



grenepages

Issue 11

equipped
for every good work

The Journey Of Awelewa 9

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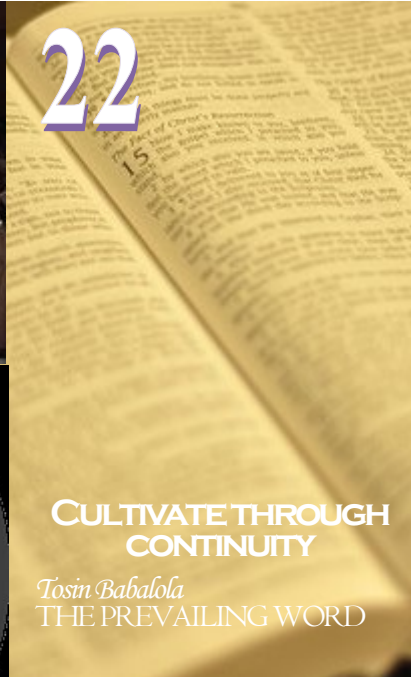
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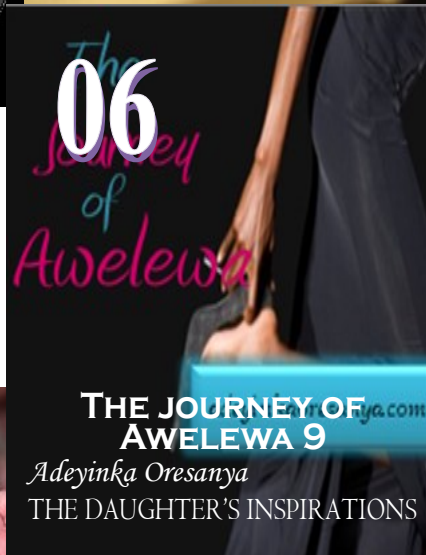


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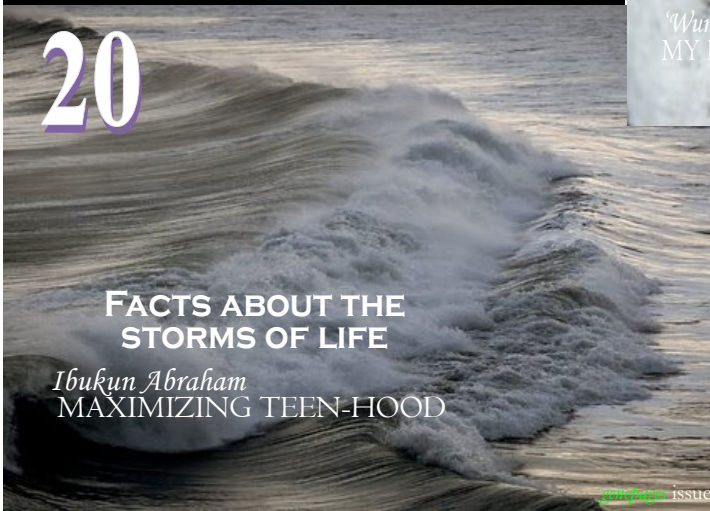
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COMPLETE!

Ope Rowland
THRIVE

11th Word

that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV

Would you use an incompetent driver? Would you hire an incompetent lawyer? How about a quack doctor, a plumber without tools or a soldier without arms?

Why then do you think being incompetent in the things of God is not an issue?

Importance differs from one man to the other, as the things I consider important may be the least on your scale of preference. The things of God are very different. They should rank most important for everyman. He (God) does not joke with it, just as you don't, even much more.

He demands competence. He demands thorough equipment. Not just works, but good works.

Our team have put together pieces to remind you that God would rather have his men competent, qualified, approved, equipped and doing good works.

Welcome to our 11th issue of [grenepages](#).

