

LIVING *for* CHRIST



JAN - MAR 2019

NEVER ALONE

**THE POWER OF THE
BLESSING**

from
THE ASHES

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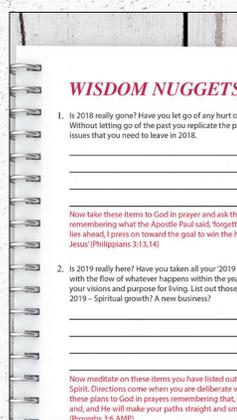
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We need to prevail in prayer for lost souls... populating the Kingdom of God.



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Straight From *My Heart*

I have been pondering over the year 2019 for quite some time in prayer and all I keep hearing is that there will be an abundance of the harvest in 2019.

God is set to implement a transference of wealth, affluence and authority to the hands of the righteous believers, this transference promises to be massive in its scope!

In addition to this there will also be a great harvest and revival that would break out in the Church. To be beneficiaries of this mighty move requires preparation - adequate preparations. These needs to be done from three fronts.

Prayer, work and worship.

In prayer the Holy Spirit will show you what you ought to do; in working (both in God's vineyard - for there is a special spot for those you will advance God's Kingdom and in your business - you must partake in both) God will bless the works of your hands, in worship your heart will attain that humility that is required to sustain the unmerited blessings of God!

You must make up your mind in this glorious year to run the race that has been set for you, do not be scared of venturing into new and uncharted territory, do not shy away from challenges, for in the midst of those challenges lie your breakthroughs.

Most importantly keep the focus on what God has laid in your heart to do, do not choose convenience over commitment, do not waiver in the pursuit of purpose just like Nehemiah did in the rebuilding of the walls.

REMEMBER THE BLESSINGS ARE ON YOU!

Beloved welcome again to the year of sweat-free breakthroughs!!

Michael

NEVER ALONE



I jerked out of sleep, my pillow all soaked up with perspiration; my entire body trembling, thank God it was but a dream. But it seemed so real; is that the sound of footsteps I hear behind my room? The air seemed thick with a strange presence.

I forced myself to go on my knees, I needed help quickly from Heaven. The more I tried to open my mouth in prayer, the more words fled from my mouth. I found I couldn't pray.

I reached for my mobile phone...I reconsidered what I was about to do, why awake family at such an unholy hour? Anyway, I had that conviction that they already knew if I was in any real danger. But I needed to at least do something since I couldn't get myself to pray, so instead I sent a message to my siblings. Within a few minutes, my phone had buzzed thrice...they were on their knees praying. It was then I got strength and broke out in sweet worship.

I had recently moved into a new apartment, before I effected payment, I had this foreboding, but then I had run out of viable options; after making the payment I felt a little bit at ease, as it were there was no going back, but the atmosphere had a certain dryness hanging overhead.

That wasn't my immediate concern though, characteristic of me, I swung myself into full action, engaging myself fully with the business at hand, that is making some sense and creating some sort of order out of my new job, my deployment to a new town...just like it has always been, in the ensuing activity, I became oblivious of my immediate surroundings as it concerned me, I cared less about my personal safety as a result I didn't notice what I should have noticed neither did I hear what the Holy Spirit had to say even through the mouths of people around.

As I rushed out to work that morning, my thoughts had already left the experiences of the night, but just as I left my premises, my phone rang - it was my parents, I suddenly remembered the occurrences of the previous night. By the time I picked the call, I proved myself right.

They had received message from heaven and had prayed for me within the night. What bliss to have praying parents!!

It seems strange how Gods word plays out naturally in the lives of men. - **though I walk through the valley, I shall fear no evil**; while at work, my thoughts raced back to the experience of the night - was there any real imminent threat?

Just then, I encountered a near miss!! Details of which was mind boggling and strange!!

As I pondered on this, a couple of scriptures came to mind:

PROVERBS 18:10

The name of the Lord
is a strong tower: the righteous
run into it and is safe

PSALM 61:3

For thou hast been a shelter for me and
a strong tower from the enemy

PSALM 3:3

But thou O Lord, art a shield for me;
my glory and a lifter up of mine head.

It is amazing how our Savior always raises up a standard for us whenever the enemy attempts to come in like a flood, He has promised us His protection and ever-loving mercy.

