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False Intimacy

There are friends we keep tabs with on a daily basis. We must get worried or look for them if they don't show up for just one day. For some, it's a weekly thing. For some, one call will be sufficient in a whole year.

Guess what? It takes nothing away from your friendship. Our fellowship with God is not exactly so. The quality of a Christian life directly depends on the man's relationship with Him. He is not to be called once a day, weekly or yearly. Many men want to be "this and that" for God, but how much can He trust you with, really? You go on and off, over and over.

This time at [grenepages](#), let's call your attention to a quality consistent fellowship with God.

Beyond the words on these pages, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you on what he expects from you particularly.

Welcome again, how have you been?

Tobi Olowookere



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enough

I have come
Just as I am, before the Son
Nearer as He bids
Calling that He be enough for me

Come and be enough for me
Again, I've left it all for Thee
I know You are my ALL in All
You are my need; my dear Lord

What else can satisfy
On who else should I rely?
None! None! Oh none but Thee--
My Love; my Life; my Shield

King Solomon had it all
Yet here's his call--
All is vanity and vanity
All but a godly life till eternity

MEDITATION:

Truly, all of the completeness we seek in our lives can only be found in God.

“Jesus replied, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty”.

(John 6:35 NLT)

for me

So here is my heart's voice

Yes this is my own choice

You shall be enough for me

In rest or in distress, You shall be my Peace

In all

Lord be my ALL

When I seem to have all the best

Come and be my very best!

Through it all

Lord be my ALL

When it seems all is gone and none is left

Your Love is enough; Your very Self

My soul's essence--

Your constant Presence

Please hold me close

And never let me go.



Treasures in Jar of Clay Femi Sobayo

<http://oluwafemisobayo.blogspot.com/>

Diverse versions of God's will and standards, as authored by men are everywhere now. One version says this, and another version says that. A faithful steward, as an individual should be diligently responsible to build his own roots, in the pure primary source of the Truth; The Holy Bible. Moreover, when other versions come against what he holds, he should keep firm within his conviction.

This conviction, can be examined and re-examined frequently if need be, but the benchmark for all convictions should not be a secondary source, but the Spirit of God; the Word of God, which is the source of all truths.

Few months ago, we changed to a new apartment. Days after we settled in, one of my well-meaning neighbours; a brilliant, well-spoken, intellectual-ly sound Christian woman called me on the phone.

"Hello Mr. Sobayo would you be free today or after church tomorrow for a discussion?"

According to her, she loves to relate with fellow Christians like herself to check up on them the quality of what they believe. So, if my belief was wrong, she would help me see clearly, so I can realign well. What a nice ministry!

So, over a refreshing serving of snacks, she asked me, "What is your opinion on sin and works, having impact on our salvation?"

"Hmnn..." I began, "we are saved by faith through grace, not by works. If we keep faith in Jesus, the grace is available to keep us from going into sin, but if we fall, we should promptly stand up again by repenting and appropriating the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. We must not abuse the grace of God by being careless, romancing iniquities every now and then" In my wildest imagination, I never expected a debate over that simple expression. I was wrong.

We were there for almost two hours. She thinks that we can never lose our salvation again. We cannot become unsaved again. Once we are

Beware of men's revised version

saved, we are saved for life, irrespective of anything. The salvation will keep us from sin and we can never lose faith again.

Arghhhh! I have heard of the eternal security doctrine, but I had not seen an apostle of it face-to-face.

That is not the only revised version of God's truth I have heard; the internet is filled with thousands of revised standard versions of God's truth as propounded by men. The truth is that some of these men do not mean evil. Those are their versions, by conviction too.

A pastor once said that masturbation in itself is not a sin; it is the guilt of it that is. My much-loved pastor once said, "If you do not pay your tithes, things will be tight for you".

The most important part of our lives is our conviction. It determines our life perspective, and ultimately our destination. We will keep having diverse versions on matters of life and afterlife, but we must learn to be responsible for our own convictions.

**But examine everything carefully;
hold fast to that which is
good;**
1 Thessalo-

nians 5:21 NASB

A lot of us would absorb instructions from secondary sources (teachings from books, tapes etc.) directly. There should be a filter for every version we receive. Secondary sources, should be treated only with reference to the Primary Source; God (through the Holy Spirit).

Every man is at best a man. Only a lazy man will absorb the convictions of others, out of respect for the man. It is less costly to seek the primary source of inspiration and have every secondary source diligently filtered by and matched with the Word of God.

This is the way to grow our own root and be responsible for our beliefs.

Acts 17:11- Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these teachings were true.

