

Faith to Faith Devotional

30 DAYS

IN THE BOOK OF

MARK

30 DAYS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT DEVOTIONAL SERIES



TIBIDABO A. PETERS.

Faith

to

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Phone No: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Presented By: _____

Date: _____

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

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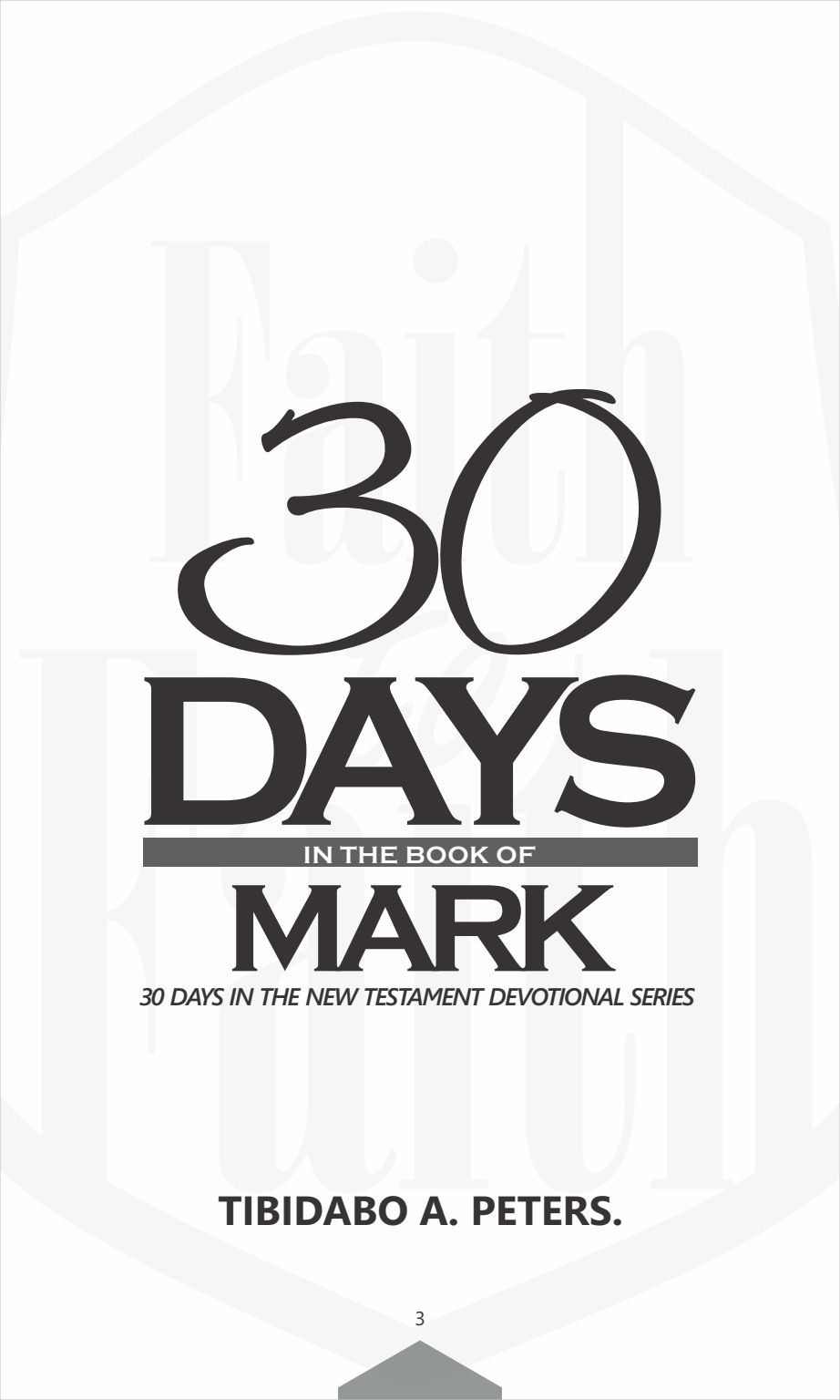
Call: +234 806 373 7805

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Call: +1 757 632 6371

www.faithtofaithonline.org

E-MAIL: info@faithtofaithonline.org



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TIBIDABO A. PETERS.



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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 1:35 (KJV)**

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

IS PRAYER AND PRAYING A PRIORITY TO YOU?

Whatever made the earthly phase of the ministry of Jesus successful is not hidden in scripture. Prayer and praying was a vital part of his daily routine and ministry culture. Did you notice that even Jesus had to set apart time for prayer and also separate himself to it? The New Living Translation (NLT) says "Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray". Early hours of the morning, before daybreak he got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. Please take note of the fact that "he got up" and "went out".

Prayer and praying is important enough to cause you to get up and go out. Jesus reduced his sleeping hours to increase his praying hours. You can deliberately gain extra prayer hours by reducing hours taken by several other activities in your life. Do not pray when you have the time, have the time you pray. Set apart time for daily prayer and faithfully separate yourself to it. Starting your day in prayer is a great habit to adopt. Prayer and praying shouldn't be second or third in order of importance and urgency to you. It must be "first priority". It is not difficult to know what is really important to you. Whatever takes your time, resources and energy the most is what matters the most to you. All of those activities will be easier and more fulfilling when you put first things first. Prioritize prayer and praying!

