



“BEHOLD
I COME
QUICKLY”

AUGUST EDITION



The Global Harvest Mandate Vision Outreach
...taking light to the world

WELCOME ADDRESS



The Global Harvest Mandate Vision Outreach
...taking light to the world

Welcome to August Edition of Behold I Come Quickly monthly magazine.

We say a big thanks to our Senior Partner, The Holy Spirit, Our Teacher, Auction and Wisdom, our seal unto the day of redemption. Without Him, this work would've been impossible.

This month by His grace we shall be accessing the following topics :

- 1.) OBEDIENCE - NOT A ONE-OFF ACT, BUT A LIFESTYLE
- 2.) MORTIFY THE POWER OF EVIL LONGINGS (Part 2)
- 3.) DO YOU BELIEVE AND TRUST IN GOD?
- 4.) ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING
- 5.) LITTLE FOXES - EVIL THOUGHTS
- 6.) WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND?

Our work doesn't stop at alerting the church of the Lord's return, but also to contribute effort towards preparing and making her ready for the Master. This is why we keep touching different areas and topics.

Kindly visit our website www.theglobalharvestmandate.org to access previous editions. For contributions and questions contact us through our Email, info@theglobalharvestmandate.org

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Stay awake !! See you next month.

Your's in His love

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Oyenu Omolola', written over a light grey rectangular background.

OYENUE OMOLOLA - MARGARET

For The Global Harvest Mandate.

OBEDIENCE - NOT A ONE-OFF ACT, BUT A LIFESTYLE



OMOLOLA-MARGARET O.

Genesis 2 vs 16 - 17

16. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Every establishment or organization is run by a set of rules and regulations which must not be violated. The issue of setting rules and regulations actually began at creation. When God founded the earth, He handed it's management over to man with some dos and don'ts, the essence of which was to regulate how he lives, what he eats daily and ultimately how long he lasts in the program of God.

God's design for obedience was to ensure that we consciously walk daily in the centre of His will and command. He plainly told Adam and Eve "You can eat freely of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil thou shall not eat. The day you eat of it, thou shall surely die".

There were several edible fruit trees in the garden but a particular one was a **'touch not' and 'a death trap', whose evil consequence could last for eternity.** It has a potential to rob mankind of eternal glory and separate them totally from the One who gave them license to live in the garden, yet it's fruit was pleasant to the sight. What a contrast!

It's most likely we wonder why God allowed the forbidden tree to grow in the garden; Was He trying to set an occasion for Adam and Eve to fall? As an all knowing God, shouldn't He have known they might not be able to resist the temptation? All these questions and many more are likely to cross our minds, but the truth of the matter is that **'true obedience and love can only be tested when there are opportunities to disobey'.** Jesus says in John 14 vs 21a, "He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me". How else could God prove Adam's love and obedience if He didn't put an object of test very close to them? **'Untested holiness is a fake holiness'.**

On a good day, God knew they would see the forbidden tree daily, in fact it was strategically positioned in a conspicuous place, yet the instruction was **'Do not touch, do not eat.'** They were to walk through the garden daily to pluck what to eat but avoid the one in the midst of the garden like leprosy. - Walking in the same act of obedience daily was intended to be a lifestyle.

When you love someone so much, you don't want to hurt him or her. Likewise, when we truly and genuinely love God, we wouldn't want to displease Him. Each time we disregard His word, we dishonour His personality and that

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OMOLOLA-MARGARET O.

hurts His feelings. Everyday, we are surrounded by opportunities to live contrary to the word of God. Choosing good over evil therefore is a choice we have to make daily because the world is full of evil. It is God's desire that the whole earth would do His will as it's being done in heaven. Matthew 6 vs 10. Knowing the will of God and doing otherwise is a rebellion against His kingdom.

God's commandments are clearly stated in His word ; The bible is a compass with which we must daily draw the direction of our lives The Psalmist says in ." Psalm 119 vs 105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."

Every don't(s) or 'thou shall not' in the word of God is a forbidden fruit, it's our choice to either obey or do contrary, the consequence determines who is right at the end of the day, whether the Word of God or Satan. The whole world still suffers the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience and rebellion. Thanks to God for making provision against it's ultimate effect through the death of Jesus on the cross.

