

Wednesday February 01, 2012

LOVE: THE GREATEST GIFT

John 3: 16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whomsoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

The greatest demonstration of love ever recorded in the history of man, was the gift of Calvary, in that God gave His only begotten Son to die for us, that we may have everlasting life. There has been a lot of misconstrued ideologies about love. Some understand love as the rhythmic beat of the heart, when they see someone they have deep affection for, while others look at love as some kind of bond of friendship or family ties. In these latter instances however, we cannot totally eliminate love but in actual fact, love goes beyond feelings. Love is a decision, love is sacrificial, love is forgiving and love is also a responsibility. If love was a mere feeling, like most people understand it, the Lord Jesus wouldn't have been able to die on the Cross. The crucifixion on the Cross of Calvary, would never have happened in the first place. He felt deep love for mankind but it took something far more than feelings to carry out an eternal assignment of such magnitude. By doing that, He set the pace for us by which, we need to live on a daily basis in our homes, churches, offices, schools, marriages, etc. In a world crammed with so much pain and suffering, brought about by wickedness, rejection, betrayal, violence and injustice, there's always that tendency to want to hit back at all cost because it's just about the most natural thing to do. But the good news is that, we can live beyond the expectations of this world, as representatives of Christ. In a world ravaged with perpetual evil, love is a choice to make if we must enjoy our relationships. Decide to go beyond your feelings and love today just as Christ loved and died for the Church.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: 1 John4: 7

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, give me a deeper understanding of a love that goes beyond the ordinary, so that I can be Your true ambassador here on earth, in Jesus name.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 1-3, Matthew 1-2

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Precious God, I lay my heart before Your throne this day, and I ask You to cleanse me from every form of carnal mindedness.**
- 2. Lord, give me a heart that is pure and saturated only with Your love.**
- 3. Help me to be a true representative of Your Love wherever I go, in the name of Jesus.**

Thursday February 02, 2012

THE COMMAND TO LOVE

I Timothy 1: 5

“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,”

When the bible asks us to love, it invariably means it is a command. Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we feel justified to treat others badly, perhaps by reason of unfair treatment. Sometimes because of bitterness, anger and resentment, we find ourselves constantly prone to the negative. This is so because, we base our judgments purely from the natural perspective. But as children of God, the Father expects us to reflect His personality or else, how would the world know we are indeed God's children? When you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? (**Matthew 5: 46**). The next verse **47**, instructs us to do more than others and verse **48**, says we should be perfect just as our Father in heaven is perfect. In spite of the fact that we live in a society that thinks only self, self and self all the time, we should be conscious of the heavenly race. We should never forget that there is a life after this life, when this earthly journey is all over. We live in a society where the church has lost consciousness of her true calling; to disciple the lost. Most Christians are more interested in what they can gain and not living a life that truly reflects Christ. Despite this downward trend, you can still make a difference in your world. The world may call me a fool for forgiving and showing love to those who don't even deserve it, but I know it is more foolish to be a fool for the devil than to be a fool for Christ.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: John 15: 12

PRAYER

Mighty and everlasting Father, increase Your grace in me, to live a life that is totally pleasing unto You, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 4-5, Matthew 3

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Father, I submit every iota of bitterness to You. Take away every thought of anger, bitterness and resentment.**
- 2. Help me to be conscious of my calling as Your child, in Jesus name.**
- 3. Help me to make a big difference in the lives of others everyday of my life, in the name of Jesus.**

Friday February 03, 2012

LOVE IS A DECISION

1 John 4: 18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

I read an inspiring story sometime ago about a Christian couple somewhere in the United States. Not long after their wedding, they began to have problems in their relationship. The young man who happened to be a Minister of the Gospel, happened to be the meticulous type, while his wife was a little inclined to the opposite. She had this very disturbing habit of leaving the drawers to their desk open after use. Time and time again, they quarreled about it but she never seemed to budge. One day they had a very heated misunderstanding over the same issue, and it put a very uncomfortable strain in their relationship. One day he was just thinking over the whole issue when the Holy Spirit asked him a question. He said, “What would it take out of you if you simply push the drawers in yourself?” Shocked, he suddenly realized he had been too judgmental and unnecessarily quarrelsome. He made up his mind to change his attitude towards the whole situation by making the first move to shut the drawers himself anytime he met them open. They never quarreled again. The story didn't say if she changed or not, but he decided to continue loving her in spite of her inability to keep one simple rule. Your spouse or kids may not be able to see things from your perspective all the time and that can drive you up the wall. Sometimes, it's even a parent who seems to be acting so immature, but you can decide to love in spite of that person's inadequacies; child, parent or spouse. Most times, great problems are an outcome of very trivial issues. You can conquer today by just deciding to love. Love is also a decision. Let your love go beyond what you feel, to a decision to love in spite of the short-comings of others.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Philippians 4: 8

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, let Your unconditional love flow through me unto others, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 6-7, Matthew 4

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Lord, help me to see things at all times from a godly perspective.**
- 2. Let the world see Jesus through me in Jesus name.**
- 3. Lord, help me to bridge the gap between me and those who have hurt me or who I have hurt in the past, in the mighty name of Jesus.**

Saturday February 04, 2012

TRUE LOVE COMES FROM GOD 1

John 13: 34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Child of God, good things cannot come from the devil. Love is a good thing and it can only come from the Almighty God whether it is Phileo, Eros or Agape. For generations, we have seen, heard and in a few cases, experienced the abuse of love. There's one particular case in the bible that throws more light on the abuse of love; the wife of Potiphar who wanted Joseph at all cost. (**Genesis 39**). Perhaps, what she thought she felt was love, even when it stood against marriage. You know, some people are actually that myopic. But true love is pure, true, selfless and free of vengeance. As humans fashioned by God with feelings and emotions, sometimes we do not have complete control over the way we feel, but the truth is that we can exercise complete control over what we do with the way we feel. Sometimes, people feel attracted to the wrong people or to even good people at the *wrongest* times. For example, when a man is married, he has no business going beyond the four walls of his matrimonial home into the arms of another woman, no matter how genuine and justified he feels about it. If you're truly a child of God, you will not hurt those who love and trust you, and you will not drag anyone through the swine-field in your quest for fleshly satisfaction. That kind of feeling is not true love, but a counterfeit from the pit of hell called lust. It does not come from God! When you begin to feel that way, the enemy will give you every genuine reason why you should succumb to your desires and until you play ball, he may never let you rest. But Christ has given you victory already. You can get rid of that ill-feeling because in Christ Jesus, you can do all things. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Lean on Jesus for strength to do the right thing and He will indeed help and strengthen you.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: John 15: 9

PRAYER

Precious God, grant me Your strength and grace to hold on to Your will and purpose, to do always, what is right with my feelings, in Jesus name.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 8-9, Matthew 5

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Heavenly Father, Your word says I am more than a conqueror through Christ who strengthens me; in the name of Jesus, I conquer every ill-feeling of inordinate affections.**
- 2. I destroy every strategy from the pit of hell to make me derail from Your godly purpose for my relationships.**
- 3. I declare that my path shall be like the shining light that shines through and through unto the perfect day, in the name of Jesus.**

Sunday February 05, 2012

TRUE LOVE COMES FROM GOD 2

Matthew 7: 6

“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you into pieces.”

