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MONDAY, 1ST MAY 2023

TOPIC: SON, TIMOTHY

TEXT: 1TIMOTHY 1:2

unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. KJV

A happy new month to you beloved. I am full of joy, knowing that God is faithful. He who started this year with you, is able to bear you up on his wing. Welcome to the fifth month of God's unfailing grace.

If you have been consistent with studies from the beginning of this year, especially, the past three months; you will realise that our focus has been on the book of Exodus. I am grateful to the Holyspirit, who has open our heart in no small measure to the immeasurable dealings of God with his people and how it is applicable to our daily living, especially as new creation in Christ Jesus. I will have you to keep in mind all that we have learn and constantly act on God's word; with the knowledge that you are not alone. God's good and holy Spirit is with you.

In the same light, we will commence our study to learn of God's will as young believer. What is God's expectation of us, what work as he commit into our hands and how do we treat others and relate in the house of God, which is the church; the ground and pillar of truth? (1Timothy 3:15) Therefore, we will learn from Apostle Paul's letter to Timothy his son in the faith. Follow me diligently this month as I have been following Christ, my Lord and saviour.

Apostle Paul, in his introduction to Timothy which was accounted for in the letters he wrote revealed that he shared a Father and son relationship with him. Apostle Paul isn't his biological Father but a spiritual. In no small measure, he contributed to his spiritual growth and development as he addressed him in 2Timothy 1:2 saying; To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. KJV

Apostle Paul unashamedly referred to Timothy as his son and affirmed God's commitment to his life which was a strong connection between them. Timothy saw him as a man of God whom he can learn from and obviously, submit to him for spiritual direction. It is important that we should understand how God always commit men to the hands of other men for the purpose of leadership and direction. The children of Israel were committed to the hands of Moses, Moses learnt from Pharaoh's empire in Egypt and under the tutelage of his Father in-law Jethro. Men are important in the purpose of God for our lives. Do not despise men. (Exodus 3:1, Hebrews 11:23-25 & Exodus 18:14-24)

PRAYER

Lord I thank you for a new month and the gift of men who has been a help to my life in diverse means and manner. Open my heart to understand the great insight that you have deposited in the relationship that exist in the congregation of men in Jesus' name. Amen

TUESDAY, 2ND MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY'S BIOLOGICAL FAMILY

TEXT: ACTS 16:1

Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: KJV

I am of the opinion that we will appreciate the lessons we are about to learn of God's will through the life of Timothy and his relationship with Apostle Paul when we dig deep and pick our study from his biological history.

We found certain specific record about him from the account given in the book of Acts of Apostles chapter sixteen and verse one. There, it is written that Timothy was from Lystra a city which shared a close boundary with Derbe. These two places are in Asia which is now present day Turkey. Timothy was born in Lystra, his mother was described as a believer and his Father, a Greek but not a believer. Therefore, Timothy was a Greek, born of parents in whom one believed in the Lord and the other didn't.

For further understanding about Timothy's background, it is written in 2Timothy 1:5 that he has a grandmother who was also a believer. Let's read; when I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. KJV

Apostle Paul commended Timothy's faith in the Lord, as unfeigned, which was present in his grand mother Lois and his mother Eunice. Thus, Timothy did not have a perfect Christian family. Despite this imperfection, the Lord found him and saved him. He must have had the support of his mother and grandmother, who probably was his primary mentor and guidance.

However, we didn't read of any record of Timothy's relationship with his Father. I am of the opinion that Timothy was a young man who submit himself to God despite not having a Father to look up to in his journey as he mature. Do not allow your shortcomings define your height in life. God is in the business of bringing out glory in messy situations. You may not have a figure of good and godly parent but God is committed to make the best out of your life, if you will submit to him. Therefore, treasure and appreciate your life in Christ, be like Timothy who was blessed by the Lord with another guide as a Father. You are not alone in your walk with the Lord. Trust him with your life.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father, because I am not alone. You are with me and my life is full of hope because you live. I believe in your ability to orchestrate men on my path, who will not only channel my journey in life, but will hold my hand and lead me in your plan, and purposes. Thank you for the blessing of family and the gift of men in Jesus' name. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 3RD MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY'S SALVATION

TEXT: ACTS 16:1

Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: KJV

Timothy with his mother and grandmother probably got saved almost at the same time. As at when Apostle Paul met him in Acts 16:1, he was described as a disciple. Which means he was saved already and a follower of Christ. Verse 2 says, he has a good report amidst the church.

In Acts 13, it is written that Paul and Barnabas were separated by the Holy Spirit to the work of God. They commenced their journey and went first to Salamis at Cyprus. After which they sailed to Perga in Pamphylia. From there they moved to Antioch, preached the word of the Lord at the synagogue. The Gentiles believed in their large numbers while the Jews despised their preaching. Hereafter, they journeyed to Iconium. There, they encountered certain contention between the Jews, Greeks and the rulers, however, they departed to Lystra and Derbe. (Acts 13:4, 13-14, 51, Acts 14:1-6)

At Lystra, an impotent man was healed, which brought Paul and Barnabas to the limelight. I am of the opinion that Timothy's family may have been present during the crusade. My view is back up by God's word in Acts 14: 8-18, which give the details of Apostle Paul's preaching and with his explanation of God's word, he persuaded the people to be saved, which led to the healing of the impotent man and also brought about the insurrection he witnessed as a result of the miracle. He was stoned. Let's read Acts 14:19-20

And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. KJV

After he departed to Derbe, which is a town in Lystra, where Timothy and his family lived, verse 21 and 22 says: And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Therefore, we can safely establish that Timothy and his family was part of the disciples whose souls Apostle Paul confirmed with exhortation to continue in faith. Timothy was saved through Paul's preaching and teaching. God is in the business of saving men through men. Give thanks to God for those whose contributions orchestrated your salvation in Christ.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for saving me through the preaching of the gospel. I bless you for those whom you use as conduit of your word. Keep me committed to your course on earth in Jesus' name. Amen

THURSDAY, 4TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH

TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 3:14

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; KJV

and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15 KJV

The text above, was Apostle Paul's message to Timothy which reveal to us that after his salvation, he was under teaching and learning. He learnt God's word which constitute to the fabric of his spiritual growth and development. Apostle Paul affirmed that he knew the Holy Scripture. The phrase 'from a child' does not mean from when Timothy was born. It simply point to the beginning of his new birth in Christ. After his salvation, he began to learn God's word.

We can further establish this truth that Timothy had a walk with God and was taught which led to his description as a disciple in Acts 16:1 through Apostle Paul's and Barnabas work in cities of Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and Antioch. Let's read Acts 14:23; And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. Acts 14:23 KJV

After they taught the people for a while and confirmed the souls of the disciples in Iconium which is written in Acts 14:21-22, in whom Timothy's family was part of those who were saved, they ordained elders among them and commended them to God. After which Apostle Paul and Barnabas went back to Pamphylia (Acts 14:24). Invariably, the elders were ordained to continue to lead and direct the church, haven been taught. Thus, we can establish that, Timothy grew under those elders who have been taught and set as overseer to the church of God in Lystra, while Apostle Paul and Barnabas continued with the assignment God has given them in another town.

There can't be spiritual growth and development without a deliberate commitment to learning through the teaching of God's word. The ministry of Apostle Paul has the element of preaching and teaching the people that are saved for a while, ensure that they are established, set men who have been trained over the others and move on to other places. Timothy grew by being taught. Ensure that you are committed to learning God's way and his will under teachers in your local church. Men are built by God's words.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for the blessing of the gathering of believers in Churches. Thank you for giving us teachers as ministers and Pastors to teach and build men for the kingdom and your glory on earth. I release my heart to be taught inorder to be useful in God's mandate. Amen

FRIDAY, 5TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: APOSTLE PAUL MET TIMOTHY

TEXT: ACTS 16:1

Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: KJV

Haven been saved and established amidst the brethren in the church in Lystra and Derbe, Timothy continued to learn God's word and develop his faith in Christ. Apostle Paul met him when he came to preach at Lystra. The report of Timothy's character, lifestyle and submission to the Lord was spread by the brethren. Acts 16:2 says; which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. Acts 16:2 KJV

Timothy was well reported of by the brethren which distinct him among many other young men in the church to become a partner with Apostle Paul in his ministry. Acts 16:3 says; Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek. Acts 16:3 KJV

This was their meeting point and the commencement of his walk with Apostle Paul, as he became a co-labourer and servant of God's people. Do not forget that he gave himself to spiritual growth under the elders that was appointed by Apostle Paul while he ministered Christ to the city and the church was raised in Acts 14:21-23.

