

Faith to Faith Devotional

30 DAYS

IN THE BOOK OF

MATTHEW

30 DAYS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT DEVOTIONAL SERIES



TIBIDABO A. PETERS.

Faith

to

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*All scriptures quotations are taken from the King James Version.
Expect otherwise stated.*

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TIBIDABO A. PETERS.



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TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 1**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 1:21 (AMP)**

She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins [that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God].

TODAY'S TOPIC: **JESUS IS THE SAVIOUR.**

The Song writer said "I know his name, I know his name; His name is wonderful, I know his name". My own adaptation of the Song is "I know his name, I know his name; His name is Jesus Christ, I know his name". His name Jesus means Saviour. Jesus Christ is not a saviour, He is THE SAVIOUR. He came to save the world from sin. There is no other way to be saved from sin, except through Jesus Christ. His purpose was to prevent mankind from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God. He is the saviour of your soul. Jesus Christ has saved you from the nature of sin, the acts of sin and its consequences.

He has prevented you from failing and missing the true end and scope of life. Through Jesus Christ you have found God and hit the mark concerning the true essence of life and living. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. You are no more lost because you have found the way, you are not in error because you have found the truth, and you are not dead because you have found life. Walk in the way, live in the truth and partake of the life. Welcome to Jesus Christ, the Saviour.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Jesus Christ has saved me from the nature of sin, the acts of sin and its consequences. He is the Saviour. In him I have found the way, embraced the truth and discovered life.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 2**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Romans 2:23 (KJV)**

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

TODAY'S TOPIC: LOCATION AND DESTINY

Without several warnings from God and specific instructions to Joseph and Mary, Jesus wouldn't have ordinarily fulfilled destiny. The plot against infant Jesus was so intense that even government resources were being expended in searching for him. Joseph and Mary came with Jesus and dwelt in a city called Nazareth that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets. There was a connection between his destiny and the city called Nazareth. Location has a role to play in fulfilling destiny; everywhere is not your "Nazareth". The city called Nazareth was destined to be part of his identity. Dwelling there was not just circumstantial; it was prophetic. Salvation has changed the game for you, from circumstantial to prophetic living. Offence, temporary irritability or personal disagreements should never be what guide your decisions on what location to dwell in.

The city or community you live in, the church you worship with, and even where you work can determine a lot about the outcome of your life. For the fact that you can only be in one place at a time, means it matters being at the right place at any given time. Location is a major aspect of fulfilling destiny. Remember, everywhere is not your "Nazareth", dwell in the location that is part of your prophetic destiny.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Salvation has changed the game for me; from circumstantial to prophetic living. I recognize that everywhere is not my "Nazareth". I choose to stay in the location that is part of my prophetic destiny.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 3**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 3:2 (AMP)**

And saying, Repent (think differently; change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

UNDERSTANDING REPENTANCE

There is a difference between repentance and salvation. There could be repentance without salvation, but there is no such thing as salvation without any form of repentance. For example, an unbeliever can repent from a gambling habit or alcohol addiction because it has caused him so much pain, but didn't go ahead to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

To repent means to "think differently, change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct". Repentance is an inward change with an outward effect. If there was no change of conduct at the end of the day, there was no repentance. Repentance is more than "remorse", it goes further to influence behavior and subsequent action. The new birth is regeneration; the scriptures refer to it as "the washing of regeneration". Embedded in the new birth experience is a Spirit initiated conviction that produces repentance in the recipient. Salvation might not produce an immediate outward "perfection" but it most definitely produces repentance. If unsaved men under the Jewish law without eternal life were required to repent; how much more the new creation in Christ Jesus who has been empowered to live right and infused with divine life. Salvation based on faith in the blood of Christ, produces a change of mind and a change of conduct.

The New Testament consistently upholds the doctrine of repentance with strong insistence on a change of outward behaviour, a change of actions, and right living.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

My salvation is based on faith in the blood of Jesus Christ that produces a change of mind and change of conduct. I think differently about the nature and acts of sin, therefore I change my conduct and choose to live right. Living in sin is abnormal; living right is the norm for me in Christ Jesus.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 4**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 4:19 (KJV)**

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

TODAY'S TOPIC: FOLLOW AND BECOME

Jesus successfully transformed ordinary fishermen to extraordinary "fishers of men". They went from catching fish, to catching souls; rescuing people from the bondage of sin and eternal destruction. God is still in the business of raising "fishers of men" today; men and women who will live for the purpose of bringing the unsaved into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the gospel. The noblest task any human can embark on here on earth is utilizing your talents, skills and resources to reach people with the gospel of Christ. Jesus didn't say follow me, and I will make you engineers, lawyers or medical doctors. Which means being a "fisher of men" is the foremost responsibility of the believer in Christ. Following Jesus Christ doesn't mean being born again; it means after being born again, you intentionally live for Jesus Christ and embrace his vision and values as yours. If you are truly following the Lord, you will turn out a "fisher of men".

