

**JANUARY 2022**

**IN  
HIS  
FOOTSTEPS**

**A DAILY DEVOTIONAL  
FOR A CLOSER WALK  
WITH GOD.**

**KINGDOM SUPPORT INITIATIVES(KSI)  
PUBLICATION.**

**In His Footstep**  
A Daily Devotional by Kingdom Support Initiatives (KSi)

A Kingdom Support Initiatives Publication  
2022

## Foreword

Welcome to the new year. May God's Presence abide with you in this year. You will experience increase all round in 2022 in Jesus' name!

Of a truth, if it has not been for the Lord who has been on our side, what would have been said of us (Psalm 124:1). First, we are grateful to God for counting us worthy to be part of the ministry of reconciliation and to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to many through this daily devotional. Secondly, we appreciate God for sustaining this ministry by His power and for the amazing testimonies from users of the devotional. *In His Footstep* started in November 2014 and to the Glory of God, we have been writing and sharing God's word daily until November 2021 when we had to stop for some months due to some challenges. During the hiatus, we took the time to seek the face of the Lord for more grace, fresh unction and for God's direction. The Lord has not asked us to stop this devotional, hence, we have resumed our divine assignment.

On this note, we would like to sincerely apologize to our readers for the abrupt stop of the devotional. Also, special thank you to some of our readers who contacted us both to enquire about the devotional and to encourage us during our trying time. May God continue to bless you in Jesus name.

There are some adjustments to the way we will be sharing the devotional daily. First, you can download a pdf version of the monthly devotional on our website. This will help readers to have access to the entire monthly devotional. Due to the time difference, there has been challenges pasting the devotional daily in good time. With the download option, each user can access the devotional at their convenience. In addition, we hope to resume a consistent daily posting of the devotional on our website, social media channels (particularly on WhatsApp and Facebook). Please note that the devotional is free of charge, and we encourage its usage at homes, in bible study groups, discipleship classes, churches, offices and any other places.

We continue to seek volunteers who are interested in writing the devotional or sharing across different platforms. For volunteer writers, we will be happy to work with you and train you on how to write effectively and for anyone interested in sharing, you can access the devotional on our website.

Finally, we included studies from the past written by some of our partners. We truly trust God that the devotional will continue to bless you, your families and your friends.

Now we commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified (Acts 20:32)

Yours in God's vineyard,

Bro. Taiwo and Sister Damilola Afolabi  
Kingdom Support Initiatives (KSi)  
<https://kingdomsupportinitiatives.org/>  
Canada

Our theme for year 2022  
**Press On!**

In year 2022,  
We will **press deeper** into the things of God.  
We will **press on** to higher heights in Him and in destiny.  
We will **press forward** in our love for Jesus and to be more like Him.  
With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will **walk closer** with God in holiness, righteousness  
and power;  
And if Jesus returns, we will **press on** into eternity to reign with Him.  
(Philippians 3:13-14)

January 2022

January 1<sup>st</sup>

### Rejoice in the Lord

*“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”* Psalm 118:24  
[NKJV]

**Bible Reading:** Psalm 118

The new year has 365 days, 52 weeks and 12 months. God is the maker of each day that make up the year because the earth is the Lord and the fullness thereof (Psalm 24:1). Our attitude to this truth is to rejoice and be glad knowing that even though we may not know what is ahead, we know the Omnipotent, Omniscience and Omnipresent God.

Did you know it takes faith and hope to rejoice amidst pandemic and uncertainties? Our faith is in Jesus Christ. Hence, we do not walk by sight, but we walk by faith in Christ Jesus. Rejoicing is a choice. Rejoice that Jesus Christ loves you and He died to set you free. Rejoice in the fact that He is your Saviour, Emmanuel, deliverer, life, strength, provider, healer, comforter, and ultimately, the soon coming King.

Our Bible reading today reveals the benefit that we have when we trust Him absolutely. As you live through the new year, rejoice knowing that God is faithful to His word. He is a loving and a good Father. When in doubt, fear and trouble, run to Him. Learn to call unto Him both in good and bad times. And look unto Him for He is your Source. At KSi, we encourage you to go in the journey of this year with this confidence. Like Apostle Paul admonished, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” for from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things; and to Him be the glory forever! Amen (Romans 11:36).

**Self-Reflection:** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord (Colossians 3:16, NKJV)

**Action Point:** Rejoice in the Lord as you sing hymns, psalms, and songs unto the Lord for the new year.

**Intercessory prayer:** Thank Him for the grace to intercede in prayers and for answered prayers.

**Hymn:** All hail the power of Jesus’ name!  
Let angels prostrate fall.  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all.

**New Beginning Series  
It's a New Beginning (I)**

*It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lamentation 2:22-23 [KJV]*

**Bible Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:19

Once again happy new year and welcome to the third year of the decade. The fact that you are reading this devotional means you have received God's mercy, favour, and grace. You have been kept by the Lord and you experienced His faithfulness. Indeed, God deserves our praises and thanksgiving.

There is something amazing about this time of year, it is the opportunity to begin afresh. Regardless of what has happened in the past, a fresh start provides you the platform to reconsider your ways and perhaps start differently. Although there may be consequences from the wrong choices of the past, but a new beginning can help you to make better choices that can guarantee a better future.

Our Bible reading today reminds us of the most important beginning, a new life in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to give us a new beginning. He shouldered our sin and nailed it to the cross. Apostle Paul writes in Colossians 2:13-15 GNT- "You were at one time spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were Gentiles without the Law. But God has now brought you to life with Christ. God forgave us all our sins; he canceled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross. And on that cross Christ freed himself from the power of the spiritual rulers and authorities; he made a public spectacle of them by leading them as captives in his victory procession". This singular act of redemption changed everything. We were reconciled to God through Christ Jesus. The spiritual disconnection that took place in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God was restored at the cross of Calvary. In fact, the new beginning in Jesus Christ shows mercy and grace.

As you start the year, God is offering you an opportunity to begin with Him. The journey of this year can only be fruitful and worthwhile in Him. If nothing, the past few years have taught the uncertainty of the present times and the reality of the end time. It became obvious that it is only in Christ Jesus that we are guaranteed stability and newness of life that can transform our life in every way.

Also, every beginning demands certain attitudes. As you start another year, put God first, be courageous, put your trust in the Lord, spend quality time in God's presence by praying and studying God's word. Decide to please God by living for Him. Finally, self-evaluate and take practical decisions in areas you desire a change so that you can maximize the new beginning God is giving to you. May the new year be filled with God's joy and blessings and may you enjoy God's Presence.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus I receive a new beginning you have for my life. I confess and repent of my sins. I believe you died and rose again for the redemption of my soul. I accept you as my personal Lord and Saviour. I pray for new beginning in every aspect of my life in Jesus name, amen.

**Intercessory Prayer:** Pray for your family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances who are yet to know Jesus Christ for the salvation of their souls.

**Hymn:** On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.



January 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **It's a New Beginning (II)**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 [KJV]*

**Bible Reading:** Genesis 1:1-3

What's needed for one journey may defer from the other, but there are essentials needed for every journey. Our Bible reading today reminds us of the most essential victual we need for the journey ahead, **the Presence of God**. Everything we need is encapsulated in God: the new life in Christ Jesus and the empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Immediately the Spirit of God was introduced to the situation in Genesis chapter 1, God spoke His word and everything changed. There was orderliness and tranquility. God spoke life to the dead earth and He introduced light into darkness. The Uncaused that caused all things to be created something out of nothing. This means we need God in the journey of this year. No matter what maybe ahead, once you have Jesus Christ in the boat of your life, you are assured of peace and victory. We have to be in fellowship with God daily.

