

FRESH

MANNA

Daily Devotional **2016**

+ 31 days Prayer Bulletin

Editors

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PREFACE

Hi,

Welcome to Fresh Manna 2016 Edition. It's always our joy and privilege to share fresh insights and thoughts from God's word every year through this publication. Thanks for choosing Fresh Manna as your daily devotional. We promise you a swell time of revelations, inspirations and prophetic counsels daily as you read through this edition.

Fresh Manna 2016 Edition, like the 4 previous editions, is a Bible-based, non-denominational book. We deliberately avoided what Apostle Paul counselled against in

Colossians 2:8:

“Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talks. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything.” [The Message Bible]

Finally, Fresh Manna 2016 comes along with a 31-page Daily Prayer Bulletin, one for each day of the month, to pray after reading through the Fresh Manna Page for the day.

Enjoy your day and have your fresh moments with Fresh Manna throughout 2016, in Jesus name!

Col.& Dr(Mrs) D.A. Itodo[Rtd]

Editors

HOW TO WEATHER THROUGH FINANCIAL STORMS

Memory verse ' And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods' Luke 16: 1

Happy New Year! May this year be the finest since you were born. The whole world is presently passing through the most severe financial crisis we have witnessed in the last 100 years. But cheer up; God is still on His throne and He shall provide all your needs according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus! (Phil 4:19)

Everyone passes through financial storms in life, including the rich and affluent. Even if you were born with the proverbial silver spoon in your mouth, you will still experience seasons of financial crises. No one is exempt, because money can fail at any time. Most of the super-rich you see today were once super-poor fellows.

In today's text, we see a graphic picture of a business manager who ran the business into bankruptcy. Suddenly his boss demanded for the account of all his transactions or face disciplinary actions. The man was greatly terrified but after much consideration, he came up with a debt recovery plan (see verses 3- 4). At the end of the story, the man was able to pull through the terrifying financial crisis and even earned a beautiful commendation from his boss (see verse 9).

Please Learn:

- ✓ No matter how bad or bankrupt, no financial crisis lasts forever; it's like a storm that comes from one direction of the wind and goes away through another direction
- ✓ When passing through financial crisis, refuse to panic. Just be calm and pensively consider all possible options at your disposal.
- ✓ Prov 23: 5 says money has wings and flies like an eagle. Therefore you can call it to fly in your direction whenever you find yourself in financial crisis.

The main reason most of us get into financial crisis is because of financial foolishness. A fool and his money are soon parted. Every one of us at one time or the other has handled some reasonable amount of money, capable of lifting us out of poverty into financial freedom. Why then are we still looking for more money? It's because we need more wisdom (of how to handle money). Most of us lack financial literacy. We know little or nothing about how money should work for us, so we keep working for money. Resolve to steer clear of financial struggles this year like the man in today's text did.

PRAYER/ CONFESSION: I receive financial wisdom and divine direction today to get out of financial crisis in Jesus name, amen.

FOUR CRITICAL 'PERSONALITIES' IN MAKING RIGHT DECISIONS - PART 1

Memory verse: 'And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God'
Rom 12: 2

1. **Your Mind:** It is the seat of reasoning and mental calculations. It's analytical, evaluative, calculative and sometimes intuitive. The mind is the first port of call for everything you relate with, from the outside to your inside. Before anything ever gets to your spirit in your environment, it first gets into your mind. I believe it's for this reason the Word says we should renew our minds by living a holy life (Rom 12:1-2). Otherwise, a whole lot of junk and filth will pollute our minds and affect our ability to make right decisions.

2. **Your Emotions:** Your emotions encompass your feelings of love, hate, anger, depression, excitement, joy etc. If your emotions are not well guarded and channeled positively, they could also affect your capacity to make right decisions. For instance, happiness is a feeling based on things that happen. Therefore, if you live your life according to things that happen around you, you are likely to experience mood swings, meaning, you may be happy one moment and sad the next in an unpredictable manner.

However, if you choose to maintain a positive joyful attitude even in the midst of negative things happening in your world, you tend to make better decisions. For instance, in Nehemiah 8:9-10, the people were so sad and having a variety of mood swings based on things happening around them, until Nehemiah showed up and said... "This day is holy unto the Lord; mourn not nor weep. For all the people wept when they heard the words of the Law. Nehemiah therefore recommended they should go eat the fat, drink the sweet and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: For this day is holy unto the Lord; neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength".