The same perspective Jesus has towards humanity that makes him full of compassion will rub off on you. You will outgrow selfishness and worldly priorities which are the major distractions for believers, who are nonchalant about soul winning and evangelism. The true follower-ship of Christ will make you a soul winner. You will start living for something deeper and more meaningful than pursuing a career or accumulating wealth. Some are not following Christ; follow him and become a "fisher of men".

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am born again, and choose to follow Jesus Christ to become a fisher of men. My foremost assignment on earth is to utilize my talents, skills and resources to reach people with the gospel of Christ. I embrace the vision and values of Jesus Christ as mine. No more nonchalance towards the unsaved.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 5**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 5:6 (KJV)**

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

WHAT ARE YOU HUNGRY AND THIRSTY FOR?

What are the strongest desires of your heart? At different times in your life, passions may rise or fade, intensify or wear out. Some desires could even be negative; a strong negative desire is referred to as 'lust'. It ultimately leads to sin if not aborted. The scripture text today is speaking of the blessedness of a strong desire that is godly and in total conformity with God's will. Hunger and thirst are natural desires that drive us to eat and drink, thereby fulfilling the demands of the flesh. There are demands of the human spirit that also need to be fulfilled. Every believer is instructed to allow such "holy cravings" to intensify, until there is a fulfillment. Strong desire for the things of the Spirit will bring you into deeper experiences with God.

Your life will be saturated and characterized with the desires you allow or sustain. You are responsible for the desires you nurture in your heart. Thoughts develop into desires and ultimately birth actions. Deliberately abort desires that you don't want or need to manifest in your life as a believer in Christ. Choose to nurture desires that will birth the supernatural, and saturate you with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Be hungry and thirsty for 'things' that bring eternal fulfillment.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I deliberately abort any desire in my heart that is not in total conformity to God's will for me. I hunger and thirst for the things of the Spirit today and always. May such desires intensify and saturate my life with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 6**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 6:32 (MSG)**

People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

KNOWING GOD AND HOW HE WORKS

Most of your agitations and anxieties don't ever make things better, especially when they are not channeled to God in prayer. Worry is never a solution to any problem; rather it is another way of multiplying or extending a problem. Through salvation you have been brought into a personal relationship with God. It is not a relationship that makes you just to know 'about God' but to know God. Knowing God for yourself and how he works will save you a lot of heartaches. Our scripture today says "people who don't know God and the way he works fuss over things". The knowledge of God and how he works will extinguish worries and anxieties that attempt to consume you. It means there is a vital connection between the peace you experience and the knowledge of God you have. Prophet Hosea of the Old Testament said-God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

They are not destroyed because Satan is powerful or because God is uncaring. Circumstances will continue to lead and dominate the life of anyone who doesn't know God and how he works. The knowledge of God and how he works is available to every believer in the written scriptures. And the purpose of this devotional you are reading right now is to help you understand the written scriptures.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Through salvation, I have been brought into a personal relationship with God. The knowledge of God and how he works is my security against worries and anxieties. The knowledge of God and how he works is a priority for me.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 7**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 7:7 (KJV)**

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

TODAY'S TOPIC: IT SHALL BE GIVEN

The Scriptures give us a perspective about life and living that is true and possible. God knows you will have needs and desires. He actually created you to have needs and desires. He has made provision for you through scriptures to have your needs met and desires accomplished. The simple instruction to you is "ask". He says "it shall be given to you. You have a responsibility to "ask", while God has the responsibility to "give to you". Let the thought stand out in your heart "It shall be given to you", "it shall be given to you".