The word-stand is God's stand because the word of God is God Himself. John 1 vs 1. Acting contrary to the word and commandments of God is called disobedience. Do you know unbelief is a belief, only that it's in the negative? Similarly, disobedience is obedience but to someone or something asides God - (Flesh, Satan, Man etc.). Satan counselled Eve against divine instruction and she embraced his evil counsel ; that's obedience to Satan. Every counsel outside God's word is evil and deadly. May we receive power to say no to Satanic counsels in Jesus name, Amen.

CONCLUSION :

Studying the word of God to live and not just to minister is a sure aid to walk in obedience. What we practice daily eventually becomes a lifestyle. Deliberately taking our eyes and hands away daily from every '**touch not and eat not**' is **an act of devotion and true worship to God.**

Stay fit till His appearing for He's coming soon.

MORTIFY THE POWER OF EVIL LONGINGS (PART II)

OGUNSOLU TAIWO ELIZABETH



Proverbs 14:34 (AMP) Righteousness [moral and spiritual integrity and virtuous character] exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people.

INTRODUCTION

“**RIGHTEOUSNESS** exalts a nation, but **SIN** is a disgrace to any people”. A nation connotes a man; because a man produces a nation. For Instance, Israel (Jacob) produced the Israelites. If a man succeeds, a nation has succeeded, if a man fails, a nation has failed. The day David killed Goliath, the whole Philistines bowed to the Israelites. Sin is a destroyer and a disgrace; it can turn a Prince to a Slave. Therefore, every child of God needs to steadfastly resist sin to a point that the devil will have nothing to hold against us. **John 14:30 (AMP) says; I will not speak with you much longer, for the ruler of the world (Satan) is coming. And he has no claim on Me [no power over Me nor anything that he can use against Me].** Jesus our Savior declared that the devil has no power over Him neither can he use anything against Him. Jesus wants us to imitate Him and even perform greater than Him. We shall take a brief study of one of the consequences of sin and examine the life of two great men who ended up shattered because of sin.

SIN IS A WASTER

Sin indeed has a poisonous effect on its victim. It has the power to render a man useless and reduce a glorious future to emptiness. We shall use Samson in the Bible as a case study of a mighty man with a glorious destiny who ended up as mere man.

SAMSON

SAMSON'S BIRTH AND PURPOSE

Let's take a look at **Judges 13:1-5; 24-25**

1. Now Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.
2. And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was infertile and had no children.
3. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are infertile and have no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son.
4. Therefore, be careful not to drink wine or [any other] intoxicating drink, and do not eat anything [ceremonially] unclean.
5. For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazarite [dedicated] to God from birth; and he shall begin to rescue Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”
24. So the woman [in due time] gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the boy grew and the LORD blessed him.
25. And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him at times in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

MORTIFY THE POWER OF EVIL LONGINGS (PART II)

OGUNSOLU TAIWO ELIZABETH



The book of Judges Chapters 13, 14, 15 and 16 gave an account of Samson's existence from birth to death. Samson was specially created by God for a specific assignment.

His birth was announced twice to his parents by an angel of God. Samson was their first child as they have not been able to produce any child then. He was to be a Nazarite unto to God from conception. Nazarites do not take strong or alcoholic beverages, they do not shave their heads, they don't eat from or touch any dead thing or humans (unclean things), and they are holy and sanctified unto God during the period of their concentration. Samson's case was a different one because he had been a Nazarite to God from his mother's womb. God gave him an extraordinary power and strength that he didn't give any other person on Earth. No one could ever dare him including his parents.

He was ordained by God to rescue the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines; he was blessed by the Lord and filled with the Holy Spirit in abundance such that the Spirit moves or stirs him at times.

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you [and approved of you as My chosen instrument], And before you were born I consecrated you [to Myself as My own]; I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

God has predestined everyone even before we were formed in our mother's womb just like Samson.

SAMSON'S EXPLOITS

The exploits Samson did in his lifetime was a result of God's calling upon him. His major assignment was to destroy the Philistines. He single-handedly destroyed a lot of the Philistines during his lifetime and even more at his death. He became a terror to the Philistines who have been lording over Israel for forty years before his birth. Samson judged Israel for 20 years. The book of Judges Chapters 14 and 15 gave a recount of his exploits.

God has put special abilities in us, and everything we need to accomplish it, our duty is to recognize these and work towards the accomplishment.