God does not use an ill prepared or untrained vessel. He plants his children in churches, give them overseers, guidance, pastors, leaders and teachers to be trained after which he commend them to do his work. Timothy was a young man as we have the account in 1Timothy 4:12, it says; Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12 KJV

The verse above is one of Apostle Paul's exhortation to him; his usual manner to encourage and cheer him up. As at when this letter was sent to Timothy, he was already a Pastor of the church in Ephesus. A young man, who is unmarried and given to God's work as a shepherd.

God has a plan on earth and every believer must see him or herself in it. The work of the ministry is not optional for a child of God. I am not saying you must be a full time pastor, I am saying you must be committed to God, intentional about your spiritual growth and develop to the extent where you are able to teach others what you have learn over time. God sort for Timothy, he is still seeking for young and vibrant heart, who understand that preaching the gospel is the essence of their existence and not an option regardless of their career pursuit.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for your will is done on earth and in my life. I live in total submission to your will. Just like Timothy, I give myself to the service of your kingdom in Jesus' name. Amen

SATURDAY, 6TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY'S FAITH IN THE LORD

TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 1: 4

when I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. KJV

Apostle Paul acknowledged that Timothy's faith in the lord is unfeigned, while he also commended that this kind of faith was found in his grandmother and mother. For better understanding and clarity, let's read the Amplified version of the verse above.

I remember your sincere and unqualified faith [the surrendering of your entire self to God in Christ with confident trust in His power, wisdom and goodness, a faith] which first lived in [the heart of] your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am confident that it is in you as well. 2 Timothy 1:5 AMP

Unfeigned simply means sincere, without dissimulation or hypocrisy. Therefore, Timothy had a sincere faith in the Lord. He wholly surrender his totality to God after his salvation. He trusted in God's word, power and wisdom and live in sincerity of heart before God.

We can put our trust in Apostle Paul's verdict about Timothy's faith because as a Father or as one who walked with him in ministry, he can tell if his love and conviction in the Lord was true or not. We have a solid testimony about his life as the minister of the gospel, therefore, his comment about a young man's faith, whom he took up as a son, should not be over looked.

There is a blessing when men has a good and well recognised testimony about your faith and walk with the Lord. Many have coiled under the deception of the saying that goes thus 'my spiritual life is independent of others, God knows who is serving him'. Yes, you are very correct but men will also notice if you are serving God and they take to heart how you conduct yourself before him; such that, commendation arise from it, which can be negative or positive.

There is nothing hidden about a Christian life. It is a public and open relationship. God sees and men take note therefore, let your faith in the Lord be sincere. Let it speak loudly in worthy recognition and truthful praise. There is a little check here, do not be tempted to live a double life, acting with eye service. Don't behave decently in church and awkwardly outside the church. For anyone whose faith is sincere in the Lord, it will affect his entire life. Don't feed on the praises of men either and don't seek it. When it comes, don't place your heart on it. Live in utmost sincerity and have a committed walk with God and his service.

PRAYER

Lord, I give my heart to a sincere relationship with you. Forgive me of any attitude that might be derogatory to your name. Help me to walk in sincerity of heart before you and before men in Jesus' name. Amen

SUNDAY, 7TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY'S SERVICE WITH APOSTLE PAUL

TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 1:1

Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: KJV

After Apostle Paul met with Timothy, he joined his company alongside Silas in the ministry. They left Lystra and Derbe to other cities, preaching the gospel. They went through Phrygia, the region of Galatians, and were forbidden by the Holyghost to preach the gospel in Asia (Acts 16:6). They thought of going to Bithynia but the Holyghost forbid them (Acts 16:7). Thus, they were at Troas, when Apostle Paul had a vision of a man crying for help at Macedonia, so they took knowledge that the Lord will have them go there. They went down to Philippi, a chief city and colony in Macedonia (Acts 16:9-12)

It was at Philippi that they met Lydia, who sells purple at the sea side. The Lord opened her heart and she was saved with her household. She was the one who accommodated Apostle Paul, Silas and Timothy in that city for the time they spent there preaching the gospel (Acts 13-15). Therefore, we can trace how gradually Timothy followed Apostle Paul, learning the way of the Lord and doing God's work. You do not need to know all or be perfect to follow God's will on earth. After you are saved, the next is to learn to serve God in his work on earth. Be effective in your local church, follow your pastors or leaders as the case maybe. Ensure you are active in Evangelism (personal and general) and begin to take to heart God's dealing upon your life.

Apostle Paul trusted in Timothy's service with him and growth that in his writing to the church at Philippi, he spoke to them about his desire to send him as his trusted partner in ministry. Let's read Philippians 2:19-23; But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. (Vs 19-20)

For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. (Vs 21-23)

He served God diligently under Apostle Paul's watch. Thus, you will always need authority over your life. Not just spiritually but in every aspect. The lessons we should learn in Timothy's life includes: honor for God and his work, honor for men, leaders and authority and diligence in the service of God. Be a man/woman on the move for God.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. Your will is my desire and the transformation of men by the preaching of the gospel is your will on earth. I do not act unconcerned or indifferent towards it. I play my role and fulfil the ministry of Christ on earth in Jesus' name. Amen

MONDAY, 8TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY'S DILIGENCE IN MINISTRY I

TEXT: 1THESSALONIANS 3:2

and sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: KJV

Haven witnessed Christ in Philippi, Paul and Silas found themselves in prison as a result of the demon that was cast out of the young girl, who made gain for her master through soothsaying. They were kept in custody and God fought for their deliverance through their intense worship. They were able to save the keeper of the prison with his household. Eventually, they were released, went back to the home of their accommodator; Lydia and left Philippi. (Acts 16:16-40)

They continued their journey to Thessalonica. As usual, Paul and Silas ministered in the synagogue, they witnessed Christ. Many Greeks believed and the unbelieving Jews stirred up an insurrection thus, they left there for Berea, also a city in Thessalonica. It was at Berea that the men who listened to Paul's ministration, went back home and search the scripture to found out if all that he preached unto them was true. Many were saved but soon the Jews in Thessalonica heard of the great salvation of soul, came to Berea to stir up the people against Paul and his company. The brethren counseled him to leave while Silas and Timothy stayed back. (Acts 17:1-14).

You would expect that Timothy's heart would break seeing Apostle Paul and Silas in prison with all the challenges that took place on their way as they preached. Rather, he kept his faith and diligence before God. He followed and was there all through the challenges, afflictions and persecutions. Apostle Paul was satisfied to leave and asked him to continue the work with Silas.

In 1Thessalonians 3:1-7, after they left the city, Timothy was sent back there, to check the welfare of the church with words of affirmation from Apostle Paul that he was a brother, minister of God, and a fellow laborer in the gospel. He spoke well of his diligence. Timothy did as he was instructed, he came back with good report about the brethren in the Church at Thessalonica. Let's read verse 6&7;

But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you: therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-7 KJV.

God reward the diligence of any man who is sold out for his will on earth. Your labor in the lord is not in vain. Keep serving the Lord Christ!