Beloved, there is no need to live in fear, neither is there any need to have any doubt of God's protecting mercy on your life. All you need to activate God's protection is to live in His covenant and be like the righteous who has run into God's strong tower.

All you need to do is to activate Gods "Touch not Anointing" (touch not my anointed and do my prophets no harm).

God's eyes are upon you to do you good all the days of your life! I pray for you that you will receive grace to do what is required for you to dwell under God's divine protection in this new year. You have been given a Spirit of love, of boldness and of a sound mind.

Begin to live in the consciousness of the freedom that is yours in Christ!! 

It is so amazing to know that after over two decades of walking with God, I have just begun to understand how God gets things done. Like me, you may have wondered why you have prayed, and sometimes fasted for certain miracles and never got any result(s). The reason may just be that what you needed was to appropriate the blessing and not a miracle.

Miracles are supernatural acts of God which often bypasses natural laws in order to accomplish a thing. On the other hand, Blessings are acts of God's goodness that cooperates with natural laws to favor or increase the beneficiary in an unusual way. We were never designed to live by miracles. It is unfortunate that people sleep and wake up daily believing that somehow, someday they will have a great life or experience a better next year. It is this kind of thinking that is responsible for that mediocrity we see among some religious folks today. We were designed to flourish by the blessing not by miracles. Miracles happen as God wills, but the blessing is always with the blessed. God, through the blessing empowers us to work miracles from time to time as a sign to the world not to the church, According to Mark 16:17, signs follow blessed people, blessed people don't follow signs. We command signs. Halleluiah! Let's see how it worked from the beginning:

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (Gen.1:26-28)

God's purpose and plan for man at creation was clear from verse 26, "...Let them have dominion". Dominion was man's destiny. How was he to accomplish this? He needed to be equipped and furnished with the startup capital or training or help of some sort. So what did God do?

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." (Gen.1:28)

THE POWER OF THE BLESSING

Article by Bokeime Udom

Instead of giving Adam a miracle, God blessed him. All God gave to Adam for life and destiny was The Blessing. Notice that God didn't give Adam money, cars, houses or other material things. So the blessings are not material things. The blessing is empowerment. He was empowered to be fruitful, to multiply, to impact the earth and then have dominion over all things, which was his life's purpose and calling.

Your destiny cannot be fulfilled without The Blessing. The Blessing is the fuel with which destiny runs. No one can go farther than the blessing of God on his or her life. Our outcomes in life are products of the blessings (or otherwise) upon our lives.

The blessing empowers for increase and multiplication. The blessing is like rain. It waters your efforts and causes you to be maximally fruitful. A carrier of the blessing cannot diminish or die small. The Psalmist said, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly... he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*" (Psalm. 1:1, 3).

Do you want to enjoy life? Then go for the blessing.

The Blessing Of Abraham

After Abraham believed and obeyed God to the point of being willing to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, God blessed him and said, "... in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen.22:17-18)

This was the blessing that Abraham and his descendants lived by. By the power of this blessing Abraham grew and became mightier than four nations put together. No enemy could defeat him or his seed. Four nations could not stand him and his servants in battle. He was rich in cattle, silver, gold, servants etc.

His children inherited the blessing and commanded the same order of results. Isaac was said to have sown in a time of famine and reaped a hundredfold.

He became so great that the nation begged him to depart saying, "You are mightier than us" (see Gen.26:12:12.16).

Jacob left home with nothing but the blessing and returned after 14 years with great substance and a multitude of people. His business blossomed in a short time and he became greater than his master.

What about Jacob's son, Joseph? Sold as a slave in a strange land, by the power of the Blessing he prospered in very odd places and under very strange circumstances. The blessing moved him from the prison to the palace, where he ruled as the prime minister of the greatest nation of his time. Joseph's testimony was that wherever he went he prospered and whatever he did prospered. The reason for his steady success was stated, 'for God was with him.' This suggests that the blessing is a covenant relationship with a person – the Holy Spirit: God with us.

The good news is that the same blessing that increased the patriarchs and set them apart in their time is available for us all right now. The Bible says: *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.* (Gal.3:13, 14, 29)

As children of God, we have the blessing. Once you accept Christ as Lord and Savior, you become a part of the family of God and by implication a recipient of this blessing. God, by His mercy has blessed us with the blessings of Abraham because we believe in Him just as Abraham did.