SAMSON'S FALL, REGRET AND DEATH

Judges 16: 1-5; 24; 28-30

1. Then Samson went to Gaza and saw a prostitute there, and went in to her.
2. The Gazites were told, "Samson has come here." So they surrounded the place and waited all night at the gate of the city to ambush him. They kept quiet all night, saying, "In the morning, when it is light, we will kill him."
3. But Samson lay [resting] until midnight, then at midnight he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate and the two door-posts, and pulled them up, [security] bar and all, and he put them on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of the hill which is opposite Hebron.
4. After this he fell in love with a [Philistine] woman [living] in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.
5. So the [five] lords (governors) of the Philistines came to her and said to her, "Persuade him, and see where his great strength lies and [find out] how we may overpower him so that we may bind him to subdue him. And each of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

MORTIFY THE POWER OF EVIL LONGINGS (PART II)

OGUNSOLU TAIWO ELIZABETH



24. When the people saw Samson, they praised their god, for they said, "Our god has handed over our enemy to us, The ravager of our country, Who has killed many of us."
28. Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me just this one time, O God, and let me take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes."
29. Samson took hold of the two middle [support] pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, one with his right hand and the other with his left.
30. And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he stretched out with all his might [collapsing the support pillars], and the house fell on the lords and on all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.

Samson's fall started the day he was caught in the web of evil desires (sin) and refused to resist it steadfastly. As powerful as he was, he didn't take charge of his mind. He was always caught in the web of lust, fornication, lies, disobedience, anger and pride. Samson was never cautious of the purpose of God for his life, although his parents tried to guide him but he refused their counsel and warnings. He put himself in the environment where he could easily fall into sin. Samson loved strange women, he slept with a prostitute, and he desired women from the Philistines who put God's children in bondage. Samson got so deep in sin that he gave out his secret to Delilah, his mistress. He was later captured by the enemies and his eyes were plucked out, he began to live in absolute darkness, he was made to grind for his enemies in the prison and he was mocked and ridiculed.

You cannot serve God and serve mammon, it's not possible! The book of Romans chapters 4 and 5 (paraphrased), taught us about justification for every believer through Jesus Christ our lord, also it further stated that where sin increased, grace has surpassed it and increased all the more but we cannot continue in sin and practice sin as a habit that grace may increase, God forbid! If you are for God, then He requires complete submission from us. God's plan for us is to give us a beautiful ending but sin can shatter that beautiful ending if not resisted.

Samson regretted his actions at the end but he was already captured and in the enemies camp. He prayed to God for one more chance to avenge his enemies and at the end he died with his enemies.

You cannot afford to wait till when the enemies catch up with you before you let go of the sinful habits and renew your mind through God's word daily. You need to stay pure so that you can fulfill God's purpose for your life. Jesus Christ our Lord lived a life of sanctification (separation from sin unto God) and holiness and He fulfilled His mandate on earth. Other biblical examples include Joseph, Samuel, Enoch, among others.

YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

Having studied a brief recount on Samson's life, the bottom line is that you and I have some responsibilities to ensure a fulfilled life. Let's take some few points as follows:

1. Be cautious of the fact that you are a child of God and you have a calling upon your life. The calling/purpose is primarily to please God and others are secondary. Samson lived a carefree life and his parents were the ones who always tried to put him in order. He was God's anointed but did not act like one in all the accounts of his life.

MORTIFY THE POWER OF EVIL LONGINGS (PART II)

OGUNSOLU TAIWO ELIZABETH



1 John 4:4 KJV "Ye are of God little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

2. Never allow sins (little foxes that spoil the vine) to eat you up that you forget who you are and always flee from them as they come into your mind. You might be in the world but definitely not of the world. Make the word of God your compass to direct and mirror to correct and see through. **Psalm 119:11 AMP "Your word I have treasured and stored in my heart, that I may not sin against You"**

3. Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers (2Corinthians 6:14-18). Choose your circle wisely in every aspects of life. Don't be overly wise like Samson who chose wrong companies, they may end up pulling you into their vices or tarnish your image. He fornicated with unbelievers and even made the Philistines his groomsmen during his first attempt to get married to a woman from Timnath. You must not be ignorant of the devices of the devil. Don't mess up your glorious destiny by keeping the wrong company. **1Corinthians 15:33 AMP "Be not deceived: bad company corrupts good morals."**

4. Work out God's gift, purpose and plans for your life. You have a part to play in destiny; the word of God has been given to counsel and to guide us. **2Timothy 3:16-17 KJV "16. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.** God has placed people in our lives that can serve as mentors to us, don't underestimate them! Samson despised the counsel of his parents and ended up in the pit dug for him by the enemies. Don't forget to always pray and seek God's face for direction at every point in time.