Version of God's Standard



The Daughter's
Inspiration

Adeyinka Oresanya
<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>


neither

nor

HOT
COLD

Neither hot nor cold,
The coffee I took this morning,
Promise of aromatic sweetness masking the hypocrisy of bitterness
A sour betrayal in my mouth that I couldn't stomach
Disappointment gripped my heart
The kitchen sink was its destination

Neither hot nor cold
I heard the Lord say to me,
Girl, I hope you understand now just how I feel
When you offer me the cup of lukewarmness to drink

A glass of lemonade with a lemon slice and a thermometer. The thermometer is yellow and black, with a red bulb. The lemon slice is yellow and white. The background is a blurred orange.

When you leave me to wonder

Whose side you are on

Whose camp you really belong

Neither hot nor cold

Your voice, every Sunday morning

Riding on the wings of the wind

Carrying the fragrance of your melody up to my throne

Casting crown

Lifting hands

Bowing down

Is all you want to do

But every other day of the week,

Your voice,

Curses, blasphemy, expletive

So the twenty four elders in horror wonder,

To whom does your voice really belong?

Neither hot nor cold

Your hands, every Sunday morning


Lifted high to the heavens

Praises, prayers, supplication

Your hands


Dipped humbly into the tithe bowl for your contribution

Your show of devotion



But your hands, every other day
Move swiftly to snatch another man's property
Your hands, never hesitating once,
Lift that girl's skirt up to see what's beneath
Your hands, never thinking twice,
Unbuckle that boy's belt to seek untimely pleasure
I have not given him or her to you
Your father and your mother
They say no to that request
But your hands, unashamedly
Dips into that pot, that purse, that cupboard
To fulfill your desire
They have not given it to you
So my son stares at his pierced hands
Wonders in pain
To whom do your hands really belong?

Neither hot nor cold
Your feet, rise at the crack of dawn
Every Sunday morning
Barely eat, barely unwind
Straight to my house
Praises, weeping, joy, repentance
But your feet, every other day
Walk into the abode of the fetish
Must make money this year with yahoo
Your feet, walk into that bar

A glass of lemonade with a lemon slice and a thermometer. The thermometer shows a temperature of approximately 37.5 degrees Celsius. The background is a soft-focus image of oranges and a green leaf.

Down every bottle
Hail every buddy
Argue till dusk
Angels stand at a distance
Watch in dismay
Whisper to themselves
How do we minister to this heir of salvation
When we can't even stand in his favorite spot?

Neither hot nor cold
Your heart, let's not get started on it
Crippled because of negligence
Reeking of decay
Your heart, devoid of my Word
The third in trinity wonders,
How do I live in this terrible place?

Neither hot nor cold
Too cold for comfort
Neither hot nor cold
Unusable for Me
Neither hot nor cold
Grain or chaff
Barn or thrash
You need to pick a side
But I ask
That side be mine



Grace is what makes the Father punish me when I do wrong. Yes, Grace!

It does not sound like it, but it is true. It shows He trusts me and is not happy with what I did. He expected me to do better. It shows He loves me and does not want me to go astray. It shows He is not done with me yet. Grace, God's saving grace.

A place not to be is the "God forsaken" place. When I sin, and He is not disappointed. When I do wrong and He doesn't care. When He no longer has any good expectations from me.

And because they had not the mind to keep God in their knowledge, God gave them up to an evil mind, to do those things which are not right;
Romans 1:28 BBE

God

Saul the king was there. While he was still on the throne, even in his prime, God was done with him. God anointed his replacement. There was no going back on the decision to get rid of him. He and his son; Jonathan, were killed the same day.

Eli the prophet was there; the God forsaken zone. While he served in the temple, God was done with him. The scriptures had earlier reckoned that God's word became scarce. How much more could God be done with a prophet? While he was still in the office, God anointed his replacement too, and would rather speak to the little Samuel who could not even recognize his voice, than speak to "Daddy G. O. Eli."



forsaken

Like Saul, Eli and his sons died the same day.

To be God forsaken is the worst that can happen to a man. In fact, it is the final destination for anyone who refuses to acknowledge God.

This zone is not God's will for any man. This is where grace comes in.

For us not to experience this, Jesus had to be there to pay the price. On the cross he shouted, "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?"

That is what I meant when I said grace is when God still has your time, so much that he is pun-

ishing you for your wrong doings so that you will make amends.

Jesus, himself took up the Godforsaken experience, so that you will never have it. There, the scriptures record, he was crying with a loud voice. I do not want to be there.

Ultimately, God will forsake sinners forever, in Hell. This should not happen to you.

Grace; purchased for us by Jesus is available today.





False in

Your location does not make you close to God.

There are several people we stay and live close to but are not close to. We know little about their lives. We do not claim to be their friends because we stay on the same street. No, we are just neighbors. How come people then claim and assume closeness to God because of their location. Many are at best neighbors and not friends. Some people tend to see some places as holy, holier and holiest. We tend to forget that the eternal spirit is no longer domiciled in tabernacle but in the heart of men. We need to live in the reality of the torn curtain. Some clergy family members behave they are close to God because they live in the *pastorium*, which are often positioned in the church premises. If such does not work on their intimacy with God, they are at best neighbors (but God is not even

domiciled in that church).