Also, notice that nothing happened until God said, "let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). We have to stay glued to God's word. Our attention has to be on God, our devotion has to be with God, and our desire has to be to love and seek Him first and absolutely. Here's how God instructed Joshua, "this book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:8).

The creation journey started with God's presence. Any place where God's presence is absent is a recipe for disaster. In the beginning, until the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters and He declared light, the world was simply formless and void. It was empty because the true content that can fill it is the Life that comes from God. Remember Adam and Eve, they enjoyed God's Presence until their sin disconnected them from God's Presence. They became far away because their spirit was disconnected from God. Where God's Presence is absent, there is chaos, disorder and a vacuum that nothing else can fill except God Himself. There is a spiritual hunger in our hearts that only God can satisfy.

Jesus Christ is the true reflection of the Godhead. He is the living Word of God. Glory be to God who has freely given us His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. We are now carriers of His Presence because He lives inside us by His Holy Spirit. We have become a tabernacle where He dwells. Unlike the Old Testament where God's Presence was housed in a tabernacle, as God's children, we are God's tabernacle where His Shekinah glory abides. Furthermore, He has given us His church for fellowship so that we can continually unite and bring forth His presence anytime we gather in the name of Jesus.

Dear friends, will you labor for presents at the detriment of His presence? No longer shall we struggle with His Presence. Enough of starting with Him but leaving Him along the way. May God's Presence never depart from you. May you be sensitive when the devil is isolating you from God's Presence. Finally, to maximize the new beginning God has graciously given us, we will need to absolutely depend on God for we can do all things through Christ that strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

**Daily Confession:** I receive grace for a new beginning in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory Prayer:** Prophecy to the womb of the new year.

**Hymn:** On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

January 4<sup>th</sup>

### **It's a New Beginning (III)**

*Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass. Psalm 37:5 [KJV]*

#### **Bible Reading:** Proverbs 3:1-10

Today's Bible reading reminds us of another victual for the journey: Commit your ways unto God. This means to “completely give something over to God while depending on Him” or “offering everything unto God”. It involves seeking God’s guidance through His word and in prayers concerning everything in our lives. God has promised to instruct, teach, and counsel us (Psalm 32:8). In all that you desire and do this year, commit it all to God. He knows what tomorrow holds and He sees the end from the beginning.

Also, God’s thoughts towards you are of peace and not of evil to give you and expected end (Jeremiah 29:11). Take the time to know His thoughts concerning you by studying His word (Psalm 119:11), seek Him in prayers continually (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18), love the Lord with all your heart and seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 22:37-38; Matthew 6:33). Write your plans and diligently work them out. Trust God to lead you for it is God that is at work in you both to will and to do for His purpose (Philippians 2:13). Don’t take the glory when your prayers are answered. Acknowledge Him before the world. Dear friends, turn it all to God, let Him lead you into His plan because “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

**Action Point:** Commit your plans to God daily

**Daily Confession:** I choose to trust God in the journey of this year. I decree that all will be well in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Prayer for students as they return to school for God's protection upon them. Pray for their teachers and parents for wisdom and provision.

**Hymn:** Through the love of God our Saviour,  
All will be well.  
Free and changeless is his favour,  
All, all is well.  
Precious is the blood that healed us,  
Perfect is the grace that sealed us,  
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us,  
All must be well.

January 5<sup>th</sup>

**It's a New Beginning (IV)**

*In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1*  
Thessalonians 5:18-19 [KJV]

**Bible Reading:** Psalms 136

For the past three days, we have been reflecting on the need for God's Presence in the journey of this year. We reiterated the need to focus on Jesus, commit your ways unto Him, believe Him, pray earnestly, read, meditate and live by God's word, and be diligent to pursue God's plan for your life this year. In short, seek God and live for His glory.

Let's reflect on another important victual to consider on this new journey. It is the need to be grateful. Gratitude will bring feast of fast things into your life this year. This is because gratitude does not walk alone. It brings good things. Apart from the fact that God's Presence abides with us when we show appreciation of His faithfulness, blessings and unending love, gratitude gives us peace of mind. This is important for our mental health. Instead of thinking of the things you do not have, why not be grateful for the things you have?

Also, gratitude gives different perspectives in any circumstance. Instead of murmuring and grumbling, gratitude helps our perspective and we can become positively minded rather than complaining. When we are grateful, we create a conducive environment for the miraculous, for faith to grow, and for the supernatural to take place. Gratitude brings joy. I have never seen anyone who shows genuine gratitude in sadness. When we are grateful, we express joy and it is "with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3).

Dear friends, be determined to thank God for everything and in all things this year. Be prepared that no matter the situation, you will be grateful unto God. I declare that your year is blessed in Jesus' name.

**Action point:** On a weekly basis select an area in your life and appreciate God for it.

**Daily Confession:** Lord I am grateful because you are faithful and truthful. May I continually show gratitude unto God and the people He puts in my life.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for civil servants, students, and business owners as they return to work this week for God's protection and help in their lives.

**Hymn:** Thank you, thank you Lord,  
Thank you, Lord (x2),  
For everything you have done.

January 6<sup>th</sup>

**Strategies for New Beginning (I)**  
**Your Attitude to a New Beginning**

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go? Joshua 1:9 [AMP]*

**Bible Reading:** Joshua 1:9

Every season has certain attitude and responsibility that goes with it. For instance, during the raining season, the responsibility of planting is important. Joshua was overwhelmed as the new leader of the Israelites. He knew that there are lots of expectations; resolutions, challenges, opportunities and rewards ahead and he does not want to fail, hence, he was troubled, anxious and discouraged. Perhaps he was terrified because he had seen the rebellious and recalcitrant attitude of the people, and the huge task of leading the people to the Promised Land.

God has lots of promises to fulfil for you this New Year, many commitments, and expectations you have to fulfil and perhaps like Joshua, you are worried and terrified. You may even have resolutions, and decisions to serve God with the whole of your life; live to please Him; love your family, live a holy life; acquire new skills, and be equipped for the journey ahead. But the thought of fulfilling these resolutions till the end burdens you because you are not consistent. God is calling you to put on the right attitude: faith rather than fear; joy rather than sorrow; positive attitudes that connote that with God, nothing is impossible. God sends His words of comfort your way today that you should never be discouraged, but be courageous, present all things unto Him in prayer and His ever-abiding Presence will be with you.

**Self-Reflection:** Your attitude is important to every situation including the beginning.

**Action Point:** Present all things unto Him in prayer!

**Daily Confession:** I handle every situation with the right approach, mindset, and attitude in Jesus' name. I am full of faith and I refuse to be sorrowful or fearful because I know whom I believe Christ Jesus.

**Intercessory prayer:** Help our leaders to think right and to serve us selflessly.

**Hymn:** Be strong and courageous and bold;  
Be strong and courageous and bold.  
Away with fear, for God will be near  
Be strong and courageous and bold.

January 7<sup>th</sup>

**Strategies for New Beginning (II)**  
**Starting with Jesus**

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall read [and meditate on] it day and night, so that you may be careful to do [everything] in accordance with all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will be successful. Joshua 1:8 [AMP]*

**Bible Reading:** Joshua 1:1-9

It was a continuation of a journey for the children of Israel, but for their new leader Joshua, it was a new beginning of a life commitment. Joshua ardently followed Moses until his death and God chose Joshua to continue the great work Moses had started. While many Israelites remained in their unrighteousness, for Joshua, this call to lead God's people was a new beginning. He reflected on the past; the kind of the people he was meant to lead and the task ahead, he was totally discouraged.

However, God gave Joshua the strategy that will solve his problem: read, study, meditate and act according to God's word. If Joshua could follow God's instruction, his success was guaranteed. At KSi, we are passing on this instruction as the journey of the New Year begin: Abide with Jesus Christ; start every day with Him through His word, in the place of prayer and depend on the Holy Spirit to act according to God's instruction because you have been called unto commitment unto God in all things this year.