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I receive help to prioritize prayer and praying in the name of Jesus Christ. I adopt the habit of setting aside time for daily prayers and faithfully separating myself to it.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: Mark 2

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Mark 2:20 (KJV)

But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and they will fast in that day.

TODAY'S TOPIC: IS FASTING STILL FOR TODAY?

The discussions between some persons and Jesus gave us some insight into his perspective on fasting. Both disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees were known to fast, but it was observed that the disciples of Jesus weren't fasting. Please note that they didn't ask Jesus why he wasn't fasting, the focus was on his disciples, which implies Jesus was fasting, but his disciples weren't at that time.

The summary of the illustration Jesus gave was that the days of fasting were not over, though the disciples weren't fasting at that time; the day will come when they will fast. Fasting and praying is still for us as believers today. The exercise of fasting is neither an old nor a New Testament exercise; it is an all testament exercise. It is a healthy spiritual habit to set aside a day in a week or month for fasting and prayer. During such a time, you will give more attention to prayer and the scriptures. Fasting is a deliberate abstinence from food and pleasure for spiritual purposes. Jesus fasted, his disciples, after his death and resurrection also fasted. The cares of this world have a way of subtly crowding your thoughts and gaining control over. Fasting is one major way you reset your heart and mind on things of the spirit, and subdue your flesh.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Fasting and praying is still for me today. It is required of me to regularly reset my heart on spiritual things through deliberate fasting. I adopt the exercise of fasting regularly.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 3:27 (NLT)**

Let Me illustrate this further. Who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? Only someone even

TODAY'S TOPIC:

YOU ARE STRONGER THAN THE STRONG MAN

The believer in Christ is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods. Jesus Christ always publicly exercised his authority over Satan and demonic spirits long before his death and resurrection. Folks who were held bound by Satan were set free by Jesus Christ. This was to demonstrate that Jesus had greater authority. The beauty of this is that Jesus could also share or transfer that authority to others. Every believer in Christ shares in that same authority Jesus has over Satan. You can also set others free who have been held bound by Satan.

The exercise of soul winning is a clear example of entering into the house or territory of Satan and plundering his goods. You are now a custodian of the name of Jesus Christ, which means you have been given the right to enforce the authority of Christ wherever you are. You are stronger than the strong man. All of heaven's authority is vested in the name of Jesus Christ. There is no personality or authority in heaven, earth and hell that hasn't been made subject to the authority of the name "Jesus Christ". And you are legally licensed to use that name today.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am a believer in Christ who shares in the same authority that Jesus has over Satan. I am stronger than the strong man. I am legally licensed to enter the house or territory of Satan, and plunder his goods.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 4:24 (AMP)**

And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you--and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

MORE ATTENTION, MORE IMPACT.

We are what we hear and see. Hearing is one major way you take in information. It matters what you hear. The focus today is about the content being heard, and the attention given to it. Firstly, there is nothing more beneficial to hear than the word of God. In all your hearing, hear the word of God; not occasionally, but frequently and regularly. The next important thing to know apart from the right content for hearing is the required attention for the right content. The truth of God's word cannot have a greater impact in your life than the attention you give to it. The measure of thought and study given to the word of God, determines the measure of virtue and knowledge you draw from it. More thought and study will produce in you more virtue and knowledge.

In the same manner, less thought and study will produce less virtue and knowledge. In summary, when it comes to giving attention to the word of God, more begets more and less begets less. The conflict every believer must constantly overcome is successfully resisting whatever reduces the amount of thought and study you give to the word of God. The word of God requires concentration to produce maximally. Developing a devotional habit will help you concentrate on the word of God. Don't just read, meditate and study the word of God when you have time, rather have a time you always read, study and meditate on the word of God.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The measure of thought and study I give to the word of God will determine the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes to me. I choose to give more attention to hearing , reading, studying and meditating on the word of God.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 5:19 (KJV)**

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

TODAY'S TOPIC: TESTIFY TODAY.

A certain man who had been delivered of unclean spirits by Jesus Christ was now in his right mind and completely whole. Jesus didn't expect him to be quiet about his experience. What Jesus asked him to do then is the same thing he expects you to do today with the victories you have experienced through faith. Don't be quiet about the goodness of God towards you. Start with those around you, tell them how awesome God has been in your life. Some folks are programmed to see what is not happening, always looking for whom to complain to. Join the team of believers who always acknowledge what God has done and constantly celebrate it.

Make up your mind to testify today. Choose not to murmur, complain or worry throughout today. You can name it a "testimony day" or a "complain free" day. You can start with the testimony of your salvation or how you received the Holy Spirit. Acknowledge the "little" things; celebrate the "small" moments. You will be happier and more fulfilled this way than any other way. You will choose to ignore or overlook your complains today and give attention to your testimonies. Testify today!

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Today is my testimony day. It is "worry free". I acknowledge the goodness of God in my life and overlook everything else. God is always good to me and nothing can change that.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 6:56 (KJV)**

And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

TOUCH HIM AND BE MADE WHOLE.