It shall be given will be triggered by you asking. Stop trying to figure out how it shall be given, just ask. In the same way God expects you to ask him, you should expect God to give to you. This was not designed to work sometimes and fail sometimes. This is how to live, it is the way God arranged for your needs and desires to be met. Jesus Christ didn't say this to impress anyone; he wasn't under any pressure to make this statement. He meant every word of it. It is your turn to experience it now. Ask, and it shall be given.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Thank you, Father, for making arrangements for my needs and desires. It shall be given to me whenever I ask. I take responsibility to "ask" and leave the responsibility of "how it shall be given" to you.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Mathew 8**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 8:13 (AMP)**

Then to the centurion Jesus said, Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed. And the servant boy was restored to health at that very moment.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

LIFE HAPPENS AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED.

There is so much to learn from the interactions of Jesus with people. I believe the stories that were highlighted in scripture are deeply instructive to us today. A typical scenario plays out with the Centurion who had a servant that was sick at home. When he approached Jesus and made his request, Jesus commended him for his faith. Remember that the Centurion was a gentile (a non-Jew). Jesus said "Go, it shall be done for you as you have believed". This doesn't just apply to the Centurion, same applies to you today. What have you believed? Life is happening for you as you have believed. Your experiences in life are influenced by what you believe in your heart.

Some people have allowed circumstances and negative experiences to determine what they have believed and it is happening for them as they have believed. Such persons hold opinions like "God is not really happy with me", "my life is so complicated, nobody understands me", "things are not working, no matter what I do". Truly, when you assess their lives, it is happening exactly as they have believed. You can change what you believe today. Believe what the scriptures have said concerning you over and above whatever your experiences have been. Your life experiences will start conforming to the new opinions you hold in your heart about yourself and God. Alter your believing and alter your life experiences.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am a believer in Christ. Everything the scripture had said about me is superior to my life experiences and circumstances. I am all that God says I am; I can do all that God says I can do.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 9**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 9:35 (KJV)**

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

JESUS IS STILL TEACHING, PREACHING AND HEALING

Teaching, preaching and healing characterized the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth. He touched lives in cities and villages, by deliberately going to their synagogues (meeting halls) with a message that was relevant to them. Reaching people was a priority to him, and still remains so even today. The mandate of Jesus Christ to us today, requires us to go to villages, cities and nations with the gospel of Christ. The ministry of teaching, preaching and healing continues through us as believers. You and I should strive to do it bigger and more frequently. Sometimes it might require us to mobilize people and resources for us to achieve task of reaching a city or nation.

There is no cost too high to reach one person for whom Jesus died. Striving in faith, together with others to reach everyone with the gospel is our number one responsibility here on earth. Get involved and stay consistently committed to this number one responsibility. Make yourself available, give your time, give your money, talents and skills. Support your Church to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in teaching, preaching and healing. Jesus Christ is still teaching, preaching and healing through ministries like Renaissance Assembly. Partner with us, to do more.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The mandate of Jesus Christ to me today requires my involvement and consistent commitment to reach people with the gospel of Christ. Praying, giving and directly participating in this task of teaching, preaching and healing is a priority to me.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 10**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 10:1 (NLT)**

Jesus called His twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

AUTHORITY TO CAST OUT EVIL SPIRITS

Jesus had both the ability to exercise authority over evil spirits, and also transfer that authority to others. It was important to Jesus at that time that his disciples should be able to cast out evil spirits; it is still important to him today that believers should be able to do same. Evil spirits intrude into the lives of individuals and their circumstances. These evil spirits will continue to harass people except they are forcefully stopped and expelled. There will be attempts made even against believers, especially those who don't understand their authority and how to exercise it.

Evil spirits only respond to superior authority. The kind of authority evil spirits submit to is the kind that Jesus Christ gives. You were not promised authority in the future; you were given authority at salvation. You are not supposed to feel or sense the authority you were given, just exercise it. Satan and all the evil spirits don't have any choice, they are designed to submit to the authority you were given. Exercise it today by issuing commands, in the name of Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I was given authority at salvation. It is the kind of authority that evil spirits submit to. I choose to exercise my authority today, in the name of Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 11**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 11:2 (KJV)**

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

TODAY'S TOPIC:

LET THEM HEAR THE WORKS OF CHRIST

John the Baptist was in prison but could still hear about the works of Christ from the streets. The exploits of Jesus were not done in a corner; it was public knowledge that lives were being impacted by his life and ministry. If the works of Christ were heard by those in prison, it meant there was a buzz around town about Jesus. The scripture says the works Jesus did and greater than that shall the believer do. If Jesus while here on earth, and limited in his humanity to be at one place at a time could cause such a stir. How much more today, through several believers who are in different places at different times. Through the church on earth today, Jesus is unlimited.