**Self-Reflection:** Go in the journey of this year with God's word!

**Action Point:** Make a commitment to the Lord to be faithful in studying, meditating and living His word this year.

**Daily Confession:** Lord help me to be faithful to your word and to be devoted to a living relationship with You.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for ministers of God in my church for grace to function this year in Jesus' name.

**Hymn:** What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

January 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Strategies for New Beginning (III)**

#### ***Strategic Alliance***

*“So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: “Go through the camp and tell the people, Get your suppliers ready. Three days from now will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own”. Joshua 1:10-11 [NIV]*

**Bible Reading:** Joshua 1:10-11

After God’s encouragement unto Joshua, the next step is to arise, occupy, take control and create strategies that are necessary for the task. As a Christian, you are saddled with the responsibility to take charge (Luke 19:13). Remember God instructed Joshua to continually meditate on His word because that’s the source of life, light, and success (Joshua 1:8). The Holy Spirit also gives man understanding, instructions, enlightenment, and creativity to help strategize on the moves that will be effective. 2 Peter 1:3 further confirms that God’s divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Jesus Christ. The questions are how much of His word do you know? How faithful are you to studying, meditating, and living the life of the word of God?

Joshua’s instruction reveals another strategy necessary for the fulfilment of the tasks: preparation and proper planning. Adequate preparation and proper planning are important to any undertaking because a soldier does not prepare on the battle field. You must daily be prepared first for the Second Coming of Christ by continually living a holy life; secure everyday as you meet with God in your daily devotion and family altar. Pray to redeem time (Ephesians. 5:16), study hard as a student (2 Timothy. 2:15), and acquire skills and knowledge for the vision and mission ahead (Psalm 78:72). Joshua partnered with God and his instruction prepared the people for the crossing and taking possession of the land. We must plan and prepare to partner with the Holy Spirit for a guaranteed success.

**Self-Reflection:** How strategic are you in addressing problems? Did you know that the Holy Spirit inspires us into right strategies and approach to solve problems?

**Action Point:** Develop right strategies to tackle problems

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for my parents, mentors and leaders for grace for strategic thinking.

**Hymn:** As I trust You, Christ my Lord,  
As I lean my life on Your living Word,  
Then rest is rest love is pure,  
Life is life, every step, secure  
As I trust You, Christ my Lord,  
As I trust You, Christ my Lord.

January 9<sup>th</sup>

## Strategies for New Beginning (IV)

### *Take Right Actions*

*“So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: “Go through the camp and tell the people, Get your suppliers ready. Three days from now will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own” Joshua 1:10-11 [NIV]*

**Bible Reading:** Luke 19:11-26

Another important strategy that we have to understand is moving into action at the Lord's command. Joshua could have stayed on the same spot even after the instruction and encouragement; he could have decided to fold his arms refusing to take charge and take necessary steps at the Lord's command. There are many Christians today that although the Lord has released the grace needed for the assignment unto them, they still fold their arms and refuse to move. There are lots of promises unfulfilled because you have refused to act by faith; you await the perfect time despite God's encouragement, instruction and warning.

We have to learn from Joshua who took action at the Lord's command. Like the parable in our reading today, there is need to take charge after we have been given the mandate to occupy till He comes. Preach the gospel, pray for the land, live the life of righteousness and holiness and trust the Holy Spirit to provide all that is needed for the assignment He has given unto you. Also, Joshua united the people to work together, built the network characterized by togetherness, love and sacrifice for others. For instance, despite the fact that the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh had gotten their land as promised by God, Joshua still commanded them to fight for the brethren from other tribes in possessing their land. Unity and love are strong strategies. First unite with God, then with the right people to fulfil God's purpose. May God teach us how to move as He moves so that we are neither behind Him nor ahead of Him but in step with Him (Psalm 32:9).

**Self-Reflection:** You cannot afford to fold your arms even when God has given a go-ahead. Arise!

**Action Point:** Be bold and take the step of faith at the Lord's command.

**Daily Confession:** Lord help me to take action at the right time for the vision you have given me.

**Intercessory prayer:** Lord help your church to take right actions in Jesus name.

**Hymn:** Day by day, and with each passing moment  
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;  
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,  
I've no cause for worry or for fear.  
He Whose heart is kind beyond all measure  
Gives unto each day what He deems best -  
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,  
Mingling toil with peace and rest



January 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Finally on New Beginnings**

*Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase. Job 8:7(NKJV)*

#### **Bible Reading:** Isaiah 43:19

The journey of another three hundred and sixty-five days has started! Like the old saying goes, “the journey of a thousand miles starts with a step”, same is true for every beginning. It is not coincidence is that the Bible starts with, “in the beginning. God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). God’s word today is an encouragement for a new beginning, “I will do a new thing” (Isaiah 43:19). That sounds like cliché, God’s word is true and He is committed to fulfilling His word. Although I have read today’s bible passage many times, I have learnt to take God’s word serious no matter how many times I have heard it because God does not speak when He does not mean it.

First, new beginning is important because there are new things to claim, new heights to reach in Him, new territories to claim, new aspirations, new revelations and new souls to win etc. God, our creator made all things from nothing. If His created beings (human beings) know how to create new things, how much more of the Creator who made man in His own image and after His likeness?

Secondly, it is God that will do a new thing. This is important for many reasons: It takes God to do something new and this should give us hope, strength and courage to rely solely on God. Our job is to believe Him and follow Him as He instructs. However, every season requires certain attitude and mindset. When God speaks a word, He will play His part and we are committed to be responsible and partner with Him. Though your beginning was small, yet thy latter end shall greatly increase.

Finally, with a new dispensation comes new things, and God is a loving father that wants to give His children new things. Dear friends, as you journey in the new year, embrace God’s word, partner with God and make Jesus be the center of your focus because God will do a new thing for you!

**Self-Reflection:** With every beginning comes certain attitude, mindset and understanding.

**Action Point:** Be sensitive to God’s new beginning

**Daily Confession:** Lord I embrace Your word, a new beginning in you for the glory of your name.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for encouragement for those who are discouraged because of life situations.

**Hymn:** Lord lift me up, and let me stand  
By faith on heaven stable land  
Higher plane that I am found  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground.

January 11<sup>th</sup>

### **The Sure Leading**

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Psalm 32:8 [NIV]*

**Bible Reading:** Psalm 32:8-10

God desires to guide and lead His children. He wants to give His children specific instructions and directions for their lives. God's sure leading can be likened to a tour guide in a museum. I prefer having a tour guide to provide context, guide me and at times make recommendations. The guide can also look for me if I get lost. There was a time I wandered off the trail when I visited a zoo. I was lost until the tour guide noticed and searched for me. Life journey can be scary especially when we do not have a compass or guide by our side. One of the benefits we enjoy in Christ Jesus is divine guidance. God guides us through his word because the wisdom that comes from the undiluted word of God is astonishing. He speaks to us in diverse ways and we are instructed on what to do.

God is a loving father and He is good. He has promised to guide us in life and in destiny only if we ask and obey Him. God respects your self-will and He will not take what you do not give Him. To access God's guidance, we have to know Him, walk with Him, and be humble to take counsel from Him. It is important to ask God questions, be sensitive to His leading, be honest with Him and listen to Him. Genuine divine leading is God's promise because as many that are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God (Romans 8:14). May the Lord give unto us yielding hearts and listening ears.

**Self-Reflection:** A yielded heart and a listening ear are needed in accessing God's leading.

**Action Point:** Take a deliberate effort to present your situation to God for His leading.

**Daily Confession:** Lord, I surrender to your leading.

**Intercessory prayer:** May God's peace reign across our nations.

**Hymn:** Lord lead me up and let me stand  
By faith on heaven stable land  
Higher plane that I have found  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground.