Sometimes, due to the inability or perhaps refusal, to let God have His way in our lives, we allow marital problems and personal differences come in between us and our spouses. Has it ever occurred to you that it is in the moments of anger and bitterness, that someone just shows up out of the blues with all the answers to your hopes and happiness? The next question that is bound to cross your mind is this; “Where has she/ he been all this while?” Beloved,slow down! I bet you, if you were married to this other person, you would have wished you were married to the same person you so despise right now. You know why? Because the grass always looks greener on the other side. Satan, the master-counterfeiter, knows just how to prepare a good trap. No one is perfect; not even you. The Hollywood formula will always try to convince you that hard-core gravel tastes like French toast. The Hollywood formula, will always try to convince you that wine drank in secret, tastes the sweetest but dearest, it will not only taste like vinegar; it will poison you on the long run. True love should not only be geared towards the ultimate satisfaction of the flesh. It is also a sacrifice for the ones we are bound to by covenant. As children of God, we must always try to make our relationships work, no matter the temptation. We should be a hundred and one percent committed to our relationships. When things go wrong, it is not the time to run into the next available pair of open arms. That's exactly what the devil wants; to put you in a corner where he can have free access to destroy you completely by placing you under a curse. You have a choice to allow the true love of God radiate through you. Succumbing to temptation will only destroy you!

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Ephesians 5: 1-3

SPEAK THE WORD

I shall walk in love just as Christ gave Himself for the church as an offering and sacrifice to God, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 10-11, Matthew 6

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. You spirit of lust, I rebuke your power over my mind and spirit in Jesus name.**
- 2. Father, help me to make the necessary sacrifices for the covenant relationships You have given to me, in Jesus name.**
- 3. I denounce every unfruitful work of darkness in my life, in the name of Jesus Christ.**

Monday February 06, 2012

LOVE IS BALANCED 1

Ecclesiastes 3: 8

“A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”

I have often heard people talk about their close relationship with God and yet cannot boast of something substantial with their spouse or even their own children. It's so heart-breaking to know that there are some so-called born again Christians who can spend hours praying, reading the bible, going from one night vigil to the other and even evangelizing and yet, cannot share intimate moments with the people who matter the most to them. When you say you love God, and yet find it difficult to give quality attention to your spouse and children, then it means you are a selfish person. It's good to love God and to work in His vineyard, but God expects you to balance your relationship with Him and with the ones He has given as a gift to you. Dear sister, don't form the habit of neglecting your husband when he needs your attention. When it's time to fulfill your marital obligations, that's not the time for a night vigil except in instances where both of you have agreed to that for a particular period of time. Brother, when last did you shut down your mobile phones, your laptop computer and took your wife out? When last did she feel appreciated and alive again? Christian Father, you can't tell me you don't have enough to spare for an occasional treat for your children. No wonder some children treat spiritual things with such high level of contempt and stubbornness. It's because they feel cramped and choked up with numerous church activities! There's got to be a balance! Even if you feel embarrassed in a swimming trunk by reason of your protruding midriffs, nothing's wrong in taking your kids for a swim once in a while. Find time to have a heart to heart talk with them. Get to know who they are as individuals; their likes and dislikes, temperaments and interests. Let your love be balanced between God and man. That is one of the keys to prosperity. When you treat them right, God will keep you lifted.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Proverbs 5: 4

PRAYER

Precious Father, in the name of Jesus, I receive a heart of discretion, to strike a balance in my spiritual and social responsibilities, Amen.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 12-13, Matthew 7

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Lord, give me a heart that is continually after You in spite of my needs and responsibilities.**
- 2. Let my life be a reference point for others, in Jesus name.**
- 3. Give me the grace to leave a lasting legacy in my generation, in the name of Jesus.**

Tuesday February 07, 2012

LOVE IS BALANCED 2

Proverbs 14: 2

“He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord, but he who is perverse in his ways despises Him.”

When you learn to balance your love, it's much easier to enjoy your relationship with those around you. Your husband or wife and children were given to you as gifts from God so, don't treat them as if they are some kind of interruption in your life. Some of us live in homes where our spouses feel more comfortable discussing personal matters with the opposite sex outside the home thereby, creating enough breeding ground for extra-marital affairs. Most times, the need for attention outside the home is not stemmed up from the need for sexual attention, but the need for someone who will just listen. The art of listening is a virtue most spouses do not possess, but believe me, whether someone is willing to listen or not, there are parasites out there waiting for the slightest opportunity for you to throw your pearls to dogs. From just a listening ear, the need for a listening body is sure to arise if one is not careful. Let me tell you something; half the people who end up having extra-marital affairs, do not launch out of the home seeking for succor with the intention of committing adultery but it always ends up that way because something got missing at the home front. Whatever the case may be, adultery or the act of fornication is not excusable. As spouses, we must learn to be sensitive to the needs of our partners. It's very important for the success of our homes and lives. Many are struggling in their businesses and finances because their spouses are suffering emotionally. It's because God is not with them. Please learn to balance your love!

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Proverbs 29: 3

PRAYER

Almighty Father, help me not to live in self-deceit and in perversion, but to live a life that truly glorifies You.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 14-15, Matthew 8

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Abba Father, forgive me for the times I hurt You, by hurting those who love and look up to me.**
- 2. Help me strengthen the broken chords that exist between me and my family in Jesus name.**
- 3. I destroy by fire, every Delilah the enemy has planted in my life, to cause pain and havoc, in the name of Jesus.**

Wednesday February 08, 2012

LOVE IS BALANCED 3

Proverbs 15: 18

“A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention.”

Do you know that one of the reasons Christian children stray away from home in spite of the numerous spiritual activities is because there is a missing bond between them and their parents? I know of a pastor's wife who was fond of trashing her little housemaid with a whip and while at it, she would keep on quoting scriptures at her until she was through with her deed. Whether a child is biological or not, a child is a child and should not be treated otherwise. One day, I decided to investigate the matter and I discovered that this housemaid was a pro at telling lies. I should have scolded her immediately but I discovered another dimension to the matter. She lived in perpetual fear of her mistress and most times in order to redeem herself from harsh treatment, she told lies. Believe it or not, some children are made to go through very harsh treatment in the hands of even their biological parents. They live in bondage and perpetual fear of their parents. I know of young girls who have gotten sexually abused and never had the courage of confiding in their mothers. Why? Because of the absence of parent-child bonding. There is a lot of anger, emotional pain and mistrust and yet, these parents, go to church every week to worship the same God who has blessed them with these children. Young female children are getting sexually molested and getting involved in ungodly relationships just to feel loved and accepted. Young boys are resorting to pornography, drug-abuse, and cyber-crime to feel a sense of belonging among their peers. Did I hear someone say “Christian kids!?” Yes, Christian brought-ups! Most parents are slugging it out in one formidable triangle, from the house to the office, from the office to church and back home again, without knowing who their kids really are. Talk about the *'Sins of the Fathers!'* In many Christian homes now, there's so much being swept under the carpets with the hope that no one would see or talk. Mothers, fathers,the best and the first friend your child should have is you.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Psalm 127: 3-5

PRAYER

Oh God, help me understand the purpose of my offspring. Give me the grace and strength to be a guiding light to them, in Jesus name.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 16-18, Matthew 9-10

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Holy Spirit, I ask You in the name of Jesus, to be the ultimate Comforter in my home and family.**
- 2. I prophesy restoration to every loss encountered in my home, in Jesus name.**
- 3. Mighty God, help me to be the best friend my children would ever have, in the mighty name of Jesus.**

Thursday February 09, 2012

LOVE IS PATIENT 1

Job 6: 24

“Teach me, and I would hold my tongue; cause me to understand wherein I have erred.”