PRAYER

Thank you Father. I do not entertain discouragement, offense or bitterness of any sort against your work and will on earth. I choose to serve you with my life, now and ever. Amen

TUESDAY, 9TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY'S DILIGENCE IN MINISTRY II

TEXT: ACTS 17:13

But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people. KJV

It is sweet to serve Jesus with our life and time. You will think of Apostle Paul and his team as a superman but at a specific time, he accounted that all his labor in and for the Lord was by God's grace (1Corinthians 15:10). He didn't give up on preaching the gospel with so much sense of commitment and diligence because he understood and was conscious that his ability is not of him but of God. Therefore, whatever we do in the name of the Lord, towards the transformation of the life of men and salvation of souls should be acknowledged as God's ability in us. It is by his grace and power to will and do of his good pleasure in us. Hallelujah!

Therefore, after the insurrection at Thessalonica, the brethren sent forth Apostle Paul, who took his journey and head to Athens. But left Timothy and Silas at Berea (Acts 17:14). They took over the teaching and oversee the church while Paul wasn't with them. This revealed Timothy's diligence and commitment. All that he has learnt, alongside with Silas, they began to teach and lead the people.

What do you think will be Timothy's thoughts with all the trouble that Apostle Paul encountered as he preached the gospel? Can you imagine if he will have fears being a young man who probably have dreams and desires? However, just as we have learned that Timothy has an unfeigned faith, I am of the opinion that his trust in God outweighs his fears and instead of the many afflictions Paul encountered to become a snare to Timothy, they acted as substance of strength and culminates into his spiritual growth and development.

He must have learnt how a man of God is expected to live his life and the wisdom necessary to direct the life of a man who is given to ministry. He learnt the importance of fellowship with others even as they become saved and the truth that the fibers of growth for men and the church at large is only by the ministry of the word and prayer.

Don't entertain fear and discouragement. Every child of God is called into ministry. You don't need a physical building to live with the conciousness of God's purpose and call upon your life. God's assignment is that we teach others what we have learn in him and preach his word of salvation to those who are still in darkness. This is ministry! Darling, get to work daily. God gave you each day as a blessing. He is counting on you and I.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. I do not live in ignorance that you have called me out of darkness to your marvelous light to show forth your praise. The salvation of men is your praise, therefore, I give my heart to this diligently, knowing that the king's business require haste in Jesus' name. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 10TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: BE ZEALOUS FOR THE LORD I

TEXT: ACTS 17:15

And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed. KJV

Apostle Paul left Barea and was brought to Athens. When he got there, he saw a need to send for Silas and Timothy. But while he was at Athens, he perceived the ignorance of the people and the darkness that pervade their hearts. The city of Athens was wholly given to Idolatry. As his custom was, he went to the synagogue and preach: also, to the market place to meet with the people, he witnessed Christ to them. (Acts 17:16-17)

He didn't wait for the arrival of his team members (Silas and Timothy) before he started to preach at Athens. He carried with him a sense of responsibility and urgency. Just as he spoke in 1Corinthians 9:16 that necessity is laid upon him to preach the gospel. You will agree with me that Silas and Timothy would have caught and learnt the spirit of tenacity and doggedness towards God's work from him. You can't expect them to act lesser than how they have seen him handle the work of God and his word in preaching the gospel.

Many have no sense of responsibility to God's work because no one has mirror diligence, commitment, dedication and selflessness before them. Everyone that seems to be called of God in their sphere of influence has mirrored sluggardness, laxity, unfaithfulness and partial service to God and his work. This contrast has built such stronghold that whenever they come in contact with anyone who is active and zealous for God, they tend to see it as 'doing too much' or 'unnecessary and foolish dedication to church. What a shame and pity!

It is therefore, important for you not to look at anyone's predisposition when you serve the Lord God. Take your lessons and understanding from the revelation of God's word. Look out for men/women whose heart for God is on fire. Learn from them, drink from their fountain and don't relent in your zeal for the lord. It is dangerous to serve God with a lack of zeal and desire. It's irritable and won't draw souls to God through your life. Add zeal to your work in the service of God. Add some fragrance of faithfulness and loyalty to God through your submission to your local church and spiritual authority. Understand that your Pastor is not the one to reward your diligence, you serve the Lord Christ, from whom comes your reward.

Romans 12:11 says; never lagging behind in diligence; aglow in the Spirit, enthusiastically serving the Lord; AMPV. To be aglow is to be zealous.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. Today, I ask that you help and give me a heart that thirst after righteousness and desire to do your work in service to your name. Increase my zealousness and commitment. Remove every form of sluggardness and lack of interest to your will in my life. Set my heart on fire for you in Jesus' name. Amen

THURSDAY, 11TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: BE ZEALOUS FOR THE LORD II

TEXT: ACTS 17:16

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. KJV

Yesterday, we learned the commitment displayed by Apostle Paul at Athens, while he waited for his team members to come. His sense of responsibility to witness about the death and resurrection of Christ to the people of Athens who were wholly given to superstition and idolatry was worthy of emulation.

In ministering to people about Christ, it is good to always get familiar and observe the culture, habits and norm that surround them inorder to be able to communicate salvation to them in words easy to understand. Without playing down on the efficacy of the message, it is important and an expression of skillfulness in ministering the gospel to speak in the people's words.

Apostle Paul observed the devotion and inscription at the altar of the gods the Athenians worshipped. They wrote **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.** From his observation, he understood that they supposed their idol as the worship of God which they do not know. It was easy for him to begin preaching about the living God whom they ignorantly worshipped from their knowledge and their worship. He went further to also use their poet which they wrote and recite to explain that it is by the power of the God who made the heavens and the earth that we **Live, move and we have our being** (Acts 17:22-28)

With the people's understanding, he spoke that since they are the offsprings of God, it is wrong to think the Godhead is an inanimate object. An idol that cannot see, move or speak. He called their heart to the basic truth that God had winked at all their ignorance and he's now called them to repentance in Christ, whom he raised from the dead (Acts 17:29-31) Some mocked him when he spoke about the resurrection of the dead but many believed. (Acts 17:32-34)

In our dedication to God's work, it is wrong to begin calculating that our preaching won't save souls. It's totally the devil's lie to believe that God doesn't need us to preach to save any man. Without your commitment to preach and talk to someone about Christ, God's power to save won't be unleashed. Yes, men are converted by the power of God through his Holyspirit but he uses his children as a link or a conduit of such power. Hence, we have the command to speak, teach, preach and go to the world. You are important in the teaching and preaching of the gospel. Be zealous for the Lord Christ.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, empower, strengthen and encourage my heart to release myself as a conduit of your power. Give me a burning desire for your work and will on earth towards men. Amen

FRIDAY, 12TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: PREACHING IS LIVING RESPONSIBLY

TEXT: ACTS 18:1

After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; KJV

Paul left Athens to Corinth, still waiting for the return of Silas and Timothy. While he was at Athens, he met a couple (Priscilla and Aquila), who were Jewish believers. They stayed with them and realised that they were into the same craft (handwork) as himself; for they were tentmakers.

Aren't you surprised that despite Apostle Paul's commitment to God's work, he has a business? He was a tentmaker through which he makes money. I am sure you are about to ask me, how did he have the time to do ministry with such dedication and run a business alongside? By the understanding of God's word, Apostle Paul instructed the church at Thessalonians that if any will not work, they shouldn't eat (1Thessalonians 4:11, 2Thessalonians 3:10-12) And also, in Corinthians, he specifically, pointed out that he wasn't a burden to the church of God. While many are committed to help him financially because of the great work he did, his hands worked and fed him with his team members. (1Corinthians 9:7-16)

He rebuked certain Christian Brother at the Church in Thessalonica, who began to work disorderly and would not work with their hands. He wrote to them saying; Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-9 KJV

Please, read the text above carefully, you will realise that Apostle Paul counted anyone's inability to have a work, a business or employment- Idleness. He frowns at it and command that everyone should work and eat. He testified that he with his team members travail (worked) night and day so that they won't be chargeable (burden) to the brethren. Not because God didn't command that ministers of God should be taken care of by the brethren but because he desired to lead by example. He showed them how to be committed to the preaching of the gospel and at the same time have a work at hand to make a living.