He is anywhere his name is put to use by faith. There is no reason why the works of Christ shouldn't be heard by those around us in our day. The works of Christ through you as a believer should be heard and seen by others. You are a legal representative of Christ wherever you are. The manifestation of God's love and power should never be scarce around you. Let them hear the works of Christ through you today. Touch a life with the gospel deliberately today.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The works that Jesus did and greater is at work in me. Through me today, the works of Christ will be seen and heard. I am a legal representative of Christ in my community.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 12**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 12:34 (AMP)**

You offspring of vipers! How can you speak good things when you are evil (wicked)? For out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart the mouth speaks.

TODAY'S TOPIC: THE HEART AND MOUTH CONNECTION

The relationship between the heart and the mouth is clearly taught in the Holy Scriptures. Your mouth is simply an outlet for whatever is stored in your heart. Whatever your heart is full of, will definitely come out of your mouth. The scripture for today says "for out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart the mouth speaks. At the same time you can plant things in your heart by the things you say to yourself. Your heart receives input majorly from what you hear and see. You are responsible for whatever your heart is full of. It is true that 'you will have what you say', but it is also true to say "you will say what you have in your heart". The content of your heart will determine the context of your life.

Remember your salvation became a reality when you believed in your heart and confessed with your mouth the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Every other thing is also affected by whatever you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth. You will always have dominion over the circumstances of your life, if you take charge of what your heart is full of and what your mouth says. Fill your heart and mouth consciously and continuously with the word of God.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

My salvation became a reality when I believed in my heart and confessed with my mouth the lordship of Christ. The content of my heart will determine the context of my life. I choose to fill my heart and mouth with the word of God consistently and continuously.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 13**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 13:54 (KJV)**

And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

TODAY'S TOPIC: WISDOM AND POWER

The life and ministry of Jesus in Israel was characterized by wisdom and mighty works. The manifestations of the supernatural flowed through him in two major ways, wisdom and mighty works. Mighty works is actually miraculous power. The New living translation (NLT) says -He returned to Nazareth, His hometown. When He taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, "Where does He get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?"

Mighty works is listed as "power to do miracles". This implies that every human problem or need requires either the wisdom or power of God, or both. Salvation and the infilling of the Holy Spirit grants every believer in Christ access to both the wisdom and power of God. At the same time, enables and authorizes you to be a dispenser of both. You are a recipient and a steward of the wisdom and power of God. If those that lived in Bible days saw wisdom and power manifested through Jesus, people in our day should also continue to see Jesus manifested through you in wisdom and power. There is no room for any display of foolishness or inability through you. The wisdom and power of God are both looking for expression through you today, unleash!

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am a recipient and also a steward of the wisdom and power of God .These two streams of supernatural manifestations flow through me, in my day to day affairs.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 14**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 14:23 (KJV)**

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

TODAY'S TOPIC: BEING ALONE WITH GOD.

Jesus Christ knew when to send the multitudes away so he could be alone. He had a responsibility to the multitude but he knew the importance of being alone also. Believers are called to fellowship with other believers at the same time we are called into a fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Our fellowship with others should never get in the way of our fellowship with God in prayer. Being alone with God is an exercise that should never be abandoned or neglected irrespective of your circumstance.

My simple definition for prayer is talking and listening to God. Being alone with God helps you shut out all the noise and distraction around you. It deeply enriches your spirit with clarity. Jesus had to go up a mountain alone to pray. You might not have a mountain to go to, but you can create special moments away from your phones and gadgets, talking and listening to your Heavenly Father. Learn to be alone with God. The old timers called it "Quiet time". Quiet time must not be in the morning only; it could be more than once a day and several times in a day. Practice being alone with God today, then do it again and always.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I refuse my daily activities from distracting me from the practice of being alone with God. Talking and listening to God is a priority to me. I receive wisdom on how to be alone with God, today and always.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 15**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 15:18 (MSG)**

But what comes out of the mouth gets its start in the heart.

TODAY'S TOPIC: THE MOUTH AND THE HEART.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is wisdom personified; he spoke like no one else. His teachings don't only address eternal issues; they also address our day to day concerns. Our scripture today says "what comes out of the mouth gets its start in the heart". What comes from the mouth refers to words you speak. The words you speak have an origin; they actually originate from your heart. The mouth and heart connection is an established scriptural truth. This means your heart is the control centre, while your mouth is the vent for the heart. Jesus had also taught saying "out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks". Whatever your heart is full of will eventually come out of your mouth and also influence your life. Don't you also want to know how things get into your heart? There are two major ways things get into your heart; things enter your heart through your eyes and your ears .