Some boast of their stay in religious camps as if it is a guarantee or proof of intimacy with God. Oh, that believers will comprehend that what makes Bethel special is the El-Bethel. Without the Lord of the Bethel, Bethel does not differ from any place. What a blessing that the El-Bethel now resides in men. Hence, a place does not depict closeness to God but the quality of relationship.

Jesus replied, "Believe me, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father here or in Jerusalem.

John 4:21 NLT

What you do i.e. your activities does not make you close with God.

Intimacy

Amidst aristocrats, those privileged to have domestic staff in their abodes, the domestic help render them a lot of service. Yet it is rare to see them develop intimacy with their masters. Activities in the name of ministry do not interpret to closeness with God. It is very possible to be carried away with ministry and forget (neglect) the relationship with the owner of the work.

People often get deceived to measure their closeness with God by their activities. You might be a busy servant and not be a good friend. Moreover, being a busy servant does not translate to a good servant because a good servant takes instructions and does not assume instructions.

Martha was busy in the service of the master,

yet she was not close. Mary invested in her intimacy with Christ by hearing him out. She enjoyed fellowship.

It is now rampant to see core workers going up and down in the name of putting things in place during congregational meetings. They forget that they should also partake in fellowship. If you have to put things in place, do so before the meeting or after such meetings. Running around during meetings is often a sign of poor organization. Moreover, you see some ordinary worshippers envying the *Marthas* because they have been made to believe such is maturity. So they are looking forward to the day, they too will graduate to start running around.

We should long to meet with God and not just to attend to him.



Fresh Bread
Olufemi Babalola

<https://iyiolafemibabalola.wordpress.com>

The word “link” suggests a connection between two things or persons. It is to join, associate, couple, wed, or marry two things together. A link is the joint or bridge between two things. A link connects you with something.

We live currently in a world of links. People are always connecting especially as most things are now done online. In order to get information, all you need is a

links. You are not linked until you get the link.

Unfortunately, links, which are meant to connect people, now disconnects them.



When

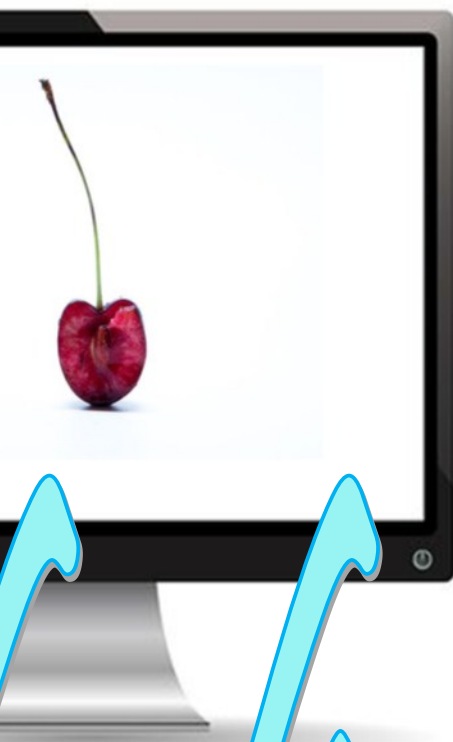
link (the URL) to connect to the site. When someone tells you about an opportunity online, the next thing you will most likely say is, “Send me the link!” You need a link to do virtually everything today.

Institutions, organizations, and establishments give out opportunities, offers, admissions, adverts and all forms of communications through

a link

People move from link to link yet they are not linked. We seem not to find what we are actually looking for. We spend hours on our smartphones and personal computers surfing the internet yet the vacuum in our hearts are not filled.

One of the greatest deleterious habit people grapple with today is addiction to their phones.



An average person cannot go without his or her phone for more than 15 minutes. People are becoming less productive while others suffer from information overload. There is that

There is the lead magnet, which is promised to be given free in exchange for your email so that you can constantly receive more notifications and consequently you become engaged with the site. We experience a deluge of data or what is called information overload.

As we move from link to link, we experience three types of disconnection:

Disconnection with God

I still remember watching a short video of a young woman who was praying but also responding to a chat. After the prayer session, she had a dream in which she was taking 'selfie'. Since she was distracted, a thief drove off her car. She obviously

disconnects

fear of missing out. We want to be aware of everything that is going on. Social media platforms designed to connect people now create more disconnection.

Website designers have even made it more difficult to let you go once they get you in their site. The page is catchy and full of snares and traps here and there called links and hyperlinks.

understood the meaning of the dream when she woke up. The enemy took away her blessings because she was distracted.

Disconnection with God is perhaps the greatest form of disconnection people experience today. This disconnection leads to other forms of disconnection. When you are not in touch with

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