Therefore, Apostle Paul had time for his tent making. He worked at his craft. This tell me that Silas and Timothy as well aren't an exception. They had a handwork with which they support themselves regardless of the gifts and blessings that come from the church to support their work. Preaching the gospel does not mean feasting on men or making merchandise of men.

PRAYER

Lord, teach me how to be a responsible minister of the gospel. Open my heart to skillfulness and prosperity. Bless the work of my hands and give me teachers in business for the profiting of my life and God's work in Jesus' name.

SATURDAY, 13TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: THE DIGNITY OF MINISTRY I

TEXT: 1THESSALONIANS 2:9

For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. KJV

Yesterday, we learned a strong character that spring forth in Apostle Paul's ministry with his team members. He taught the church to walk orderly and he led by example, in working with his hands even as he was committed to the ministry. Therefore, there is no excuse for laziness or a view to see the ministry as a medium of gain.

Apostle Paul boast in the truth that he and his team members labor night and day with their hands inorder not to be chargeable (burdensome) to the people of God. His desire is not to make merchandise of the people even though God has commanded that the workman is worthy of his wages. In 1Corinthians 9:1-18, he explained God's established commandment to ensure that the minister of the gospel is catered for by those who receives his ministry. However in verse 16, he communicated that preaching the gospel is a necessity to him, he is mandated to do it free without expecting a reward that no man would make void of his glory in Christ.

In his writing to the Church at Corinth, Apostle Paul established the truth that he wasn't burdensome to the people of God but rather have been sustained by brethren from other churches, inorder to minister the gospel to them without charge. Let's read; have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.(2 Corinthians11:7-8 KJV)

And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself. As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. 2 Corinthians 11:9-10 KJV

Also, in 2Corinthians 12:14, he affirmed his desire never to become burdensome to them but preach the gospel to them as a parent who is committed to nurture his children. Let's read; Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not your's, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. Thus, Believers are expected to live in sincerity of heart to the gospel of Christ, never to be burdensome but work with their hands to meet their needs. There is dignity in labour!

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. I asked that you help me to serve with honor, sincerity, truthfulness and dignity. That I won't serve your name and your will on earth putting forward my personal gain or make my needs a burden to the people of God in Jesus' name. Amen



SUNDAY, 14TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: THE DIGNITY OF MINISTRY II

TEXT: ACTS 20:33

I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. KJV

Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. Acts 20:34 KJV

Again, Apostle Paul affirmed that he took nothing from the brethren out of compulsion or covetousness. He established that with his hands and that of his team members (Silas, Timothy and Titus as we will see later), their needs and wants were met. This means that they worked and eat of their own food, just as he commanded the church in 1Thessalonians 4:11; "and that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you"; KJV.

This was to avoid placing demand on the church of God more than it should and discourage gain and merchandise. He also spoke in 2Corinthians 12:17-18; Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you? I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps? KJV

The Spirit of God would lead the man of God (all believers) to serve the Lord with no intention of gain. It is to save soul not to increase silver, gold or apparel. While all these are not harmful and is expected on the long run, they shouldn't be the focus or the reason to be committed to preaching the gospel. The intention must be void of selfishness. God rewards all those who diligently seek him, not to amass wealth but to take care of their needs which can be through the church or any other means. He command the church of God to take care of their shepherds, elders, and all who impact to them spiritual benefit but the leaders are to ensure not to become burdensome to the people of God. There is a clear cut balance!

These things are all that Timothy learn as he journeyed with Apostle Paul in the ministry. What a responsible life he had received of the Lord. Though, a young man but one who has God's mission in his hands. Thus, every believer either young or old need to recognise the will of God on earth and live life with a robust sense of purpose.

Have a skill, get educated, get employed, start a business, be creative and earn a living but never lose sight of the kingdom. Everyone on earth is expected to make a living but not everyone is expected to be committed to preaching the gospel. God has given his children this commitment. Thus, we find the essence of our lives as we lead it as a young man and woman who preach and teach Christ that the kingdom of God keep expanding and people are delivered from darkness.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I receive the wisdom of God to walk holily, justly and righteously in the service of God. I receive God's help to live my life in the light of his will in Jesus' name. Amen

MONDAY, 15TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: GOD'S DESIRE IS TO SAVE SOULS

TEXT: ACTS 18:5

And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. KJV

Can you recall that Apostle Paul sent for Silas and Timothy, while he left Barea and came to Athens? He left Athens haven witnessed Christ at Corinth. It was at Corinth that he met with Aquila and Priscilla, the couple who received him into their house and had the same craft with him. Afterwards, Silas and Timothy met him at Corinth, and while they were there, Apostle Paul was pressed in his Spirit to minister to the Jews and Gentiles.

Therefore, Apostle Paul, Silas and Timothy were workers together at Corinth. They ministered and witnessed Christ to the people, certain noble men were saved. Acts 18:8, mentioned a man called Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue and also, many believed in the Lord and were baptized. Apparently, this was the Crispus identified in 1Corinthians 1:14 alongside those that were baptized by Apostle Paul.

The beauty of their work at Corinth was established in Acts 18:9-10; let's read: Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. KJV

Apparently, they were not without challenges, the Lord appeared to Apostle Paul in a vision with words of encouragement and affirmed that he had much souls that should be saved in the city of Corinth. With this, their hands were strengthened and continued their work for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among those who had believed (Acts 18:11).

God's desire is to save soul and discipled them. God is interested in the heart and ultimately, the life of men. His focus and vision is to ensure that his love is preached to the world and all who heard and believed are taught to remain strong, steadfast and equipped to teach others as well.

In all these, Timothy was right by the side of Apostle Paul, he kept learning how to carry out the work of the ministry as a young man and he remained faithful even during trial and challenges. Apostle Paul communicated God's desire to him in 2Timothy 2:1-2; he said; Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. KJV

Ensure you find yourself in the service of God. Learning and teaching others, this is God's desire for you.

PRAYER

Thank you Father. For your thoughts for me are of good, to give me a hope and a future in Christ Jesus. My future is to serve you as I serve men, leading them in the knowledge of God's word. I receive strength to do this and much more in Jesus' name. Amen

TUESDAY, 16TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY CULTIVATED PAUL'S MINDSET

TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 2:19

But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. KJV

For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. Philippians 2:20-22 KJV

They left Corinth after a while to Ephesus. Later, Apostle Paul took his Journey from Ephesus with the desire to go back to Jerusalem to keep the feast of passover. He went round the places they have ministered the gospel and established churches, strengthening the brethren (Acts 18:18-23). Soon, he was back at Ephesus, when he received the news that a disciple named Apollos had come to Corinth, who was helpful to the team and whom the couple Priscilla and Aquila, received and expanded the things of God more clearly to him (Acts 18:24-28, Acts 19:1)

They continued preaching, teaching and discipling the believers in Ephesus for the space of two years, such that the word of God was thoroughly preached throughout Asia. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed backed up with signs, wonders, miracles and diverse workings of God's power (Acts 19:8-20). After this, Apostle Paul purposed to go to Rome but while he set on his plan, he sent Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia a chief city in Philippi (Acts 19:21-22)

With a written letter sent through the hands of Timothy, Apostle Paul gave witness that he was sent because amidst all who have journeyed with him in the work of God, Timothy stood out. He shared the same passionate desire for the people with him. He said 'I have no man who will naturally care for your state' and also, affirmed that as a son with the Father, Timothy has served the Lord with him.

God searches the heart, weigh its motive and intention per time. Timothy cultivated a likeminded care, desire and passion for the people of God. He has learned with careful observation the mindset of Apostle Paul such that he knew that his service before God was not of gain or greediness but of sincerity and obedience to the call of God.