January 12<sup>th</sup>

## **Specific Instructions (I)**

### ***Fear the Lord***

*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:13 [KJV]*

#### **Bible Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:12-13

Welcome to another series. In this series titled, *Specific Instructions*, we will examine some instructions from God for His children. May we receive the grace to understand and obey these instructions in Jesus' name.

Let's start with the first instruction: *Fear the Lord*. Fear speaks of reverence, devotion and dedication. It is a conscious effort to respect and give honor to whom its due, when it is due and how it is due. From Genesis to Revelation, we are enjoined to fear the Lord with the whole of our heart because a relationship that is devoid of respect and honor is heading for an early termination. God is the Almighty, hence He is worthy of all honor. When the Bible speaks of fearing God, it is not to say that we are to be afraid of God, rather it means we are to show God absolute respect and be in awe of who God is. For instance, when we show adoration unto God, we are cognizant and mindful of God's attributes-his loving kindness, favour, mercies and his awesome power.

David was someone who showed this attribute. His devotion to God was characterized by honour and reference for God. David, a shepherd boy who later became the king of Israel, knew that God was not his mate. David feared God. No wonder he wrote more than half of the book of Psalm to worship God. Through the power of God, he subdued the much-dreaded Philistine giant, Goliath. Apart from Goliath, David also faced many battles with Saul, the first king of Israel but he was able to overcome because he feared God and God was with him. It was written in 1 Samuel 18:14 that "David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him". One of the benefits of fearing God is that we enjoy God's presence.

When David was to fight with Goliath, he demonstrated utmost confidence in God's ability to deliver the giant into his hands based on his reverence for God, he said to the Philistine "thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied" (1 Samuel 17:45). Goliath was a man that had no regard for God and he even disdained God openly in his speech but David honored God with his entire life and during the conquest, he boldly declared his surrender to God and his ability to deliver Goliath into his hands. Dear friends, fear God and put your trust in Him and God will surely show up for you.

**Action Point:** Since the fear of God is the whole duty of man, then fear God!

**Intercessory prayer:** Lord help believers and our churches to fear You with all our heart.

**Hymn:** Thou my everlasting portion  
More than friends or life to me  
All along my pilgrim's journey  
Saviour let me walk with thee.

**Specific Instructions (II)**  
***Walk with God***

*And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him. Genesis 5:24 [ESV]*

**Bible Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:12-13

Yesterday we started examining God's instructions to the children of Israel. After leaving the wilderness, the people were charged to be God chasers. In preparation for the taking over of the land of Canaan, God revealed what He required the people to do in order to enjoy His presence through his faithful servant, Moses. Another instruction to the children of Israel is **walk with God**.

To walk with God means to have a living relationship with Him. Each time I meditate on what it means to walk with God, I have a mental picture of taking a long walk with a friend who you can talk to. I remember times when my elder brother and I walked a long distance with the purpose of sharing our thoughts and experiences. To walk with someone in that degree requires knowing who the person is, a level of trust, conscious effort to agree to walk together and being open to one another. To walk with God means to fellowship with Him. It means cultivating a relationship that is living and active.

In our memory verse today, Enoch is described as a man who walked with God. Enoch cultivated a cordial relationship with God to the extent that He obliterated the dividing line between the physical world and the spiritual. He paid the price of abiding in God's presence. He understood that anyone who wants to seek the Lord must believe that He is and He is the rewarder of those that diligently seek him (Hebrew 11:6). He sought the Lord in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), he loved the Lord with the whole of his heart and earnestly pursued God without reservation. Dear friends, walking with God is a decision you have to take, a price you have to pay and a lifestyle you have to cultivate. God is calling you into a deeper walk with Him today.

**Self-Reflection:** A walk with God is a deliberate choice that results in abundant life.

**Action Point:** Make a deliberate effort to walk with God by spending quality time in God's Presence daily

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for missionaries and their families for God's covering and protection over them.

**Hymn:** On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is seeking sand

### **Specific Instructions (III)**

#### ***Love the Lord***

*Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Matthew 22:37 [KJV]*

#### **Bible Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:12-13

When we love God, He becomes the centre of our focus. We live to please Him, we continually seek after Him, and like the psalmist, our souls will long and pant for Him (Psalm 42 & 62). If you love God, nothing matters than pleasing God. Regardless of the cost, you will consider loving God and living for Him most important. It is about devotion and dedication unto God. Fellowship and relationship are important; hence, your focus will be on cultivating deeper fellowship and communion with God each day.

Furthermore, to love God means to love others. If we do not love people that we see, how then can we confess to love God whom we do not see? (1 John 4:12). In fact, there is no way we confess to love God that we won't love fellow human beings. It is easier to talk about loving others than living the life of love. Love should be seen in our deeds (1 John 3:18). In Matthew 25:34-46, Christ Jesus cited two groups to support the fact that if we love one another, we are loving God, showing the love of God.

For a genuine child of God, when your love for God dwindles, it affects every aspect of your life because when we love, we dwell in God for God is love (1 John 4:16). Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the son of God, God dwells in him and he in God. Always remember that you cannot love God and not love His creation.

Finally, the ultimate proof of love is obedience. For instance, Jesus Christ obeyed even to the point of death because He loved the Father. Any sacrifice unto God that is not borne out of obedience to Him is unacceptable because if you love God, you will obey Him no matter the cost (1 John, 2:3-5; Samuel 15:21-22).

**Self-Reflection:** Love is a multiplier; it takes sacrifice, deeds and conscious effort to humble oneself to show forth the love of Christ.

**Action Point:** Outline specific things you can do today to show people around you the love of God.

**Daily Confession:** May the love of Christ Jesus flow in me so that I can be a true ambassador of Christ. May my light so shine before men that they may see my good works and glorify my heavenly Father.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for your enemies.

**Song:** Love lifted me (x2),  
Where nothing else will do,  
You know love lifted me

**Specific Instructions (IV)**  
**Serve the Lord**

*And ye shall serve the Lord your God and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. Exodus 23:25 [KJV]*

**Bible Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:12-13

Service is essential to life and destiny. In fact, without service, there is no promotion or advancement. The ability to provide solution to a problem is service and the reason why someone is paid either wage or salary is because such a person is providing service for someone that needs it. A service-oriented life is rich and impactful. In our Bible reading today, we are commanded to serve the Lord. Someone asked me why do we need to service someone we do not see? My response is that when God ask us to serve Him, what He requires of us is to show that we love Him by servicing fellow human beings. We become an impactful service provider because we are meeting other people's need. Servicing the Lord means first surrendering our lives unto Him because we have to know who we are servicing. It means that we are sold out to Him, and we live to please Him. Give your heart first to God, then whatever you do will be from a heart that is yielded unto Him.

Furthermore, to serve someone takes humility. It is a deliberate effort to wait on somebody and meet their needs. Through genuine service, we are committed to show forth the light of Christ in us. Our life, time, money, thought, words and deeds etc. becomes an instrument in the service of God's people. Christ Jesus is our ultimate example who served even till death. Others include Moses, David, the prophets, Nehemiah and Esther etc. These persons served to please the Lord and brought His counsel to fulfilment in their lives and that of others.

Dear friends, God is calling us to a life of total service unto Him and His creation. Although the present generation consider serving others as self-demeaning, but the truth is that the way up is down. True leadership is service. Be a service-oriented Christian. Remember that service brings God's blessings, provision and sound health from God. As we end this series, let your service be borne out of love and serve diligently. God bless you!

**Self-Reflection:** There is dignity in service. And whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord.

**Action Point:** Identify the areas you can serve in your church and in your community.

**Daily Confession:** Lord help me that my perspective to life will be informed by the word of God. Help me to be a faithful servant for the glory of God.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for grace to serve diligently and selflessly for anyone in the position of leadership in my community in Jesus' name.

