



grenepages

Issue 17



come online!

Get In!

I Regret I Graduated

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The Journey Of Awelewa 13



He Is Mightier



Get In



Come Online!



Feet Of Flesh



The 1,2,3 Of Righteousness



er

17th word



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I Regret I Graduated



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The Joy Of Separation 2

Remember Samuel: the guy whom God called over and over, yet didn't know who was calling? It was not just that he did not know who was calling; he took him to be someone else. Thank God for Eli's direction.

Remember the Spirit saying after He had spoken: "he that has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying?" It was not a question of "if He would speak," but if those He had spoken to, would hear.

How long has God been trying to reach you and you have been offline?

When you stay online, God will make you, use you for others and prove his might in your life.

Calling your attention again in this edition of [grenepages](#) to some of the issues God wants to discuss with you. Do you have some time? Come online!

This is our 17th issue. Once again, welcome!

Tobi Olowookere



Ministering
Rhythms
Joan Abimbola
[ministeringrhythms.wordpress.com](https://www.ministeringrhythms.wordpress.com)

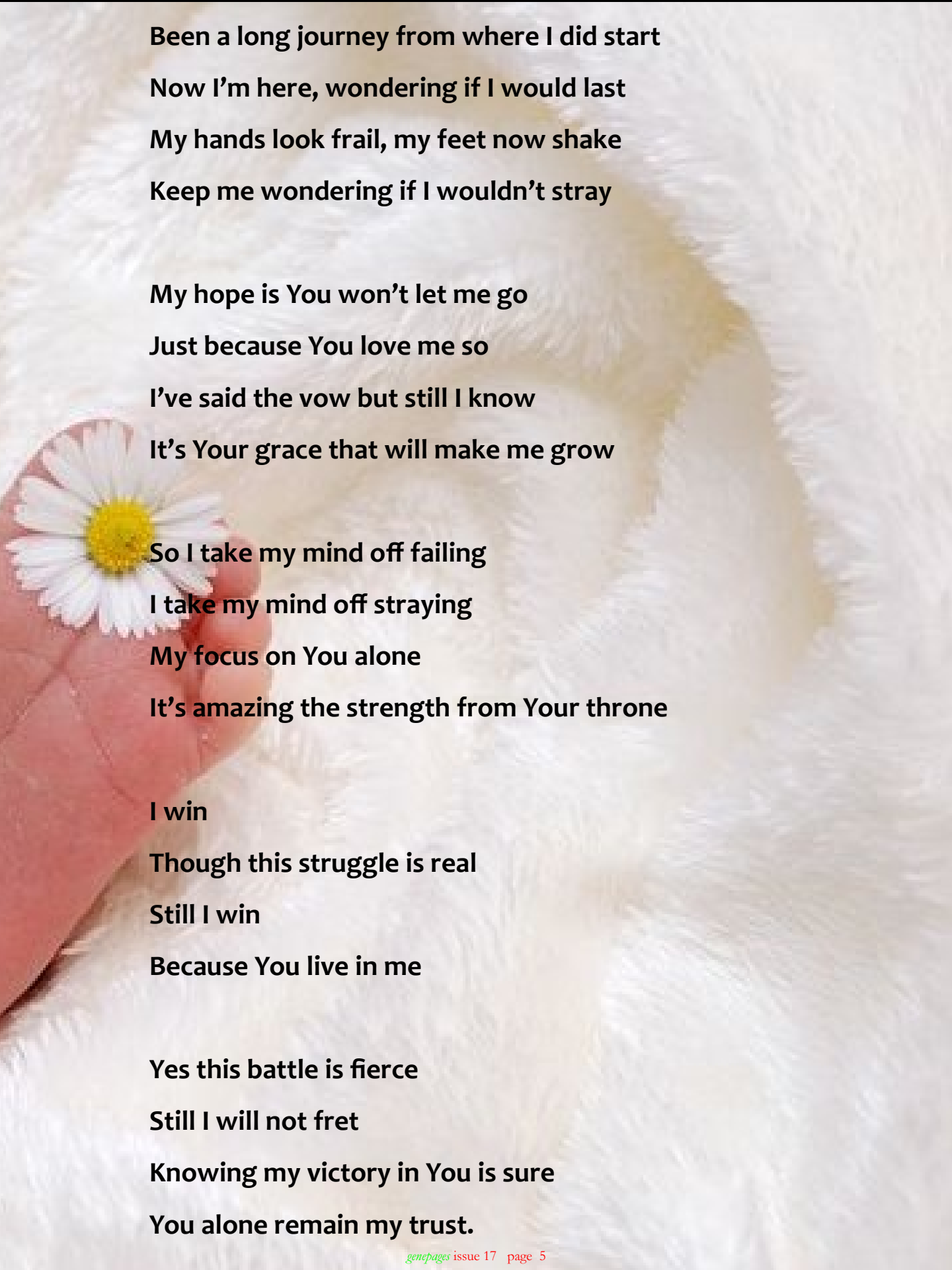
*“He gives power to the weak,
and to those who have no
might He increases strength.”*