One of the prerequisites for a successful family life, is the virtue of patience. There's nothing much one can achieve without it. We need patience in all areas of life, especially with those we share relationship with. A Man of God, once gave an excellent illustration of what patience really is. He said, if one has a painful whitlow on his finger, no matter how painful that affliction is, the last thing he will do is cut off the finger because he weighs the importance of his finger more than the pain he is experiencing. Sometimes we experience pain and disappointment in our relationships especially from those we share a bond with. If the pain lingers longer than necessary, then it's important we realize that there is something seriously wrong somewhere, that needs to be quickly corrected. There are instances where the peace of the home can be disrupted for such a long time if not properly handled. For example, a spouse going out of his or her way to commit adultery, a teenage daughter getting pregnant out of wedlock, or a son getting involved in crime, in spite of all you have done to be a loving, understanding and caring spouse or parent. That spouse or child can be like a painful whitlow on the finger but cutting that finger off, is not the answer. We owe it to God, to stand by our loved ones whether they have gone astray or not, by loving them unconditionally and praying for them consistently even before the battle begins. It's only a foolish person who will cut off his finger because it developed a painful affliction. Mind you, boils don't come to stay. It's only a sign of some malfunction in the body metabolism which must be looked into. Perhaps you might even be the problem, but because of the hurt and bitterness you feel, you may not want to see your own fault. Beloved, be patient! Take things easy. Allow patience help you see the proper picture; the truth! You may realize things about yourself, you've never known existed that could help you mend the broken walls in your home. More grace!

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: I Peter 5: 6-9

PRAYER

Almighty God, for every blessing You have given to me, increase the virtue of patience in my life, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 19-20, Matthew 11

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Lord, give me divine insight into every problem and the grace and wisdom to handle them.**
- 2. In the name of Jesus, I block every loophole through which the enemy has attacked my family, with the Blood of Jesus.**
- 3. I command that bondage of the enemy to be broken now, in the mighty name of Jesus.**

Friday February 10, 2012

LOVE IS PATIENT 2

James 1: 4

“But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Patience requires a great deal of will-power and of course, God's grace. Sometimes, the flesh does not want to be patient. It wants to revolt, punish, victimize and shut away when it has been terribly hurt. That's just the way the world is. If that is what it is all about, why didn't Jesus give a command to the host of angels to pull their swords for battle against those who had betrayed him? Because there was a better way; sacrifice! We need to learn to sacrifice sometimes for the ones we love. I've come to understand that many spouses do not understand that marriage is a divine assignment given to us by God, whether you are a man or woman. A wife is her husband's assignment and vice versa. In as much as we must enjoy marriage, there are challenges we must face and do all in our power to make the purpose of God in the lives of our spouses to be fulfilled. Challenges may not necessarily be throat-choking eventualities like adultery or the likes but issues that sometimes drain us emotionally, psychologically and even spiritually. They could be financial, career, peer or extended family issues. The reason for many divorces in the society today is because we fail to recognize our assignment in the lives of those covenanted to us. When you look critically into several divorce cases, you will discover that what came in between two married people was some trivial concern that should have been easily resolved, but pride got the upper hand. Somebody refused to be patient with the other. Someone was too bitter to endure his or her partner's fault. Where is your grace as a Christian? Where is your virtue of patience? The world may cry “*blue murder!*”, *crucify, take the next bus out!* But let your cry be, “*I know my redeemer lives.*” Patience is a virtue you can't do without. With patience, you can win many battles of life the world wants you to lose, especially in your relationships.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: James 1: 12-14

PRAYER

Oh Lord, help me not to get drawn away by my own desires and selfishness. Let your virtue of patience be released unto me today, in Jesus name.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 21-22, Matthew 12

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. I declare, I shall not be an instrument of pain and discouragement to my family.**
- 2. I receive a godly mindset of wisdom and understanding, in Jesus name.**
- 3. Holy Spirit, endow me with every godly virtue for success, in the mighty name of Jesus.**

Saturday February 11, 2012

LOVE IS PATIENT 3

James 4: 17

“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

I read a funny but discouraging story of a woman somewhere in the U. S. She was divorcing her husband because he had grown so fat, bald and snored every night. In fact her main problem was the fact that he snored. For over seventeen years, she had watched her *hunky-tunk* husband, gradually metamorphosize into a fat snoring slob as she put it. She didn't feel attracted to him anymore, as she claimed. Naturally, I would not concur to careless living that promotes bad health, physical challenges and physiological difficulties, but it is not an excuse to be unthoughtful and resentful towards our partners. True, some of us cannot contend with the inevitability of old age and in as much as we should do all in our power to maintain good health and youthfulness, we should celebrate more, the beauty of inner grace as we grow older. There are a lot of things we feel justified to do to our partners, forgetting that we can actually suck life out of them by destroying their will-power to live. We all would be held accountable for our own lives as individuals, but we shouldn't forget that there are people, who will continually look up to us for strength, hope and direction. Please don't destroy that! We need to be patient enough with our loved ones no matter how long it takes, because they are God's assignment to us. You may have climbed up the social ladder by reason of your success, but that does not give you a good reason to treat your spouse with contempt and disloyalty. The average human being does not like change because change requires a great deal of effort and when we need to pass the message of change across, the worst way to go about it, is comparing him or her with someone else, or outright condemnation. That in fact, puts a final lid on your efforts; it will not work. Do it with love, compassion and a lot of encouragement. Let him understand that no matter what happens, you will continue to love him, but it will make you happier, if he could make the necessary changes you so desire. Make understanding easier by being more subtle and gentle. More grace to you in Jesus name!

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Romans 12: 10

PRAYER

Abba Father, help me to make the necessary changes in my partner and also in myself, and to accept the things I cannot change, in Jesus name.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 23-24, Matthew 13

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Mighty God, give me the grace to be patient and considerate with my family at all times.**
- 2. Give me the patience to deal with instances that have the potency to be toxic and life-draining.**
- 3. Father, strengthen me to strengthen others, in the name of Jesus.**

Sunday February 12, 2012

LOVE IS A COVERING 1

I Samuel 25: 23-24

“Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed to the ground. So she fell at his feet and said, “On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.””

