

LIVING *for* CHRIST



APR - JUN 2018

THE
STARE
DOWN!

“BEHOLD
HE COMETH”

SHOW THEM
WHO YOU ARE



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Straight From *my Heart*

Going into the second quarter of this year, it could be that your plans for the year may not have kicked off with the kind of speed that you may have hoped for; most times such unmet expectations tend to dampen our zeal to press on.

If you fall into this category, then I need you to realize that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the strong, and neither is bread to the wise nor riches to those of intelligence and understanding nor favour to men of ability, but time and chance overtake them all (Ecclesiastes 9:11 AMP).

Our Saviour happens to be in control of time and eternity, He is also the Alpha and Omega. Therefore if you have committed your ways to Him, then you can rest assured that He will direct your path to that victorious spot that has been pre-programmed for you.

You need to constantly remind yourself of this truth, make notes of this confession on sticky notes and use them as reminders.

Achieving what you have set out to achieve in God would require your constant connection with Heaven, your connection with Heaven will guarantee a free flow of God's grace into all aspects of your plans, dreams and aspirations.

Therefore beloved, Pray without ceasing, Praise without relenting and render unending Worship to the King of kings!

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU TOUCH HEAVEN,
YOU CHANGE THE EARTH!

Michael

THE STARE DOWN!

Sometimes we get all fired up with our dreams and visions and have that good feeling that we are set to hit the targets that we have set for ourselves, but then out of nowhere, challenges arise that engage us in a stare down.

Quite a while ago, when I had just finished high school and had written and passed the entry exams into college (university), it seemed as though every attempt I made at getting accepted by the schools of my choice were met with stiff opposition, it was as though I was engaged in a stare down with this situation. It was a question of 'who was going to blink first'. Ultimately God made a way where there seemed to be no way.

The real issue in these kinds of situations is not the stare down itself, but rather would I allow the challenge that I faced to triumph in the stare down or do I triumph over the stare down ensuring that I do not blink first.

The Bible admonishes us to stand firm after having done all to stand. Relating this to the stare down, we need to stare after having done all to stare.

One question however that rings so true is this – have you done all to stand? If you haven't done all to stand, then most likely you aren't ready for the stare down. Doing all to stand involves a great deal, just like the athlete who goes through rigorous training to build on his endurance and stamina, we must also go through the process of getting ready to stand the stare down.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

POSSESS DEEP ROOTS

You can very easily figure out what tree would stand the storms by the depths of its roots. Without roots, you cannot stand, without roots, you cannot bear fruits.

THE DEEPER YOUR ROOTS EXTEND INTO THE SOURCE OF LIFE, THE MORE YOU ARE GUARANTEED A VICTORY OVER THE STARE DOWN.

Possessing deep roots will require an 'INTENTIONAL LIVING'. Everything you do or undertake to do must be intentional towards developing your roots which would in turn guarantee your victory over the challenges of life, Paul captured it accurately: "looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work].

Your depth determines your placement in life, another key way to possess deep roots is by being immersed in the Word of God. You must be so inclined to meditating on the Word of God that it becomes the food that satisfies your hunger and the water that quenches your thirst. The Psalmist puts it this way, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth (Psalm 119:103).

Just like the roots of a tree derives its nourishment from the nutrients in the soil, your spiritual roots will need her nourishment from the Word of God.

In addition to living intentional and

going after the Word of God, the third thing that you must do is to convert your language to the language of faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). In other words, when you make the Word of God the longing of your heart, faith comes. However you will need to receive and work that faith, for faith without works is dead.

Speaking the language of faith means responding just like Jesus would have done.

Jesus spoke the truth which is the Word of God to all situations. When the challenge speaks words of doubts and fear, you must respond with words of faith and courage knowing fully well that God's words are full of power, backed by Heaven and cannot fail.

("For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thought and intentions of the heart" Hebrews 4:12 AMP).

STAND YOUR GROUND

Recently I took interest in studying a bit of the stand your ground law that is applicable to a couple of states in the United States of America.

This law permits a person in a residence in which he has the right to be in, to refuse to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground and use or threaten to use non-deadly/deadly force under certain conditions.

This law sounds so similar to Paul's admonition in the book of Ephesians 6:13, 14. "And having done all to stand, stand therefore..."