Tobi Olowookere





Joan Abimbola

MINISTERING RHYTHMS

<https://joanministeringrhythms.wordpress.com>

the ju

the ju

The stuttering Moses
Like a thorn amidst roses
Fighting for his own to the extreme
Once a baby at the stream

The Jesses' youngest – David
Ruddy and not lazy
Forgotten by loved ones
When he went shepherding the flocks

The Jewish Esther
An orphan so tender
In total obedience to her helper-
Her dear family member

The promiscuous Rahab
In kindness radiant
Hiding the spies from danger
Of Jericho's rangers

Moses had no smooth voice
Yet he was the Lord's choice
In Jesse's house, David was most irrelevant
But to God he was the most significant

Esther though a 'nobody'
At the palace, God made her a 'somebody'
And Rahab the one known as a harlot
From her lineage, God brought the Messiah

Just to mention a few
Of all that God chose and made new
Proving that He doesn't choose the strong
But the justified who He now qualifies

Knowing that we have been called
Not because we were strong
We must live to give Him glory
Through all of our Life's story

Justified

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 NKJV

mebody'
rlot
e Messiah forth

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e qualified
lifies

d



Adeyinka Oresanya

THE DAUGHTER'S INSPIRATIONS

<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>

Read previous episodes [here...](#)

One thing about this job of mine was that it came with a high level of stress. Customers, both literate and non-literate, on your neck all day long, some funny ones demanding to know why every fifty kobo was deducted from their account and why my bank of all banks should charge a hundred naira for the use of other banks' automated machines, and so on.

Not just me, even my colleagues in other units had their own day-to-day challenges. So, it was just natural that once it was past four o'clock in the evening, and customers started to trickle down, we became at ease and would try to relax.

Sometimes, some naughty ones amongst us would just make a funny statement that

would become a topic of argument. Times like that happened today.

My office space was located upstairs and I shared the hall with seven colleagues, two ladies and five guys.

Udeme, one of the guys in commercial banking unit and a notorious playboy, just happened to tickle Tosin, one of my unit members. She let out a funny scream and the guys laughed.

"Hehehe, Tosin, is that your ringtone?"

the journey

Mayowa, Udeme's drinking buddy and partner-in-crime, asked. "Udeme, you have just discovered this babe's weak spot o."

People began to laugh.

Tosin eyeballed Mayowa. "What stupid ringtone are you talking about? Do I look like a phone to you?"

Some of the guys laughed again.

Mayowa said, “You don’t know what ringing tone is? Hmmm, I don’t like it when girls pretend.”

“Abi o.” Udemé joined in. “You want to tell me you don’t sing to your boyfriend’s ears when you are doing the real thing?”

Tosin hissed. “You think everyone is like those you sleep around with?”

“What’s wrong with ‘those’ I sleep around with, Madam? Aren’t y’all the same thing? Same ring tone.” Udemé

chance, baby.”

“Yes o.” Richard joined in. “If you marry a guy who can’t do it well, hmmm, na one chance be that o.”

Udemé perched on Tosin’s desk and leaned forward. “You must do the real thing before—”

“Udemé, leave this girl alone now. Why are you on her case this evening?” I spoke up.

“Abegi! Leave that one. Must everyone be like you, Stingy Sister Mary.”

“Na you sabi.” I replied.

“But seriously, girls, the world is changing and we need to change with the times.” Janet said. “Me o, I can never date a guy, not to talk of marrying him, without testing the real thing. I don’t want to end up marrying a man who can’t satisfy me in bed.”

teased.

“Abeg, leave Tosin o. She doesn’t have a ring tone yet,” Janet said. “She’s saving it all for the Bro who finally puts a ring on it.”

“Ha! Ngbo Tosin, is that true?” Mayowa asked. “Ha, you have to change that decision o. You don’t wanna to enter one

That was how my Auntie entered one chance and before we knew it, she was sleeping with someone else she mistakenly got pregnant for.”

“Whatever you say, Janet, sexual purity is still the best.” Tosin countered.

“What are you talking about now? Learner ni ba-

of awelewa



by yi ke. This girl is really a learner,” Mayowa rejoined. “Wait, if you want to buy a car, won’t you test drive it first to know it is working well? Will you just buy and take it home only to discover that there is something wrong?”

“No! God forbid!” Richard twisted his fingers over his head.

“Ehn ehn, it’s the same with marrying someone without being sure of their sexual capacity. It’s a whole life of frustration ahead.”

That was when Yvonne a.k.a Iron Lady, walked in. Yvonne was a tough lady who rarely smiled or joked with anyone, something many of our colleagues, especially the guys, attributed to pride especially since she was two steps ahead most of us that were her age mates.

However, she was notorious for donning miniskirts and short dresses that screamed ‘Party Girl’. The funny thing was she was good friends with Mayowa and he used to talk about them going to clubs together, though their friendship was platonic.

She walked up to Janet’s desk and was asking her something.

I turned to Mayowa. “Mayowa, so if a girl is not capable, you move on to the next one, abi?”