PRAYER/CONFESSION: O God, help me control my mind and emotions so that I can make the right decisions, in Jesus name, amen.

IF PRAYER IS THE MASTER KEY, WHAT ARE THE OTHER KEYS – Part 1

Memory verse: 'Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.' Proverbs 4:7

I guess you've heard the saying, prayer is the Master Key. True, prayer really is the master key. However, this pre-supposes that there are other keys because there can be a master key where there are other keys. So, what are these 'other' keys. There are quite a number of them in the Scriptures but we will narrow our discussion to three today: divine wisdom, divine direction, heavenly vision.

1. Divine Wisdom

What is divine wisdom? There are several definitions but perhaps this will help. It is the witty deployment of information to your profit (please read Luke 21:15, Proverbs 8:12 and Ecclesiastics 9:15).

2. Divine Direction

Divine direction is the ability to find your path in life through the guidance of the Holy Spirit to get you to your God ordained destiny. Again, you cannot locate your God ordained direction in life without divine wisdom. That's why Ecclesiastics 10:10 says wisdom is profitable to direct.

3. Heavenly Vision

What is vision? There are several definitions. Consider the following:

1. A mental picture of a desired future.
2. A revelation of God's assignment for you.
3. Where you wish to be in your future versus where you are now.
4. A mental blueprint of the road map to your destiny
5. Your assignment on earth

PRAYER/CONFESSION: O God, I receive divine wisdom, divine direction and heavenly vision for the path ahead in Jesus name, amen.

IF PRAYER IS THE MASTER KEY, WHAT ARE THE OTHER KEYS – Part 2

Memory verse: ' Where there is no vision, the people perish, but whoso keepeth the law, happy is he ' Proverbs 29:18

Myles Munroe once said, the greatest tragedy in life is not death. It is the absence of vision. The greatest discovery in life is the discovery of your vision. Where you are now in life, is where your vision has brought you. Therefore, the more you see in the realm of visions, the faster you attain your God ordained destiny.

The bible encourages us to stand at the crossroad and ask for the right path. Jeremiah 5:16 says Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein.

The above verse tells us that where there is no vision, there is no rest for your soul. A visionless soul is a restless soul.

So when these three keys are added to the master key of prayer, you experience speedy breakthrough in life. Prayer that is void of these three keys would prove futile. It is like opening the main gate of a treasure house but being unable to access the store rooms.

PRAYER/ CONFESSION: Oh God give me wisdom, direction and vision to attain my God given destiny, in Jesus name, amen.

JESUS IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENTS

Memory verse: 'For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ'.
John 1:17

In the journey of life, whenever you come across a river or a body of water, you certainly cannot cross with your bare feet unless there is a bridge, a ferry or some other means of water transportation. In the same way, there is a big divide between the eras of the old and new testaments. No man could cross of his own merit, accord or will until Jesus came. It may interest you to know that there are about 400yrs between Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament and Matthew, the first book of the New Testament. Some bible scholars refer to those years as a time of ominous silence. What happened was that, there was no bridge for the people to cross over to God's next agenda.

However, one day, Jesus showed up in Israel declaring I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man cometh to the Father but by me. By this declaration, He became the human bridge for all other humans to cross from: the Old Testament to the New Testament, death to life, sin to righteousness, sickness to health, poverty to prosperity, captivity to liberty and hell to heaven.

Please Note:

- ✓ Jesus died on a cross in order to take us across to the other side. In life we may find ourselves in the valley, climbing a rough mountain or trying to get across the troubled sea. However, the bible says, Jesus came to level every mountain, fill up every valley and straighten every crooked path (John 1: 23 - 25).
- ✓ No matter the obstacles, challenges or trials on your journey to your destiny, never get stranded. Simply call upon Jesus, the 'Bridge' and you will be safely delivered to the other side. So as you step out today, ride on the back of Jesus, the bridge. And He will take you to your destination safely.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: Sweet Jesus, please don't let me be stranded at the bank of the rivers, on my way to my destiny, in Jesus name, amen.