5. Do not depend absolutely on the gift of God in you but focus on the giver of the gift. Samson was always moved by the Spirit of God but did not place much relevance on communing with God; he acted based on the stirring of the Holy Spirit in him. Judges chapters 14 and 15. You might have a calling or gift, but the usage is more important and only the giver has the prescription. You need to always ask for direction from God before taking steps in life. You need to be aware of those moments when God is at work and when He requires you to act.

REFLECTION

Sin is deadly and can ruin a glorious destiny. As powerful as Samson was, he still sinned and wasted his life and purpose. David surfaced after many decades to fulfill the purpose that Samson was made for. God has substitutes for as many who will not take heed. Don't toy with sin; don't put yourself in the environment of sin. Be intentional about living a life of sanctification and holiness; you will surely fulfill your God-given destiny.

If you are yet to surrender your life to God, and you also want to end your life well, please cry to God to save you and redeem your soul from destruction today, tell Him to come into your life and make you his child. Amen

PRAYER

Father, I rededicate my life to you today, give me victory over sin, let me walk in the light of your word and help me to live a fulfilled life in Jesus name. AMEN

DO YOU BELIEVE & TRUST IN GOD? (PART I)

Celestine Ekele .I.



Let's have a little chat. But before we do, kindly remember that God had His concerns regarding people's attitude towards believing His words. And so He said it quite a number of times in His word, saying – **"He who has ears let him hear..."** ([Matthew 13:9, 43](#); [Mark 4:9, 23](#); [Luke 8:8; 14:35...and many other verses](#))

Dear Youth, my very first few questions to you are - *

"Did you create yourself?!"

Do you know what the creator says about you, the creature??

Can you survive on your own or by your own strength?

What do you believe in or rely on to exist?

What are the steps you (the creature) need to follow in order to survive?

But to answer these questions, you need to understand that some don't even know that there is a God (the Creator)!

Have you ever thought of where the first man on earth came from? Did you, like some scientist think man evolved from Ape?!? Even if you did, did the Ape come to being from nothing?!? What about all the awesome creations, did they evolve from nothing?

My dear brilliant youth, this world or the universe is too organized to evolve from nothing! Be wise! Do not be deceived! The Word of God is forever settled!

The Bible made us understand that **not everyone put their trust in God!** ... So don't be surprised!

Psalms 20:7 - "Some trust in and boast of chariots and some of horses, **but we will trust in and boast of the name of the Lord our God.**"

If you don't believe that there is a God... The word of God states it clearly; the Bible calls such "a fool".

Psalm 14:1 - The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." ...

But if you believe in the existence of the Almighty God, then you must BELIEVE, TRUST and FOLLOW His laid down instructions!

So, Proverbs. 3:5-6 says -

[5] Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

[6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths

So it simply means, for example, **if you need direction in your daily 'hustles', you must trust God and don't lean on your own understanding. Trust Him to direct or lead you!**

To be continued...!

Join me in our next edition as we conclude this series of **"DO YOU BELIEVE & TRUST IN GOD?"**

Stay Blessed!

See you on the other side.

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

OLUNLOYO FUNMILAYO O.



What is Attitude?

Attitude can be explained to be a manner of thinking, feeling, or behaving that reflects a state of mind or disposition e.g.

Lady B has a positive attitude about work; the Pastor kept a dignified attitude throughout the crisis. **Proverbs 23:7.**

Attitude can also be described as predisposition or a tendency to respond positively or negatively towards a certain idea, object, person or situation. Attitude influences an individual's choice of action, and responses to challenges, incentives, and rewards (together called stimuli).

In simple words Attitude can mean the way and manner that we respond to things and people around us based on our mindset about the person or the situation at hand. The place of Attitude in our everyday life is very important. A popular adage says "Attitude determines altitude".

WHY IS ATTITUDE EVERYTHING?