Isaiah 40:29 NKJV

MEDITATION:

Through all of life’s trials and temptations, sometimes we get distracted from our focus but we must never lose our faith and the courage to get back up.

**feet
of
flesh**

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a single white daisy flower with a yellow center. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame. The background is a soft, white, textured surface, possibly a blanket or a piece of fabric, which is slightly out of focus. The lighting is bright and even, highlighting the delicate petals of the flower and the skin of the hand.

**Been a long journey from where I did start
Now I'm here, wondering if I would last
My hands look frail, my feet now shake
Keep me wondering if I wouldn't stray**

**My hope is You won't let me go
Just because You love me so
I've said the vow but still I know
It's Your grace that will make me grow**

**So I take my mind off failing
I take my mind off straying
My focus on You alone
It's amazing the strength from Your throne**

**I win
Though this struggle is real
Still I win
Because You live in me**

**Yes this battle is fierce
Still I will not fret
Knowing my victory in You is sure
You alone remain my trust.**



The Daughter's Inspiration

Adeyinka Oresanya

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“Hello.” This young lady, clad in a pair of blue jeans and black top, said to me as she tapped her well-manicured index finger on my desk.

“Hello. Please, hold on,” I replied with a smile. Two elderly couple were already on seat and I was attending to them.

She shifted from one foot to the other, mumbling and grunting, letting me know her issue couldn't wait another second more.

I pretended not to see. I was so used to this attitude in my line of job and I had learnt to deal with it in the calmest way I could.

After attending to the couple, I turned to her. “Yes, how can I help you?”

She flipped her weaves back as she sat down. “I tried to use the ATM this morning. It gave me a dispense error yet I got the alert that my account had been debited.” She tossed her hair back. “The worst is that when I tried to retrieve my card, it won't come out, so I was told to come here.” She leaned in and tapped my desk again. “I need my card like yesterday. I

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Episode 13



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don't have time for all this.”

I did all I could not to roll my eyes. *Like yesterday, seriously?*

When I went through the form I gave her to fill, I discovered she had used her card in another bank. *Madam, it looks like your needs will have to wait.*

“Sorry for the inconvenience, Miss. Since you used another bank’s ATM, you won’t be able to retrieve your card anymore, so you will have to request for another one which will take eight working days to process.”

“What!” Her eyes grew wide. “I need my card like yesterday! What about my money that has been deducted? Oh God, isn’t there someone else I could talk to?”

I gave her a cold stare. Did this girl just suggest that I was incompetent at my job? I shook my head to step down the rising anger within me. I had been mastering how not to let customers determine my mood or spoil my day. I wasn’t there yet; I would get there some day.

I pulled a plain paper from the pile on my desk, thrust it towards her and said calmly. “Please fill in your request and come back after eight working days, your card will be ready and the debit on your account would have been reversed.”

She grumbled but started to write.

I turned to my work and began to file away.

When she was through, she pushed the paper forward and stood up to leave without waiting for me to cross check what she had written.

I went through the form and it was alright though.

“Hello,” a rich, deep voice said.

I looked up and my breath caught in my throat, again.

“Hello,” I croaked.

He smiled. “Awelewa?”

I nodded.

He thrust out his hand. “I am Joba Adebisi. The guy welcomed back into church yesterday.”