The Superiority Of The Blessing

A sole survivor in a ghastly vehicle accident, where every other passenger died, and the car was written off is a beneficiary of a miracle. But the man that passes same route several times without any accident is a beneficiary of the blessing.

The person that got healed of cancer received a miracle. But the person that never got sick is in the blessing. God often works miracles where the blessing is not working. Even though everyone needs a miracle at one time or the other, sinners and young believers need it more because they are either not in the blessing or they are unable to appropriate the blessing.

During the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land; they lived by miraculous provisions for forty years in the wilderness with complaining and grumbling (period of spiritual immaturity). But as soon as they entered the Promised Land, manner ceased, and they needed to build and plant and live by the blessing. Miracles are always temporal, but the blessing is permanent.

Hard work is good. Planning is great. Resolutions are fine. But remember, "it is not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." (Zach.4:6). Consistent submission to the Holy Spirit is the most important factor for our success in the coming years.

As we plan to exodus into the New Year, don't only pray and ask for miracles. Understand that ***as a child of God you're a carrier of the blessing of Abraham.***

Catch a vision of God's plan for your life, discover His plan and follow it in faith; knowing that with God on your side you'll be fruitful and multiply and impact your world.

Believe that you're blessed. Declare that you're blessed and behave as though you're blessed, and you'll see that you're blessed.

Blessings! 



Total Obedience

I went to visit with a dear friend who had arrived from out of the country, as I needed some rest I decided to take a taxi as against driving myself. So I hopped into the taxi, provided the address of my destination (in hindsight I now realize that I provided just half of the address) and relaxed to enjoy the scenery. When I got there, I called my friend and described where I was at, she replied and said I was at the wrong place, she of course strongly recommended that I take another taxi to the right place... characteristic of me, I decided to take a walk to the right place (Did I mention that my friend recommended otherwise) - after all, any opportunity to put in some exercise is a good one, after walking for miles, I realized that I had walked yet again to the wrong place. When I finally walked back to the right place I realized that I had walked past the same spot about twice, you need to have seen me drenched with sweat!

I related the whole experience which is akin to the case of the believer who not knowing the benefits of the Holy Spirit walks through life guessing at what is and isn't the correct decision to take, the right place to live and work, the right idea to pursue. Without the Holy Spirit we might keep walking past God's will and purpose for our lives and may end up giving up, not because God's intention wasn't clear but because His intention was right there before us but we couldn't spot it correctly because we ignored that inner voice or perhaps we heard clearly from the Holy Spirit but chose to modify His instructions to suit some other purpose.

God has given us all that we need to live triumphantly, all we need to do is listen clearly and obey as He gives us instructions for our lives. ^L

TWO KEY LESSONS THAT CAN BE GLEANED FROM MY STORY.

01

Always utilize God's complete instruction, every word of instruction from God has a purpose that delicately knits together with the end result, obeying His instructions partly will only result in unnecessary sweat just like I encountered in the experience narrated above.

02

Do not modify God's instructions to suit another purpose even though that other purpose appears justified (you could say that my decision to walk (exercise) was a good one that could be rationalized). Saul modified God's instruction to not take any spoil from the battle with the Amalekites and that cost him the kingdom of Israel (**I SAMUEL 17**).

TAKE A LOOK AT SOME SCRIPTURES BELOW:

Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

PROVERBS 23:12 KJV

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

PROVERBS 13:18 KJV

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

PROVERBS 6:23 KJV

Beloved, we need to always ensure that we do as the Lord has commanded to the letter!!

from THE ASHES

What have I done Lord? Could you ever forgive me for this one? I have messed things up, where can I start from again? I heard you clearly warning me, but I didn't listen. I went where I shouldn't have gone, where you couldn't keep me; now see what I have done...

STILL SMALL VOICE: I can keep you anywhere provided you hearken to my voice.

Lord was that you that spoke just now? Will you forgive me? Will you still have me back? Can I still relate with you like I did before? Can I still get attention from you when I call? Will you still be there for me?

STILL SMALL VOICE: Can a suckling mother forget her child? Even if she does, yet will I not forget you. I have never stopped loving you, while you went astray, my heart broke for your sake. I was still there to prevent you from going all the way.

Lord I promise....

STILL SMALL VOICE: Shhhh...make no more promises; just rely on my leading to see you through.

Lord does that mean that I can still call upon you and have sweet fellowship with you?