LIFE ISN'T FAIR BUT GOD IS NEAR

Memory verse: 'Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all'. Psalm 34:19

Life isn't always fair because the devil is wicked. The bible says in John 10:10 that he comes to kill, to steal and to destroy. Therefore, no matter how kind, holy and gentle you are, Satan will still pursue you.

Today's text clearly portrays the state of the righteous; that even in righteousness, you are to expect some afflictions to come your way because life in general is unfair to all humans. The good news however, is that the Lord delivers the righteous from every affliction they may find themselves.

Please Note:

- ✓ Your afflictions may be many but God's power by far outweighs them
- ✓ Anytime you find yourself in the midst of afflictions, do remember; no affliction is greater, tougher, deeper, higher, wider or stronger than God
- ✓ Psalm 119: 67: 'Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word'.
- ✓ Every affliction does one of 2 things to you depending on your reaction. It either promotes you to a higher level or demotes you to a lower level.

The essence of every affliction is to make you better. It is therefore a fatal mistake to concentrate on the bitter side of afflictions: "In this world you will have tribulations but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world" (John 16:34). Therefore, on the flip side of affliction is victory. One man in the bible that was heavily afflicted was Job. He was described as a perfect man (Job 1:1), yet all hell broke loose over his life and household. However, he maintained a positive attitude throughout the period of his affliction.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: Oh God give me grace to endure afflictions until things turn around for better, in Jesus name, amen.

IF IT IS NOT BY FAITH, IT IS NOT OF GOD

Memory verse 'But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him'. Hebrews 11:6

A lot of Christians do not understand faith. We mistake faith for what it is not. Sometimes we think faith is having a strong mind or having the guts to do something. These are great but that's not what biblical faith is about. Faith is of the Spirit and not of the mind which is why the bible says: "We having the Spirit of Faith..." (2 Cor. 4:13, emphasis mine).

Today's text clearly points out the dynamics of faith; that you can't exercise faith until you first know God in spirit and in truth. Thereafter, you believe Him and then you please him. The bible also says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). Thus to really have faith, the following must align: the spirit of faith, the word of faith and a strong belief deep within your spirit. If any of these 3 is missing, then faith is missing.

Please Understand:

- ✓ You cannot get anything from somebody you cannot please. Likewise, you cannot get anything from God if you cannot please Him. You cannot please God if you don't have faith.
- ✓ Faith comes by hearing...(Romans 10:17), therefore it goes without hearing the word of God. If you want to be sure you have faith, check out the Word content in your Spirit. Faith is committing God to perform His Word by taking steps of faith in line with the word of God; when you step out, God steps in.

Therefore, stepping out today, ensure that you; walk by faith, speak faith, pray in and by faith. Remember the bible says whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23). Finally, if you really desire the spirit of faith, you must spend time walking in the Spirit by praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 20), reading the bible and books on faith.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: I receive the spirit of faith to operate God's kind of faith today in Jesus name, amen.

DON'T BE A CHAMELEON CHRISTIAN- BLENDING IN INSTEAD OF STANDING OUT

Memory verse: 'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?' 2 Cor 6:14

Some Christians behave like chameleons; they take on the colour of the environment they find themselves instead of maintaining their unique identities as children of God. That's exactly what a chameleon does in real life. As soon as it enters an environment, it picks the colour of that environment and before your eyes, it changes from its original colour to the colour of the environment. This makes it difficult for you to do the following: identify it, classify it and predict it. No one is ever sure what colour it will assume next; whether black or yellow or green.

In much the same way, any child of God that cannot be predicted or classified is behaving like a chameleon. Today's text alludes to this behavioural trait in the lives of some Christians. When these Christians find themselves with unbelievers, they behave like them and then when they get back to church they behave like Christians again. This ought not to be so, says today's text. We are expected to wine and dine with unbelievers but not to be mistaken for one of them. In fact, our text concluded by saying, "wherefore, be ye separate and come out from among them".

Please Learn:

- ✓ A Christian is a man/woman of his/her word. Therefore, do not live a double life, do not be a double-speak.
- ✓ Who is a hypocrite? He or she is one that has a form of godliness but denies the power thereof.
- ✓ God's promises are for genuine Christians. If you compromise your faith, you lose the promise of God.
- ✓ A chameleon Christian confuses people about who God really is. They don't reflect the image and likeness of God; God's words are dependable because His words are yea and amen (2 Cor. 1:20).