It is also true that all of your senses are gateways to your heart. You guard your heart by taking control of what you hear and see, you deliberately choose what you hear and see. Through your words (scriptural confessions) you can plant new thoughts in your heart. The Words you speak go through your ears into your heart. Do you now understand why your words are important? This is why you must have daily scriptural confessions.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am born of God. My heart is full of God's love and wisdom. I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. God is working in me, both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 16**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 16:24 (MSG)**

Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how.

TODAY'S TOPIC: LET HIM LEAD YOU

Salvation begins with receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, but it continues with following him. You have to let him lead you; you have to trust his leadership. Following him is a demonstration of trust; it is an act of submission to his lordship. Jesus died for you, that you might live for him. Following Jesus simply means living for him. The amplified version says- Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself [disregard, lose sight of, and forget himself and his own interests] and take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying, also].

Following Jesus requires you to disregard your own personal interest, and embrace the interest of the kingdom. Following Jesus is sacrificial living; there might be temporary losses, but eternal gains. Following Jesus is a call to a higher life

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I have received Jesus as Lord and Saviour. I choose to let him lead me. I disregard my own personal interest and embrace the interest of the kingdom.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 17**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 17:27 (KJV)**

Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

MASTER OF CIRCUMSTANCES

Jesus Christ exercised mastery over the wind, sea, trees and even death. Circumstances never succeeded in putting him in a corner, Jesus was never stranded. His life on earth is a demonstration of how the believer in Christ should function here on earth. There was precision in the instruction he gave to Peter. Go to the sea, cast a hook and take up the first fish; and when you open his mouth, you will find a piece of money. What a way to settle taxes! God knows exactly where whatever you are looking for is. He knows who is in custody of that desire of your heart.

The same Jesus that led Peter precisely to the piece of money is willing to lead you too. With divine direction you will not be stranded, or put in a corner by the circumstances of life. The believer is not a victim of circumstances; he has been given authority in the name of Jesus, which means, you should also exercise mastery here on earth. The story of your life is that of victory to victory. Faith in Christ Jesus has made you a master of circumstances. You will win today, tomorrow and every other day.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am not a victim of circumstances. Faith in Christ Jesus has made me a master of circumstances. I will win today, tomorrow and every other day.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 18**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 18:18 (NLT)**

I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

YOU HAVE AUTHORITY TO FORBID OR PERMIT THINGS.

Our scripture for today has been misunderstood by many due to some confusion in the language used in some older Bible translations. For example the King James Version says "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven". The use of the words "bind" and "loose" has been an issue for many. It has been interpreted to mean "tying up" or "untying" demons. The words 'bind' and 'loose' are old English words which today mean to 'forbid' or 'permit'. You have authority on earth to forbid or permit things. Heaven will give approval to the things you forbid from happening.

At the same time Heaven will give approval to things you permit to happen. Have you been taking advantage of this authority? It is an authority in the earth that has heavenly backing. There are several things going on around you that you can put a stop to, at the same time there are several other things that have not happened because you haven't yet permitted them to happen. The Authority to forbid or permit events around us is an amazing one. Jesus forbade the winds and seas from raging against him and his disciples. You can forbid your body from deteriorating in health. You can permit your day to bring you favour and promotion. Heaven is waiting for you to forbid or permit something today. Exercise your authority in the name of Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I have authority in the name of Jesus Christ. Whatever I forbid or permit on earth is forbidden or permitted in Heaven. My authority has heavenly backing. I forbid fear and uncertainty around me today; I permit angelic activity and supernatural Supply.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 19**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 19:29** (MSG)

And not only you, but anyone who sacrifices home, family, fields—whatever—because of me will get it all back a hundred times over, not to mention the considerable bonus of eternal life.

TODAY'S TOPIC: THE BELIEVER'S SACRIFICE

Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice for all of mankind. His sacrifice is the ultimate sacrifice; nothing could come close to it. However, he can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities especially when believers also make sacrifices for his namesake. The question Peter asked him earlier saying, we have left all and followed you-what do we get out of it? Jesus gave a response not just for Peter, but for all who will ever make any sacrifice because of him. Following Jesus can never be a loss, because he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Anyone who sacrifices home, family, fields or whatever because of Jesus will get it back a hundred times over, not to mention the considerable bonus of eternal life. Your sacrifices for Jesus Christ and the gospel are never in vain.