“That’s right,” he replied. “Until you find the best one for you. God no go vex.”

Udeme and Janet laughed.

I shook my head. Why do people who are wrong always have facts to present and are bold enough to defend their wrong. Comparing test driving cars

with sex outside marriage and even encouraging multiple partners.

“So Tosin, forget that thing o, the Bible was written for the children of Israel in those days when there was no civilization,” Mayowa continued. “Things are different now.”

“Say whatever you want. The Bible is still relevant for everyone,” Tosin replied.

Udeme shook his head. “You are a naïve somebody.”

“Come to think of it, Mayowa, no matter how old-fashioned and boring the Bible sounds on issues, I reason with its principles,” Yvonne said.

I jerked my head up. It took some seconds for me to realise my jaws were slightly far from each other. Yvonne was the last person I expected to hear that from.

Mayowa scoffed. “What principles?”

“You see,” she said, “my parents were each other’s firsts and it wasn’t because they were Born-again or something. They just wanted to wait for each other. They told me staying faithful in their marriage and loving each other was easier because there were no sexual and emotional baggage, unlike some of their friends who constantly complained about their marriages.”

I noticed Udeme and Janet had started to listen. Tosin's attention was intently focused on Yvonne.

Yvonne continued, "My mum even talked about one of her friends who keep complaining about her marriage, that sex with her husband was way different and less exciting unlike one she used to have with her former lover."

"Hmm," Udeme nodded. "That's true. My former babe kept complaining I don't love her enough. It's always Dayo used to do this, no, Dayo didn't use to do that to me. I had to tell her to go look for Dayo. I ain't gonna be compared to any man."

Mayowa chuckled. "Girls can be funny sha. What was she thinking? But Yvonne, I still maintain that waiting till marriage is a risky business."

"Well, my mother said they both had to learn their way through and today they are enjoying themselves very well. Waiting was worth it," Yvonne replied.

"Whoa, you discuss sex that deep with your mum?" Janet asked.

"Uh-huh," she nodded.

"Wow, that's weird."

"What's weird about it? I learnt a lot about relationships from her. She is my role model."

Yvonne smiled and I saw affection for her mum in her eyes. "Chastity worked for her and that's why I choose to wait till marriage before giving any man my body."

"Hear, hear" Tosin pumped her fists in the air.

Yvonne gave her a weird look and everyone burst into laughter.

Hmmm, lessons to take home today. Although Yvonne girl always behaved as if she didn't need Jesus in her life, knowing that she believed in the Bible made my heart sing. And now, I appreciate my Bible more because it carries instructions and principles that are timeless, flawless and always relevant no matter the times.

It says flee from sexual immorality, a.k.a, sex outside marriage or with someone who is not your spouse and I am going to stick to it. No Sex Until Marriage!

In the meantime, I made a mental note to minister to Yvonne.

... to be continued.

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Adeoye Akinwumi
AKINWUMI'S HANDWRITING(S)
<http://nikeadeoye.blogspot.co.uk>

There is how the world knows you, there is how the brethren know you and there is that perception of yourself that you have. Many times we over rate ourselves. At other times, it is as a result of the flattery from the world and even the Church. They make us feel we are on course of our destiny at a 5000% rate.

They psyche us with spiritual banter, 'the very great woman of God' (GWOG). They already give us the Apostle's tag, when we are only just scratching the surface of our

destiny. They tag us superintendent Evangelist when we have only ministered to 2.5% of the souls expected of us.

Sweet as flattery may sound, even self deception, I thought to remind you, that very soon, you shall know as you are known by the master. Whether the dichotomy is large or not, you shall know. Whether all you have been chastised on earth about will determine your eternal destiny, though you rejected the chastisement so badly, someday you shall know.

Soon we shall all know as we are known by our saviour.

Do you know that hymn? The last verse trips me.
.. *Where Thou leadest we would go, Walking in Thy steps below, Till before our Father's throne*
WE SHALL KNOW AS WE ARE KNOWN.

SOON, we shall know



Toyin Seth-Ogungbe'
TEE-WAI

<http://toyeenmakogungbe.blogspot.com>

They told me I could sing the house down;
then I sang.

They said if I read up some more I will be
the next big thing; then I read.

They said if only I had more panache; I
mastered it.

They said if I were taller, fairer, darker,
thicker etc. They thought they could de-
fine, restrain and conform me to their lim-
ited minds.... they lost me there.