Dear young believer, it is important that any form of service that you are presently rendering in the church of God, your intention must be to care for God's people and not to please yourself. You must love the church of God and seek to protect its interest at any time. Yes, the church has weaknesses, and that includes you; regardless, the love of God is upon his people. Have a holy desire to serve your church in God's will.

PRAYER

Lord, give me a clean and thoughtful heart that seeks your will in the midst of selfish desire. Create in me a heart to serve, love and care for God's people in my assembly in Jesus' name. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 17TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY LEARNT FAITHFULNESS I

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 4:15

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel. KJV

Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, with instructions and words of correction. He noticed they were walking in carnality and had turned the honor of God towards men; rather than recognising them as those whom God used as vessels and partner in ministry for their growth. He spoke extensively and call their minds back to the simple truth that where there is rivalry, division and envy, there is confusion and every evil work and revealed that they are carnal, walking as mere men. (1Corinthians 3:3)

In chapter 4, he continued to upbraid them with the knowledge of God's will in honouring men whom God used to preach and save them out of destruction by the message of the gospel but to be careful not to do it more than necessary, because every preacher of the gospel is only a servant of God and partner with Christ (1Corinthians 4:1-14). He established that his intention isn't to pull down their faith but to judge wrongly their attitude towards division and exoneration of a man of God above the other. With this, he account that though they might have many instructors in the Lord, he had begotten them through the gospel. Let's read:

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 KJV

Apostle Paul, regard himself as their Father in faith from the standpoint that he was the one who ministered Christ to them. Thus, he urged them to follow his correction and teaching of God's words. Furthermore, he informed them that he will send his Son in the Lord, Timothy, who is faithful and has been with him in ministry, serving in unity of heart and purpose. Let's read;

For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.1 Corinthians 4:17 KJV

Apostle Paul acknowledged and testified of Timothy's faithfulness to him and to God in serving the people and preaching the truth of salvation. He affirmed that he is able to teach them what he would teach by himself. Timothy's heart is worthy of emulation. He had learned to be faithful by looking at Paul's commitment to God's work. Serve the Lord and be faithful!

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. I receive the grace to be faithful in service before God and men in Jesus' name. Amen

THURSDAY, 18TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: TIMOTHY LEARNT FAITHFULNESS II

TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 3:10

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, KJV

Yesterday, we learned of Apostle Paul's testimony of his Son in faith, Timothy; whom he reported as been faithful in the Lord and is capable of bringing others to learn of his ways and the manner he had walked in and with the Lord. Of a truth, it is certain that Timothy submitted himself to God by his submission to Apostle Paul, who nurtured him as a son in the ministry.

In 2Timothy 3:10-11, we have a similar account. Apostle Paul recounted and established that Timothy has known, not just a mere assertion; but had witnessed and understood his walk with the Lord. Let's read;

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. KJV

He said this, to encourage Timothy, even as he continue to lead the people of God, as a young Pastor in the church at Ephesus; not to turn his back against trial or challenge and never to walk disorderly or against all he has learned from him. For he who will live godly in this world, will suffer persecution while evil men and seducers, shall wax worse and worse. They will deceive others and be deceived (2Timothy 3:13).

By now, you should have come to the understanding that God has a desire that transcend generation which has lived and generations to come. He seeks for men, who will give themselves to learn his will, submit to training and become an effective vessel in his hands, to do his will through discipleship. Timothy, was discipled (trainned and taught) by Apostle Paul. God has a system and standard of training for every believer. The church is his house of training. He puts you in the church family, inorder that you may learn the vision, purpose, culture and manner of life of the family. And should steadily grow to the point where you can raise other members of the family and bring in more adopted children.

The process continue from time to time. Therefore, ministry is life. It is God's purpose for you as a believer. It is his commitment to your hands as being part of God's family. It is that which you will be held accountable. Don't despise your commitment to God's work. Start early and start now!

PRAYER

Thank you Father. I receive wisdom and spiritual understanding to walk in the light of your will on earth. I refuse to run my race without picking up the baton of God's desire for my life. Help me Lord to submit myself to your work on earth in Jesus' name. Amen

FRIDAY, 19TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: BE READY TO LEARN

TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 3:14

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them ; KJV

If I ask you, from whom did Timothy learned the knowledge of God since he believed, what will be your response? If I ask a second question; who do you think God occasioned towards Timothy's life for spiritual growth and development? What name will come to your heart at the first instance? I am certain you will shout the name, Apostle Paul. You are very correct, but by the knowledge of all we had studied, I will like to add the committed companion and elder brother Silas. Let's read of Silas position in the church at Jerusalem and what led to his journey with Apostle Paul.

Acts 15, gave the account of certain men who came down from Judea and taught the people, whom Paul and Barnabas oversee that they must be circumcised before they can be saved. This story was the basis of the letter written to the church in Galatia. The dispute was fierce with Apostle Paul's affirmation that a man is justified by faith not by fulfilling the law of circumcision. The issue went before Peter, John and James, who were pillars in the church at Jerusalem, they all deliberated over it and concluded that such things were not part of Jesus' instruction or found in the knowledge of God's words. Thus, they wrote a letter of instruction to stop the brethren who taught the wrong message and asked that the Gentiles should ensure to stay away from idol pollution and give themselves to the act of giving. (Acts 15:1-29)

Judas and Silas were the men chosen to accompany Paul and Barnabas in return to the brethren with the letter sent from Jerusalem. They spoke and encouraged the brethren to continue in the way of the Lord and disbelief the gospel of circumcision to be saved. However, Silas didn't go back to Jerusalem. (Acts 15:30-34). He joined himself to Paul and Barnabas.

Afterwards, Apostle Paul suggested that they should go and visit the brethren in places where they have ministered and plant churches. Barnabas wanted Mark to follow them which was contrary to what Apostle Paul wanted. The contention was settled with Barnabas going with John Mark and Apostle Paul with Silas. (Acts 16:36-41) This was how Silas became a companion with him before they met Timothy in Acts 16. Together, the team has carried out God's work in sincerity and truth. Thus, Timothy can act on Apostle Paul instruction to him to continue in all he has learned, and assured of, knowing how much he has learn directly from him and also Silas. The Lord will always send help to you, learn to receive help in human form.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you because you give men as gifts to other men, for training, growth and development. Help me not to despise my teacher, to appreciate all that I am learning spiritually and also in my career. Strengthen me to hold firmly to the wisdom I have received from others in truth and sincerity in Jesus' name. Amen

SATURDAY, 20TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: BE READY TO STUDY

TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. KJV

Yesterday, we receive wisdom as regards openness to learning and the ability to appreciate men whom God has sent to us as we fufil his course on earth. A vital point I will love to present before our consciousness is the need not to become fixated but flexible towards learning in all area of our lives. Timothy learned directly from Apostle Paul and indirectly from many other, which Silas was one of them. Be open to help and wisdom from men with caution as the Holyspirit leads and directs.

One of Apostle Paul's instruction to Timothy is to study. This instruction was given to him via a written letter and at the time he was already pastoring the church at Ephesus. Regardless of his status and the weight of his assignment, his Father in the Lord asked him to study. What else is there to study you might be wondering? The next two verses will help us appreciate this instruction; But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenæus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. 2 Timothy 2:16-18 KJV

Two men were mentioned, Hymenaeus and Philetus. Apostle Paul said, these men had erred concerning the truth. Obviously, they were believers and maybe disciples, who at some point walked in the light of God's word. But because of their inability to commit themselves to training, oversight and correction, they erred from the truth of God's word. They began to sponsor the lie, which they think to be the truth, that the resurrection of the body of believers is past. Which means they were preaching that there is no hope in Christ. He said, by their preaching which sound like the truth, they had overthrown the faith of some.

These men must have many followers with strong influence. Knowing the havoc this could cause to a shepherd, If he isn't aware and teach his sheep the truth while he continue to strengthen himself in God's word daily, Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to study diligently. He said, when he does this, he will be a workman, who won't be put to shame because of his ignorance towards God's word but will be able to divide (explain, expound, teach) rightly the word of truth.