In the earthly ministry of Jesus, he laid his hands or touched many for healing or to receive a blessing. Our focus today is not about who Jesus touched, but those who touched Jesus. One remarkable thing about Jesus was that whether he touched the people or the people touched him, there was an effect. Whenever Jesus came into a village or a city, they laid the sick out in the streets just for a healing touch. Jesus might not be physically present on earth today, but you and I can still touch him. Thank God for the times he touched you, but you can still touch him today. I just love the statement "as many as touched him were made whole". Will you reach out and touch him today? You can be made whole emotionally, physically and financially too.

You can reach out to him with your heart in faith. You can call on his name right now in prayer and touch him just the same way anyone would have touched him on the street. You don't have to even leave where you are right now, whether you are in your living room or office. Reach out and touch him now. Receive wholeness, receive peace, and receive restoration in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Jesus Christ is alive and real to me. I reach out in faith to touch him today. I receive wholeness today. Nothing is impossible for me.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: Mark 7

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:13 (AMP)

Thus you are nullifying and making void and of no effect [the authority of] the Word of God through your tradition, which you [in turn] hand on. And many things of this kind you are doing.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

BEWARE OF YOUR TRADITION

Your personal, family or cultural traditions should all be subject to the word of God. A believer in Christ shouldn't let any tradition be the final authority in his life. The family you were raised in, and the society you live in all transmit a tradition to you directly or indirectly. Salvation brings you into a new life, with a new way of thinking and doing things. This new way of thinking and doing things is based on an ideology that is different and superior to any other ideology in this world. The scriptures give a worldview that contradicts that of the unsaved in the world. The authority of the word of God has to be established in your heart, for it to be operative in your life. Jesus was correcting the Pharisees and scribes concerning the place the word of God had in their hearts compared to their tradition.

Your personal traditions are powerful enough to make void or nullify the effect of the word of God. The manifestation of the supernatural will be rare in the life of any believer who keeps nullifying the effect of the word of God. Your way of doing things should be influenced and changed by the knowledge of the word of God you have received. The willingness to quickly believe the scriptures and make necessary adjustments will transform you radically.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Salvation has brought me into a new life, and a new way of doing things. The word of God is the final authority in my life and superior to any personal or cultural tradition of mine.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 8:31 (KJV)**

And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after

TODAY'S TOPIC:

HE SUFFERED MANY THINGS

The scriptures speak about the sufferings and the glory of Christ. Jesus could teach beforehand of his suffering because of the details provided in the scriptures. The glory of resurrection will be more appreciated if you are acquainted with the suffering associated with crucifixion. Jesus didn't suffer few things or some things; he suffered many things. Everything he suffered was for humanity. Jesus suffered humiliation, pain, rejection, grief, sorrow and much more. His many sufferings were for the many issues and complexities that sin had brought upon humanity.

In the same manner, his many sufferings have addressed every consequence of sin in your life. His many sufferings have opened the way for many testimonies and victories. Whatever he suffered was what you would have suffered. Jesus suffered for you, and exempted you from it. The many things Jesus suffered are the many things you have been exempted from. He suffered many things, that you might be exempted from many things. The list of things he suffered is the list of things you have been exempted from.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Jesus Christ suffered many things for me that I might be exempted from them. I announce my exemption from eternal condemnation, sickness and disease, shame and sorrow.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 9:10 (KJV)**

And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL ABOUT RESURRECTION?

What was the big deal about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead? The disciples of Jesus desired to understand the significance of his resurrection. Our salvation is founded on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Every aspect of his suffering and glory has its significance in our new birth experience. Without his death you will still be indebted to God because the demand for justice could only be appeased by his death. God was already appeased with the sacrifice of his son Jesus Christ, the price was fully paid. Without the resurrection, our sins would still have been paid; therefore resurrection is considered an overpayment, it was God's bonus.

He was offered for our sins, but raised up for our justification. Resurrection is the reason why the believer in Christ is not a "forgiven sinner", rather he is the "righteous". The new man is created in righteousness and true holiness, not after the image of the first Adam but after the last Adam who is a life giving spirit. More importantly, resurrection proved the deity of Christ as his death proved his humanity. Resurrection made it possible for you to partake of God's best deal from the eternal past to the eternal future.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the reason I am not a "forgiven sinner" but the justified one. I am a partaker of God's best deal ever.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 10:15 (AMP)**

Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive and accept and welcome the kingdom of God like a little child [does] positively shall not enter it at all.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

HOW TO RECEIVE THE KINGDOM OF GOD

How the kingdom of God is accessed and operated is important to us, that is why it has to be taught. The scriptures remain the only source of authentic information about how the kingdom of God functions. Jesus specifically spoke about how anyone should receive, accept or welcome the kingdom of God. If you receive and accept and welcome the kingdom of God like a little child does positively, you will benefit from it; this is referring to the optimism and enthusiasm of a child. A little child is quick to believe and forgive, and easily excited.