If we say we love our partners, we should exude love and support at all times. Many Christians have a problem covering up the faults of their partners. We need to understand that crises do not last. They can linger for a while but they are not meant to last forever. If they do, then it means one is not applying God's wisdom to his circumstances. Brother, sister, when your spouse fails to meet up to your expectations, it is not meant to be a topic of discussion with your friends or just anybody you feel like gossiping with. Many of us have ended up making our partners look like fools to the outside world, thereby, losing the respect of outsiders. Selling your partner out, is not the right way to solve problems because after the problems are over, the negative reputation you have created about him or her, never really goes away. People will often place their judgment on him or her, based on the things you have said behind his or her back. When you see the people you have gossiped with, you will only end up feeling stupid and ashamed for letting your partner down. In good and in bad times, you owe it to your partner to shield him or her from external criticism, and that third party, includes family and church members, neighbors and colleagues in the office. If you must complain, go to your Man of God and necessarily, one you can trust to handle your issues with strict confidentiality. No matter how painful your problem is, learn to keep marital and family issues basically, where they belong; at home and at the prayer altar. Pray about everything, talk about them with your partner, show respect at all times and learn to tolerate each other. Cover your partner at all times because love is also a covering. Whatever negative thing you do to your partner or even to your offspring, you invariably do to yourself. Grace is given to you today, in Jesus name.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: I Samuel 25: 25-28

PRAYER

Almighty God, help me to be a covering for my partner in good and in bad times, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 25-26, Matthew 14

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. In the name of Jesus, I arrest every judgmental spirit by the fire of the Holy Ghost.**
- 2. Precious God help me to continually celebrate the good things about my partner.**
- 3. In any way I have destroyed the relationship between my spouse and I and my children, Lord please forgive and help me make amends, in the name of Jesus.**

Monday February 13, 2012

LOVE IS A COVERING 2

James 5: 9

“Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the judge is standing at the door.”

Beloved, I have emphatically stated that the best way to breed mistrust and bitterness in your home is to discuss your partner outside your matrimonial home. Most times, the people you discuss with, may not in anyway, contribute positively to the growth and well-being of your home. What most people are itching for, is a juicy gist. It's not because they are concerned and want to help. There is nothing that would hurt and embarrasses your partner, when he finds out that he has been a topic of discussion. To embarrass the one you claim to love, is a pure act of selfishness. Many do it because they'll do anything to make themselves look like the good guy. Even if you are, it's still inexcusable. Your marriage is a covenant instituted by God, and should be treated with a high degree of sacredness. Be a true ambassador of Christ even in the midst of marital challenges. When your best friend calls you up at midnight or invites you for a drink to discuss your spouse, do your best to shut out the issue. Your spouse deserves more love, respect and loyalty. Whatever your husband or wife has done, is not an issue for the grapevine or junk columns. Trust gossips to add more flavor and coloring to any passing story! When it's passing down from one person to another, one true story, that is if it is, is made juicier and juicier till it becomes one big implausible lie. Out of a mole hill, gossips would erect a gigantic mountain. The question is, who started it? Who put the coals in the fire first? Of course you did! Your partner does not deserve any form of embarrassment whether the report is true or not. It is your duty to cover him or her up. The role you play now will determine how much respect and love your spouse will have for you tomorrow. If your spouse can count on you to love and protect him or her, it will determine his or her ability to let go of odd habits much quicker than you think, that's if they truly exist. Let go and let God! Ask God for wisdom today. Receive understanding today, in Jesus name.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: I Peter 3: 1-2, 7

PRAYER

Almighty God, make me a vessel of honour indeed in my home and in my family, that when they look at me, it will bring praise and glory to Your name, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 27-28, Matthew 15

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Lord, bless me with profound wisdom and understanding for my home and marriage, in the name of Jesus.**
- 2. Help me to recognize those who are out there to destroy and make a mess of my home, and give me the will-power to handle them.**
- 3. Satan, I will not be a tool for destruction in your hands, in the mighty name of Jesus.**

Tuesday February 14, 2012

LOVE EVERYDAY 1

I John 4: 11

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

All over the world today, there will be a massive exchange of cards, bouquets of roses, exotic perfumes, confectionaries, text messages, phone calls and basically, gifts that touch the heart, but in as much as a special day has been set aside every year for the celebration of love, I strongly believe that love should be an everyday affair. Love keeps the soul alive and should be given at every opportunity. When you decided to take a wife, you made the decision to love and honour all the days of your life. When you accepted that marriage proposal and took the decision to spend the rest of your life with your spouse, you likewise made the decision to love no matter what, because love grows from being a feeling to a decision by reason of differences and responsibilities. There was a time when the thought of the love of your life made your heart beat faster with excitement, but it's possible you don't feel that way right now; but it has not truncated the fact that you still love your partner, but in a more special and matured way. You may not be able to go shopping as much as you used to, or candle light dining regularly, by reason of the fact that there are stacks of bills waiting to be paid and home front responsibilities, but it shouldn't stop love from existing in your home. The babies may have started coming and you've discovered you don't have enough playtime with your spouse the way you would have wanted it to be but it's not the time to get jealous, difficult and resentful. For example, daddy, make a decision by helping out whenever you can. In that way, you will both enjoy parenthood together. That's love! The truth is that, there are responsibilities we cannot avoid; career, financial, marital and parental but it doesn't mean that we can't make out quality time to make each second count. Every blessed day, when you look around, there is always an opportunity laid out to express love. It's up to you to make the best use of every opportunity you get and thank God for it.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: I John 4: 12

PRAYER

Lord, because You love me, let Your love be perfected in my heart, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 29-30, Matthew 16

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. In the name of Jesus, I destroy the root of selfishness in my life.**
- 2. Lord, for every love lost, let there be complete restoration.**
- 3. Open my eyes to see and maximize every given opportunity to show love in my home, and to those around me, in Jesus name.**

Wednesday February 15, 2012

LOVE EVERYDAY 2

I John 4: 18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

A lot of people are afraid to show love because of one dangerous phenomenon; fear! For some spouses, the only time they feel loved or feel they should express love is when the atmosphere is sexually charged or when there is enough money to throw around. Never measure your love with sexual prowess or financial capabilities. These things are good, but they are not the ultimate. There's something that goes beyond these and it's called mutual understanding and respect. There are some men who will never give their wives a helping hand at home even if she's dying. Why? Because they are afraid, they will lose their respect as husbands. Nobody is asking you to become a house-boy in your own home, but it's not a crime to help out once in a while. For example, taking out the garbage, picking the kids up from school, doing the dishes or picking up the groceries. Perhaps you may not have all the time in the world to go eating out or spending the weekend in an exotic hotel, but no matter how dead-beat your wife maybe after a hard day's job, when she remembers just how much you sacrifice ,to give her a helping hand, there is nothing she wouldn't do for you. You may not feel like it but that's where the decision to love comes in. Daughter of Zion, being a crime-story addict, reality or comedy fanatic, is not an excuse to neglect the things that interests your husband. Deliberately get involved in those things he loves sometimes even if you don't feel like it; like his favorite football club. You might discover it's not as boring as you think. Once in a while, stay with him in front of the sports channel or accompany him to the club if he wants you to. Learn to keep the kids at bay sometimes, and deliberately create some special time for him devoid of any form of interruption. That's love! Let's learn to stop making unnecessary excuses. Excuses destroy!