Attitude is everything, because our disposition or reaction to the job we do, the way we interact with people, the reaction to forces within or without our control, the way we react when we are stressed or when we are disappointed or hurt goes a long way to determine our attitude which eventually describes how people rate and perceive us.

One of the most important step you can take toward achieving your greatest potential in life is to learn to monitor your attitude and its impact on your work performance, relationships and everyone around you. It governs the way you perceive the world and the way the world perceives you. We all make choices. We can choose an inner dialogue of self-encouragement and self-motivation, or we can choose one of self-defeat and self-pity. It's a power we all have.

Each of us encounters hard times, hurt feelings, heartache, and physical and emotional pain. The key is to realize it's not what happens to you that matters; it's how you choose to respond.

Our mind is like a computer program, what you program it to be determines the output that comes out of it. You can choose whether the software installed is productive or unproductive. Your inner dialogue/discussions is the software that programs your attitude, which determines how you present yourself to the world around you. You have control over the programming. Whatever you put into it is reflected in what comes out. Therefore as information and actions

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

OLUNLOYO FUNMILAYO O.



1. Wake up early everyday - It is always good to start the day early as it gives you time to refresh. There is ample time to have a quiet time, pray draw inspiration for the natural from the supernatural, **Psalm 63 : 1, Proverbs 8 : 17**. After the quiet time, you can boost your morale by taking some time to speak positively into the day **Job 22 : 28**, into your spirit and then draw your "to do list" for the day. At this point intend to make each day a good ones, you will find your attitude will change. It's like you are taking the day by the horns and making sure you get every last bit out of it and on your own terms. You'll feel in control of your life rather than just going through life in a blur. Even if you get up 30 minutes earlier than usual, the impact on your attitude will be profound.

2. Always be purposeful - whenever you take action, always take steps to act with a purpose, so that your actions are in line with your values and who you are **Daniel 1 : 8**. Many people walk through life blindly, with no real reason for what they do and why they do it. Some even do things because it's fashionable to, because society demands it, "my friends" are doing same without real purpose and intent. Instead, live with a sense of purpose, so that you go through life knowing the effect you have on those around you and why you do the things you so. For example, Walt Disney's main purpose was to make people happy, so when next you act, think of your purpose and improve your attitude whilst doing so.

3. Don't compare yourself to others – **2 Corinthians 10 : 12** One great way to improve your attitude to life and to those around you is quit comparing yourself to others. It's human to compare ourselves with others and benchmark our success to that of peers, but when we do it too often we can drag ourselves down and start to think that life isn't going the way it's supposed to go. Then low self-esteem creeps in, then resentment follows suit. When we compare, we think someone else's life looks better than ours. It's important to remember that we are observing the external view, and things don't always seem the way they look and may most likely look different behind closed doors. So spare yourself the worry and stop comparing, only focus on your own life and attitude to it and you'll be much happier in the process **Romans 8 : 18**

4. Expect the best out of every situation instead of the worst – How many times do you focus on the bad stuff that might happen in your life, rather than the good? **2 Kings 4 : 26** Do you hear yourself saying things like "mine is always different", "oh, I knew that will happen", or "I really hope this doesn't cost too much" and, "I don't want to be late"?

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

OLUNLOYO FUNMILAYO O.



When life is hectic and you feel that you don't have time to do what you want because of what other people want from you, it's no wonder you can get so down and disgruntled about life. We tend to focus on what could go wrong in our lives rather than focusing on what could go right. In some respects we like to have a moan, and it seems complaining has become such second nature to us that we don't even realize we are doing it.

So how about trying something different? Try not to complain for seven days and instead replace any negative thought with a positive one. Expect the very best out of every situation and see the improvement in your attitude. You won't be disappointed.

LITTLE FOXES - EVIL THOUGHTS

PASTOR OYEDEJI DAVID

CHRIST HARVEST FIELD CHURCH IBADAN, OYO STATE



A thought is an idea that you have in your mind. A thought is good when it is positive, pure, without malice or perversion; when it naturally intends to benefit others. Evil thoughts are thoughts that are morally wrong or bad; wicked, harmful and injurious.

The bad thoughts that we tolerate and we know are hurting to relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ are little foxes that destroy our vine. They are little compromises we make with the enemy that cut us off from the life-giving connection with our Saviour (John. 15:1-8).