This instruction is for every believer. It's shameful to be ignorant of God's word. Some even quote half a verse without knowing where it can be found. The word of God is where all of God resides. You can't live successfully as a Christian without the knowledge of God's word. Study!

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for the sin of laziness and sluggishness. I have despised your word, not considering the study of it as needful and important. Open my heart and give to me, a fresh thirst and hunger for diligent study in Jesus' name. Amen

SUNDAY, 21ST MAY 2023

TOPIC: BE READY TO TEACH

TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 4:13

Until I get there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them. NLT

Just as Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to study, he also directed his heart to the importance of continual and dedicated reading of no other book than the scripture (The Old Testament portion of the Bible) to the church where he lead as a shepherd. The New Testament has not been written at that time. All that they have for spiritual growth and God's words is the book of the Old Testament.

Therefore, Apostle Paul asked Timothy to ensure that he keep teaching God's word to the people, read it to them continually and encourage them. In 1Timothy 1:3-7, we have an account of the need for the truth of God's word to be read and taught by Timothy to the people as Apostle Paul realised that some teachers were teaching the believers wrongly. Let's read;

As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do . 1 Timothy 1:3-4 KJV

Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: from which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. 1Timothy 1:5-7 KJV

Timothy was saddled with the responsibility to teach the right thing as God's commandment is faith from love and a pure heart against the wrong teaching of some individuals, inorder to guide the believers in truth of God's words. This corroborate what we learnt yesterday as regards the need to study. Timothy studied inorder to learn the truth of God's words and to enable him communicate the same truth and understanding to others.

Dear child of God, the Father is counting on your spiritual growth and development. He requires your submission and dedication to his word, the willingness to do his will on earth, to be grounded in the understanding of God's word and teach others what you have learn. This is the structure of God's kingdom on earth!

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that you take my life and let it be consecrated unto thee, take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Lord, use my mouth, my will and intellect, let it all be for your goodness, take them all and consecrate them to your will in Jesus' name. Amen

MONDAY, 22ND MAY 2023

TOPIC: GOD'S HANDS IS ON YOU

TEXT: 1TIMOTHY 4:14

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. KJV

A strong encouragement that came as a reminder and instruction from Apostle Paul to Timothy is to remind him that he is a carrier of God's gift, which he shouldn't neglect. In 1Timothy 1:18, he also brought the remembrance of this truth to his heart. Let's read;

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; KJV

Apostle Paul charged Timothy with the need never to give up on God's call upon his life, knowing that prophecy has gone ahead of him through which, he is expected to fight the good fight of faith, stand upon his steadfastness, doing God's will. Why was it necessary for him to remind Timothy of all these?

Apostle Paul understood the kind of spiritual endowment and empowerment that invigorate the life of anyman who has hands laid on him or God's word spoken as prophecy over him either presently or in the past. He knew that God's hands is upon Timothy to help him in his work as a young pastor leading the people of God. He also knew that if he give up and become overburdened by others who are teaching heresies and are given to the gain of the ministry instead of the commitment to the teaching of God's words, the prophecies spoken over his life will not be fulfilled.

Thus, as a Father and spiritual guide, he reminded him to put into work the power of God in his life. In the same light, do not despise all the teachings, prayers and blessings spoken over your life by your parents, pastors, leaders and mentors. Whenever you are tempted to give up on God's work or your career, remember that blessings has gone ahead of you. Prophecies has been spoken over you. Remember, the prayers of your parents and guidiance, don't give up!

This is very important for a believer. You mustn't joke when hands is about to be laid on you, especially in church. Set your heart right and connect with God's power coming upon you. The laying on of hands is a biblical attitude to impact others with spiritual blessing that cannot be quantified. When you are being prayed for, get yourself and your heart tune to receive intentionally. Don't have a casual attitude and reaction to these things. It's God's way of blessing his children through others. Be open to receive, anytime and any day.

PRAYER

Lord, I believe that your mighty hands is upon my life. I do not give up but keep fighting through the blessings of prayers that have been impacted to my life at different seasons. Help me to cultivate an open heart and humble attitude to spiritual impartation in Jesus' name. Amen

TUESDAY, 23RD MAY 2023

TOPIC: SPIRITUAL BLESSING

TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 1:6

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. KJV

Yesterday, we emphasized on the truth that God's hand is upon the life of every child of God through words of prophecy received by the laying on of hands of either a pastor, leaders or parents as the case maybe. More importantly, the word of God established the spiritual blessings and impartation that comes with laying on of hands. Apostle Paul in the verse above, instructed Timothy, to stir up the gift of God which is in him through the laying on of his hands. He established that there is a spiritual blessing received by Timothy, when he laid his hands upon him, which he should be conscious of and ensure that he stir it up in prayers.

Without doubt, it wasn't a present event as at when Apostle Paul reminded him of the need to stir up the gift of God he had received from him. It must have taken place before this instruction came. We can safely establish this via the systematic explanation of the study we have done since we started learning this month. However, we mustn't lose the significant truth that once hands his laid upon a believer, it's not in vain, it is to communicate spiritual blessing to the receiver. The church and Apostles had a strong attitude to always lay hands for the conduit of spiritual blessing and gift. Let's read other versions of the Bible to appreciate the beauty of 2Timothy 1:6;

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. 2 Timothy 1:6 NLT

That is why I remind you to fan into flame the gracious gift of God, [that inner fire—the special endowment] which is in you through the laying on of my hands [with those of the elders at your ordination]. 2 Timothy 1:6 AMP

Can I remind you this morning as Apostle Paul did to Timothy that you should stir up fan to flame by prayer the gift and blessing of God that you have received in the past through the laying on of hands of either your Pastor, leader, mentor or your parent at different occasions or important seasons of your life. Can you remember the words spoken over you in prayer? Don't take it for granted. Especially, the prayers of your pastors. Allow me to assist you this morning as we pray together, asking that all the gifts of God inside you come back to life and you begin to function in the strength and capacity of God by his mercies in Jesus' name. Pray in other tongues if you can. Stir that power up on your inside.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I ask that every spiritual blessing and gift which I have received through the laying on of hands of my pastors and leaders in the past begin to find expression and light up inside of me. I call them forth, they will no longer remain dormant. I stir them up by the power in the name of Jesus. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 24TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: LAYING ON OF HANDS I

TEXT: 1TIMOTHY 4:14

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. KJV

It's worthy to note that laying on of hands is an important culture in the Lord's structure for the church. Many have despised it because of how it has been polluted by wolves in sheep clothing. But, I will not have you ignorant about this ancient and ever effective medium instituted by God as a means to call his sons and daughter into a life of devotion and of service. Also, it is to encourage and strengthen with spiritual gifts needed to live a life of peace in all godliness and honesty.

We have delve into this subject on the surface, let's dig deep. The Amplified translation will enable us to appreciate Apostle Paul's instruction to Timothy in our text above, let's read; **Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, [that special endowment] which was intentionally bestowed on you [by the Holy Spirit] through prophetic utterance when the elders laid their hands on you [at your ordination].** 1 Timothy 4:14 AMPV

It's the Holy Spirit who bestow this spiritual gift and blessing, while he uses the pastors and leaders as the prepared and ordained vessel. If you have been observant, you will realise that it wasn't just Apostle Paul who had laid his hands on Timothy, other elders and Pastors did the same as well. And it wasn't just once that hands were laid on him, it must have occurred at his ordination and other times. At least, yesterday, we read of the one carried out by Apostle Paul towards him. But the message is the same, the need to stir the gifts he has received through this process and not to forget that he truly received the gifts given by the Holy Spirit.