STILL SMALL VOICE: Listen while I speak to you...." there is no temptation that has befallen man that has never been before, you fall not because of the temptation itself but because your desires were already centered on that situation. My counsel to you is that you flee from every appearance of evil, flee before the evil day comes, for you might not be able to withstand in the midst of it. Very few people can bear the cost of living faithfully righteous and sanctified. It entails breaking lots of friendships that you have right now; and you know them even as I speak now. You must consciously remove yourself from compromising situations.

Instructions abound in my word that will help you stay clear from every trap of the evil one. My servant David arose from all his falls because he realized that he needed to hide my word in his heart that he might not sin against me. The question is what have you done with my word? When last did you study my word? When last did you consciously meditate on my Word? When last did you talk my word? My word is the force that keeps you in the right path for your life. It is my word that acts as a centripetal force, keeping you in place.

What also has been happening with your prayer life? I can't remember when last we had sweet fellowship, can't you remember that my word says that you ought to pray that you might be kept safe in the evil day? It is prayer that keeps your heart in tune with the melodies of heaven, my child you need to be alert, the days are evil; be alert in prayer, be mindful of what you look at, be cautious of the thoughts you permit to linger in your heart. Mind the places you go to. The price is high but the prize to be obtained is worth it.

My child, I am still here for you, return to me and I will return to you ...I love you child....one more thing...you need to find a bible believing church and become dedicated to having fellowship with the brethren.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men... (2Cor 5:11) ... Beloved, it is Gods will for you to be saved and come to know the living God. **L**

IF YOU HAVEN'T MADE THAT DECISION, I INVITE YOU TO DO SO TODAY...SAY THIS PRAYER WITH ME

"LORD I BELIEVE YOU DIED AND ROSE TO SAVE ME FROM THE CLUTCHES OF SIN AND DESTRUCTION, I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE MY SAVIOR AND I ASK YOU INTO MY LIFE THIS MOMENT TO TAKE CONTROL AND MAKE ME YOURS; HELP ME TO LIVE FOR YOU IN ALL THAT I DO FROM NOW, IN JESUS NAME I PRAY, AMEN".



NIGERIA

LET THE RIGHTEOUS ARISE!

MORE AND MORE THE BATTLE RAGES
FOR THE SOUL OF 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 THIS DECISIVE ACTION?

RIGHTEOUS POINTS OF ACTION

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

You must first 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 is not
of God.

Remember also that a great cloud of
witnesses surrounds you; your life is a
living epistle, open for all to see.

Therefore, in addition to prayer, you
must be a practical example of what
you want Nigeria to become.

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

GOD IS COUNTING ON YOU!!

WISDOM NUGGETS FOR OUTPOURING

1. Is 2018 really gone? Have you let go of any hurt or disappointment that perhaps came with 2018? Without letting go of the past you replicate the past in the future. List out below those items and issues that you need to leave in 2018.