Amidst whom they made me to be, I could
not find who I am.

I wanted to dance until my feet hurt. I
wanted to sing and then I did not
want to anymore.

wanted to build castles and I was ready to work to
learn how to. I wanted to light up a room when I
walked in and slide in through the back on other
days. I wanted to speak before Kings and have
them take notes. I wanted to curl up on my bed
and read myself to sleep too.

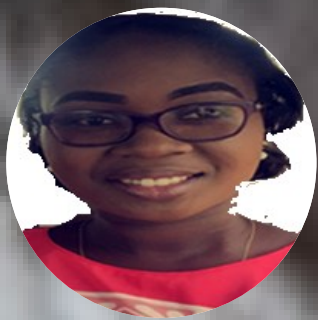
I wanted to find faith and walk in it, I wanted to
fail on my own terms and find faith again.

Here I was, sitting, counting the opportunities I
missed and the ones I shouldn't have. Living back-
wards, defeated by the emptiness of it all.

Before I lost all of me, God reached out and illumi-
nated my soul, gave me his word and the honour
to choose my path daily as he watchfully guides
me.

So, I smile today because I have the reins back in
the hands of the Potter. I no longer ask, "Who am
I?" ... I just live and enjoy the beauty in the person I
express day to day. Little wonder I was made by
an inexhaustible God. You cannot know all of
me... I don't either, but I now enjoy the journey
of living.

Who am I?



Wunmi Falodun
MY LIVING HOPE

www.mylivinghopealternatives.org/

Sometime ago, I saw two kids (a boy and a girl) fighting. The boy was hitting the young girl's chest violently. I overheard him say: "I'll beat out your chest down." I stepped in, scolded him so much before I even cared to listen to what transpired or who was at fault. Then I schooled him on being responsible, gentlemanly and civilized. I belong to that school of thought that no matter what, do not ever get physical, not to talk of hitting a woman.

My experience with these kids got me thinking: I may never meet those children again in my life, but they

can meet my own children, anywhere anytime. I have quite a number of children around me, and I just cannot imagine any one of them being treated in such a barbaric manner without defense. Indeed, it takes two people to bring forth a child, but it takes the whole community to raise that child.

The hope and future of the next generation depends largely on the present generation. We are to lead them right and show them the way. If we do not catch them young, they will definitely go astray.

Do not be tempted to overlook a child's shenanigans next time you see one, you just might be saving a generation from danger. You just might be securing your child's future. No matter how well brought up your own children are, the children they mix with, make friends with or even marry will to a large extent determine the viability and durability of all they learnt at home.

My doctor sister once called me and said her patient gave her a dirty slap.

intentional parent

“Guess what? This patient was an 18 months old baby!” The first question I asked her was, *“And what did you do?”* She said, *“Nothing, I just smiled, his mother was there, smiling.”*

That did not go down too well with me. If an 18 months old baby is wise enough to slap an adult, she should be grown enough to receive just two taps at the back of her hands.

On the other hand, I was on the phone with my sister, my 16 months old nephew sneezed, his mother said, *“Bless you”* and he responded, *“Thank you!”* How amazing!

These children need to be trained and raised. However, much more than that, they need to be prayed for.

We are not to get bothered about our children mixing with the wrong kind of chil-

dren; we are to be deliberate about TAMING THEIR TERRAINS.

Since I learnt this secret, I pray for all the children around me like a complete crazy woman.

We are to commit their sojourn all through life to the hands of the all-knowing God. Pray for them before you have them, come against all evil friends, ungodly relationships and friendships, heartbreaks, their handwriting, intellect, vision and purpose in life, their academics and careers, their marriages, their organs, all their body systems and what have you.

One thing is sure, the effectual fervent prayers of a righteous man or woman avails much. Our faith is not in faith nor in prayers, but in God and God alone. Faithful is He that calleth who also will do it. There is hope for your children; there is hope in their future.

Rejoice!

nting



Tobi Olowookere
GRACEDPAGES

<https://gracedpages.wordpress.com>

ARISE AND EAT

Then as he lay and slept under a briar tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." 1 Kings 19:5 NKJV

People eat to get strength. That is why you went to study. To get the knowledge required to run in life. You have done well for yourself.

Eat! Your life is a journey. You will need a lot of strength. Food is not one of many options, it is key for survival.

Read!

