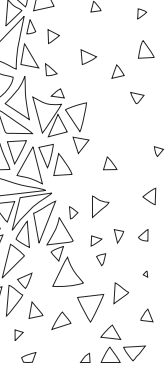
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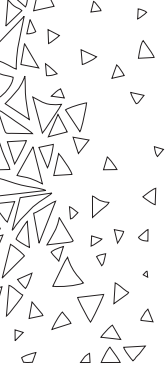
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📌 About The Authors

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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