This attitude of a "little child" is required of you in your interactions with the word of God and the Spirit of God. The kingdom of God is the realm of the supernatural; it is accessed and operated by this same attitude of "a little child". Being childlike at heart has its place in our walk with God. The simplicity of a child is an asset in the realm of the supernatural. One major grievance God had with the people who didn't eventually enter the Promised Land from Egypt was their "un-persuadable-ness". Be quick to believe the word of God, and stay excited about the things of the Spirit.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I relate with the supernatural with the optimism and enthusiasm of a little child .I refuse to remain unpersuaded about the word of God or the leading of the Spirit of God.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: Mark 11

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Mark 11:23 (KJV)

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

THE AUTHORITY TO SPEAK AND HAVE WHAT YOU SAY

Faith doesn't just believe; it also speaks. The mountains will maintain their position until they are specifically spoken to. Several circumstances in your life have remained because you were hoping it will go away. You haven't spoken specifically to them. It is scriptural and spiritually sensible to speak to mountains. The heart has to be in agreement with what the mouth is saying. The scripture didn't say you should talk to God to address the mountain; it talks about you directly addressing it. This is an exercise of authority, authority to speak and have what you say. The big deal is not in speaking; it is in having what you say. That means if I want to have it, I should say it. Actually, you have been unconsciously having what you say. If you don't like what you are having in life, then change what you are saying. What are you saying about your future, finances, family, and health? Stop saying what you are experiencing and start saying what you want to experience. Having what I say is an ability to create my own experiences in life.

I don't have to live with whatever I get; I can choose what I want by what I say. Be deliberate with what you say because there is an ability at work in your life to have what you say.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I have an ability at work in my life to have what I say. I choose deliberately to create my own experiences, and change circumstances by saying what I want to have. Today is blessed, and better than yesterday.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 12:44 (KJV)**

For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

TODAY'S TOPIC: HOW IS YOUR GIVING?

The practice of giving is personal just like prayer, but God is interested in your personal affairs. When Jesus began to speak about his observation of the poor widow's two mites, he was publicly addressing a personal matter. In terms of monetary value, what the widow gave was much less than what the wealthy people around her gave. Jesus wasn't assessing her giving in terms of monetary value rather he was assessing it based on what she had. What she gave was her "all" even if it was little, while the much the rich gave was a little of their "some". The widow's giving cost her more than what it cost them. The widow gave sacrificially while they gave comfortably. The value of what you give to God is measured by its significance to you.

Our giving is significant to God because it is first of all significant to us. Giving is an expression of devotion and trust in God. It is a declaration of his importance to you over the importance of the things you own or possess. It is recognizing God as your source and the provider of everything of value in your custody. Your giving matters to God. Generosity might not be a mark of spirituality, but it is a demonstration of spirituality. You would have to believe in the unseen to give away what you have to God you don't see. How is your giving compared with what you have and can actually give?

TODAY'S CONFESSION

God is my source and the provider of everything I own or will ever own. I receive grace to give significantly and sacrificially. From today giving is a lifestyle, not an event to me.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: Mark 13

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Mark 13:10 (KJV)

And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

THE GOSPEL PLAN IS FOR "ALL" NATIONS.

The spread of the gospel of Christ remains a priority to God. Living for Christ means his priority has become your priority. Jesus gave his life for the salvation of mankind; don't you think he will give his all also for everyone to hear about why he gave his life? The plan is for all nations, not a few nations or some nations. Nations here don't only refer to countries or independent sovereign states; it also refers to "people-groups". People of same profession or trade could be referred to as a people group such as lawyers, politicians or military personnel. The gospel must penetrate all people groups.

You and I should participate in strategizing and implementing plans to reach various people groups with the gospel of Christ. The gospel will always need those who will go and those who will give. I want to challenge you to do both. Give as much as you can, and do it consistently. Don't stop there, preach and reach as many as you can consistently. Spreading the gospel and reaching all people groups is your 'life call'. Your profession or occupation is your platform. Use your platform, skills, gifts and resources to preach the gospel of Christ. Promote the gospel with everything you've got. Partner consistently with the gospel of Christ. Make it your priority, not just one of the things you do.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am alive in Christ and living for Christ. God's priority is my priority. My platform, skills, gifts and resources are for the spreading of the gospel of Christ. I sign up to promote and partner with the gospel of Christ consistently.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 14:38 (KJV)**

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

TODAY'S TOPIC: THE WATCH AND PRAY HABIT

Daily living requires the support of a prayer habit. Your spiritual life is strengthened or weakened by the habits that you choose to cultivate. The scriptures clearly reveal the weakness of the flesh and the willingness of the spirit, at the same time providing wisdom on how to consistently overcome the weakness of the flesh and empower the willingness of the spirit. It says "watch and pray", the message translation (MSG) says -Stay alert, be in prayer, so you don't enter the danger zone without even knowing it. Don't be naive. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

Temptations will surely come, but victory is always possible. The concept of "watch and pray" is the root of the devotional habit of the believer in Christ; it encourages a discipline of setting aside time daily to commune with God. It is a source of constant spiritual enrichment for daily living. The practice of a devotional habit led by the Spirit of God will be a great asset to you as a believer. I will highly recommend to you "the watch and pray habit".

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The practice of a devotional habit led by the Spirit of God is a great asset to me as a believer. I align with the willingness of my spirit today and every other day to practice a Spirit led devotional habit.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 15:37 (CEV)**

Jesus shouted and then died.

TODAY'S TOPIC: HE ACTUALLY DIED.

The new living translation says "Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed His last. Jesus stopped breathing. I have had the opportunity of seeing someone faint, and also visited someone in a coma in the hospital. I also remember seeing my beloved grandmother breathe her last. They are not all the same. There is a difference between sleeping, fainting, being in a coma, and 'not breathing'. Jesus didn't sleep and wake up after three days, he actually stopped breathing. He died! Jesus submitted himself to the same experience all of humanity had been subject to; death the penalty for sin. The only appeasement for sin is death.