Read books that will make you grow in knowledge. Life will ask you questions as you progress. You need knowledge to respond. Invest! Invest in yourself. Go to quality schools. Learn to read and write. In the world of today, it is basic.

Eat, I mean try to get a university degree. It seems to be the least that would be expected from anyone in the near future. Do not just lay down there. It is too early in your life to be idle. Stuff yourself up.

Eat! The angel gave Elijah food and advised him to eat. He would need the food for the journey. *Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. 1 Kings 19:6 NKJV*

do what you

At least he had eaten something. He laid down and continued his rest. So, you already have a First School Leaving Certificate and you think you have eaten enough? You just want to enjoy your life. So, you just have the Secondary School Certificate, and you think that's all you need. You don't want to go further? You have a first degree and you say, "That's all, I'm done with studying. Now, all I want to do is to make and spend money like the others."

EAT SOME MORE...

And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." 1 Kings 19:7 NKJV

But everyone one else are already settling down? My mates are already getting married. They are getting good jobs already. They are driving big cars around the town. My mates, who do not even have my kind of degree, have gone far ahead. Why? Why is mine so slow? Why is life only giving me options

to study more? Why must I go to school when I can sit home and manage my father's properties? Why must I go for a Masters and not a job now? Why does it seem like the next opening for me is a PHD when what I really desire is a wedding? Why must I spend the little money I have now to invest in myself when others are using theirs for overseas vacations?

Take heed to the voice of your angel.

"Get up and eat some more, for there is a long journey ahead of you."

What is obtainable for you today is a perquisite for your journey tomorrow. Do not look at the other man. The only competition you have is you.

Then the angel of the Lord came again and touched him and said, "Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you." 1 Kings 19:7 NLT.

have to do



Ope Rowland
THRIVE

<http://operowland.blogspot.com>

and you are complete through your union with Christ. He is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe.

Colossians 2:10 NLT

You are complete by being in union with him. This means that if you are not in union with Christ, you are not a complete person, you cannot reach the best of your potential, you are not your full person and you are not hundred percent. When you allow your life to come in union with him, by living your life like your Lord, your life comes in union and then you are completed in him. You get to one hundred percent because you are living your life in him. To be at your best, you have to be in union with Christ. This

Christ has been made Lord over everything. He is above all, *“and God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church.”* (Ephesians 1:19-22 NLT)

If Christ is seated above all powers, all creatures, animate and inanimate, then we are reigning together, *“for he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms--all because we are one with Christ Jesus.”* (Ephesians 2:6 NLT)

We are in charge together. When you are made complete, you reach your full potential. Your full potential is to do what Jesus is doing. You are to be seated with him. Therefore, if we are in union with our Lord, it makes you to be in charge of all that is in his charge.

When a man and woman are joined together in matrimony, they come into union with each other. All the estate of the man becomes the wom-

an's also. She as-
of what the hus-
charge. Therefore, sumed charge
band has
living him by

complete!

conforming your life to his, bring you in union/ matrimony with your Lord and whatever he has, becomes yours. So if he is in charge of all then being seated with him confer on you enormous authority.

For instance, just as Jesus would send angels on errands, if you were in union with Christ you can send them on errands. Angels have been given to us who have pledged allegiance to Christ as ministering servants (Hebrews 1:14). They are to be at your disposal. So take charge of your world. You can send angels on errands.

However, what makes your command to be obeyed and makes your lordship to be respected is because you are seated with him and you are in union with him. We learnt more about this when a Roman officer came and pleaded with Jesus when he arrived in Capernaum, for the healing of his servant.

Then the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed! I know, because I am under the authority of my superior officers and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this or that,' they do it."

Matthew 8:8-9 NLT

What made the Roman officer's authority over others to be effective was because he was under authority.

What will make your lordship in this world to be tangi-

ble and manifest is to be under the lordship of Christ. You demonstrate this by living your life like him.

Do you submit to him? Do you still have some areas God cannot address? Submit and see God work it out for your good, even when it seems difficult. Do you have his permission in your plans and intentions?

You can only have one lord at a time: "*No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*" (Matthew 6:24 NLT)

If you are influenced by money, he cannot be your Lord, "*but we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we exist for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.*" (1 Corinthians 8:6 NLT)

You are permitted to have only one lord at a time. He is either Lord over everything or he is Lord over nothing. That little portion of your life you are withholding from his lordship makes him Lord over nothing in your life.

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