IT IS OUR GOD GIVEN RIGHT TO REFUSE TO RETREAT AS LONG AS WE ARE STANDING ON THE WORD OF GOD.

In addition to this we possess the right to utilize the weapons of our warfare which aren't carnal in the defence of our God given position and promise as we have seen in the word of God and by revelation.

However just like the American 'stand your ground' law comes with some prerequisites, the Kingdom of God's 'stand your ground law' also comes with its own prerequisites.

Paul summarizes these prerequisites as follows: "In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him] and in the power of His [boundless] might. Put on the full armour of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armour of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places. Therefore,


put on the complete armour of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious].

So stand firm and hold your ground, having tightened the wide band of truth (personal integrity, moral courage) around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness (an upright heart), and



having strapped on your feet the gospel of peace in preparation [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability and the readiness produced by the good news]. Above all, lift up the [protective] shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all God's people" Ephesians 6:10-18. God has promised that we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us.

This just means that in our pursuit to gain deep roots, live intentionally, meditate on the Word, speak the language of faith and stand our ground, we must always realize that we can only prosper in these things and emerge victorious if we do all we do through Jesus Christ.

This is the bedrock of our salvation – this is the way to triumph over the stare down! 

BY MICHAEL ELEANYA



SHOW THEM WHO YOU ARE

“Show them who you are,” Ramonda the queen mother called out to her son T’Challa, the Black Panther. He had being in a ritual battle with M’Baku for the crown. It had seemed that the ceremony would proceed without a battle as no tribe challenged the choice of T’Challa until the Jabari’s tribe leader, M’Baku showed up unannounced and ready for battle.

I believe he caught T’Challa off guard as he really threw some great punches that knocked the self-acclaimed ‘Black Panther’ out many times. I was disappointed. He was just a pretty boy with no spine after all. They got to a cliff and it looked like M’Baku was going to end him and that was when his mother called out to him. I believe it was then he understood the gravity of what was at stake. His family would lose the throne. His tribe, as well as other tribes who formed Wakanda and who had been leaders would have to submit to Jabari. Other tribes would definitely break out from the Unified Wakanda, a legacy his father had proudly left behind. Somehow

he found the strength to confront the adversity that stood in front of him. Not just for himself but for the thousands of people who were counting on him. This was from one of the scenes from the movie, ‘Black Panther.’

Phillip was an ordinary deacon in Jerusalem and was very content with that position until Saul, the unannounced adversity began to attack the church. He killed Stephen who was also a deacon and attacked many others from their homes. This caused many people to migrate including Phillip. They were forced to move, so to speak, to save their lives. Phillip moved to Samaria and the responsibility of being the apostle over the people in Samaria inadvertently fell on him. Prior to this, his duties involved sharing food to orphans and widows. Now in Samaria, he was preaching, healing the sick and performing miracles. Things he never knew he had in him but which the situation forced out of him.

One of Phillip’s major achievement was leading Simon, the magician to Christ. Before Phillip moved to Samaria Simon had dazzled the people with magic and had a large following. He not only believed in the gospel of Christ but got baptized by Phillip. This meant that all his followers automatically became Christians too.

There was also an Ethiopian eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of Ethiopia who was in charge of all her treasures. Phillip through the leading of the Holy Spirit ministered the gospel of Jesus to him and also baptized him. I believe he in turn must have gone to Ethiopia to spread the good news. If Phillip had not taken charge of an unanticipated adversity and situation, how would he have met an important personality from Ethiopia? He was in Samaria but through him, the gospel got to Ethiopia. Sometimes, the adversity is not about you. DESTINIES ARE CONNECTED TO THE FULFILMENT OF YOUR OWN DESTINY.

Phillip’s own daughters, I believe by their father’s influence began to



prophecy. They were just 'women' but they are an example of a rich history of female leadership. It was the great apostle Paul who spoke about their gifts with such high regard. Their father, through his own discomfort, had sown seeds of greatness in them. The ministry of Phillip's daughters may never have come to fruition had he not carried out his. We must never forget that we cannot afford to give in because of adversity because other people's assignments depends on the success of our own assignment.