**Song:** Love lifted me (x2),  
Where nothing else will do,  
You know love lifted me

January 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Alone with God**

*But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5:16 [NIV]*

#### **Bible Reading:** Mark 1:35-39

Today's world is of no doubt a jet age. Everyone seems to be in motion- making every minute count just to make ends meet. We get so carried away with activities all day and fall dead asleep all night forgetting that the most important thing in life is to commune with our Maker. Today's passage shows how Jesus worked till sunset healing the sick and driving out demons yet He still withdrew himself early the next morning to a solitary place to pray. If Jesus who was already performing miracles deliberately prayed, then it's not an option if we must successfully finish this Christian race.

During my study in a new country, it became so difficult to have a quality time with God in the morning as it was my custom due to the rigorous academic activity. Of course, I knew it was going to be a problem if I did nothing about it. This is because God had taught me faith sustaining lessons during these life changing moments. Now that I am far from home, I had to learn a new strategy if I would ever survive. God gave me wisdom to break my usual quality time with him into smaller bits at different intervals. With this strategy, I read the scriptures and prayed late nights before going to sleep after a busy day. When I wake up, I take some little time again to pray. When I am free after a lecture, I also go into the quiet university chapel to worship, study and pray before the next lecture. Although they were shorter moments compared to my usually long morning session, the strategy was very effective and the short moments altogether even became longer than my usual time with God. When God sees the willingness in your heart to seek Him, He gives you strength and wisdom to make it happen.

**Self-Reflection:** Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and slipped out to a solitary place to pray

**Action Point:** Take a deliberate step from today to be alone with God

**Daily Confession:** I receive the grace to seek You and be alone with God today. I shut every door of distraction and I embrace discipline in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for students in universities, polytechnics and other tertiary institutions to meet Jesus

**Hymn:** Sweet hour of prayer!  
Sweet hour of prayer!  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne,  
Make all my wants and wishes known

*Written by Brother Diret Tang'an*

January 17<sup>th</sup>

### **They Have Been with Jesus**

*“They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus” Acts 4:13 [NKJV]*

**Bible Reading:** Acts 4:10-13

My heart cry for every user of this devotional is that your allegiance, love, direction, devotion, purpose, and thought will be Jesus Christ. May Christ be formed in you and your life draw others to Jesus Christ as you daily abide in Him. May you be His bondservant whose sole ambition and focus will be to please the Master. May you set the Lord always before you and rejoice in Him (Psalm 16:8). This ambition can only be achieved in Jesus Christ.

Our reading today unveils an important aspect of our walk with God. There is no one who is with God that won't be recognized that s/he has been with Him even if you are unlearned. If there is someone that one would have thought won't be recognized has been with Jesus Christ was Apostle Peter. Apostle Peter denied Jesus thrice and he returned to fishing after Jesus' death. Yet, when the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father came upon Apostle Peter including other disciples on the day of Pentecost, people around recognized that they have been with Jesus. No matter who you are or what you have done, come to Jesus because He saves and He makes the difference.

God's Spirit transforms us because we become children of God who shine forth God's light for the world to see. Do you think your colleagues, neighbours, course mates, friends etc. cannot recognize that you have been with Jesus? People know even if they are not Christians because there is something about the life of Christ in us that everyone can recognize. Remember that Christ's disciples were first called Christians in Antioch because people saw Christ's attributes in them (Acts 11:26).

Furthermore, God's Spirit empowers us to function. He gives unction to meet people's need as we see timid disciple Peter become a bold Apostle of Christ. His single preaching brought 3,000 souls to Christ. Dear friends, God is calling you to Himself today. A call for you to journey with Him, allow Him work in your life so that His light can shine through you and people can testify that you have been with Jesus.

**Action Point:** Stay committed in your walk to grow in Him.

**Daily Confession:** May my allegiance, love, direction, devotion, purpose, and thought will be Jesus Christ.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for the salvation of anyone in your family, office and your network who is yet to know Jesus Christ.

**Hymn:** I need thee oh I need thee  
Every hour I need thee  
Oh, bless me now my savior  
I come to thee.



January 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Pay Attention to Your Morning**

*But to You I have cried out, o Lord, and in the morning my prayer comes before You. Psalm 88:13 [NKJV]*

**Bible Reading:** Genesis 19:27

The journey of every day starts in the morning. Metaphorically, morning signifies the beginning. When growing up, my parents were particular about how we spent our mornings. In fact, some of our teachers in school laid emphasis on what we did in the morning and who we spent early hours of the day with. We were told that morning was so important that we never took it for granted. Many years later, studying the Bible and growing in life, I realized that God lays emphasis on the morning. Many fathers of faith never played with their morning. Look at Abraham (Genesis 19:27; 22:3), Jacob (Genesis 28:18), Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:20), king David etc.

In fact, God instructed Moses to arise early in the morning and meet Pharaoh to give Pharaoh God's command (Exodus 8:20; Exodus 9:13). Moses built an altar before the Lord early in the morning (Exodus 24:4; Exodus 34:4). Many times, the Israelites' encounters with the Lord took place in the morning (Numbers 14:40); what about Joshua (Joshua 6:13; Joshua 8:10)? Did you know that in Shiloh, they woke up early in the morning to worship the Lord (1 Samuel 1:19)? King David knew what it means to fellowship with God and attend to his father's flock in the morning (1 Samuel 17:20; Psalm 5:3). Don't you know that it is in the morning that the dew falls and God's faithfulness is renewed every morning (Lamentation 3:23)?

During our first Sunday fellowship last year, we did an exercise. Each member was encouraged to set specific goal(s) for the year and follow through right from the beginning. What choice would you make in the morning of this year? What attitude would you give yourself unto this year? What are your dreams for this year? What practical steps will you take to achieve those dreams? What areas do you need to improve yourself?

Figuratively, we are in the early part of the year. It is still morning and what we do, who we partner with, who we listen to and the attitude we show will determine how the year will be. The psalmist understood the significance of morning when he said that: My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct my voice to You, and I will look up" (Psalm 5:3; Psalm 92:2; Psalm 59:16).

**Self-Reflection:** I encourage you to spend the morning of this year wisely. Pray, study God's word, listen to the right people, dream big and follow through.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus, I thank you for giving me understanding, enable me to flourish and make me hear your lovingkindness every morning (Psalm 143:8).

**Hymn:** Ere you left your room this morning,  
Did you think to pray?  
In the name of Christ, our Savior,  
Did you sue for loving favor  
As a shield today?

January 19<sup>th</sup>

### **God's Word Is Your Companion**

*Oh, how I love thy law, it is my meditation all the day. Psalm 119:97 [KJV]*

#### **Bible Reading:** Psalm 119:1-8

Everyone seeks companionship in life. Beginning from childhood, we see children choosing friends and playmates, visiting friends, buying gifts and having fun spending time with the ones they love. This is because human beings naturally seek a sense of belonging and love from various associations. God also seeks companionship; hence, we see in the garden of Eden where He leaves his heavenly throne and comes down to fellowship with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. God seeks companion not because he is lonely or in need of association but because he loves us. No wonder He said in His word, "I have loved you with an everlasting love" Jeremiah 31:3. He is God all by himself, all-sufficient.

There are various ways by which we can maintain relationship with God, it can be through praying, worship or studying His word. God's word is a written account containing all the thoughts and intents of God for man and it is to guide our relationship with Him. The Bible does not only guide our relationship with God, it also guides our relationship with fellow humans and in the choices that we make. God's word stands as a guide that can help us maintain God's presence. Jesus Christ instructed his disciples to abide in His word. Abiding in God's word means spending time to know what it says, understanding it and applying it in our daily lives. In fact, the first instruction given to Joshua when he took over from Moses was simple: "This Book of Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (Joshua 1:8).