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: I John 4: 21

PRAYER

Lord, help me to value my spouse unconditionally and grant me the wisdom to give him or her quality time, in the mighty name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 31-33, Matthew 17-18

PRAYER

- 1. I destroy the power of fear over my mind, in the name of Jesus.**
- 2. Lord, make me a channel of love and encouragement to my spouse.**
- 3. Lord, grant me eternal wisdom to do the right things and the things You expect of me in my home and marriage, in the mighty name of Jesus.**

Thursday February 16, 2012

LOVE IS AN ASSIGNMENT 1

Proverbs 18: 22

“He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.”

One thing that plays a very important role in the assurance of a Christian's blessing, is his or her ability to recognize a fertile ground. Unfortunately, many Christians are still encumbered with the *Mills and Boon* or *Hollywood* mindset of what relationship and marriage should be. Have it sweet all the time, sacrifice nothing, be responsible for no one and be accountable to nobody! That's the reason for the endless pain and misery even in Christian marriages today. As men, until we begin to see our spouses as our divine assignment and responsibility, we would not be able to come to terms with the sacrifices needed to build a successful home. The scripture says, when a man finds a wife, he finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord. That simply means that his wife is a fertile land from where he can reap God's blessings. A lot of married men are going through all kinds of strange difficulties today, because they have failed to give their wives a proper place in their lives. They disrespect their wives, neglect their financial duties towards them, and treat them like slaves even in the presence of relatives and friends. What an open door for satanic affliction! No wonder it looks as if their lives are devoid of success, prosperity and God's favor. The same applies to their responsibilities to their children. When you take on a responsibility, God expects you to take care of it, but when you fail to do so, you attract the wrath of God. God naturally takes His hands off you and leaves you to dine with your father the devil, and of course you know what that means. That's why the Bible says that any man, who will not care and provide for his family is worse than an infidel. **(I Timothy 5: 8)** Who is an infidel? An infidel is one who is considered a heathen; one who is not recognized by God nor has any part of His covenant; a wicked fellow! An outcast! A recluse! Now if God considers you worse than a wicked man, then he has no business whatsoever with you. Brother, you have an assignment to that woman and to those children. Don't put anything or anyone first before them. They are your primary assignment. A goldmine for your posterity.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: I Timothy 5: 8

PRAYER

Lord, I pray for forgiveness today, in the areas I have defaulted with my family. Help me to make a fresh start, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 34-35, Matthew 19

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Father, in the name of Jesus, I prophesy healing now to my family, in Jesus name.**
- 2. I cover every loophole through which the enemy has attacked, by the precious Blood of Jesus.**
- 3. Lord, grant me the strength and godly wisdom to carry out the assignment You have handed over to me, in the name of Jesus.**

Friday February 17, 2012

LOVE IS AN ASSIGNMENT 2

Genesis 2: 18

“And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Life is like a battle field. Some struggle more than others, but if life must continue on an ascending scale of progress, one needs to go out into the open world and fight for a living. No matter how comfortable life is, there's got to be some conscious effort at making things work. In other words, we all have our individual roles to play, whether you are a wife, husband, son or daughter. No matter how much a husband must be up and doing, to meet the needs of his family, it is wrong for him to carry the burden alone. Dear married sister, you have a prominent role to play in the growth and well-being of your home, physically, financially and spiritually. You have an assignment in your husband's life and that also includes his well-being and prosperity. Strive to become a major contributor to his financial, social, spiritual and career development. God didn't bless you with a life-partner simply because you were both compatible. He blessed you to compliment the deficiencies in someone's life so as to make him complete. God blessed him with you, so that he can compliment you as well. So when you act as if you're just there to consume greedily and selfishly, and get yourself fat, you're doing your posterity a great injustice. What legacy as a mother, do you intend to leave behind for your future generation?

The **Proverbs 31** woman is a woman who amplifies the value of her husband by putting her hands and talents to work and helping the home financially. The **Proverbs 31** woman stands by her husband, by giving him moral support and encouragement with her kind words and prayers. She makes wisdom and understanding her watch-word. She is, hospitable and spiritually dependable. In other words, she's a cushion to her husband, because she understands her God-given assignment in his life. It is God's will for you to play your role and play it well. Grace is given to you today, in Jesus name.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Proverbs 31: 10-31

PRAYER

Mighty and everlasting God, give me the grace to be an instrument of peace, growth and encouragement in my home, in Jesus name.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 36-37, Matthew 20

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Lord, make me a vessel of honor indeed in my spouse's life.**
- 2. Give me the grace to make a positive difference in my home everyday.**
- 3. By Your grace Lord, I receive wisdom to face and conquer every challenge, in the name of Jesus.**

Saturday February 18, 2012

LOVE IS AN ASSIGNMENT 3

I John 3: 16

“By this we know love, because He laid down his life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for our brethren.”

Someone once said that we are the God in the lives of others. That means that we can only serve God through the lives of others. God cannot come down from heaven physically for us to serve Him. He sends Himself down to us in the problems and negative situations encountered by people. We can't say we love God if we don't treat our fellow human beings right, especially those of the household of God. Apart from those whom we share covenant relationship with, we owe it to our fellow brethren to look out for them and be accountable for them. Love, like I said, is the greatest gift you can give to anyone. When you love someone, you will be willing to do what it takes to add joy to the life of that person. The truth is that, we can't give everyone what they need, but we can do the little we can to make a difference. Sometimes it's the very small things that actually count. That little, can go a long way in establishing the will and presence of God in the lives of others. People will come to love and worship God more, when they see the good you are able to do for them. So many lives have been wrecked because many have turned their backs on the needs of others. Whether we like it or not, we would always have the needy among us. The needy is not only restricted to the financially incapable. The needy are also those in need of our prayers and encouragement. Every day is an assignment if you must run this race to the finish line. There's someone who is in dire need of a phone-call or text message from you, a visitation or even a plate of food. There are some who have everything, but are just grieving. That sweet of yours is all he needs to get by the day. As you leave your home this morning, make up your mind to touch someone's live positively today. May God give you what it takes to turn someone's situation around today.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: I John 4: 19

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I rebuke the stronghold of selfishness by the fire of the Holy Ghost and I cast it out of my life.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 38-39, Matthew 21

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Lord, I may not be able to respond to every need but help me by Your grace and infinite wisdom to help those You have positioned for a lifting through me.**
- 2. Make me an instrument of the establishment of Your divine will in the lives of others, in Jesus name.**
- 3. Heavenly Father, make me a gift indeed to my generation, in the mighty name of Jesus.**

Sunday February 19, 2012

LOVE IS AN ASSIGNMENT. IT LIFTS

I John 4: 12

“No one has seen God at anytime. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”