Heaven's reward system is not always immediate, sometimes it is gradual, but it is always sure to come. The believers sacrifice is stirred by deep conviction and unfeigned love. What else can make a believer sacrifice his time, resources or professional expertise for the sake of Jesus Christ and the gospel? More than ever, there is a need for more believers to embrace the culture of sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. Will you sign up with Jesus today?

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I recognize the sacrifice of Jesus for me as the ultimate sacrifice. My response to that sacrifice attracts heaven's reward system. I embrace a culture of sacrifice for the sake of the gospel.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 20**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 20:28(NLT)**

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.'

TODAY'S TOPIC:

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE.

Jesus Christ is not just your Saviour; He is also your role model. He is your yardstick or benchmark for success. Jesus did what he did because of the kind of life, love and Spirit that he had. You are also furnished with the same life, love and Spirit. This means you are driven with the same passion and motive that drove Jesus. Although he is the Master of the Universe, Jesus came to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.

I don't know what rank or reputation you have in your career or homeland, but we can agree that it is not above the King of kings and the Lord of lords. You are like your master Jesus who came to serve others. Your fulfillment is to do the will of him that sent you and to finish his work. There are blessings locked in people; when we serve or help them we unlock those blessings. Always look out for opportunities to serve especially in the House of God.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Jesus Christ is my role model. As He is so am I in this world. I am a blessing to my generation, looking out for opportunities to serve and bless others. I am doing the works that Jesus did and greater works also.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 21**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 21:43 (KJV)**

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU.

The Bible clearly differentiates between God's plan for the Jews and the non-Jews (Gentiles). Those who were not a people have now become the people of God. Jesus was speaking directly to the Jews when he said "...the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce the fruits of it." This statement became possible after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The entire human race (Jews & Gentiles) now has the same access by faith into the kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God has now been given to a people who were undeserving. The believer in Christ is now among the people the kingdom of God has been given to. The statement in our scripture says "the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce the fruits of it". You are the people who will produce the fruits of the kingdom. Some believers don't understand how special they are in God's program for mankind. You are the Church, a special race, a distinct nation; God's purchased possession. The people the "kingdom of God" has been given to. You are custodians of the kingdom of God.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am a special part of God's plan for mankind. The kingdom of God has been given to me. I am a present day custodian of the kingdom of God. I am not trying to be special; I was born that way in Christ.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 22**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 22:32 (KJV)**

I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

THERE IS LIFE BEYOND HERE!

The Sadducees had approached Jesus on an issue, attempting to box him into a corner with their question about life after death. His response unveiled more than they bargained for. Jesus still answers difficult questions today. If he had the time to educate the controversial Sadducees on spiritual matters, much more you a believer today. Jesus said "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living". He was implying that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were not extinct or non-existent even if they are no more in this world. He was giving them a new meaning of physical death. Death is not an annihilation of the soul, but a separation from the body. The soul of man is immortal; there is existence after death from this world. Physical death is not the end for man; it is a transition from this realm of living to another. God is not the God of the dead.

He is not watching over corpses, all departed souls still live. For the believer this should mean a lot; we don't just live for the now, we live for eternity. This is one major reason why the preaching of the gospel should not be taken lightly. A man's permanent place of abode is determined or decided while he is living on this side of eternity. There is no second chance on the other side. Every opportunity to be saved is here and now. It is your responsibility to reach your friends, relatives and others around you with the gospel of Christ. There is a life beyond here. Death is not the end!

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Concerning spiritual things I am not ignorant. I live for eternity, I refuse to live just for today and here. I acknowledge both in my thoughts and actions that there is a life beyond here. My priorities in life are based on my eternal values.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 23**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 23:25 (KJV)**

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

THE CHANGE WITHIN MATTERS MORE

Jesus didn't seem to have any kind words for the scribes and Pharisees; he openly spoke against their religious perspective which he saw as hypocritical. For the Scribes and Pharisees, appearance is of greater importance than reality. They made the cup clean on the outside. The focus was how it looked, not what it really was. Jesus Christ brought more than religion or religiosity to mankind, he brought life and reality. The perspective of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God is "inside out" contrary to the practice of the Pharisees. Salvation is not a surface change or mere window dressing; it is firstly an inward personal transformation.