The move to Samaria could not have been easy for Phillip. Leaving everything you know, investments, family and friends and moving to a less glamorous settlement, it must have been painful. Some things will however not happen for you until there is a shift, whether forced or willing. Jerusalem was safe and comfortable and he was a great deacon but it was not until he was forced to relocate that he became more. It reminds me of when I had to shut down my business in Abuja – Nigeria and make the difficult decision to relocate to




Kaduna – Nigeria after the demise of my marriage as a result of abuse. I did not know what to expect but I believed God was leading me and I just followed. In a little over a year that I moved, this ordinary 27-year old divorced girl bagged another degree, published her book which has been sold in 4 continents of the world, and got several speaking and writing engagements. The greatest blessing for me however is the hundreds of messages I receive from people telling me how my story has inspired them to live their best lives and how it is okay to start over. Who would have thought? The move doesn't necessarily have to be physical. Sometimes, God may just want you to have a shift in your mind-set. He wants you to see the beauty in the chaos. Comfort is overrated. We all need a push to discover what we are capable of.

Adversity will show you who you really are, what you are capable of and the things you did not even know about yourself. Adversity is a good thing. Adversity is the time to show the world who you are and what you carry and not to cower. REMEMBER, GOD GIVES THE TOUGHEST BATTLES TO HIS STRONGEST SOLDIERS. God will not give his big assignments to irresponsible servants or people

who have not proved themselves (remember Phillip was a diligent deacon), and so when adversity comes your way, it is God's way of saying He trusts you to deliver. He knows who you are.

He knows that: I am strong. I am capable. Nothing catches me by surprise. I am graced for whatever comes my way. I am a child of God. I have control over my emotions. I have a sound mind. I have the authority of Jesus. He knows that I can handle whatever He sends my way for his glory to be seen by all.

**WHEN ADVERSITY COMES
AS IT WILL, GOD WILL BE
IN THE BACKGROUND
CHEERING YOU ON AND
SCREAMING, 'SHOW THEM
WHO YOU ARE.'
SUCH A SHOW-OFF.
WHO ARE YOU?**

(Bible references include Acts 8:1-40, Acts 6:3-7 and Acts 21:9) 

By Love Ebunlola Omoraiyewa.



“BEHOLD HE COMETH”

I had a dream, God visited a congregation in search of those worthy for Heaven, He searches in the choir and painstakingly finds one soul, He goes through the Pastor's corner and He finds none. On the first pew, and the second...none. He passes by the ushers and just one is found worthy. At the back pew, He searches and finds but one...stark reality...just as He was about to step out with these precious three souls found worthy for the Groom's feast, a shout is heard from the first pew and a young man rushes toward Jesus, He doesn't turn around, this man catches up with Jesus and just at the instant of Christ removing His foot from the grounds of that place of worship, this man grabs Christ's foot and with a loud voice cries out, 'O lord have mercy on me, lest after all these I myself be a cast away.' Effortlessly, Jesus picks him up and steps out, all this while, the praise and worship is on, pastor is preaching as hard as ever. An usher realizes what has happened, he rushes to go after Jesus, others join him, the door is still open, but they can't get through...much effort...but all in vain. The close of eternity, the end of mercy, the beginning of fury and wrath, the commencement of judgement.

"I come and I come quickly to pick up my saints from the midst of an evil world, my eyes tire to behold the workers of iniquity, I hear the groans of my people as they also tire to live in an evil world. I come first to the people who call me Lord, for my judgement must start from the church. My angels have sounded the trumpet for the final ingathering of the elect, for the final wave of evangelism and revival. I come soon to execute justice on the workers of iniquity; I come even more quickly to vindicate my righteous ones. In an instant, before long, I'll gather my elect and then the end. Woe to them that call me Lord, Lord, but whose heart is far from me and whose heart is drenched with iniquity.

Rejoice my beloved servants, **your time of refreshing has come, the former and the latter rain have I sent to you.** Arise and take your place, your light has come and my glory overshadows you and forms a canopy and a pavilion over you. I renew your youth like the eagle's for this last wave of reawakening and revival, soon my servants, soon I come".

My hand trembles, my heart shakes, are you ready for eternity? Have you given your life to Christ? Or are you backslidden?

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6, 7).

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth (Psalm 145:18). **L**

Do you wish to give your life to Christ or
rededicate your life to Christ?
Then join me and say this prayer.

**"FATHER, HERE I AM, I BELIEVE IN YOUR
SON JESUS CHRIST, I BELIEVE HE CAN
SAVE ME FROM ETERNAL DAMNATION,
I INVITE YOU INTO MY LIFE NOW, TAKE
ME AND MOULD ME AND HELP ME LIVE A
LIFE THAT'S PLEASING TO YOU,
IN JESUS NAME, AMEN".**

NIGERIA-LET THE RIGHTEOUS ARISE!