The believer will do himself more harm than good, when we despise and talk down the sacredness of laying on of hands. Most have even knelt down casually, without having the right posture of heart and attitude to receive. Listen to me, even if it's a young man of God or brother in Christ, who places his hands over you with words of prayers, don't be casual about it. If you can go on your kneels on the spot, do it and receive with an open heart. You must have learn by now that God is no respecter of persons. He uses the least expected people. Whenever your parents pray over you and stretch forth their hands, go right on your kneels, allow them place their hands on your heads, receive the blessings by the Spirit of God through them. Don't be casual about it, stop that wrong attitude today!

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that you forgive my wrong attitude and ignorance towards the ministry of laying on of hands. Teach me to cultivate an open and ready heart to receive from the Holy Spirit at every point when hands are laid on me in Jesus' name. Amen

THURSDAY, 25TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: LAYING ON OF HANDS II

TEXT: ACTS 6:6

whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

I employ you by the mercies of God to patiently follow this particular subject. I sense in my Spirit even as I write, that there are many who have lost virtues because they despised the act of laying on of hands. God is the God of restoration, we can trust him to turn things around and pour his blessings over again but we must learn to follow his precepts and walk in the light as He is the light.

The church would choose men to carry out the feeding and care of the people inorder to avoid bias and have an orderly form of distribution. In Acts 6, Stephen, Philip and five more brothers were selected by the congregation, haven believed that they were men of good report and full of the Holyghost. Inorder to commend them to God, the apostles prayed and laid their hands upon them. (Acts 6:1-6)

Despite the truth that these men were full of the Holyspirit, it was important for the apostles to pray and while they do this, they laid their hands on them to convey God's gift and blessings. To strengthen, empower and commit them to the work ahead. It is to create an intentional act such that the receiver is conscious of his new assignment and the grace to accomplish it. God uses the apostles as the vessel through which the gift of God was passed to them.

Yes, you are filled with the Holy Spirit, but at every point in your life, you will need to receive the auction, strength and grace of God to continue in this journey of faith as you serve God and his people. Hands are laid for transfer of anointing and grace. A very distinct one that took place is when Saul was converted.

In Acts 9:1-19, Jesus appeared to Saul on his way to Damascus to persecute the believers. He got blinded by the light that shinned on him and was led by the way to a street called strait. The Lord Jesus appeared to a brother called Ananias and instructed him to visit Saul as he is a chosen vessel to bear his name before the Gentiles. He did as commanded. When he got to the house where Saul was, **he called him, and lay his hands upon him saying Brother Saul**, **the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the way, sent me to you, that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holyghost** Immediately, scales fell from his eyes and he was filled with the Holy spirit. If there is but one thing you should cherish, it is the laying on of hands. God will send his vessels to bless you through their hands and power will be transferred. Honour the vessel and the act.

PRAYER

Lord, help my heart and teach me to receive abundance grace at every occasion when hands are laid on me for strength, help, speed and grace in Jesus' name. Amen

FRIDAY, 26TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: LAYING ON OF HANDS III

TEXT: ACTS 13:3

And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. KJV

Apostle Paul had great understanding of the power embedded in laying on of hands. We studied how he received his sight and the Holyghost through the laying on of hands of Ananias. Also, while he and Barnaba was about to set on the work the Lord has called them to in Acts 13:1-3, the other apostles laid hands on them after prayers and fasting has been done with instructions from the lord and send them forth on their journey. Thus, Apostle Paul understood with all clarity that the medium to transfer the gift of God and blessing to another man is through laying on of hands. No wonder he reminded Timothy of the blessing in him through the laying on of his hands with other elders of the church.

Timothy was not the only one who received spiritual blessing through the laying on of hands by Apostle Paul. Acts 19:1-6 gave an account of Apostle Paul's journey to Ephesus. There, he met certain men who were disciples and asked them if they had received the Holyghost since they believed. They responded; we have not so much heard whether there he any Holy Ghost. He was astonished at their responses and demanded to know of what baptism they believed on. They said; John's baptism. Then He told them;

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.*When they heard this , they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied* And all the men were about twelve. Acts 19:4-7 KJV

Apostle Paul explained to them the implication of John's baptism as a witness to faith in Christ Jesus. They received his teaching, believed in Jesus and was baptised in his name. Immediately, he laid his hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost and began to speak with tongues and prophecy. Many believer find it difficult to receive the baptism of the Holyspirit because they despised the vessel and the medium instituted by God to pass his baptism.

While, it isn't compulsory that hands should be laid, it is a powerful medium when it is done. The next time hands are laid on you, open up your heart to receive. Don't hold back. However, as we see in the story of Cornelius salvation with his families, hands might not be laid and one will still receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The most important is to have a open and ready heart, willing to receive. Knowing that the baptism of the Holy spirit is for you and those who are afar off. Don't hinder the blessings of God towards your life.

PRAYER

Can you open your heart and ask the Lord to fill you with his Spirit. Receive by faith and don't hold back the anointing, speak out in tongues, it's not rubbish. It's God's language of power.

SATURDAY, 27TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: LAYING ON OF HAND IV

TEXT: NUMBERS 27:18

And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; KJV

The act of laying on of hand has its root from the old testament. It's a culture that the Apostles learnt from the dealings of God in the law and with the Prophet. The relationship and transfer of leadership role from Moses to Joshua was firmly rooted in laying on of hands.

In Numbers 27:12-33, Moses spoke with the Lord to set up a man over his people Isreal, so they won't be like a sheep without shepherd, since the Lord had affirmed that he won't go over to possess the land with the people. The Lord responded and said he should take Joshua the son of Nun, in whom is the Spirit of God and lay his hands upon him before the Priest, to dedicate him to the assignment God has called him to take up.

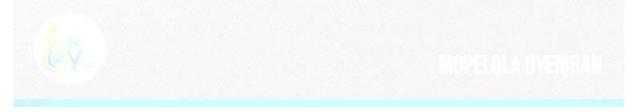
I will like you to observe that God identified that Joshua possesed his Spirit. Thus, he has the Holy Spirit, yet; God instructed that Moses should lay his hands upon him. We can trace the indwelling of God's spirit in the life of Joshua through his reaction when they were sent to spy the land of Canaan. He withstood the people against the evil report and God testified that Caleb alongside with him had another Spirit. Which means they had his Spirit to believe in his word. And in Numbers 32:12, Moses testified that they have wholly followed the Lord.

However, at the point of his dedication to the service of God in leadership, it was essential that Moses act as God's representative to bless and pour upon him the needed grace, strength, ability and empowerment for the journey ahead. To appreciate the effect of the hands laid on Joshua by Moses, Deuteronomy 34:9 says; And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses. KJV

Joshua received the Spirit of wisdom through the medium of hands laid on him by Moses. He possessed the spirit of God but when hands were laid on him, the wisdom of God which is a dimension of God's spirit finds expression in his life. You will agree with me that Joshua needed God's wisdom in his leadership race. God has an attitude to instruct those who have gone ahead to act in his stead, inorder to communicate his overwhelming power to the receiver. Stay with God's pattern of blessing. Receive with meekness the word of God which is able to save your soul.