PRAYER/CONFESSION: O God, please help me to always maintain my unique identity as a child of God, no matter where I find myself in Jesus name. Amen.

WHY STOLEN COOKIES SEEM SWEETER THAN NORMAL COOKIES

Memory verse: 'Stolen waters are sweet, and bread (eaten) in secret is pleasant'
Proverbs 9:17

Have you ever wondered why a man with a very pretty wife or a lady with a very handsome husband commits adultery sometimes? Some even go into their house-helps or someone not even as good looking as their spouse. There are many reasons but the major one is because stolen cookies seem sweeter than normal ones in the mouth of the thief. Today's text puts it more graphically saying that "stolen waters are sweet, and bread (eaten) in secret is pleasant".

There's always something enticing about a stolen product, cookie or an illegitimate affair; the frills and thrills that go with it, the adventure and a false sense of achievement. This was exactly what happened to Eve in the Garden of Eden. She had unlimited access to all the fruits in the garden except one but that was the one that caught her eye. The thief always has his eyes on someone else's property, spouse, money etc. When Eve eventually ate the forbidden fruit, she realized there was nothing to it. She was later full of regret, pain and lost her dignity and place in the garden.

Please Learn:

- ✓ The allure and enticement in stolen cookies aren't in the cookies themselves but in the eyes of the thief
- ✓ The ability to say no to what you shouldn't be eating, touching or seeing is a sign of wisdom
- ✓ Whatever you are doing with a fear of being caught or reprimanded might be a "stolen cookie".
- ✓ All cookies taste the same. Remind yourself of that, when tempted to take that which is not yours.

The object lesson from today's text is primarily centred on sexual fidelity. The biblical phrase "stolen water" refers to immorality; which is the only sin in the bible mentioned to be both within and against the body. When next you find yourself being drawn towards the opposite sex that is not your spouse, remind yourself of today's text.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: O God, give me self-restraint to bridle my appetite for stolen cookies in Jesus name, amen.

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A HOLE, STOP DIGGING AND START CLIMBING OUT

Memory verse: “When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.” Job 22:29

Have you ever found yourself at a dead end in life or a place where nothing seems to work? A place where it seems like the more you put in, the less you see. I guess this happens to everyone trying to achieve something in life. In fact, one of the requirements for enduring success is persistence and perseverance. To really succeed in life, you need a very robust heart with the highest resilience, to keep at what you are doing until you succeed. Today, however, we are talking about a different idea and scenario where quitting or doing something new is more profitable than sticking with what's not working. It's foolhardy to keep digging and digging when you are sinking further into the abyss and getting nothing in return; why not try something else or go somewhere else, rather than expending all your strength in a place where nothing comes out for you. Job in today's text above applied this principle choosing to distance himself from those who were sinking further in life.

Please Observe:

- ✓ If you are down already, the only sensible place to go is up because if you dig some more, you'll only find yourself going deeper into the abyss
- ✓ There is a popular saying that the downfall of a man is not the end of his life. It seems Job kept telling himself this throughout his period of affliction while looking up to God.
- ✓ The law of gravity states that everything that goes up must come down but if your determination to rise above your limitations is more than your reservations or discouragement, you usually will overcome.
- ✓ Even when you are clearly down, refuse to be knocked out because if the righteous falls 7 times he will be lifted up 7 times (Proverbs 24:16).

Today's text underscores the critical role wisdom plays when we find ourselves in the depths of depression, discouragement and problems. You should be witty enough to tell yourself where perseverance stops and wisdom takes over.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: Oh Lord, give me the wisdom to know when to stop digging and start climbing out in Jesus name, amen.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO REFUSE SOME THINGS, YOUR LIFE MAY SOON BECOME A REFUSE DUMP

Memory verse: 'If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.' 2 Timothy 2:12

Many of us don't know how to say no to things we either don't want or need. Bill Cosby once said, "I'm not sure I know the secret of success but I'm sure of the secret of failure, inability to say no when you need to". Many of us know how to say yes, such as yes I do at the altar but we lack the capacity and will power to say no to things and people we really should not put up with.