Every other human death couldn't pay the penalty for sin, because it was tainted with the same sin. The one who knew no sin, referred to as a lamb without blemish was the only one qualified to pay the penalty for sin. In his death, the penalty was fully paid. You are the direct beneficiary of his death. Remember, he wasn't paying the penalty for himself because he had no sin. He paid the penalty for you. The death that Jesus died was for you. He actually died, which means he actually paid.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The one who knew no sin paid the penalty for my sin. He actually died for me. I am a direct beneficiary of his death.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 16:14 (AMP)**

Afterward He appeared to the Eleven [apostles themselves] as they reclined at table; and He reproved and reproached them for their unbelief (their lack of faith) and their hardness of heart, because they had refused to believe those who had seen Him and looked at Him attentively after He had risen [from death].

TODAY'S TOPIC:

THE ROOT CAUSE OF UNBELIEF

When Jesus appeared after his resurrection to the eleven disciples, he addressed what was of great concern to him. Jesus was bothered about their unbelief and hardness of heart. It shouldn't surprise you to hear that Jesus is still concerned about that today. The gospels recorded two things that caused Jesus to marvel. They are "faith" and "unbelief". There was never a record of Jesus correcting or taming someone's faith. If Jesus had to have a special session addressing unbelief and hardness of heart, it must be vital.

The scriptures were written not just to be read, but to be believed. If believing isn't achieved after reading the scriptures, it hasn't achieved its objective. Hardness of heart is the infection that hinders believing. The struggle to be persuaded or convinced about what the scriptures clearly says or what the Spirit of God is saying is a symptom of "hardness of heart". Your walk with God will be more fulfilling if you are quick to believe scriptures. Hardness of heart thrives where understanding is absent, insufficient or conflicted. Believing is rooted in understanding (spiritual understanding). Pray for spiritual understanding!

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The holy scriptures were written for my believing. My eyes see, my ears hear and my heart believes. I receive more understanding.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 1:14 (KJV)**

And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

THE UNCHANGING WILLINGNESS OF JESUS

Jesus is still saying to all of humanity "I will; be clean". The willingness of Jesus is constant and unwavering. Jesus is "willing" to save, heal, and bless yesterday, today and forever. He was willing to heal the leper before the leper asked to be healed. That same willingness is extended to you today. Jesus is willing to help, heal, and rescue you now and always. He demonstrated this willingness to cleanse the leper by 'putting forth' his hand to touch him. Every time you hear the gospel of Christ, it is the 'putting forth' of his hand to touch you. Every time he sends his Prophets your way, it is the 'putting forth' of his hand to touch you.

Even the nudge in your heart to read the scriptures, pray or go to Church is the 'putting forth' of his hand to touch you. You have always been surrounded with his willingness and didn't realize it. Your Heavenly Father is not only able, he is also willing. He is not willing sometimes, or once in a while; He is "ever willing". The 'ever willing' Father extended his 'unchanging willingness' towards you in the irreversible death of his son Jesus Christ. God cannot be 'unwilling' towards you, not now, not ever. His willingness to save, help, prosper and heal you is irreversible. Embrace the irreversibility of his willingness towards you today and always.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The 'ever willing' Father has extended his 'unchanging willingness' towards me in the irreversible death of his son Jesus Christ. I embrace the irreversibility of his willingness to help me today, tomorrow and forever.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: Mark 2

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:7 (AMP)

Why does this Man talk like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins [remove guilt, remit the penalty, and bestow righteousness instead] except God alone?

TODAY'S TOPIC:

FORGIVENESS OF SIN-BEHIND THE SCENE

There are certain rights exclusive to Deity only. There are certain powers no human can arrogate to himself. When Jesus began to speak about 'forgiveness of sin'; the ability to absolve another human of his wrong doing, the people could only see it as blasphemy. It is either Jesus was claiming to be Deity or he had lost his mind. The Levitical Priest had to carry out a ritual or a prescribed ceremony for the Jews to have atonement for their sins. This prescribed exercise has to gain God's approval for it to be completed or useful. Now Jesus without resorting to any prescribed exercise by law was speaking as the approving authority by saying to a man "your sins are forgiven".

The general phrase referred to as "forgiveness of sin" has a lot that has to happen behind the scenes. It means the guilt caused by the act of sin or wrong doing has to be supernaturally removed; the penalty for that sin has to be paid or written off and the verdict of justification has to be passed or served. This is both a judicial and a divine process. Jesus exercised and demonstrated such powers here on earth, much more after his death, burial and resurrection. The full judicial process had been completed for you who have believed in Jesus Christ. The penalty for sin has been fully paid, the guilt for sin has been supernaturally removed, and the verdict for your justification or rightness has been passed eternally.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Jesus has fully paid the penalty for my sin, the guilt for sin has been supernaturally removed and the verdict for my justification or rightness has been passed eternally. I hold this as a sacred privilege in honour of the sacrifice that was made, never to treat it lightly or deliberately abuse it.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: Mark 3

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Mark 3:15 (AMP)

And to have authority and power to heal the sick and to drive out demons:

TODAY'S TOPIC:

YOU HAVE THE SAME AUTHORITY.