PRAYER

Lord, by your mercies, I stir wisdom that has been deposited in my life through the past laying on of hands that I have received. I refused to allow God's gift in me lay fallow or dormant in Jesus' name. Amen



SUNDAY, 28TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: LAYING ON OF HANDS V

TEXT: NUMBERS 8:10

and thou shalt bring the Levites before the LORD : and the children of Israel shall put their hands upon the Levites: KJV

The instituted culture of laying on of hands was first seen in God's instruction towards the Levites. God would separate them to assist in the work of the terbanacle amidst the other tribes of Israel, he commanded Moses in Numbers 8:5-11 to cleanse and purify them, bring them before the terbanacle, to present them to the Lord in separation and command that the children of Israel lay their hands on them. This is so crucial, Numbers 8:11 says;

and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD for an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD. KJV

Thus, the Levites was dedicated in devotion to God as a representative of the children of Israel to execute the service of God. Note that it was the children of Israel who laid their hands upon them and not Moses or Aaron. The significance of this was explained in verse fifteen through eighteen. God choose the Levites in place of all the firstborn child that was supposed to be dedicated to him. He choose the tribe of Levite to act instead of the firstborns. Let's read;

And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt cleanse them, and offer them for an offering. For they are wholly given unto me from among the children of Israel; instead of such as open every womb, even instead of the firstborn of all the children of Israel, have I taken them unto me. For all the firstborn of the children of Israel are mine, both man and beast: on the day that I smote every firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for myself. And I have taken the Levites for all the firstborn of the children of Israel. Numbers 8:15-18 KJV

With this revelation, God commanded the children of Israel to lay their hands upon them. Thus, the service of the Levites before God is seen as all the firstborn children of Isreal serving the Lord. It's a spiritual representation and transformation. A transfer of position and commitment to God. So much is embedded in the act of laying on of hands. Do you remember that while Stephen, Philip and others were appointed by the people to serve table in Acts 6, hands were also laid on them by the Apostles for the service of the people? Therefore, just as you are serving in different capacity in your church, hands should and can be lay on you to receive strength, help and more dedication to God's work. It's a potent culture! appreciate this system of God's power and presence.

PRAYER

Lord, teach and discipline my heart to receive the needed grace sufficient for my service before you through laying on of hands. Help me not to despise your anointing and power in Jesus' name. Amen



MONDAY, 29TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: LAYING ON OF HANDS VI

TEXT: 1TIMOTHY 5:22

Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. KJV

Haven received God's wisdom and instruction as regards the act of laying on of hands, I found that there is a thoughtful, careful, and watchful culture built around it, which we must learn and understand with all clarity.

Timothy must have appreciated the act of laying on of hands as he has received the same from Apostle Paul and the elders of the church over time. He must have recognise this act as God's system and standard of transferring power and strength to his choiced vessels. However, Apostle Paul gave him an instruction concerning this. Been a young Pastor, leading the people of God, he instructed him not to lay hands on any man suddenly nor partake in another man's sin. This verse is more explicit with the Amplified version. Let's read;

Do not hurry to lay hands on anyone [ordaining and approving someone for ministry or an office in the church, or in reinstating expelled offenders], and thereby share in the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin. 1 Timothy 5:22 AMP

Did you read the verse carefully? Please read it again. Invariably, Timothy can also lay hands on other persons in comission to the service of God. Which means that if hands are laid on you, haven recognised that you have received the auction of the Holy Spirit, you have the liberty to do so to others. The same grace is committed to your hands, however, there is a caution not to do it in a hurry. This also reveal that the earlier Apostles, elders and servant of God as we see with Moses, did not lay hands on any man without receiving an instruction to do so from the Lord. They didn't misuse the privilege. They won't lay hands on any one in a hurry. Thus, Apostle Paul counseled Timothy to be watchful in dispensing this grace.

This also reveal that through laying on of hands, a person who is in offense, can be reinstated to his position which signify forgiveness and an outpour of renewed strength and grace. Thus, Apostle Paul warned Timothy to exercise caution before taking this step. What a deep and potent standard in church practice which should not be taken for granted.

Dear believer, be mindful of God's standard and instruction. The act of laying on of hands is an eternal medium to communicate God's precious gifts.

PRAYER

Father, I ask that you guide my actions towards service in my local church. Help me to cultivate an healthy attitude to work and learn to honour every opportunity where spiritual blessings will be poured on me in Jesus' name. Amen

TUESDAY, 30TH MAY 2023

TOPIC: LAYING ON OF HANDS VII

TEXT: GENESIS 48:14

And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. KJV

The spiritual culture of laying on of hands has shaped the attitude of parents from time memorial in certain tribe. Here is the story of Jacob, who at the time of his death blessed the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh by laying his hands on them. However, he laid his right hands on the younger and his left on the older as touching God's appointment and promises for their lives.

It should be that Jacob's right hand be found on Manasseh the elder son's head, while his left hand should be placed on Ephraim's head. But it was as a result of God's appointment for their lives. This attitude further established that through laying on of hands God's will finds expression and his commission is established. Let's read of Jacob's response to Joseph when he told his Father to lay his hands on the children in the right order;

And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his father, 'Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations'. Genesis 48:17-19 KJV

Just as Jacob was preferred before Esau his brother, the same destiny was for Ephraim and Manasseh. The younger was greater than the elder. Jacob established and proclaimed the blessing of God on his life upon the children with an accurate knowledge of what God has purposed for their lives. He laid his hands on them to convey this eternal blessings.

Don't refuse or despise the blessings of your parents. When they decide to bless you and stretch forth their hands, joyfully allow it and receive all the virtues from their lips with a open heart. It's more precious than fine gold. Money can't buy your parents blessing. Their hands upon your head is significant. Treasure the moment! Honour their words and don't despise their position in your life. It is very dangerous!

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. I ask for wisdom to honour my parents and guidance at all times and in every situation. In whatever manner I might have acted in dishonour and disrespect towards my parents, Lord have mercy upon me and help me to make amends where necessary. Reveal to me Lord, the necessary steps I need to take to honour my parents in Jesus' name. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 31ST MAY 2023

TOPIC: THE HOUSE OF GOD

TEXT: 1TIMOTHY 3:15

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. KJV

As we wrap up our study on the great and incredible lessons we have learn from the life of Timothy and his relationship with Apostle Paul, I feel pressed in my spirit to lay the submission that the essence of your life and that of mine is to serve the Lord in truth and all sincerity. The Lord spoke to Jeremiah in clear times saying; ',before I formed you in the belly, I know you and before you came out of your mother's womb, I separate you and ordained you as a prophet unto nations' (Jeremiah 1:5). This declaration isn't particular for Jeremiah but for all believers in Christ Jesus. We have a weighty destiny that is shaped under the auspices of the Church and build by spiritual teachings for the life we have been called to in Christ. This life is spiritual and the basis for our physical living. Know this as a child of God and you have found peace and a reason to live!

Largely, Apostle Paul spoke to Timothy that his intention by writing letters to him as a young pastor is that He might know how he ought to behave and coordinate his affiars and that of his congregation in the Church, which is the house of God, the ground and pillar of truth. Thus, he gave him instruction on prayer (1Timothy 2:1-8), ordination of pastor (Bishop or deacon) (1Timothy 3:1-12), on the right manner to address older men and women with younger lady and brother in the church (1Timothy 5:1-16). Also, he gave him guideline on how an elder or pastor should be rewarded and honoured for his labour in the church (1Timothy 5:17-20), with the need to guide his heart and that of the flock from the love of money and the need for believers to serve their master at work in sincerity and truth (1Timothy 6:1-10).

Above all, Apostle Paul upbraided Timothy about the danger that lies ahead and the need to equip himself in the strength and power of God (2Timothy 3:1-9 & 1Timothy 4:1-6). With all these instruction, he said to him to keep his fire burning and never retreat in serving the Lord. This encouragement is the same that I put forward to you, dear child of God; please read;

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:11-12 KJV. You are either a man or a woman of God, stand fast in faith. I call you blessed!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for the revelation of your word that gives light and understanding to my simple heart. Strengthen and empower me to desire the life you prepared for me in Christ Jesus, help me to walk in the light of my destiny in Jesus' name. Amen

DAILY DEVOTIONAL His Voice Daily Devotional is God's voice reaching you daily through His words.

ABOUT AUTHOR

Mopelola Folashade Oyeniran is a young believer who is saddled with the assignment to bring Cod's words in its simplicity and clarity to the world.



HIS VOICE

A spirit inspired writer who has a Bachelor's degree in Economics Education from Ekiti state University and M.Ed in Educational Evaluation from University of Ibadan. She is married to Daniel Olutola Oyeniran and attends Anglican Church of the Ascension, Ibadan Diocese, Ibadan, Oyo state. They reside in the city of Ibadan, Nigeria.