Please Learn:

- ✓ Whatever you cannot say no to when you need to, will ultimately become a refuse in your life.
- ✓ Trying to please everyone is why most people cannot say no, but unfortunately no matter how hard you try, you will never please everyone every time.
- ✓ Life always offers us choices. Joshua said choose ye this day whom you will serve, either God or the gods of your ancestors (Joshua 24:15).
- ✓ It takes moral courage and a sense of rational thinking to say no when it hurts.

So many people have gathered a lot of junk in life, in marriage, in business, etc, because they lack the courage to say no. I would like to suggest the following steps to clear up the rubbish:

1. Separate your needs from your wants.
2. Just learn to say No, No and No if you need to.
3. Never succumb to pressure from anyone against your principles especially those that border on morality, godliness, equity and fair play.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: Oh God, help me to say no when I need to regardless of whose ox is gored or who is involved in Jesus name, amen.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE A PAIN RELIEVER FOR ANOTHER PERSON'S HEADACHE!

Memory verse: 'And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.' 1 Thess 4:11

Have you ever seen someone getting so worked and freaked out because of someone else's problem or issue that doesn't concern him in any way? That's precisely what today's text counsels against- that everyone of us should learn to mind his own business, "study to be quiet/mind your own business", 1 Thes 4:11.

I once had a bitter experience in this regard many years back in my military days. Two senior officers were having altercations and I was much junior to them (3 steps below them). As their misunderstanding lingered I thought it was a wise idea to mediate- a thing that is anathema in the military setting (for a junior to advise his senior officer in the military). Then to add insult to injury, I used the wrong words. I said to one of them, "Please Sir, let me caution you before you go further, I think you are wrong Sir", then all hell broke loose. Before I knew what was happening, the mediator became the accused and the whole matter was placed on my head. Come to think of it, I had no business being there, much less giving an unsolicited counsel/advice.

Please Learn:

- ✓ Never intermeddle with persons or issues that you have no business whatsoever with. Life already has enough troubles, to avoid more, mind your language, business and where you are going to.
- ✓ An unsolicited counsel, free lunch and presumptuousness are all birds of a feather that could land you in serious trouble if care is not taken.
- ✓ Anytime you get involved with persons, projects or programmes that are of no economic or spiritual value to you, you are like someone taking a pain reliever for someone else's headache.

What exactly is your own business? Where are you heading to in life? What do you do for a living? What's your God given assignment? I suggest you find answers to these questions and concentrate on these rather than meddle with other men's affairs. Don't answer questions no one is asking. Don't proffer solutions to questions no one is asking for. Please mind your business.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: Lord, please help me live a productive life by learning to mind my own business in Jesus name, amen.

SOMETIMES YOU SHOULD BITE MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW!**Memory verse:** 'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phil 4:13

I guess you've heard the statement, "don't bite more than you can chew". I consider that statement to be old school really, because in today's world, there is so little for so many people that we live in a survival of the fittest world. Therefore when some rare opportunities show up, I suggest you grab as much as you can and bite more than you can chew. That way, you can go to a corner and chew them gradually until you are done. This is exactly what the monkey does. It has extra food pouches underneath the jaw. Why does the monkey do this? It is maximizing the moment and taking full advantage of what is available now. Thus it rarely starves and can get extra strength from the surplus for days.

Biting more than you can chew is actually talking about maximizing the opportunities that show up from time to time. Get set to take in more than you naturally can handle when divine opportunities show up because you may never see that opportunity come your way for the rest of your life. There is a saying, "opportunities come but once", how true this saying is! Everyday different types of opportunities show up but people are not grabbing enough of them because they are biting too little.

Please Note:

- ✓ Most times opportunities show up in clusters, without warning or prior notice, so you must be on your guard waiting for them.
- ✓ Most opportunities show up as work in overalls
- ✓ Today's text says I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me; so with God, a 'jack of all trades' can become a master of all
- ✓ The ability to take only what you can naturally handle, shows you have not invited God into your situation

The real message in today's text is; when God strengthens a human being, he begins to perform superhuman feats and takes on challenges and issues that are larger than life. This was why Apostle Paul accomplished more exploits than his peers in ministry including those who were ordained before him. As you step out today, please take on things bigger than you like David did with Goliath and then you can become a giant killer.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: Oh God, give me both the capacity and capability to handle things bigger than me through divine enablement in Jesus name, amen.