Thoughts are very powerful. They control how you feel all the day. They dictate how you react to situations, or conversations. They cause you to feel offended, angry or hurt. Thought would also always remind you of your shortcomings and flaws, to make you feel inferior and put you down with discouragement or hopelessness, and steal your peace and joy. Your life is shaped by whatever you allow your mind to focus on. Your thought has the power that can cause feelings that steer your life into a direction you do not want to go. It is often your thought and not your circumstances that cause you to fall apart.

Your thoughts originate from your old man, new man, conscience, Holy Spirit, the devil and others. You cannot blame others for your evil thoughts, for they are yours. (Matthew 15:19; Mark 7:21). Any thought that does not measure up to the Bible and justify God, and the gospel 100% is from your lying heart and the devil. Every thought must glorify and praise God as Holy and perfect.

It is impossible to fully please Jesus Christ and enjoy abundant life without ruling your thoughts because He knows your thoughts and intents. Your usefulness as a Christian in serving God and His kingdom depends on keeping your thoughts. There are heresies and self-destructive thinking which a child of God must avoid (2 Corinthians. 10:4-6). All thoughts of foolishness lead to actual sins if given sufficient opportunity. The devil roams around like a lion, seeking to devour, by sending destructive thoughts into the mind, which the Bible calls his fiery darts (1 Pet. 5:8).

When it comes to the sins of the heart, there is a difference between a regenerate man and an unregenerate man. The unregenerate people are dead in their sin, they pride in it. The regenerate people are burdened by the sin they commit in their heart. The regenerate hearts confess their sins. They struggle to clean up their hearts. The heart is the root of all evil, the believer needs to fight against those thoughts that seek to take over the mind. You must not dwell on them because God sees those prideful and arrogant thoughts that you think about in your mind. He sees your self-righteous attitude. He sees those arrogant thoughts you have towards others. If your heart does not align with His word it is sin. So do not think your thoughts are your own. The Bible says, 'The thoughts of the wicked are abomination to the Lord. (Proverbs 15:26); Genesis 6:5). God will judge every evil thought.

Sometimes, our thoughts betray us and we find ourselves overthinking with, 'I should have's', and, 'what if's'. You need

LITTLE FOXES - EVIL THOUGHTS

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to ponder on an issue, but your thoughts want to wander, you need to pray, but your thoughts want to float away. You discover that your mind does not always want to obey, but want to go different direction, it becomes rebellious. Paul, in Romans 7:19, 22-24 said, 'For the good I will to do, I do not do, but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.... For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?' Thoughts are intrusive; they come into the mind without your notice, and take you captive. Nearly everyone, at one point or another has been subject to intrusive thoughts. They are involuntary, unwanted images, phrases or impulses that are extremely common. Two different powers are contending for the heart - God and Satan. God is Good and always comes with good thoughts (Jeremiah 29:11). Satan is evil and always invades our mind with evil thoughts (Gen 3:1-6). Every time we react in a certain way, we reinforce that thought pattern and the longer we think along any line the stronger that thought pattern. When you find it difficult to change from this evil thought attitude, it becomes habit. You struggle in vain for result but to no avail, leading to a defeat. God want our full attention. We talk so much about God's love that we forget about His holiness and judgment. We forget that He deserve all the glory and all the praise. When you wake up every day and your heart does not align with His word, it is sin.

Tools To Fight And Overcome Evil Thoughts.

God has given us tools to fight sinful thoughts. The Bible teaches us to be careful how we think, because the quality of our thought will always determine the quality of our life. Here are some verses from the scriptures that we need to feed our heart and apply to deal with sinful thoughts.

Proverbs 4:23, "Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life (NCV).

Mark 7:20-21; "And He said, 'What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within out of the heart of man, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.

Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You".

James 1:14-15, "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desire and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it give birth to sin, and sin, when it is full grown brings forth death'.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, "For the weapon of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every THOUGHT into captivity to the obedience of Christ".

Job. 31:1, "I have made a covenant with my eye; why then should I look upon a young woman?"

Isaiah 55:7-8, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and to

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our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord".

Hebrew 4:12, "For the word of God, is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piecing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrows, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart".

Psalms 94:19, "In the multitude of my anxieties within me, your comforts delight my soul".

Galatians 5:126, "I say then, walk in the spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh".