“I know who you are.” I placed my hands in his.

Warmth travelled through my body. I took my hands back. “Welcome back.” I managed to say.

His smile was syrupy. “Thank you. How are you today?”


“I’m great, thank you. Please, sit down, how can I help you?”

He pulled out the chair a little and sat down with his back straight, confidence exuding from him.

God help me through this.

He fixed his cute eyes on me. “Well, I need help in reactivating my dormant account so P.Segz directed me to you.”

“Oh, okay. You will need to present a regulatory ID card and recent utility bill of your current



The Journey of Awelewa

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home address,” I said.

“Don’t worry,” he smiled. “I came prepared.”

I smiled back. “Okay. I will give you a reactivation form to fill now. Once completed, we can move from there.”

“Yes, Ma’am.” He kept that syrupy smile on.

I hope I get through this.

I opened my drawer and brought out the form for him. He perused the form while I pretended to work on my PC, stealing glances at him from time to time. Then, he took out a fountain pen and began to write, his focus totally on the

form as if he was writing an exam. I turned my focus back to my PC.

“Here,” he slid the form towards me.

“Completed.”

“Alright. Let me have your ID card and utility bill.”

“Okay.” He brought out a brown leather wallet from his pocket and fished for his driver’s license, then opened his moleskin notebook and took out the utility bill. Everything about this guy, from his wallet, to his stationery, to the shoes peeking at my side of the desk, reeked of alpha masculinity that made my heart sing hal-lelujah.

I stood up and made for the ground floor, the form and other documents in hand. Once I was out of sight, I stole a glance at his driver’s license. He was 30 years old, just two years older than I was, and 1.8 meters tall.

Some minutes later, after persuading Henry to attend to the account urgently, I went back upstairs, proud of my achievement.

“Your account has been activated,” I an-

nounced. “But, you will have to pay in or withdraw from the account to complete the reactivation.”

“Okay, I will do that downstairs,” he replied.

“Thank you so much, Awelewa. How do I return the favour?”

I chuckled. “It’s nothing, Pastor. I just did my work.”

“It’s Joba, please.”

I nodded, unsure of what to say.

“You know,” he said, smiling, “I should buy you dinner sometime, to appreciate you?”

“Oh no,” I said quickly, “you don’t have to do that, Pastor, er, Joba.”

He smiled. “Okay. Thanks all the same. Have a week filled with good things.”

“Amen!”

He shook my hand, looked at me with an intense gaze that melted me all over and walked away.

Like I said yesterday, I am in deep trouble.

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Akinwumi's
Handwriting(s)

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get a





I will tell you why you don't have all the time to join the train of salvation and godliness.

I understand your human logic.

If I tell you that you can always graduate from the university, whether you take the first year exam or you jump in for the final year paper alone, a rational human would probably opt for the latter.

It is easier and calculative.

And the salvation experience is always sold like that often times than not.

It is partly true, but deeper than that.

It is the 'milk concentration' that has been sold to you. The surface form of it. On a post that I made long ago, my friend Ayomide reminded me how I would teach as a Sunday school teacher during our Master's degree few years ago where I met her in the UK.

She reminded me of a statement I made.

It brought gladness to my heart.

You know I could have convinced myself that salvation could wait till I am 78 and I am about checking out?

But I would have missed the meat of the matter.

Can you imagine if I am still struggling with fornication and the issue at hand is still how they are trying to force me to join the Choir so I can attend Church regularly let alone yield to Jesus?

I would have lost the privilege to impact all the people I have. If it sounds like a boast to you, trust me, it is in the Lord. I gave my life to Christ many times too until I did once and for all.

I wish that unlike Joshua, your report card would show that you were able to possess all the lands you were designed to conquer.

It is why I say, get on the road on time.

There is still room!

Come in!



thrive
Ope Rowland

<http://operowland.blogspot.com>

COMM

Barnabas who was sent by the church to the believers in Antioch worked amidst them for a while before seeking out Saul to join him. The two spent a year with these believers fellowshiping with them and teaching them. The result was that people recognize the believers and started calling them Christians. They were called Christians because they saw them reflecting Christ. People could see them as images of Christ. They moved from being believers to Christians during the course of that one year.