Why do we need God's word as our companion? Firstly, life is a mystery and only Jesus can unravel the mystery of life. This is because He is LIFE John 14:6. Jesus answered and said, "I am the way, the truth and the LIFE". The more we are exposed to God's word, the more we know how to live life to its fullest. God's word is indeed a potent weapon for shaping lives. Again, we need God's word as our companion because the world is full of darkness, hence it is the light of God's word that can dispel every darkness and makes us live victorious lives here on earth. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a LIGHT unto my path (Psalm 119:105). Also, we need God's word as our companion because God's word gives us hope for the future, we are not as the hopeless but hopeful (Jeremiah 29:11). God's word gives the assurance of a brighter tomorrow, encourages us to look beyond our present circumstances and reminds us of eternity with God. They looked for a city whose builder and maker is God (Hebrew 11:10). God's word is powerful, instructs, sharper than two-edged sword, reveals secrets, makes us wise and full of life. Dear friends, embrace God's word. Study to show yourself approved unto God and live according to God's word (2 Timothy 2:15; James 1:22).

**Action Point:** Make a personal commitment to study the Bible more this year.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for the team writing this daily devotional for God's grace, wisdom and the provision of resources needed for its production.

**Hymn:** Ancient words, ever true; Changing me and changing you  
We have come with open hearts; Oh, let the ancient words impart.

## Pray without Ceasing

*Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonian 5:17 [ESV]*

**Bible Reading:** I Thessalonian 5:16-18

Communication is important to the survival of any relationship. One of the ways to maintain our relationship with God is through prayer. Prayer is a powerful tool every child of God needs to engage. It is a spiritual communication link between God and His children. A weapon of war that every child of God should employ and a lifestyle that we must learn. It is a spiritual exercise that create bond for deeper walk with God. When Jesus Christ was on earth, He taught His disciples how to pray because he understood that prayer is the lifeline to maintaining spiritual connection (Matthew 6:9-13).

Prayer is beyond an act. It is a lifestyle that every Christian need to develop in our journey of companionship with God. Prayer is an act of trust and faith (Matthew 21:22). It requires absolute reliance on God's ability because "it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who come to Him must believe that He is and He is a rewarded of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrew 11:6). It means that when we pray unto God, we recognize Almighty God's love and power to direct man's affairs. Thus, when we pray unto God, we are showing Him that we believe that He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above whatever we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20-21). Jesus understood the importance of prayer when He admonished his disciples to pray without ceasing. For any relationship to survive, there is need for constant and effective communication. Jesus Christ, our perfect example did not only teach prayer, he prayed without ceasing. That is, a constant attitude of God-consciousness and God-surrender that we carry with us all the time. He retired to communicate with His Heavenly Father at night. He understood that communication is a necessity and He can only receive God's power when He communicates with Him through prayer.

Furthermore, there are times that you add fasting to prayer (Matthew 6:16-18; Acts 13:2). When we fast, we bring our flesh to subjection so that we can hear God's voice. Many times, God may not change that situation but He will change you in the process. His goal is that Christ may be formed in us so that the life which is the light of men that He has deposited into us can shine forth and bring others to the knowledge of Him. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray (Romans 8:26-27). As we pray and look unto Him, something changes in us. We are not only asking for something; we are interacting with our heavenly Father who is interested in all that concerns us. Dear friends, I encourage you to pray this year. Pray for everything even if you think it is insignificant because God is interested in every aspect of your life.

**Action Point:** Praying without ceasing is the right way to relate to the God, so maintain a consistent prayer life.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus thank you for the provision to communicate with You in prayer. Help me to pray without ceasing.

**Intercessory prayer:** Intercede for your family, friends, colleagues, organizations and nations etc

**Hymn:** What a friend we have in Jesus; All our sins and griefs to bear  
And what a privilege to carry; Everything to God in prayer

### **Made in God's Image**

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth". Genesis 1:26 [NKJV]*

**Bible Reading:** Genesis 1:27-31

I love attending children's classes especially with storytelling and picture books. One of the fascinating stories I enjoy listening to is the creation story. God's peculiar approach to creating man. God made man in His image and His likeness. Man was not a product of evolution or atomic/molecular development. God planned and decided to make man. The Trinity-- God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit met, decided and worked together to make man. Glory to God that I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14) in the image of God. If you understand the level of details that goes into every part of your body, you will understand that no scientist has the capacity to be meticulous to make something of this nature except the Almighty God.

God created every other thing by His spoken words but when it came to making man, He did not only use His hands to form man out of the earth, He breath His breathe into man. Creation means making something out of nothing, however for man, God did not only create man, He formed man to be like Him. He deposited into man Life. The Spirit of God started dwelling in man until man fell when tempted by the serpent. Praise be to God who sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to die for our iniquity and we are now reconciled to God through Christ's redemption.

What is profound is the command to take dominion (Genesis 1:28)! Since God made man in His image and after His likeness, God gave man delegated authority and responsibility (Genesis 2:19-20). Did you know that as a child of God you are in-charge? You have been commanded to occupy till Christ comes? You are God's representative here on earth. Dear friends, you cannot afford to live below God's intention. We have heaven's resources at our disposal to fulfil destiny because God's divine power has given us all that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

**Self-Reflection:** You are not a product of evolution. You are a unique being created in God's glorious image to fulfil divine destiny.

**Daily Confession:** Father, I thank you for creating me in your image and after your likeness, thank you Lord for your Spirit that dwells in me. Help me take dominion for all-round victory in my life in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** For the righteous are as bold as lions, help Christians to live right for you and to grow in their walk with You in Jesus name.

**Hymn:** I'm pressing on the upward way,  
New heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I onward bound,  
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

### Accessing Divine Secrets

*Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3 [KJV]*

**Bible Reading:** Deuteronomy 29:29

Have you ever seen where God promised a thing but refused to bring it to pass? God is not a man that He should lie neither the son of man that He should repent (Numbers 23:19). I love open invitation and I have had some couple of them. Any time I have such an open invitation for instance during my birthday, I use it diligently. God has given us an open invitation to seek Him that we may access divine secrets about our lives, those around us and for our generation. We cannot afford to live life without being led by Him or without knowing His plan and purpose. This is because as many that are led by the Spirit of God are called sons of God (Romans 8:14). The truth you know will guide and guard you in the journey of life. While Jesus Christ was on earth, He had access to secrets of men and this preserved His life (John 2:24-25) Also, being led by God will deliver us from the wickedness that dominates the present world. In fact, God's leading preserves. Every Christian can know the mind of God, gain access to His most treasured secrets about our lives and even the world if we can pay the price. How do we access God's divine secret? From our reading today, we are to call unto God. We need to diligently seek and know God reverently (Psalms 25:14). It is ironic that many want to gain access to divine secret but they are not ready to know the One that holds the secret. The first entry point is accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. As we abide in God through His word, we are enlightened.

Furthermore, as we daily seek God's face, with consistency in our daily devotion unto God, in our quiet time and family altar and fellowship with other brethren, God gives us access to divine secrets that pertain to our lives. It is someone who is precious to us and we can trust that we reveal secrets. This is because we are precious to God that is why He wants us to draw closer to Him daily. As we yield to His leading, our lives are being guided, directed and preserved. Dear friends, let's hold on to His promise and seek Him in order to access the divine secrets that are important to life and destiny. Remember that the Spirit of God reveals even the deep things of God so cultivate a sweet fellowship with the Holy Spirit as you worship and seek God (1 Corinthians 2:9-11). Always remember "the secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29).

**Daily Confession:** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places. [Ephesians 1:17-20].

**Intercessory prayer:** Lord bless my children and my unborn generations; give them wisdom and all grace needed to live for you and to live a victorious life.