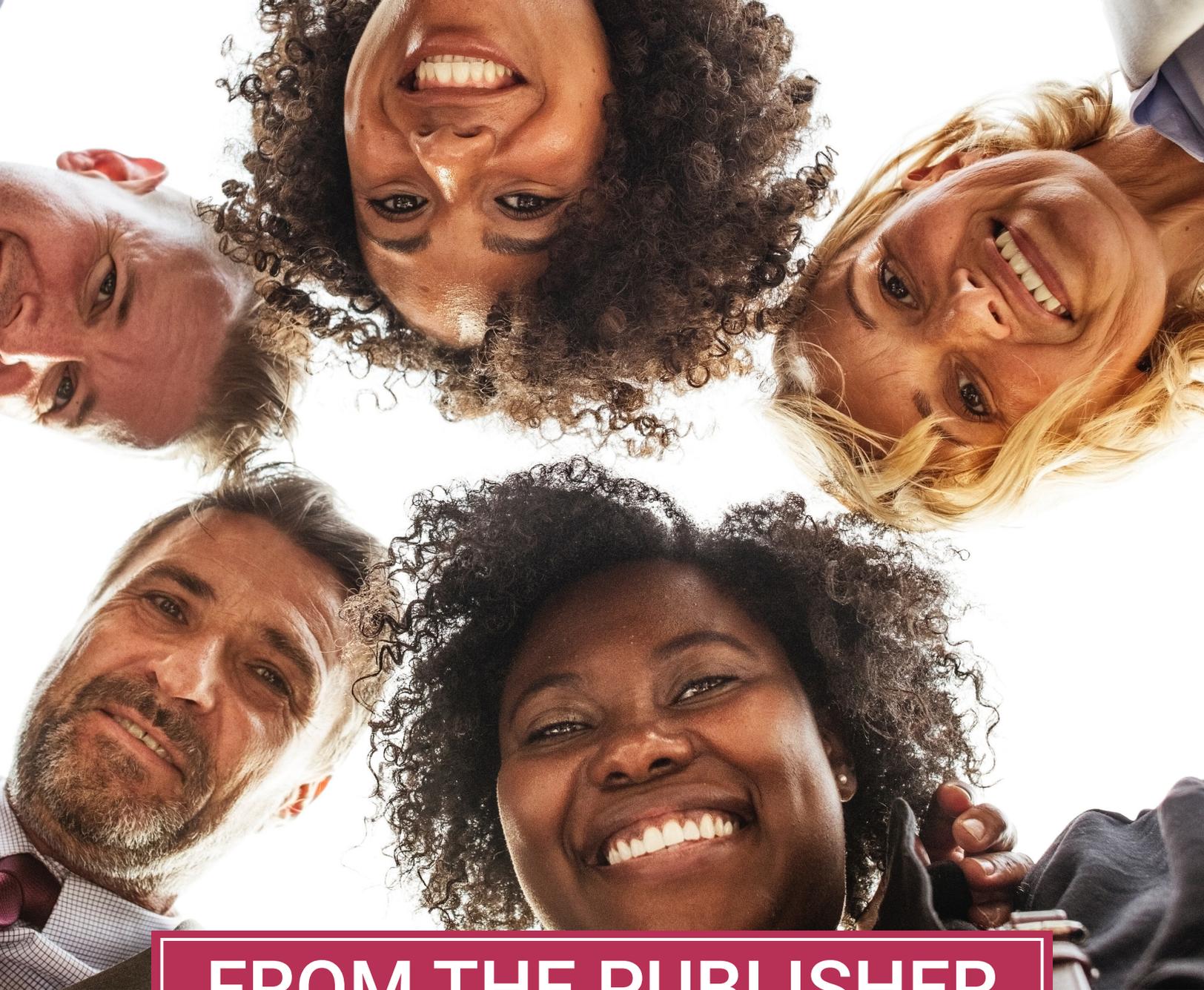
Now take these items to God in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to help you disconnect from them, remembering what the Apostle Paul said, 'forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the heavenly prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 3:13,14)

2. Is 2019 really here? Have you taken all your '2019 plans to God in prayer?' or will you rather just go with the flow of whatever happens within the year? You need to be deliberate and intentional with your visions and purpose for living. List out those key things you want to see happen in your life in 2019 – Spiritual growth? A new business?

Now meditate on these items you have listed out, think them through in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Directions come when you are deliberate with your thoughts. Acknowledge God by taking these plans to God 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 3:6 AMP)

3. 'But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you also (Matthew 6:33 AMP). Connecting your visions to the kingdom of God secures the provision of 'all other things'. List out ways that you will be advancing the Kingdom of God through your daily routine this year.

Now don't stop at making this list, put some action into this, remembering that faith without works is dead.



FROM THE PUBLISHER

IT IS GETTING MORE AND MORE CLEAR THAT THE GOSPEL NEEDS TO REACH THE ENDS OF THE EARTH BY WHATEVER MEANS AND USING WHATEVER RESOURCE THAT GOD HAS PLACED IN OUR HANDS.

One soul won today, another tomorrow will help us win whole nations over, more importantly our lives must become living epistles for all to read, by this combined with

targeted prayers, we may just satisfy the groanings of a hungry generation of people seeking to come in contact with the light of God.

In 2019, 'Living for Christ' is poised to do all in our power to advance the Kingdom of God through our quarterly magazines and any other evangelism opportunity that God would make available for us; we realize however that nothing substantial can be achieved in the Kingdom without the backing of an effectual fervent prayer by the

righteous, therefore we would ask that as you read through these magazines, ask in prayer that each word written and read in any of the editions will carry God's saving grace and power to heal; in addition to this we would ask that you make conscious effort to cry out to God on behalf of lost souls that they might encounter the Word and come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. **L**