SECRET OF KNOWING GOD- ONE ON ONE PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

Memory verse: "And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me." Acts 22:9

The secret of knowing God on a personal firsthand relationship is to have a divine encounter. You see, God is Spirit (John 4:24) and you and I are flesh and blood. The world of Spirits is light years apart from that of humans and as distinct from each other as darkness is from light. So to see God in your human realm, something extraordinary or supernatural must happen to you. This is what we mean by divine encounter. That was what Mr. Saul of Tarsus experienced on his way Damascus in today's text. Until that day, Saul thought he knew God. He was even on a religious assignment to arrest and kill the early Christians, all in his bid to work for the God he never had a personal encounter with! It's like what normally happens to married couples. When they were courting they assumed they have known each other. Nothing is farther from the truth than this assumption because when they start living together, both partners soon discover that there was more than meets the eyes only intimate relationship reveals the real nature of persons- the good, the bad and the ugly. Likewise, when a person encounters God, his/her true sinful nature is revealed while God's sinless nature also becomes apparent. The point where these two natures meet is what we call divine encounter.

Please Learn:

- ✓ A man can be in church but may not be in Christ.
- ✓ The point where humanity is overwhelmed by divinity is the point of divine encounter.
- ✓ Divine encounter occurs at the particular point and spot in your life where you yell out like Isaiah: "WOE IS ME; FOR I AM UNDONE, BECAUSE I AM OF UNCLEAN LIPS". Isa 6:2-3
- ✓ Divine encounters are like dreams or visions there is nothing like joint dreaming; we can never dream together even if we lay on same bed!

When Mr. Saul had his dramatic encounter on the road to Damascus, 3 things happened on the spot. Let's draw some spiritual lessons from them.

- ✓ He was 'knocked down' where you have placed yourself in your eyes and personal efforts, you can't encounter God. Thereafter, everything changed including his name from Mr. Saul to Apostle Paul.
- ✓ He became blind immediately for 3 days until a man of God (Ananias) opened his eyes. Everyone is spiritually blind until your encounter leads you to a man/woman of God to open your eyes and be shown the way of God. You can't get born again all by yourself without hearing the gospel.
- ✓ He saw a vision and heard a voice. This is the most critical phase in your inner heart and being in a very personal way. Notice that only Paul heard the voice; the men that were with him didn't because salvation is personal.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: Dear Lord, please grant a personal encounter of yourself today, in Jesus name.

A TALE OF TWO CAGED PARROTS -Part 1

Memory verse: 'Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.' Prov 18:21

Several years ago I bought two parrots and named them Romeo and Juliet (male and female parrots). I understand they were of a very rare African multi-coloured species (a very rare breed). They cost a fortune! Pretty soon, we got used to each other; they would flutter their wings with a lot of fascinating movements, make a lot of parrot noise and display their many attributes. At that time, they were my only companions because I was living alone.

A friend of mine came visiting and remarked: you have a pair of intelligent birds here, I hope you won't come here and meet an empty cage. I told him I was sure it won't happen because I had so much confidence in the cage.

One day, I went to work and came back late in the evening, only to discover Romeo had disappeared. 'What?!' I screamed! 'Who stole my parrot?', I asked all my neighbours. I made such a fuss about it. Then I made an amazing discovery, that nobody stole my parrot. It simply released itself by boring a hole through the bottom of the cage!

Please Learn:

1. Your mouth is not only for eating and chatting, it's your God given instrument to talk your way out of your captivity, bondage and troubles
2. People or life's circumstances may cage you like I did to Romeo but you can decide to release yourself by talking in accordance with God's word e.g. "By His stripes I'm healed" (Isaiah 53:5), "He shall deliver me from 6 troubles" (Job 5:19) and "I am more than a conqueror" (Romans 8:33).
3. If life and death are in the power of the tongue, it means life or death is a matter of choice. So please choose life and live well.
4. Psalm 107:20 says

Perhaps the greatest lesson I learnt from Romeo is; put up a cheerful countenance even when you are passing through your troubles so you don't give your enemy a clue about your escape plans. Juliet's story is even more intriguing than that of Romeo.

PRAYER/CONFESSION: Oh God teach me how to use my mouth to release myself from satanic activity in Jesus name, amen.

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