Monday
Walking in Your God-Given Identity

’...What is your name?’ Genesis 32:27

Often times, many believers live below the level the Lord has provided for them. They really do not appreciate their positions in Christ. Quite a number of such men fail to appreciate that they are sons and not slaves. They need to put off the ‘slave’ mentality and begin to enjoy what God has provided for them.

I realised very early in my Christian life, that, God is supreme. I had to realise and appreciate where the Lord has placed me. I determined not to step down from such lofty heights. Situations and circumstances for example should not determine the destiny of a believer, it is in God’s hands, so just move into it by faith.

Tuesday
Jesus Is Worth the Journey

“When Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem.” (Matthew 2:1 NCV)

The Wise Men taught us something in the Christmas story. They were willing to go to any length to find the Truth. We can assume that the Wise Men traveled many miles from the Far East to the Middle East at great expense and probably inconvenience to find Him. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. All of the major religious leaders of the world were in Jerusalem, but none of them were seeking Jesus. Only people on the outside — the Wise Men from a completely different culture — were looking for Jesus.

King Herod missed baby Jesus. So did the business leaders of Bethlehem. You can have Jesus right in your midst and still miss him if you’re not looking for him. But the Wise Men looked for Jesus. They were serious about seeking God. They were willing to do whatever it took to find him. That’s wise. It’s what we need to do as well. We can’t let anything get in the way of our search for God. It’s the most important achievement in the world. What would you give up in order to worship Jesus?
Wednesday
Desert Preparation

*Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.* - Galatians 1:17

Have you wondered why Paul went to Arabia for three years before he ever met another disciple? The Scripture does not tell us plainly. However, based upon many examples of God placing special calls on people's lives, we know it often requires a time of separation between the old life and the new life. No doubt, Paul had plenty of time to consider what had taken place in his life and time to develop an intimate knowledge and relationship with his newfound Saviour. His life was set to change dramatically.

Every child of God must necessarily go through this experience. It may not be so dramatic as to going to a far country, but nonetheless, it will still require some separation and reflection. Perhaps God has placed you in your own desert period. Perhaps you cannot make sense of the situation in which you find yourself. If you press into God during this time, He will reveal the purposes He has for you. The key is pressing into Him. Seek Him with a whole heart and He will be found. Trust in His love for you that He will fully complete the work He has started in you.

Thursday
No Need To Get To The Valley of Achor

"*There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope*" (Hos 2:15).

What does the ballet of Achor represent. The valley represents trouble. It represents oppression. It represents unusual harassment and if not at tented to can lead to depression. Consider these few examples of situations that typifies this valley - abusive marriage or relationship and violent friendship or family member. A number of believers are under this bondage and they never cry out for help.

The most abusive relationship is usually netted out to the women folks. A lady is most likely to be sexually exploited by men that are supposed to be close to her. It becomes very difficult to accept that such men would harass those ladies. The question for you today is that, what would you do to help an oppressed lady under your guidance? Be there for the oppressed and the widow.
Friday
Start Stirring, and Don’t Stop

'A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.' *Proverbs 17:8*

Only God can give you His gift period. Nobody else can do so. It isn't something you learn; it's something He gives you, and nobody else can activate it for you. You 'stir' it up by developing and using it. Your gift will enrich many different areas in your life, not all of which will be financial. While money is the wrong reason to devote your life to something, developing your God-given gift is rewarding on multiple levels.

Have you asked yourself what are the special gifts God has deposited in you? Unfortunately, many people are jealous of other people's gifts. Don't waste time on jealousy; it's a gift, you should be so busy stirring up your own gift that you've no time to envy other people’s. Your gift will make room for you (Proverbs 18:16). So go ahead and fill the slot God designed for you. Wherever you may be, let your gift speak for you. That’s all.

Saturday
Hearing God’s Voice

*Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.* - *1 Samuel 3:7*

Samuel was born to Hannah, a woman who had a deep commitment to God. She was barren, but she cried out to God for a son. The Lord gave her Samuel, whom she completely gave to the Lord for His service. After weaning him, she took him to the house of the Lord to be reared by the priests. Eli was the priest of Israel and brought up the young man.

Samuel grew up in the temple serving God. God was with him. We learn that even though young Samuel had a belief in God, he had not yet experienced a personal relationship with Him. God called to Samuel three times and Samuel did not know God’s voice. Most of us go to church every week. We have a head knowledge of God, but we do not recognise God’s voice in our lives. There comes a time when we must recognise God’s voice for ourselves. Samuel was never the same after this encounter; and neither will you be the same again when you know His voice.
"After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before" (Job 42:10).

Have you ever been wrongly judged? Have you ever had people assume there was sin in your life because of the troubles you may have experienced? Or perhaps they judged your motives as wrong. What if the people judging you were your closest friends? This was exactly what happened in the life of Job. His friends did not understand how a godly person could ever go through his degree of adversity unless God was judging him for his sin. However, his friends were wrong.

Nothing has really changed after thousands of years. Often times when a believer goes through an experience, other believers are more likely to ties that misfortune to sin. We see from Scriptures, that it may not necessarily be so. How do you react to such wrong judgment on your person? Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? It may be the missing piece of your puzzle for restoration.