Who would you describe as a poor person? One who has a need or needs that have not yet been met. Like I said, poverty cannot only be quantified by the lack of financial resources. When one needs an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, or a word of encouragement, it's our duty as Christians to be there for such a one. In instances of illness, absence of shelter, family squabbles, oppression, depression, let us reach out and help in whichever way we can. When people are not able to have their needs met, no matter what that need is, then they are poor. That is why we should be conscious of those among us and sensitive to their needs. One of the biggest problems people are facing today, especially in this part of the world, is neglect by others. There are people today who could have made it beyond the level they are now, but because those whom God has appointed as destiny helpers, refused to throw the lifeline by reason of selfishness and insensitivity. Beloved, when God has given you an assignment in the life of someone, no matter how small or big that assignment is, it is an opportunity for a lifting. God is such a master-planner, that he has given everyone of us an avenue to be prospered. As you lift others, God would lift you. An opportunity to be blessed by God, most times, comes in a disguise to be a source of help to someone else. But the question is, how many of us are able to recognize and accept this opportunity? God will not bring an opportunity of lifting, with an assignment you are not able to carry. Perhaps all God is asking you to do is pay the school fees of a less privileged person for just a single term, or give a bucket of rice, not necessarily a bag, to a widow on a monthly basis. Do you know how far that little gesture can go? Love, as an assignment, and love lifts. It makes God more genuine to the less privileged among us.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: 1 John 4: 20

PRAYER

Mighty God, make me a destiny helper to someone around me. Help to recognize those You have given to me as an assignment, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 40-41, Matthew 22

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Almighty Father, help me to identify and help the poor around me.**
- 2. Use me as a blessing to make love real and genuine in the lives of others, in Jesus name.**
- 3. Mighty God, expand my coast and prosper me, that I might help others prosper, in the name of Jesus.**

Monday February 20, 2012

LOVE GOES DEEPER THAN THE SURFACE 1

Song of Solomon 8: 7

“Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised.”

As humans, it is normal to appreciate beauty and normal to get carried away by the things we see. For very many people, there had been times when we got the kicks by the mere thought or presence of someone. Unfortunately, many built a lifetime or made life-changing decisions based on this feeling and ended up crashing out of destiny. A time came when fantasy and reality had to come face to face with each other and what happened afterwards? Your guess is as good as mine; a head-on collision. Beloved, don't build your future based on mere feelings. I've come to understand that in every successful relationship, there's got to be an element of attraction. Yes, there must be some level of physical attraction to the one you claim you love and hope to settle down with. Being attracted to the one you're relating with, is also a necessary ingredient for a successful relationship, but physical attraction is not all a successful relationship would require. If true love must stand the test of time, it has to go beyond what we see physically; beyond the surface. Changes, responsibilities and differences are bound to rise up and sometimes, unexpectedly. So the question is, what happens when those things that prompted the attraction in the first place, begin to fade away? Will you throw in the towel? Will you turn your back on the Word of God? His principles and His precepts? No! It would be the most foolish thing to do because love is in three dimensions: Agape, Phileo and Eros. We need all three to cope effectively with life's changes and challenges. The surface will always fade and erode but there is something that never fades; it is the evergreen beauty of God's wisdom and God's grace.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Songs of Solomon 4: 1-15

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I put my heart under the subjection of the Blood of Jesus and command it to align to the will of God, Amen.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 42-43, Matthew 23

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Father in the name of Jesus, I am growing in Your divine grace.**
- 2. May Your divine wisdom be a lamp to my feet, in Jesus name.**
- 3. Lord, help me to appreciate not only the beauty in my spouse, but also the inner beauty that never fades, in the name of Jesus.**

Tuesday February 21, 2012

LOVE GOES DEEPER THAN THE SURFACE 2

Proverbs 19: 8

“He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good.”

The body is a living organism that breathes, responds to stimuli and reproduces itself. It also wears out by reason of age, pressure, and sometimes, abuse. The way we take care of our body determines how long we are able to live and our ability to respond to strain. Whether we like it or not, we must encounter some level of strain as we meet the daily challenges of life, but what would give us the upper hand in dealing with these challenges, is the ability to maintain a healthy lifestyle. In spite of this, no matter how much discipline we are able to inculcate, there's got to be some wear and tear as life progresses and this brings us to the reality of the inevitable we all must face at one point in time; degeneration. God expects us to take proper care of our bodies and remain healthy, that even at the point of death, we should be able to transcend gloriously. The body was given to us as a gift from God. It is our body that houses the spirit and when the body can no longer continue, the body and the spirit must part ways. It is our duty to do everything possible to keep healthy and good-looking, but it should not be the criteria for a successful relationship because the shell will always deteriorate. Do everything in your power to maintain a worthy lifestyle, but do more in ensuring the growth of your inner virtues; your relationship with God, mustering positive relationships with family and friends, imbibing positive habits in the lives of your children, serving in the house of God, being a blessing to the poor, growing in godly wisdom and understanding, etc. God is more concerned about this aspect of our lives than others. He wants us to reflect His nature as God. Let that be your ultimate goal.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: James 3: 13-17

SPEAK THE WORD

I declare, I am growing in grace and in the virtues of God, in the mighty name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 44-45, Matthew 24

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Today, I receive wisdom to uphold a godly and virtuous lifestyle.**
- 2. Lord, help me to build a successful union in home, in Jesus name.**
- 3. At the end of my journey, may my life be worthy of emulation indeed, in the name of Jesus.**

Wednesday February 22, 2012

LOVE FORGIVES 1

Luke 23: 34

“Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots.”

The Bible says that offences would surely come. As long as we remain in flesh and blood, we are prone to exhibit human characteristics that would one way or the other, cause us or cause others to stumble. As spouses, fathers, mothers, children, etc, we are bound to get hurt by those we deeply love and trust. Sometimes, it's just a case of passing arguments, petty strife and the kind of things typical with family. But a few times, they could be heart-breaking encounters that can rock one deep down to the core of the soul, cause severe damage and of course, erupt a burning desire for a vendetta. Somebody once gave a philosophical description of revenge: He said, when you embark on the journey of revenge, make sure you go with two coffins; one for yourself and one for the other you intend to kill, because in revenge, your own death is inevitable. Death is not only when you physically take the life of someone. Some of us have killed, but in the heart. Some of us, have killed and buried over and over again in our hearts, people whom have caused us terrible pain. The pain of betrayal and disappointment can leave scars in the hearts of its victims for years, even from one generation to another, but no matter how justified unforgiveness is, it always destroys at the end. If you say you are born-again and truly love God, you cannot keep unforgiveness in your heart. You are either on God's side or not. You can't be in two camps at the same time. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” What could have been more painfully excruciating and grotesque than the Crucifixion? You think about it. The Crucifixion had to happen that way, for Christ to set the pace for us when it comes to the issue of forgiveness. The more you hold on to that pain and bitterness, the deeper you sink into bondage, frustration, sickness, paranoia and alienation from God. If you've truly loved someone and that person hurt you and wants to be forgiven, please forgive unless you never truly cared for that person.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Luke 23: 25-38

CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, today, I release from my heart, those who have hurt me and those I have tied up with the chords of unforgiveness in my heart, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 46-48, Matthew 25-26

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Satan, I command you to loosen your hold over my mind and spirit now, in Jesus name.**
- 2. By the precious blood of Jesus, my heart is cleansed and set free.**
- 3. Today, by the power of the Holy Ghost, every grave is covered, in the name of Jesus.**

Thursday February 23, 2012

LOVE FORGIVES 2

1 John 4: 17

“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so we are in this world.”