**Hymn:** God is speaking (x2); Do you hear? (x2)  
Trust and you will hear Him (x2); He is love (x2)

January 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Jesus is Coming Soon**

*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 1*

*Thessalonians 5:2 [KJV]*

**Bible Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Perhaps one of the criticisms against Christianity is that we claim Jesus is coming back again but He has not come yet. The fact that we do not know when He will come and He is yet to come does not mean He won't come back again.

The second coming of Jesus Christ is at hand and every eye shall see for like a thief in the night, Jesus Christ will suddenly appear. His first coming was when He came in human form to die for the iniquity of humanity. Jesus Christ took our shame and sin and nailed it to the cross. Condemned and crucified but He resurrected and ascended into heaven. God gave us His only begotten Son that whosoever believe in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. I am not ashamed to tell you that Jesus Christ is coming soon. Anyone that is yet to give his life to Jesus Christ will not reign with Him. I remember Noah who beckoned on the people of His time to come into the ark for protection and be saved from the impending disaster (Matthew 24:37-39). Alas, no one listened: only Noah's family members (Genesis 6-7) were saved from the flood.

In our Bible reading today, Apostle Paul admonished the Thessalonians about the coming of Jesus Christ. He mentioned the manner in which Jesus will come, like a thief in the night. It will be sudden. While some people are dinning and wining, suddenly, the trumpet will sound and Jesus will appear. Dear friends, Jesus Christ is coming soon, it is important that we remind ourselves of this truth so that as we continue in the journey of this year, we can focus on the right thing. The end of the world has come, our time here on earth is done and we are only counting few more seconds before the trumpet sounds. Jesus Christ spoke of the Day of His second coming: "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man" (Matthew 24:36-37). Jesus is coming for the prepared, be prepared by giving your life to Him if you are yet to and if you have given your life to Jesus, live a holy and righteous life.

**Self-Reflection:** How prepared are you for the Lord's second coming?

**Daily Confession:** Thank you Father for I do not belong to the night or to darkness, I have been translated into the kingdom of light and I will reign with you eternally.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for the salvation of your family members.

**Hymn:** Ho! my comrades, see the signal  
Waving in the sky!  
Reinforcements are now appearing,  
Victory is nigh!  
"Hold the fort, for I am coming"  
Jesus signals still,  
Wave the answer back to Heaven,  
By your grace we will"

### **The Power of a Made-up Mind (I)**

*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore, he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Daniel 1:8 [NKJV]*

#### **Bible Reading:** Daniel 1

Welcome to another series titled, *The Power of a Made-up Mind*. It is my prayer that God's word truly be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

The first time I read the book of Daniel over ten years ago, I was amazed at the sentence 'Daniel proposed in his heart' (Daniel 1:8a). I was fascinated by the level of Daniel's determination which made him say no to the king's meal that had been offered to idols. Daniel by faith in God took some audacious steps that sounded illogical to the natural man.

First, Daniel's proposition made him take a bold step to speak to the chief of eunuchs about his decision to separate himself and deny himself of the king's meal. The Bible recorded that Daniel found favor in the sight of the chief of eunuchs. Daniel assured the chief of eunuchs by faith that he will not look lean as the chief feared. And God honoured Daniel's faith.

In addition, Daniel's singular act influenced others. His other Hebrew brothers followed him and did exactly what he did. At the end of ten days, Daniel and his brothers looked better and fatter than those who ate the king's meal.

I invite you to ponder on these questions as we examine the power of a made-up mind for the next few days: What action will your made-up mind motivate you to take? What work will your faith inspire you to do?

**Daily Confession:** Lord as I commit to serving you, make my life better in every ramification and let your glory rest upon my household.

**Intercessory prayer:** May the Lord bless my household.

**Hymn:** Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
Ye soldiers of the cross;  
Lift high his royal banner,  
It must not suffer loss.  
From victory unto victory  
His army shall he lead,  
Till every foe is vanquished,  
And Christ is Lord indeed.

### **The Power of a Made-up Mind (II)**

*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Daniel 1:8 [NKJV]*

#### **Bible Reading:** Daniel 1

A million dollar question I would love to pose this morning is this: What is your mind made up about? Daniel proposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's meal. What are you making up your mind to do or not to do? Since the beginning of another year, some people would have made new year resolutions twenty-four days ago to do or not to do something again. For example, a resolution to be more faithful in their service to God, to be a faithful parent, to study hard, to avoid procrastination and to be exercise daily etc. While these resolutions are not bad at all, they must not be based on lip-service. Your proposition must be backed up with action. Your vision for the year will determine your resolution. For instance, if you want to grow in your walk with God, that will determine the choices you will make. Yours might be to build a house, to grow professionally, to love your children, and to evangelize etc.

When there is no decision taken, there is no accountability, no responsibility and at times no way to even measure growth. After ten days, Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were able to evaluate themselves based on the decision they took. Determination does not exist in a void; it has to be on/about something. Dear friends, you know the areas you need to work on, so I encourage you to make up your mind about the change you desire today. God bless you!

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus I receive your help today to be determined about these areas in my life (list them).

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for those who are yet to make up their minds to give their lives to Christ, that you will stir their hearts to receive the free gift of salvation in Jesus' name.

**Hymn:** Lord lift me up and let me stand  
By faith on heaven stable land  
Higher plan that I am found  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground



### **The Power of a Made-up Mind (III)**

*And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15 [KJV]*

**Bible Reading:** Joshua 24

Joshua shows us an example of what it means to have a made-up mind. A resolution to serve the Lord wholeheartedly. Joshua lived among a generation that grumbled and murmured against God (Numbers 14:2; 15:24; 16:2). You remember twelve spies were sent to the land of Canaan and only Joshua and Caleb returned with good news (Numbers 13:1-33). Joshua was the right-hand man of Moses, so when Moses died, Joshua took over and took the children of Israel to the Promised Land (Joshua 1). Joshua was not only resolute for himself; he was determined that his entire household will serve the Lord. Although after his death there arose a generation that did not know God (Judges 2:10), he accomplished the task of leading the stubborn Israelite and gave them their inheritance. One has to be resolute to achieve a vision because there are stumbling blocks and different distractions on the way. In the case of Joshua, he had to separate those that wanted to serve God and those that were not interested. Here's the point today: There are times you need to separate yourself to achieve your purpose. This may mean that you have to change your sets of friends, or you have to learn to be by yourself without having to look for approval from others.

Joshua's lifestyle teaches us that we have to decide on whose side we are on, Jesus or the world? And we have to get to the point when we can boldly say, no matter who agrees with me or who does not agree, we are going to love God. We will work to achieve whatever we set out to achieve for God's glory.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus thank you because you have given me freewill, help me to yield it totally unto for your glory. I receive confidence to fulfill God's purpose for my life in Jesus' name, amen.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for the continent of Africa for God's mercy.

**Hymn:** Lord lift me up and let me stand  
By faith on heaven stable land  
Higher plan that I am found  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground.

### **The Power of a Made-up Mind (IV)**

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up (Daniel 3:16-18). [NKJV]*

**Bible Reading:** Daniel 3:1-30

Among other things, one of the lessons the book of Daniel teaches us is to persevere because perseverance is a character of a determined mind. In our reading today, king Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image and set it up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He called important personalities in the land to attend the inauguration of the statue and commanded them to bow down before the king's statue. After the king's instruction, everybody bowed except the three Hebrew men. The king was informed that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow to the image. The king called the three Hebrew men and gave them another chance to bow before the image but they refused and answered the king: 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up (Daniel 3:16-18).

This infuriated the king and he commanded the fiery furnace to be heated seven times. The three Hebrew men were thrown into the fiery furnace but they were saved because the Son of God was present with them in the furnace (Daniel 3:25). The king decree that 'every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort' (Daniel 3:29).