Colossians 3:2 "Set your minds on things above, not on things on the earth".

Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus".

Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding".

Luke 6:45, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good, and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks".

Psalms 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart, try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting".

I Samuel 16:7, "God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart".

Romans 2:16, "He will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hiding, whether it is good or bad".

Proverbs 23:7, "As he thinks within himself, so he is".

2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind".

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope".

I Peter 1:13, "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ".

2 Timothy 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts, but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart".

Romans 12:3, "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith".

Psalms 94:11, "The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile".

Philippians 4:8 "Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things".

I Chronicles 16:11, "Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His face evermore".

Galatians 5:11, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage".

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To Overcome Evil Thoughts.

1. Pay attention to the thoughts that run through your mind (Colossians 2:8). Discipline yourself with what you watch, where you go, what you listen to etc.
2. Feed on God's word. Intimately know the word and use it to test every thought (Romans 12:2).
3. Proclaim the truth over your thoughts (2 Corinthians. 10:5; James 1:18)
4. Bring your thoughts to the foot of the cross. (Hebrew 7:25). When anything trigger or set off wrong thought pattern, ask God to alert you through His Holy Spirit the moment the negative thought patterns begin.
5. Trust your God, and not your feelings (Proverbs. 28:26). Trust in the perfect mercy of Christ, knowing that you are a new creature.
6. You must realize that only God has the power to make deep inner changes in your life. Continue to wait on Him and live a thankful life,

If you do these things, you will deliver yourself from harmful thoughts that could destroy your relationship with God, and improve your life - spirit, soul and body.

Prayer Point:

1. Thank You Father, for warning us about the little foxes of sinful thoughts that can spoil our walk with Jesus,
2. Father gives us insight and helps us to catch the little foxes of evil thoughts before they damage our lives.
3. Father purges our hearts and helps us to love You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
4. Lord, help us to love our neighbor as ourselves.
5. Holy Spirit, help us to guard our hearts from all sinful thoughts. In Jesus Name. Amen.



WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND?

Kayode Victor

School of Wisdom & Discipleship (President)

Different things have different implications to several people. Everyone has an order of priority in their lives especially youths and eventually the top most priorities of our lives have a strong and upper hand to directing our lives. Every single person has a distinctive description of what appeals to them as 'BEST': Best food, colour, music and friend etc.

At a particular stage of my life, I had an encounter with a young lady who came to me to ask me a question in form of a polite request: can you be my best friend? As a young man too, I sighed deeply knowing strongly in my heart that she wants to get some degree of intimacy with me, possibly she had interest in me but who knows. But I told her the honest truth that I have a best friend already and I was so sorry to turn down her request.

Looking at the countenance on her face, it shows she was not too excited about it but she was curious to know who my best friend was and most likely also hoping to meet the person. In great excitement I told her all the character of my best friend and how I have been blessed through my best friend. Humorously I told her the name of my best friend is "Comfort".

Meanwhile I was talking from the revelation of John 14:26 which clearly states that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter. Then I began to call out the characters of the Holy Spirit to her after a while she stopped and asked me: is that the Holy Spirit? I deeply smiled and said "Yes".

Let me ask you too, who is your best friend? You can imagine how so many youths today give a mortal man like them the position of the best in their lives and cannot do without them. How much more the Holy Spirit; who is more important, a man like you or the Holy Spirit? (Think about that).

Romans 8:35a (KJV) says clearly: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...when you love God deeply, you will make Him the top on your priority list and make the Holy Spirit your best friend. Your life is only secured in God, your future is assured in God and you need to journey with the Holy Spirit to get you to the place of destiny. It's good to have friends like Daniel who made Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego His friends but even his friends also knew that Daniel's best friend was God.

Make the Holy Spirit your best friend, trust, obey and love Him. Talk to the Holy Spirit about everything in prayers and also create time with the Holy Spirit to speak to you through God's word. Consciously make a decision as you read this to make the Holy Spirit as your best friend and partner and talk about your best friend to others (it's called evangelism). Let me conclude my story, after my discussion with the young lady before she left, it was so exciting to see her make the Holy Spirit her best friend too.

Never forget this precious counsel from Proverbs 3:5-6 (MSG); "Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go: He's the one who will keep you on track.

The best of your life will be unveiled when you make the Holy Spirit your best friend.