Let me tell you a true story: Desiree was looking forward to her wedding day to Ferdinand, the man of her dreams. As expected, her tummy began to show signs of pregnancy within six months of her marriage. Her joy knew no bounds but four years down the line, she began to tell a different story. Her fairy-tale marriage had turned into a nightmare. With three infant daughters tugging at her apron strings, another baby on the way, and a worn-out body, she had become a complete shadow of herself. Regrettably, she had gone on to have two more daughters and the physical and verbal abuse from her husband and family members continued. As if that was not enough, she was eventually supplanted by another woman who gave birth to the long awaited male child. The abuse and neglect of her and her five daughters, became the order of the day to the point that they literally begged to eat in their own home. Not that Desiree had wished her mate any evil, but a billion times, the thought of why she had been so unlucky, crossed her mind. In a few years, by reason of what she and her children continued to suffer, it was expedient she left if she wanted to stay alive. Eleven years later, her two oldest daughters she'd left in their father's care at the time of her departure, joined her and their younger sisters. In spite of the misfortune she had suffered, she worked her way to the bone and made a huge success of her life. Thirteen years later, Desiree heard that her husband's son had been sentenced to a maximum security prison for twenty-two years on a three count charge of armed robbery, murder and cult activities. Alone, weak, worn-out and in penury, from one court case to another, Ferdinand crawled his way back to Desiree's front door one early morning pleading for forgiveness. What would Jesus have done in a situation like this? Would you do the same?

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Matthew 6:14-15

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, Father, I receive the spirit of unconditional love and forgiveness in my heart. Lord, I can't do it without Your help. Mighty God, help me to forgive.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Genesis 49-50, Matthew 27

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. I lose the power of God's grace over my life right now, to truly forgive, in Jesus name.**
- 2. May the Cross of Jesus continue to be a symbol of perfection in my life.**
- 3. I rebuke every power from the pit of hell contending with my life and destiny, in the name of Jesus.**

Friday February 24, 2012

LOVE FORGIVES 3

Matthew 18: 21-22

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times but seventy times seven.” (NIV)

Forgiveness may not erase or replace the lost years of neglect, abuse or betrayal. Neither can it replace lost life, but it can take away the pain. I read a remarkable story of a young Christian father who was trying to teach his growing son about the essence of discipline. For every bad thing this little boy did, his father put a small nail at the back of the door of his room. One day, this little boy came home and told his father that he had repented from his mischievous ways. Truly, he had repented and his father noticed the change in his son's life and made a decision one morning to get rid of all the nails. One by one, he removed the nails and the little boy asked his father a question, “What about the holes?” and his father said, he was sorry, that there was nothing he could do about the holes. You see, even forgiveness couldn't cover the holes. Back to Desiree and Ferdinand; at first, Ferdinand's entrant into their lives, seemed like some major interruption out of the blues. As far as Desiree and her children were concerned, he was an extra piece from a lost puzzle. She had loved and honored her husband, but all he had done, was throw a can of worms in her face because she hadn't been able to give him a male child. With time, Desiree and her children actually came to forgive, but Desiree made it categorically clear to him and members of his family, that there was no room for marriage or intimacy in spite of the fact that they were still legally married. Of no fault of hers, Ferdinand had lost that for good. Though this may not be the case in all situations or even in your own situation, but Ferdinand was going to remain alone for the rest of his life but fortunately, his daughters made it a point of duty to pay him occasional visits and with their mother's help, assist him financially. Desiree may not have had any space for him in her life anymore, but she did what Jesus would do and what God expects you to do; she truly forgave.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Matthew 18: 23-35

PRAYER

My heavenly Father, help me to condition my heart to Your ultimate will at all times, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Exodus 1-2, Matthew 28

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. In the name of Jesus, I declare I am more than a conqueror and I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me.**
- 2. I receive the power to release from my heart every debt and bitterness.**
- 3. As Jesus forgave, I will continue to forgive, in the name of Jesus.**

Saturday February 25, 2012

LOVE IS A GUIDING LIGHT 1

I John 2: 9-10

“He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.”

As humans, sometimes we feel more comfortable hating or disliking people without realizing the consequences of walking in negativism of the mind and spirit. When we walk in hatred, we give the enemy the opportunity to afflict us with oppression, bondage, sickness, poverty and confusion of the mind. Someone once said that hatred is an acronym for stupidity, and I quite agree with him. You know, I've come to understand that a lot of people who live in hatred and in bitterness, actually arrive only at making a fool of themselves. You know, it's so funny when someone carries on with a malicious countenance in a bid to portray anger, resentment and antipathy towards others. Self-deceptively, they carry on an air of false superiority and toughness, without realizing they are portraying themselves as proud and arrogant people. When you put on such an unclean disposition, God Himself, finds it difficult to minister to your needs no matter how spiritual you think you are. But on the other hand, when you give yourself to love, you will be able to do things in a way, that pleases God. Secondly, you will be able to see and understand life with a clearer and positive perspective, exhibit godly wisdom, and perceive the mind of God. Thirdly, you will be able to break free from oppression and opposition, and put yourself in line with the favor of God and man. Love is a guiding light that helps one see beyond the natural realm of life. It helps you see things clearer, that is why the devil will give you every reason to hate, because he knows it's an open door for him to attack subtly. Love is a destroyer of bondage, torment and shame. Love is an attribute of God and when you love, you release the light of God to shine through and around you.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: I John 2: 11

SPEAK THE WORD

My path is as a shining light that shines through and through until the perfect day, in Jesus name.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Exodus 3-4, Mark 1

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Satan, I destroy your stronghold of mental, psychological and spiritual weakness, and I banish you out of my mind now, in Jesus name.**
- 2. Mighty God, by Your help and grace, may my paths to destiny continue to radiate with Your everlasting light.**
- 3. May my life continually be a living example of Your grace, strength and godly wisdom, in the name of Jesus.**

Sunday February 26, 2012

LOVE IS A GUIDING LIGHT 2

I John 2: 17

“And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

I once read a touching story of a young lady who had been sexually abused by her late father's friend and his son, for a number of years. By reason of that abuse, she had suffered an incapacitating psychological trauma as a result of which, she became a hardened and bitter person. By reason of her violent temper, she hadn't been able to sustain a relationship or a job. At twenty-eight, she was completely immersed in a world of high profile prostitution, not particularly for the money, but just for the fun of it. For someone who was well settled in prostitution simply for the fun of it, didn't quite understand the emptiness of her soul, not to talk of finding the appropriate thing to fill the vacuum. But one *faithful* night, a vigil was going on outside the hotel she was spending the night in with a client. The gripping words of the servant of God wouldn't let her sleep. As if by remote control, she sneaked her way into the crusade ground and surrendered her life to Christ. But still, for many years, she continued to battle with anger, violent tantrums, self-pity and suppressed memory flashes. In her Canaan, she still continued to experience babylonian captivity. One morning, after listening to a message on the radio, she realized, it was time to release her late father's friend and his son, from her heart. That was the break of a new dawn. She began to experience a peace and joy, she had never known and was able for the first time, put her life in an orderly perspective. Four months later, that same year, during the Christmas holidays, she paid them a visit but what she saw, shocked her to her marrows. Not that it was any consolation but there was no doubt that these men had suffered tremendously. Out of compassion, from a depth of love, she prayed for them and went her way. Glory to God, she had found her path, by choosing to forgive. Love guided her. It doesn't matter what may have happened to you; It's possible those experiences have meandered you off the right track. Let God's love guide you. Let that thing go today so that you can find the path to your future.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: I John 2: 24

PRAYER

Mighty God, enable me to walk in the light of Your love. As I fellowship with You, let the precious Blood of Jesus, cleanse me from all sin, in the mighty name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Exodus 5-7, Mark 2-3

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Mighty God, help me abide in You and walk just as the Lord Jesus walked on earth.**
- 2. Lord, let Your love and light, be my guide all the days of my life.**
- 3. Abba Father, as I walk in You, let every imperfection in my life, be perfected in the name of Jesus.**

Monday February 27, 2012

LOVE DOES NOT KEEP RECORD OF WRONGS

1 Peter 4: 8

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.”