Generally, people are asked of their religion and some reply being Christians. However, not all with such response are Christians. Being part of the church does not make one a Christian. Being a worker in church does not make one a Christian. Being born in the church to church leaders does not make one a Christian. Being buried in the church does not make one a Christian. The many calling themselves Christian are not all

Christians. One might be a believer and still not be a Christian. Being born again makes one a believer.

Initially the Antioch group was called believers but after that one year became Christians. They believed in the work of salvation, eternal life through Jesus. However, they next stage, which was living out the life of Christ made them a Christian. There are so many that claims they are born again but you cannot see any Christ in them. A Christian is a Christ. If you have not become Christly, you are not a Christian. It might be accepted in official forms but you are not one. Those forms should have indicated something like 'churhianity' rather than Christianity.

Fellowship is not to come having opening prayers, praise worship, testimonies, choir, message, and benediction. That is not fellowship but worship service. It is to have one on one contact-communion. You can come around and spend

online!



hours together and not fellowship. In fellowship-
ping, we notice one another. In fellowship, we
are observant of one another. It is about personal
relationships.

The reason many are not becoming Christians is
that they are only meeting with us but not fel-
lowshipping. They partake in the services but no
relating. It is possible to come to meetings to-
gether for hours to make the service run fine and
not yet fellowship with one another. People are
not fellowshipping when they do not know
about one another. Fellowship starts from rela-
tionship; doing things together, talking together,
sharing together and praying together.

Do not just attend services. That is why there is
no change, no transformation to become Christ.
Little wonder many people remain who they are,
because they are not fellowshipping with the
body. What joins you together with the body is
that you are fellowshipping with the body.

*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into
him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
From whom the whole body fitly joined together
and compacted by that which every joint suppli-
eth, according to the effectual working in the
measure of every part, maketh increase of the
body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians
4:15-16 KJV*

Every nutrient you need to grow to become
Christ comes from the head through the joints
and ligaments. If you are not joined to the body,
you cannot grow because there would be no nu-
trients flowing to you. A separated part of the
body cannot receive what the body is eating.
Therefore, the body grows but the cut off part
would not grow. When you are not joined to the
body, you cannot be nourished. You cannot get
form the head- Jesus Christ from whom all nour-
ishment flows. The body is not the one that is
famished but he/she who refuse to be joined to
the body.

There is a lot of feeding going out there but you are missing out by staying away. Your fellowship life joins you together with the body. When you join yourself with the body through fellowship, whatever nutrients, virtue, grace is present in the body will flow to you. You will not know how it works but because you are fellowshiping with others, you just see that your life becomes better. You begin to improve, thinking differently because of the people you have joined yourself with.

When you walk with the body, you become part of the body (Proverbs 13:20). The nutrients flowing in the body will flow to and through you. Therefore, if you are part of Christ you become Christ. Stop hanging; join the fellowship. This not about becoming a member but joining the body. Some might be registered members, serving in one capacity or another but not joined to the body. They are not part. You may be known by name, face, activities, and punctual to meetings but are you actually fellowshiping?

As each member does its own part, the whole body will grow. What makes you to grow is when everybody does his or her own part. If the mouth does its work well, the food goes into the stomach. The hand will function well because the stomach functions well. If the stomach does not play its part of processing the food and redistributing, the hand will have a problem of

growth. The heart is to pump blood to the whole body, e.g. the hand. If the heart does not perform its own function, the heart will not get any supply.

One of the reasons why some join fellowship and yet there is no difference is because some people are withholding their part. When everybody carries out his or her own function, we all grow. Some have given themselves new functions of sitting down and leaving not playing any role in the body. That part being held back is denying others enough nutrition hindering Christ formation. Therefore, people are not becoming 'Christs' because someone that holds a class of nutrient is not releasing it.

Amidst the choral group, there are the alto, soprano, tenor and the likes. If one of these parts refuses to participate, keeping quiet during a rendition such as the Hallelujah chorus, you can imagine what will happen. Some feel that there are enough people there already they are not needed. They have enough hands and so they might not be needed, thinking what difference you will make by joining; it will make a lot. As everyone does their part, the whole body grows. There is a circulation of Christ that must be on, as Christ is not localized to one person. He gave parts to everybody, so we only get the fullness when we come together.