Jesus Christ ordained twelve others to preach and have authority to heal the sick, and drive out demons. This means apart from Jesus, there were others who exercised authority over sickness and demons. This authority was conferred on them by Jesus Christ. Why should it sound incredible to you that Jesus could do the same with you? Jesus Christ gave you the right to use his name because he was delegating the same authority to you.

Whatever authority he had in person is contained in his name. The same way sicknesses and demons were subdued by his presence, is how they are subdued when you use his name. Salvation has granted you access to authority over sickness and demons. Sickness, disease and demons are already aware and are subject to the authority you were given at salvation: Much in the same way that a criminal knows that the Police officer has authority to arrest him. You would have to deliberately exercise that authority in your life and around you. Authority is not exercised timidly. You can rise up today and exercise your God given authority over sickness and also drive out demons. They won't stop on their own. You can stop them now.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am a believer with delegated authority. I have authority in the name of Jesus Christ over sickness and demons. I exercise that authority over my body, finances and family.

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

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

And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

STOP CHOKING THE WORD.

Our scripture for today could also be read in the Message Translation, it says "but are overwhelmed with worries about all the things they have to do and all the things they want to get. The stress strangles what they heard, and nothing comes of it." It says stress strangles what they heard and nothing comes out of it. Which means something is meant to come out of the Word of God you hear. The Word of God is meant to produce fruit in your life anytime you hear it. The stress that comes from the cares and anxieties of your day to day activities and the stress that comes from trying to make it in life and the craving for all other things make the word unfruitful.

You are responsible for the effect the word has in your life. The measure of impact the word of God has in your life is regulated by you. The Word of God you hear will be as productive as you let it be; stop choking or strangling the Word of God with all other concerns that divide your attention. The measure of thought and study you give to the word of God you hear is what determines the measure of virtue that flows to you. The word requires attention to produce. Every amount of time spent studying, reading or meditating on God's word is actually an investment for maximum yield.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

The Word of God is producing maximum results in my life. Something is always coming out from the Word of God for me. My attention stays undivided, no room for the cares of this life and lust for other things.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 5:19 (KJV)**

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

TODAY'S TOPIC: TELL THEM YOUR STORY.

Some believers have been too quiet about what the Lord has done for them. It is scriptural to recognize and share with others what the Lord has done, or is doing in your life. The man who had just been delivered of unclean spirits was instructed to go home to his friends and tell them the great things the Lord had done. Be more prepared to share with others what the Lord had done rather than sharing the difficulties you are going through. The Message Translation (MSG) says "... Go home to your own people. Tell them your story—what the Master did, how he had mercy on you."

You have a story of what the Master did, how he had mercy on you. Let your colleague, or neighbours hear your story. Your story is a good tool to use, and also a strategy to share your faith with others. Some folks around us would never know the reality of God's love and power until they hear our story. Your story doesn't have to sound like content for a bestselling novel, but it is unique, powerful and very necessary. Somebody's salvation and deliverance is connected to your story. Choose to recognize what God had been doing in your life, and deliberately use it to inspire and bless others. Tell them your story.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Thank you Lord for what you had done for me and what your Word is working in me through the leading of the Spirit. I receive boldness to tell my story today, and always.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 6:2 (AMP)**

And on the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue; and many who listened to Him were utterly astonished, saying, Where did this Man acquire all this? What is the wisdom [the broad and full intelligence which has been] given to Him? What mighty works and exhibitions of power are wrought by His hands!

TODAY'S TOPIC:

MANY SHOULD BE UTTERLY ASTONISHED TODAY

The teachings of Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry left many utterly astonished. They saw him display outstanding wisdom, and also demonstrate supernatural power. The same manifestations are expected in the life of anyone who claims to be a representative of Christ here on earth today. Salvation and the infilling of the Holy Spirit gives every believer access into the dimension of wisdom and power that was manifested in the life of Jesus Christ. The wisdom of God is at work in you, the same kind of wisdom that left many utterly astonished. At the same time, the miracle working power of God is within your spirit through the Holy Spirit. The same miracle working power that left many astonished. In your personal life, family and career, the wisdom and power of God should be on full display.

Every project you handle, every responsibility you are in charge of should exhibit the intelligence and ability of God. It should leave many astonished, as it did in the days of Jesus on earth. If your heart is convinced that the same intelligence and ability is within you, then your actions will always manifest them consciously or unconsciously.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Salvation and the infilling of the Holy Spirit has given me access to the same kind of wisdom, and power that left many astonished during the earthly ministry of Jesus. My heart is convinced that the intelligence and ability of God that will leave many utterly astonished is within me.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 7:37 (NLT)**

They were completely amazed and said again and again, "Everything He does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak."

TODAY'S TOPIC:

EVERYTHING HE DOES IS WONDERFUL

The ministry of Jesus on earth had a wonderful effect on people. The ministry of Jesus through the believer today should also have a similar effect on people. Everything that enabled Jesus to do whatever he did had been made available to the believer in Christ. The works that he did, we shall do also and even greater. Today's scripture says "they were completely amazed and said again and again, everything he does is wonderful". This should be your testimony and that of those who come around you, if you are a believer in Christ Jesus.