The Spirit of God himself makes clean what is within you; the cup is clean within and also without. Spiritually speaking, what you are full of is of greater importance than what you look like. Content is priced over the package. This doesn't mean how it appears is not important at all, it only means it is not the first priority. The focus in every spiritual experience through your journey of faith should be the consistent personal change that comes from within (inside out), rather than how it seems outwardly; the change within matters more.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Jesus Christ brought more than religion or religiosity to mankind, he brought life and reality. My focus in every spiritual experience is the consistent personal change that comes from within.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 24**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 24:6 (NKJV)**

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

THE SCRIPTURAL EMOTIONAL POSTURE

A lot of believers still have the question on their mind. What shall be the sign of the coming of Jesus, and when shall the end come? The answer Jesus gave to his disciples still applies today. You shall hear of wars and rumour of wars, for all these things must come to pass. Your response was also instructed, see that you be not troubled. It is unscriptural for the believer in Christ to be troubled about the end times or the end of the world. Nothing going on in the world around you should give you anxieties; you are already prophetically pre-informed.

The concern for today is your emotional posture towards the agitations and chaos in our world. The New Living Translation (NLT) says "don't panic". Don't panic, keep your head and refuse to be frightened. The only responsibility that must be consistently sustained is the preaching of the gospel of Christ, as a witness to everyone. Your eternal destiny as a believer in Christ is not uncertain, head or tail you win.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

My eternal destiny as a believer in Christ is not uncertain. Head or tail I win. I choose the scriptural emotional posture towards the chaos in the world-I refuse to panic.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 25**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 25:23 (KJV)**

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

TODAY'S TOPIC: CHOOSE TO BE FAITHFUL

Salvation is living for Jesus and his kingdom; it is beyond living for you. At the end of the day our works will either be commended or disapproved. What will matter more will not be the applause of men, but our Master's commendation saying "well done, good and faithful servant". In all that you do, learn to be faithful; being faithful means being available and dependable. Faithfulness seems to be one of the most significant virtues that any one that serves the Lord must possess. There are responsibilities that heaven expects the believer to be responsible for here on earth. Faithfulness is measured or scored based on those responsibilities. Faithfulness attracts promotion. Being faithful over a few things makes the Lord increase your influence for more.

The rewards for faithfulness are for this life and the life hereafter. Faithfulness pays now, and through eternity. Live for heaven's commendation, rather than earthly recognition. The grace of God leads you to make the right choices, and also empowers you to follow through with the right choices. Choosing to be available and dependable to God is a right choice. Choose to be faithful, and stay faithful.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I choose to live for Jesus and his kingdom. I choose to be faithful to heaven's responsibilities entrusted to me.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 26**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 26:53 (KJV)**

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

TODAY'S TOPIC:

EXPLORE YOUR AUDACITY IN PRAYER

The statement of Jesus reveals the extent of authority he could wield in prayer. This is not a statement from a helpless or stranded person. The access you have to the Father in prayer has excluded you from helplessness or despondency. If Jesus could request for twelve legions of angels in prayer, you also can request same. Remember, you have been given the right to use the name of Jesus in prayer. The exercise of the name of Jesus Christ is the highest authority any human can wield here on earth. There is an audacity in prayer you have not explored as a believer in Christ.

There are angels at your request, even at your command. Recognizing your authority in prayer and the extent of influence you can wield is so liberating. It will relocate any individual out of the "association of victims" into the "company of victors". You can rise up today and explore your audacity in prayer. You are not helpless, and you can never be helpless.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I refuse to camp with the association of victims; I choose to live in the company of victors. I am not helpless, and I can never be helpless.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 27**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 27:46 (KJV)**

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

TODAY'S TOPIC: YOU CANNOT BE FORSAKEN

The priority of Jesus in his earthly walk was to fulfill the prophecies spoken about him in scripture. At different points, he was heard quoting the law, prophets or psalms about himself. The loud cry of Jesus according to our scripture reading for today, was his confession of the twenty second psalm. Jesus most of the time referred to God as "Father". On this occasion, he said "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? At this point, he had taken up his substitutionary role for humanity on the cross. Your sins and the sins of the whole world had been laid on his spirit. He was experiencing what you would have experienced, by being separated from the Father.

