Monday
How Well Do You Know the Lord?

’...Your face, Lord, I will seek.’ Psalms 27:8

Let’s share a story that I read a while ago. At the end of a play, the leading actor held his audience spellbound as he recited the Psalm 23. He did it as an encore, and it brought the house down with applause. Looking across the room, he spotted his old vicar and called him to say something. To their surprise, he too recited the Psalm 23. By the time he finished, there was silence. The audience dried tears from their eyes. At this point the actor stood beside his old vicar and said, 'Ladies and gentlemen, the difference is, I know the Psalm 23, but he knows the Shepherd!.

How well do you know the Lord. How intimate are you with the Lord. There is a head knowledge and there is a heart knowledge. Your knowledge of God will usually play out at very significant times. At such times, it is what you know of the Lord that will come into play. Proclaim Him ad driven by your knowledge of Him.

Tuesday
Who Do You Choose: Jesus or Who?

“Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act.” (Psalm 37:7 NLT)

Most believers never hear God speak to them because they never slow down enough to let God talk to them. Hurry is the death of prayer! You’ve got to slow down. You’ve got to be quiet. And, you’ve got to wait expectantly. The only way out is if you get up earlier, which means you have to go to bed 60 minutes earlier. So you have a decision to make - who do you choose? You have to get up earlier so you don’t have to rush and be able to spend some time and start your day with God.

There is nothing on TV that will change your life - nothing. However, spending those 30/60 minutes in the morning with God, however, will definitely change your life. If you were to be informed that tomorrow morning at 4 a.m. the queen of England or the president of the U.S. want to meet with you privately, you probably wouldn’t even go to bed tonight. You’ll take a bath or
probably take two baths. You’ll go find an all-night barber or beauty salon, get a new suit, and get spiffed up. I bet you’ll be ready 60 minutes before the time. Why do less for God?

**Wednesday**  
**What’s Your Personal Mission Statement**

*I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11 - Acts 21:11-12*

Paul understood his personal mission. It can be reduced to three important areas,  
 a) **to know Christ**;  
b) **to know and experience His power** and  
c) **to identify with His sufferings**.  
This should be the mission of every believer and is the one summary statement that best describes the purpose of believers’ existence on earth and goal of Christian experience. Paul focused on relationship and understood that the deeper the relationship, the more power he would experience and that as he grew in this relationship, there would be suffering.

Are you so like minded? In everyday living, the Kingdom of Light confronts the kingdom of darkness, there is always a battle, and often results in casualties. As a representative of Christ, you are involved in the battle on a daily basis. Does this sound like your personal mission statement too? Is your focus in life on knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection?. You need to respond positively.

**Thursday**  
**When Hope is Deferred**

"*So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, 'Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!'”* (Job 2:7-9).

My wife and I walked into the room and our family friend burst into tears. "I’m so discouraged! I don’t know what else to do. Will I ever get better!?" She had been struggling with childlessness for seven years of marriage. In our part of the world, it could and is usually an issue. There had been fasting and prayers at different levels, but nothing appears to be happening. She was also under severe pressure from her in-laws.

When faith doesn’t see results it challenges believe. We need to pray as Job prayed: "Teach me what I cannot see" (Job 34:32). There is always a purpose for everything. God says there is a purpose in everything we go through. About 18 months later, the lady became pregnant and later de-
livered a set of twin baits, a boy and a girl. The greatest tests come when hope seem deferred or delayed. Like Job, hold on to integrity and you will eventually see the result.

Friday
God of Restoration

'Your God will come with...recompense [restoration].' Isaiah 35:4

Following Christ places some demands on the believer. Peter told Jesus that the disciples had left so many things to follow Jesus. He then asked, what will be their gain for such a decision. When a believer in the market place decides to follow Christian precepts in his business, it follows that he will forgo many temporary gains for God’s ultimate gains.

What you give up in order to serve God is nothing compared to what you will get back. That means God can give you back a hundred times more than what you sacrificed in order to serve Him. God never promised a problem-free Christian life to believers. However, the assurance is that, He will be there for us at such times. Remember, delay is not denial. It will surely come, just wait for it.

Saturday
Hunger for God

God looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. Psalms 53:2

I served as the National President of Baptist men in Nigeria for 6 years. During the period, i encountered some of our men who had reasons to rationalise and even considered whether to keep following Christ or not. We saw men who at the slightest discomfort turned their backs on Christ. They could not go through discomfort for Him. Jesus demands much more than that from his followers.

God is looking for men who hunger to know Him. When you walk with God, expect some inconveniences here and there. It may not come very easy at times, but ultimately, there are tremendous gains awaiting your steadfast commitment to the Master. What are the issues? Jesus is the solution.
"For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith" (Heb 4:2-3).

We run into anemic Christians everyday, who have a form of religion but fail to mix their belief with faith and obedience. Paul described them when he said "these people have a form of godliness but deny its power." What are some telltale signs of anemic faith? Failure to pray before decisions are made. Failure to speak to others about their relationship with God. Unwillingness to spend time with God everyday.

In my professional accounting practice, the fees we charge our clients are based on faith. After determining the chargeable fee by a scientific computation, we then speak to God to ask how much margin should be added. We once charge charred a client what you could consider excessive, but at the end of the day, the client was quite okay with the fee, which they paid. Depend on Jesus and you will be glad you did.