Everything he has done for you, everything he is doing by his Word and Spirit is wonderful. Everything about him is wonderful, yesterday, today and forever. Being born again and filled with the Holy Spirit has empowered you to have the same effect on others around you. Everything you do should also have that 'wonderful effect'. Your friends and colleagues should also be completely amazed and say again and again, that everything you do is wonderful.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Everything Jesus Christ has done for me and everything he is doing by his Word and Spirit in me is wonderful. The testimony of those around me is the same, everything I do is wonderful.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 8:36 (KJV)**

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

TODAY'S TOPIC: THE WHOLE WORLD AND YOU

The real value of a thing is not determined by what any human institution says it is. The Holy Scripture gives us insight into the value system of God who created all things. What you might count as profit in earthly terms, could actually be a loss spiritually. Jesus in his statement was trying to paint a picture of the value of the human soul. The eternal destiny of every human is more important than earthly acquisitions. Gaining the whole world and losing your soul is eternal failure. This means the real value of anything should be determined from an eternal perspective. The bank accounts, houses, cars and education qualifications will all pass away, but your soul will live forever.

You will never stop existing; you will only transit from mortality into immortality through the rapture or physical death. When you put off this physical body, there are many things that will immediately lose their relevance. Some folks have a long term plan, maybe a "ten or twenty" year plan for life. Ten, twenty or a hundred years is nothing compared to eternity. Eternity is when 'forever' begins. How about planning for 'forever'? There are decisions and actions, here and now that affect 'forever'. Remember, the whole world and all that it offers is nothing compared with your eternal future. Think eternally, live for eternity.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

My eternal destiny is of greater value than my earthly acquisitions and achievements. I choose to think eternally and live for eternity.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: Mark 9

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:41 (KJV)

For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST

Belonging to Christ is no ordinary thing, there are exclusive privileges accorded to these category of persons. God has taken it upon himself to reward anyone that favours you because you belong to Christ. Belonging to Christ is a special status that is assigned to those who have received salvation. God will never overlook the least gesture of kindness extended to anyone because he/she belongs to Christ. This system of heavenly reward responds to "whosoever" initiates it. It has its roots in the Abrahamic blessing that says "I will bless them that bless you and curse them that curse you". This also applies when you as a believer extend kindness to another in the household of faith. You will not lose your reward.

The believer in Christ is 'marked' with favour. You are instructed from scripture to do good to all men, but especially to those in the household of faith. There is something extra that comes with blessing the believer in Christ. God takes special interest in those that belong to him, and extends that interest to those who favour his "special interest ".Extend an act of kindness to a believer in Christ today. Receive the reward that comes with such gestures.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I belong to Christ because I have received salvation. Whoever blesses me is blessed, and whoever curses me is cursed. I am 'marked' with favour as God's special interest.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 10:1 (AMP)**

AND [Jesus] left there [Capernaum] and went to the region of Judea and beyond [east of] the Jordan; and crowds [constantly] gathered around Him again, and as was His custom, He began to teach them again.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

HE WANTS TO TEACH YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN.

The multitudes constantly gathered around Jesus from region to region. It was usual with the crowds to gather, but it was usual with Jesus to teach. The scripture says "as was his custom, He began to teach them again". Anytime the crowds gathered, Jesus taught them. He functioned like that was what he owed them. There was something about "what" Jesus taught and "how" he taught it. Jesus is still the same today; he hasn't changed and isn't planning to do so. It is his custom to teach, his teaching ministry continues with you today through the Holy Spirit. The believer in Christ has to be continuously taught of the Lord. Your well being and development in faith is dependent on the teachings of Christ.

Never put yourself in a position where you are standing outside of the spiritual structures set up to teach you. It is a blessing to be taught of the Lord. It is your responsibility to locate and stay with God's teaching plan for you. Do not shut yourself from the teaching ministry of Jesus to you. He wants to teach you again and again. It is his custom to teach, it should be yours to learn. Salvation is a continuous learning program. Enroll and stay with it.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am born again and taught of the Lord. It is my custom to learn from the teaching ministry of Jesus. I enroll for a continuous learning plan with Jesus.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING: Mark 11

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Mark 11:24 (KJV)

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

TODAY'S TOPIC: HAVING YOUR DESIRES.

You can have the things you desire, Salvation does not exempt you from having desires. The process of having begins with a desire. Jesus taught us on how to translate desires to present day possessions. He didn't say desire and keep desiring and it will come to pass. This is not some speculation; it is the sure road to manifestation. Whatsoever you desire, pray; bring your desires before the Lord in prayer. Verbalize your desires in prayer. It didn't say discuss or analyze your desires with your friends and loved ones. Some of us are very loud about our desires but never before the Lord. The appropriate place to be loud about those desires is in the place of prayer. The old timers will say "pray it through".

You can pray those concerns through today. It is important to learn the practice of taking your desires to the place of prayer and praying them through. The other exciting part of what Jesus said is "when you pray believe that you receive". I used to think of it this way "after you pray, believe that God has started doing it". That is not the idea or the instruction of faith. The instruction of faith is "when you pray, believe that you receive". The receiving time is when you were praying; after the prayer, receiving has already happened. The purpose of the prayer is to receive the desire, not to submit the petition and wait for it to be deliberated upon and later approved. Believe you receive while you are praying, then

you will “have” what you received when you were praying. This is the process of having your desires.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

God is my father, he is concerned about my desires. I go to the place of prayer to receive things. I know how to receive. I know how to have the things I desire. I pray and things happen.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 12:44 (MSG)**

All the others gave what they'll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford—she gave her all!