He had to be forsaken for justice to be served, and he was forsaken. The worst had happened to Jesus, for the best to happen to you. Jesus suffered God's rejection for you to enjoy God's acceptance. Jesus had cried your cry and paid the penalty for your sin. You cannot be forsaken ever again. It will be an illegality for you to suffer God's rejection. Salvation is God's eternal acceptance of you; now he is your Father and not a distant God somewhere.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Jesus took my place on the cross. The worst happened to him for the best to happen to me. I am enjoying God's eternal acceptance of me.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 28**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 28:2 (KJV)**

And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

ANGELS AND YOUR DAY TO DAY PROJECTS.

We live in a physical world that has a lot of spiritual activity. The spiritual realm is actually busier than the physical realm. There is more going on that we can't see than the things we see. Being born again has authorized you to function in the unseen realm in the name of Jesus Christ. On the morning of Jesus' resurrection there was a great earthquake and several notable events played out. The Angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and rolled back the stone that covered the door to the tomb. He didn't just roll it away, he sat on it. The stone was placed by men, but removed by the angel. Angels of God have the ability to intervene in your physical projects. If an angel from heaven could physically move a stone, then it shouldn't be difficult for angels to protect or help you physically.

The day to day projects you deal with can enjoy angelic assistance. Angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister to us who are heirs of salvation. You are in an innumerable company of angels. You should be functioning without angelic assistance. It is your right in Christ Jesus to make a demand for angelic assistance in your endeavours. There is supernatural help available to you today in all your dealings through the ministry of angels.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am born again, an heir of salvation. I make a demand for angelic assistance in all my dealings today in the name of Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 1**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 1: 20 (KJV)**

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

WHAT "THINGS" ARE YOU THINKING OVER?

The phrase that stands out in this scripture is "while he thought on these things". Joseph had taken time to think over what was going on. In the midst of that an angel appeared to him in a dream. The things you constantly consider or ponder over have a way of either showing up or affecting you. What "things" are you thinking over? Is it the economic situation of the country or concerns about your health? The scriptures encourage you to deliberately "think over" what it has said concerning you. It is called "meditation". You are to mutter and ponder over the scriptures until they register on your heart.

This is why you see sometimes in the psalms where it is written "selah". It simply means "pause and think about this". You should learn how to deliberately pause and consider what the scriptures are saying. This is how the words of scripture go beyond information to produce life transformation. Jesus said "the words I speak to you are spirit and life". The spirit and life in the words of scripture are engaged when you "think over them". Refuse to form a habit of rushing through scriptures. The scriptures and spiritual things require time and focused attention. While Joseph "thought on these things" an angel appeared to him in a dream and clarity came. Many things will become clear to you as you take time to consistently meditate on scriptures.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The Word is living and powerful. It is my habit to deliberately think over the things the scriptures have said concerning me. The scriptures are real to me.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: **Matthew 2**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 2:11 (KJV)**

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

TODAY'S TOPIC: TREASURES AND WORSHIP

The wise men from the east didn't come to pay homage to the child of a great personality. They came to worship deity, they fell down and worshipped. This was not about paying respect to another human, it was about worshipping God. The wisemen opened their treasures and presented gifts, as an act of worship to God. The New living translation (NLT) says they opened their "treasure chests". Your treasure chest today could be your bank deposits, savings or wherever you store things of value to you. Worship is not just singing to God, falling on your face or bowing to God. Worship also includes opening your treasures and presenting gifts of great value to God. Your gold, frankincense and myrrh should also be offered in worship to God.

Some believers are not aware of this aspect of worship. Presenting or giving offerings is also worship. Learn to open your treasures in worship to God; there is a connection between your "treasures" and your heart. Jesus had taught saying "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also". This means your heart will follow your treasure. The direction your treasure goes also influences or affects your heart. The practice of the wisemen is a pattern of worship to Christ for all time. It was the first act of worship to Jesus Christ recognizing him as God. Open your treasures in worship to him now and always.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Worship is not just singing and bowing. Worship also includes opening my treasures and presenting gifts to God. I adopt this dimension of worship today and always.

PRAYER OF Salvation

You can take a step right now that will forever transform you. You can respond to God's invitation to you, it is an invitation to life. You can accept Jesus Christ as the Lord and Saviour of your life.

The summary of the gospel of Christ is that Jesus Christ died, was buried and resurrected for you. This means your sins have been paid for and forgiven, God has no qualms with you.

The question now is what do you have to do? The Scriptures have an answer as stated below.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

Rom 10:9-10 New Living Translation

Please join me and pray this prayer right now.

My God and Creator, I believe you exist. I call on you today from my heart. I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour from this day forward. I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the Father for my sake. I receive

Congratulations!
You are now saved.

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