However, beyond the spiritual virtues (1 Corinthians 14:26), there are other parts, which are needed in character formation that we pass on to one another. When you come together in true fellowship you see the way another sister is dressing without exposing her body yet she looks beautiful, you will learn from her. She has donated a part to you. She is fulfilling her own part; she knows how to dress well and passes it on to you. Then you too will soon begin to dress like Christ. You might not know how to do some things but when you see someone behaving like that you wonder how he or she is able to do it. Soon in your interaction, you learn. If you are close, you will learn informally.

However, if you do not fellowship together you cannot even know the strengths possessed by your brethren. Therefore, learning cannot even take place. Closeness will make you know how people respond to different situations. Every character you think is deficient in you is strength in someone in the fellowship. You might not have borrowed it and make it part of your life because you have not joined yourself with the person. Avenues offered by our believers' groupings are designed by God to allow a rubbing of virtues on one another.

The three and a half years the disciple spent with Jesus, Jesus rubbed his character on them. The character of Jesus you need will be rubbed

on you when you fellowship with your brethren. When you stay away from fellowshiping, you are staying away from being rubbed.

There were two dimension of fellowship amidst the Antioch believers. One, Paul and Barnabas were fellowshiping with them and they themselves were fellowshiping with one another. They were referred to as a congregation, a church. They were fellowshiping with themselves and then the apostles came with what was lacking to fellowship with them.

Barnabas brought his goodness, fullness of the Holy Ghost and faith to the congregation as his contribution (Acts 11:24). When they fellowshiped together, they all received that goodness, fullness of the Holy Spirit and faith and they manifested these, and people saw all these in them and labeled them Christians.

Barnabas brought his own strength and joined it with them, what strength do you have both physically and spiritually? Join these strengths with the body and let's become better. When you see someone amidst us who is not a stable disciple, not growing well, the fault is not with him or her, it is those who have refused to join with such. Look for the weak ones, join yourself with them, and pull them up. Let something flow out of you into their lives.



i regret

I stopped being a church member and I became a church worker.

I gave my life to Jesus 10 years ago. What a time that was in my life. I enjoyed every day of nothing less than 3 hours of prayers and sweet bible study times. In church, I enjoyed the corporate prayers. There was something about them.

I used to sing wholeheartedly when it was time for hymns. I would listen attentively to the preacher, speaking exactly what God had sent him to say to me. I would feel as if the Holy Spirit was seated next to me, even at work...I felt the joy of salvation. How sweet!

What a joy to be born again!

Soon I realized that only the "JJs" live my kind of life. People graduate from church members

to church workers. "Brother, you have been around for some time" I was told. "You cannot continue to sit like a 'baby in Christ' during services. Therefore, I joined the work group: Bible Teachers Unit, Transport Unit and Ushering Unit all at once. I started, as they say, "working for God." I graduated to the next level.

Hence, instead of the sweet hour of prayer that I used to have in my closet with the Lord early on Sunday mornings, I had to start coordinating buses that will convey members to church as early as 5:30 a.m.

Half past 8 was bible study time. I was no longer a student; I had become the teacher, teaching what I never had time to learn, telling the church what I was not very sure God said.

The Bible study ends and the service begin. I would walk up and down the aisle from start to finish. I would count the members present and



if i graduated

count how much they gave. Never again did I have time for the things that really count! Before I knew it, I had lost that inner joy I used to have. The direction and companionship of the Holy Spirit was lost. I wondered what my prayer points were, those days of 3 hours per day. I seemed to have 'worked for God' so much that I had lost my grips on God himself. I wish I never graduated from being a church member. Much more, when I realized Jesus warned Martha in the scriptures about this.

And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried

and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:39-42 NKJV

No Christian is too big to do the basics of our lifestyle. You will never outgrow prayer. You will never be experienced so much that you will not need the bible. Do not outgrow listening to God. No activity, not even church activities should take these away. Be a church worker, but never at the expense of being a church member first.

Yes, a joy comes from being engaged in several church activities. There are blessings attached as well, but none of these compare to the joy of salvation. Never lose your hold on that one important thing.



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