It takes courage to have a made-up mind and one has to persevere because trials will come to test our decision and determination. The three Hebrew men believed in God even it meant they were going to die and through their action, the name of the Lord was exalted throughout the land. May God help us to be a generation that will make-up our mind to stand for God.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus I receive the grace to persevere as I am determined to stand for You. Amen.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray that our youths will seek Jesus in their lives.

**Hymn:** Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

### **The Power of a Made-up Mind (V)**

*Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court. (Daniel 2:48-49). [NKJV]*

**Bible Reading:** Daniel 2:46-49

I recently saw an animated movie about the story of Daniel. It is refreshing to see characters from the Bible being brought to life. In the version I saw, king Nebuchadnezzar bowed before Daniel after Daniel had revealed and interpreted the king's dream. He did not bow to Daniel but to the God of Daniel who could reveal such a mystery. Remember the king's magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and the Chaldeans said that the king's request was impossible (Daniel 2:10). Of course, when God is being honoured, His children are being honoured also. Homage would not have been paid to Daniel, God's name would not have been praised throughout the land, and Daniel and his friends would not have been promoted if they did not propose to set themselves apart for the Lord. They came with a different traditions, mindset, religion and way of life as Hebrews and they stood for God even in a foreign land. They even prayed to God to reveal the king's dream and God answered their prayer. Here's the word for today: there are amazing rewards when we are determined to stand for God. At KSi, we encourage you to be determined to follow Jesus, become like Him and obey Him daily. God bless you!

**Self-Reflection:** A made-up mind is a disciplined mind.

**Daily Confession:** I receive grace to discipline myself in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for pastors and spiritual leaders for God's encouragement despite whatever they may be passing through.

**Song:** I've got my mind made up and I won't turn back  
Because I want to see my Jesus someday  
I've got my mind made up and I won't turn back  
Because I want to see my Jesus someday

### **The Power of a Made-up Mind (VI)**

*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]. Matthew 16:24 (AMP)*

#### **Bible Reading:** Matthew 16:24-26

For the past five days, our devotional guide has focused on the power of a made-up mind. We used Daniel and his Hebrew friends - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and Joshua as our reference points. I would love to conclude this series today by reflecting on Jesus' statement on the requirement to be His disciple. From Jesus' statement, it takes determination and discipline to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. For instance, you have to make up your mind to follow Jesus first by believing His work of redemption on the cross of Calvary. Also, you have to discipline yourself to submit to the Holy Spirit and you have to be determined to be diligent and persistent in your devotion and service unto God. I love Jesus because He does not try to sugar coat anything, rather, He speaks the truth. If you want to be His disciple, you have to 1) deny yourself; 2) take up your cross; and 3) follow Him. Jesus' requirement to be His disciple is true even today. If Apostles of old did not deny and sacrifice themselves, perhaps Christianity may not have been where it is today. The Holy Spirit can only partner with us when we yield to Him. Also, being led by the Holy Spirit takes discipline and obedience. I believe as Christians, there's a need to make-up our minds to lead successful lives in our families, societies and the world. Dear friends, I encourage you to make up your mind first to walk with God and to be determined to achieve godly success in your pursuit. God bless you!

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus help me to be determined to live a righteous life and to lead a successful life in all ramifications in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for those in the prison for God's mercy and for a change of heart to whoever needs it.

**Song:** I've got my mind made up and I won't turn back  
Because I want to see my Jesus someday  
I've got my mind made up and I won't turn back  
Because I want to see my Jesus someday

### God is Good

*Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:18-19*

#### **Bible Reading:** Isaiah 43:18-19

God is a good God. He is not only good but everything about Him is great. No wonder the psalmist says "come and taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). Even in His anger, He shows mercy and love. "But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering and abundance in mercy and truth. (Psalm 86:15)". When God speaks, He speaks life. His plan is lovely and excellent. For instance, here's what He says about you: 'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end' (Jeremiah 29:11). God does not speak out of compulsion, He speaks when necessary and He does not speak to make anyone feel better, rather He speaks what He can do.

For a user of this devotional, God will do a new thing in your life. 'Why will God do a new thing in my life?' You may ask. God will a new thing in your life because He loves you. 'Yea, I have loved thee with everlasting love; therefore, with loving-kindness have I drawn thee' (Jeremiah 31:3). He is a good God. He loves and cares about you. Love moved God to give His only Son, Jesus Christ to die for our iniquity. Because He love us, He gave us the Holy Spirit to tabernacle in and with us. Now we have become the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus and we have become the temple of God. Isn't that amazing?

Did you know that righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne; mercy and truth go before His face? (Psalm 89:14). God is our heavenly Father who loves and cares about us. He knows your name, you are engraved in the palms of His hands and your walls are before Him (Isaiah 49:16), He knows the number of hairs on your head (Luke 12:7), He supplies our needs according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19), and He also gives us power to make wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18). He shows His love to us as He meets our needs and as he disciplines us. Dear beloved, I encourage you to believe in God's words for your life as we have started this year journey. And 'I truly wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers' (3 John 1:2).

**Action Point:** Thank God for His word and ask Him to do something new in your life this year. Be specific in your request!

**Daily Confession:** You are the good Father for that is who you are and You so much love me. I believe your word and I am confident that I will experience your goodness in my life this year in Jesus' name. Amen

**Intercessory prayer:** I declare God's healing upon patients at the hospital in my community in Jesus' name.

**Song:** God is so good x3  
He's so good to me.

## God's Strength

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Ephesians 6:10 [KJV]*

### **Bible Reading:** Ephesians 6:10-24

Apostle Paul's epistle touches on many issues necessary to live a life worthy of one's calling (Ephesians 4:1). In the concluding part of chapter 6 of Ephesians, Paul dwells on the essentials to remain relevant, fervent and productive in the Christian race. He introduces the last part of this chapter with an encouragement that has a tone of finality, a sense of urgency and a definite direction: "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10). There is nowhere else to be strong except in the Lord. Any other source of strength is ephemeral. To be strong in the Lord is to focus on Him, pay absolute attention and remain connected to Him. No wonder Nehemiah reiterates that the joy of the Lord is my strength (Nehemiah 8:10). The reality is that the world system is designed to take away God-consciousness from God's people. In fact, if one is not careful, the evil taking place across different civilizations/world can snuff out faith in a child of God and replace it with fear.

When you are strong in the Lord, you will remain steadfast and look unto Jesus the author and the finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:3). You will arise and shine amidst the darkness (Isaiah 60). No matter the circumstances, you will be settled on Jesus because it is in Him you live, move and have your being (Acts 17:28). You will live by faith daily and live a life devoid of sin because you know that you died to sin, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).

God's power sustains and keeps fresh and alive. Before Paul listed the whole armour of God (the spiritual resources) needed to be strong in the Lord, he identifies the fact that our warfare are not canal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. He puts it thus: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). Dear friends, you can only find lasting and effective strength in God. You cannot access this power except you have given your life to Jesus Christ. Give your life to Jesus today.

**Daily Confession:** I declare: the joy of the Lord is my strength; I am strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for God's peace in countries and regions experiencing challenging political transitions.

**Hymn:** Trust and obey  
For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus  
But to trust and obey

## Contact Information

We hope this devotional has blessed your life. Should you have any questions or comments about the devotional or you want to know more about Kingdom Support Initiatives (KSi), feel free to reach out to us via email – [info@kingdomsupportinitiatives.org](mailto:info@kingdomsupportinitiatives.org).

You can also connect to us via our social media platforms:

**Twitter:** @Ksi\_connect

**Instagram:** Ksi\_Connect

**Facebook:** @ksiconnectonline

Please remember to download the study for February 2022 and subsequent months on our website  
[kingdomsupportinitiatives.org](http://kingdomsupportinitiatives.org)

God bless you!