BE MOTIVATED
TO STAND OUT
WITH A
GARMENT THAT
IS SPOTLESS!

**GOD IS
COUNTING
ON YOU!!**

More and more, the battle rages in our nation. Will accountability win over corruption? Will chastity prevail over immorality? Will peace prevail over violence? Will righteousness prevail over sin?

The reason why Nigeria is still in the throes of lack and poverty is because vice keeps competing with virtue. The only way we will experience a genuine transformation in Nigeria is via a decisive action by the Saints. What is that decisive action?

RIGHTEOUS POINTS OF ACTION

It is time to stand up and be counted for righteousness in this nation – Nigeria. It is time to draw a line in the sand and say, 'as long as I am in this position, in this city, good must prevail over evil.' Evil prevails when the saints are complacent.

You must first of all pray the fervent prayer of the righteous for and on behalf of Nigeria, confessing her sins before God and asking God to move in an unprecedented way in this Nation – uprooting every planting that isn't of God.



"IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES,
AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN WILL I HEAR
FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND"

(2 CHRONICLES 7:14KJV)

WISDOM NUGGETS FOR OUTPOURING

1. How have you fared so far this year? Have you achieved all that you set out to do in the first quarter of this year? If you have, then list out what those achievements are

Also list out those items that haven't been achieved yet.

Now take these items to God in thanksgiving and let Him know how grateful you are for what He has done and what He is still set to do. Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)

2. What practical steps are you going to take to deliver the goals that you have set for the year? Remember that prayer is not a substitute for work, rather prayer is the force that produces grace for fruitful works and God has assured that He will bless the works of your hands.

Now go to God in prayer and ask for the grace to work at your goals in prayers remembering that, 'in all your ways acknowledge and recognize Him and, and He will make your paths straight and smooth (removing obstacles that block your way). (Proverbs 3:6AMP)

3. "If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength; but wisdom [to sharpen the axe] helps him succeed [with less effort]." (Ecclesiastes 10:10). Securing the wisdom of God on your life shortens your journey to your destination, let your heart cry be 'Lord if your wisdom will not dwell with me, then do not lead me up from here'. For God understands the way to wisdom and He knows its place (for wisdom is with God alone) Job 28:23 AMP. Therefore, ask, receive and walk in wisdom. Consciously make out time to seek for wisdom – list out those times that you will do that daily.

"The beginning of wisdom is: Get [skilful and godly] wisdom [it is preeminent]! And with all your acquiring, get understanding [actively seek spiritual discernment, mature comprehension, and logical interpretation]. (Proverbs 4:7)



FROM THE PUBLISHER

While ago I was opportune to watch a ship being moored, the ship swayed to and fro up until the anchor was set in place after which there came that calmness associated with a ship well anchored.

As I observed the entire process, I couldn't but ponder on how our lives could benefit from the calmness, stability and confidence that would come from a soul anchored on the solid Rock which is Christ. While staring at that ship, the Spirit dropped a song in my spirit.

"TIS MY LOT TO LEAN UPON
THE ROCK,
TO LAY MY STRENGTH ON THAT
WHICH NEVER FAILS.
I'LL ALWAYS CRAVE FOR MY
ANCHOR THAT'S SO SURE
MY SOLID ROCK WHICH
MAKES ME BOLD"

When we are fastened to our Anchor, we become immune to the rough waves of life and are able to maintain a divine calmness even in the midst of the turbulence.


The world looks up to us to exhibit the peace of God that passes all understanding, this peace can only come when we are hooked to the Anchor.

We can only be hooked to the Anchor when we are hooked to the Word.

We can only be hooked to the Word when we read and meditate on the Word of God; more importantly salvation can only come with the entrance of the Word of God.

And this is where Living for Christ comes in. We are committed to publish the Word of God free of all cost to the ends of the earth, for we

have just one business on earth – to save souls (John Wesley)

If there be any one point in which the Christian church ought to keep its fervour at a white heat, it is concerning missions. If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate lukewarmness, it is the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world (Charles Spurgeon). 

And He said to them,
Go into all the world and
proclaim the gospel to
the whole creation.

Mark 16:15