It's one thing to forgive but it's something else to forget. You see, many are able to forgive but not many are willing to forget. I used the word '*willing*' because forgetting is a choice. It's okay to feel bad when we are hurt but keeping records of hurt only makes the pain worse, not better. Many of us are guilty of this. We have forgiven but somewhere in the archives of our minds, that painful experience is coiled up like an angry serpent ready to strike at the slightest opportunity. They can strike as words and defense tactics. Wives, especially, though husbands are not exempted, are very good at this. Issues that happened as far back as ten, twelve or even twenty years ago, are still fresh in their memories. Over and over again, matters that were presumed dead and buried, are forced to be exhumed. Child of God, how would you feel if someone opens up an old wound on your body, every now and then after it has healed? That's what keeping records of wrongs do; They hurt terribly like a scapular digging into an old scar. After it has healed, the scar becomes bigger. i. e. It leaves your relationship more damaged than it was before. If you have truly forgiven, you wouldn't keep record of wrongs. It is an act of selfishness and foolishness. Secondly, people who derive pleasure from the guilt of others, should not forget that a tough time awaits them. One day, they will wake up to discover that the one who has been consistently victimized by guilt, has found love and trust in the comfort of a third party. Don't destroy love and trust; instead build it. Nobody is perfect; not even you. Let us learn to practice true love in a genuine and godly way as true ambassadors of Christ. In spite of our numerous faults, God still loves us. He chose us and redeemed us from destruction. Why can't we just love a little? Others deserve genuine love from us whoever they might be, and no matter what they have done. Let's learn to let go and let God.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Proverbs 10: 12

PRAYER

Mighty and everlasting God, I lay my hurt and pains at the foot of the Cross today. By Your special grace, help me to truly forgive and forget from my heart, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Exodus 8-11, Mark 4-5

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Lord Jesus, I receive Your spirit of love and humility.**
- 2. May Your grace continually be my banner of righteousness.**
- 3. Holy Spirit, I commit my relationships to You and I pray that the purpose for every relationship will be achieved, in the name of Jesus.**

Tuesday February 28, 2012

LOVE HAS ITS TRUE KINDS AND TIME

Matthew 7: 6

“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”

When you are caught in a situation where love is required to be compromised, God expects you to do the right thing; to do what His word says. As Christians and as people after God's heart, we need to understand that, love should not be compromised under any circumstances. There are times we need to show love and there are times we must step on some toes if need be. We are expected to love our fellow human beings but there are instances where love can be compromised, hence the need to be watchful. There are a lot of devilish antics brewing around us to make us derail from God's purpose for our relationships. There are times when the devil will come your way to force you to throw your costly pearls to dogs and pigs. **(Matthew 7: 6)** For example, when you are tempted to accept love from, or to give love to the strange man or woman, whether in fornication or adultery, that **kind** of love does not come from God but from satan. God created love and He created love in three different kinds, but each must be given or received within the confines of His will. When you give your body unduly in the act of fornication and adultery, that invariably means that you have leveled your pride and dignity to the level of dogs and pigs; you've made your chastity worthless. What happens next? The consequences of that act will turn round and mess up your life. As humans, sometimes we are not able to control the rhythms of our emotions but falling into compromise, is definitely not a choice. You do have control! Young lady, when that young man asks you to prove your love by accompanying him to the slaughter, when you are not yet married, tell him to wait. Anything beyond that is satanic and from the pit of hell. Love yourself first and love God too by lifting up the banner of righteousness. Young man, don't allow *Portipharas* bully you and question your loyalty to God because you're doing the right thing. Step on someone's toes if you have to, but love the right way, at the right time and for the right reasons.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: John 3: 20-21

PRAYER

Mighty God, give me the spirit of discernment, to discern every move of the enemy over my relationships, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Exodus 12-14, Mark 6-7

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Abba Father, help me to discern when to love and when to defend the Faith.**
- 2. Father, strengthen me in the face of temptations and challenges.**
- 3. Lord, give me the grace to stand up to righteousness even when those I love and trust turn their backs on the Faith, in Jesus name.**

Wednesday February 29, 2012

LOVE IS REAL

Psalm 120: 1-2

“In my distress I cried to the Lord, and he heard me. Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue.”

God wants to speak to the broken hearted today who have been traumatized by reason of betrayal, rejection and neglect. It's normal to encounter one form of pain or disappointment but it still remains a choice to hold on to it. Many of us are hurting, by reason of what others did to us, or what we foolishly allowed into our lives; but it is not the end of life. You shouldn't give up on your dreams of a successful relationship and a happy family life because of what someone did to you. Life's issues should be taken as lessons; you pick up the lesson and throw the pain into the garbage dump and move on. Don't put your life on pause and convince yourself that true love does not exist because someone broke your heart. When you close your heart, you ultimately close your destiny and close the door to the string of opportunities God has laid in store for you for an excellent future. I've heard a few people talk about their resolution not to have friends ever again but, are still proud enough to claim they relate with God. You can't love God without loving people. It's impossible! You can't go far in life without necessarily believing in other people. God works in our favor through other people. Maybe you've been hurt because you put all your trust in people. Perhaps, you have ruled out the possibility of settling down in your own matrimonial home, because to you, all women are gold-diggers and all men are chauvinists. Quite understandable is the fact that you can't trust everyone, but in actual fact, we are meant to love everyone unconditionally and put our trust only in God. Put your hurt away; in the trash can where it belongs and reopen your heart. Jesus can take the pain away. You can experience love again and most of all, never forget that the ultimate love is the pure love of God. Whatever man does to you or may have done to you, the Lord is sure to heal your heart, if you can trust in Him.

FURTHER BIBLE REFERENCE: Lamentations 3: 19-22

PRAYER

Precious Lord, I give my heart totally to You. Cleanse me with Your spotless Blood and heal every brokenness of my spirit, in the name of Jesus.

ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN: Exodus 15-16, Mark 8

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. I shall not waste, but declare the goodness of the Lord over my life.**
- 2. I call forth every covenant relationship into manifestation, and I command them to yield their increase to me.**
- 3. By faith this day, I receive a pure heart; a heart that is surrendered totally to the will of God, in Jesus name.**