TODAY'S TOPIC:

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF YOUR GIVING?

The inspiring account of Jesus concerning the poor widow remains a lesson in generosity, and the power of sacrificial giving. I am convinced that a lot of believers practice giving in one way or the other. The focus of this lesson from Jesus is not just about giving, but about the value of what you give. This value is measured on the basis of what you have (your possessions). There is a difference between giving what you will never miss and giving sacrificially. Giving sacrificially is a kind of abstinence (fasting). An abstinence from certain pleasures of life for the higher purpose of kingdom advancement or personal spiritual development. In the same way in which a believer cannot fast from food everyday of his life, but is required to fast from time to time; the believer also doesn't have to give sacrificially every time.

However there must be times deliberately set aside to practice sacrificially giving. It could be once in a week, month, quarter or a year depending on your level of spiritual wisdom and understanding. It is important to observe that Jesus didn't feel sorry for the poor widow because she gave her all; rather he was inspired and commended her action. The resurrected Christ is still commending and rewarding acts of sacrificial giving today. Think about it-What is the value of your giving compared with how God has blessed you or what you have (your possessions)?

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I receive spiritual wisdom and understanding to practice sacrificial giving, not just giving what I will never miss. From this day henceforth, I upgrade the value of my giving to reflect how God has blessed me.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 13: 37 (AMP)**

And what I say to you I say to everybody: Watch (give strict attention, be cautious, active, and alert)!

TODAY'S TOPIC:

SPIRITUAL THINGS REQUIRE ATTENTION

There was already a sense of urgency concerning the agenda of God during the earthly ministry of Jesus. This urgency has intensified as we draw closer to the culmination of biblical prophecy concerning the world. God is doing a quick work with a people of quick understanding. There should be no room for laxity in your spiritual responsibilities as a believer in Christ. Nonchalance and carelessness are attitudes that are not welcome in spiritual matters. Walking with God requires the help of the Holy Spirit and your willingness to follow through also. You cannot grow or develop further than the attention you give to the word of God and the Spirit of God. Spiritual things require attention; not some halfhearted, partial or occasional attention. The statement of Jesus applies to believers today. He said -And what I say to you, I say to everybody: Watch (give strict attention, be cautious, active and alert). Another way to say it is-Keep your eyes open and be observant! Live ready for whatever the Spirit of God will have you do.

There is a lot going on around you that requires your prompt and accurate response. Stay alert.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Nonchalance and carelessness have no place with me. My response to spiritual matters is with the alertness and strict attention it requires .I am living in the realm of limitless possibilities!

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: **Mark 14:9 (KJV)**

Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

TODAY'S TOPIC:

ARE YOU FULFILLING THE EXPECTATION OF JESUS?

The mindset and convictions of Jesus could be heard loud and clear in his statements and his actions also. For example, the statement Jesus made concerning the Woman who had anointed him with precious ointment of spikenard revealed an expectation he has for the gospel. Jesus expects the gospel to be preached throughout the whole world. He is not just thinking about Jerusalem or Israel, he is not thinking about some nations of the world: He has his mind on the whole world. If Jesus knew he wasn't going to be here on earth, and still expected the gospel to be preached throughout the whole world, then he definitely had some other persons in mind that will make it happen.

He had you who will believe in mind to preach the gospel throughout the whole world. The vision to evangelize the world is a heavenly vision that every believer must catch and live for. This message of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is meant to be preached to everyone, everywhere. What can you do to make that possible? How will you be involved to fulfill the expectation of Jesus to evangelize the world? Your neighbourhood and community is a part of the whole world. Start from where you are, but run with the vision of Jesus for world evangelization.

TODAY'S CONFESSION

Jesus has an expectation for me to fulfill. I take personal responsibility to give myself totally to the vision of world evangelization. I align my thoughts, beliefs and actions with the heavenly vision of preaching the gospel of Christ throughout the whole world.

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.

RENAISSANCE ASSEMBLY

Renaissance Assembly is a dynamic new testament Church; with an ever growing number of chapters in major cities of Africa and Europe & North America. Renaissance Assembly is a family of believers established in the finished works of Christ. We are a making a difference in our generation, individually, locally and globally. We are large enough to accommodate you, yet small enough to touch you.

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Through various outreaches this ministry is taking the message of faith around the world by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Through Renaissance Assembly the knowledge of the glory of God is covering the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Some of the outreaches of Renaissance Assembly are Faith to Faith Broadcast-A multi-media outreach, Faith to Faith School

Making a difference... *Individually, Locally and Globally*



Faith to Faith Bible Academy is an institution established to train believers for new testament ministry. The building up of the body of Christ is dependent on believers who have been raised with the gospel of Christ to fulfill their Calling in God. These trained believers will fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea. Reaching the world with the gospel of Christ requires more than passion and information. It will require what Faith to Faith Bible Academy offers. SPIRITUAL EDUCATION!

Faith to Faith Bible Academy is a platform for ILLUMINATION, ILLUSTRATION & IMPARTATION. Our core scriptures are Ephesians 4:12 and 2 Corinthians 3:6.



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