



grenepages

Issue 19



fruit
of righteousness



Fruit Of Righteousness



Your Love



Staying On The Path Of Purity



Disciplining You



Church Wasn't Fun Today



Joined To The Head & Body



When Courage Swallows Strength



Examine Your Fruit



Dying... A Day At A Time

19th word

Lives change when they meet Jesus. Many testify to this in the scriptures and around us. People tell us, "Oh, I gave my life to Jesus" and we always wish there was a *spiritometer* to check the genuineness of their claims. Sometimes, we rejoice with them, but in our minds, we say, "Lord let it be true!"

Saul, whose name later changed to Paul came to the same Christians he had spent his life persecuting. "I am born again. I am now one of you." You don't want to go near Saul to find out if he was being sincere or not. You would wish there was a *spiritometer*.

There is a *spiritometer* actually. Matthew 7:16 helps us through: "You shall know them by their fruits..."

This edition of *grenepages* "**fruits of righteousness**" serves as a guide for us to check ourselves first even before any attempt to check others. Compare your fruits to what you profess.

What kind of fruits am I producing?

Welcome to *grenepages*. It's always a pleasure to have you here.

Tobi Olowookere

your



**“But you, O Lord,
are a compassion-
ate and gracious
God, slow to anger,
abounding in love
and faithfulness.”**

Psalms 86:15 NIV

**“Because your love
is better than life,
my lips will glorify
you.”**

Psalms 63:3 NIV



Joan Abimbola

MINISTERING RHYTHMS

joanministeringrhythms.wordpress.com

1 love

It's your love

The air I breathe

It's your love

The song I sing

Your love never gives up on me

It heals and sets me free

When I'm too blind to see the wrongs

Your love pulls me out of where I don't belong

Your love is my wisdom nudge

Your love prunes rather than judge

Your love is my trust

The air of my lungs

Your love gives me rest

Your love sends me help

Your love favours me beyond what could be earned

Undeserving, yet your love gives me the best!

Your love takes me to places

I sit with great faces

Your love gives me great grace

Grace beyond the race

In your love I'll stay

Even when it seems I'm being slayed

'Cos I've seen you work all things for my good

You are God, ever faithful ever true!

Keep me in your love

There's nowhere else I belong

I'm nothing without your love

Nothing without you my Sun!

when COU

I cannot count the number of times I have had to run away from an angry mother hen that charged at me, as a boy. In fact, I have found myself repeating it in my adulthood.

I used the expression 'found myself' because I never planned to run away from a mere hen. Each time it happened, after I was in a good distance away from the fiery charging hen, my eyes opened to the fact that I, a boy, actually, a man, should not have moved an inch away from a mere hen. Well, I felt disappointed but also grateful to my legs for working out my well-being.

I was not the fowl's mate in strength but I ran from it anyway. So why would an adult have to run from a hen with less strength than he has?

The truth is that each time I ran, I was not running away because of the STRENGTH of the hen, but because of the COURAGE it possessed to chase me. It seemed odd to me that a lower animal will charge at me. The



Femi Sobayo

TREASURES IN JAR OF CLAY
oluwafemisobayo.blogspot.com

rage swallows strength

courage of the animal got me confused; I forgot my strength and ran away from the angry hen. The fierceness, ferocity and fury in its eyes, accentuated by its puffed-up wings usually made me forget my strength, at least until I was distance away.

That is a classic case of a strong man running away from little battles because of lack of courage.

You may be strong... but without courage, you will keep running from little fiery hens.

Strength is very important. It is the quality of being strong. However, it becomes useful when you are courageous enough to face the task, in the first place. Courage gives expression to your strength.

It was not without good reasons that God kept telling Joshua, *“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest (Joshua 1:9 KJV)”*.

Gideon found it hard to believe that he had any might. That is what lack of courage does; it dwarfs your strength and makes you look ordinary to yourself.

And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me. Judges 6:14-17 KJV

It is unarguable that Christians are strong! We draw our strength from the Almighty. That is not the end. It is only the beginning. We must be courageous to take every step as laid in our hearts by God. We must move out of the comfort zone to the next level he has long sorted out for us. This is the only way we can be fulfilled and fully explore the riches of His glory.

Disc

Homegirl,

Discipline!

That word does not dish out a pleasant feeling. Yet, it is one of the most acknowledged and indispensable traits of highly successful people. It is a quality going into extinction amongst our generation today.

Ours is a generation of NOW.

We want to wear the best clothes NOW, ride the best car NOW, be a CEO/girl boss NOW, marry and become rich NOW, be listed under Forbes NOW, become a fellow of multiple organizations NOW, be known all over social media NOW and be known all over the world NOW.

So we are always on the run, crushing every single thing that dare to stand in our paths from marriage to family to friendships to our very own integrity.



Adeyinka Oresanya

THE DAUGHTER'S INSPIRATIONS

adeyinkaoresanya.com

disciplining you

We are the throwaway generation.

When things get broken, from shoes to marriage, we don't think twice before we throw away. We don't even know what a glue or sweetener is. Who has the patience? *Abeg!* We say.

The glitz and glamour of the media are our role models, never mind that most of those standing in the glitz had worked their sweats off to be standing there.

The 'Have it all, Have it NOW' syndrome is the reason why a girl who is still an undergraduate would insist that the boy she would ever consider to court or even marry be rich NOW. Never minding that he is just a student like her with a potential that should be allowed to manifest into reality in its own time. No, she wants to see the manifestation NOW, in the trappings of a car, expensive dates, surprise gifts and what-nots.

Hey, a girl should desire good stuff and that her man be able to shower good stuff on her, but insisting on that desire with a man just finding

his feet is ridiculous. Also is passing up a man that you know in your heart of hearts would be a good husband just because he is not rich. More absurd is sucking the life and peace out of your husband so that you can keep up with the Kardashians.

The 'Have it all, Have it now' syndrome positions us in a desperate place where we easily make wrong choices. In addition, wrong choices steal peace, joy and sense of fulfillment from us. We don't want to be in those shoes, do we?

So *homegirl*, let's cultivate the art of patience, of hope, of contentment, of discipline, of constantly evaluating—checking and crosschecking—our feelings, attitudes and motives in order to ensure that these will lead us to the choices and steps that take us to the end line of peace, joy and fulfillment.

I have found that having God and following His Word as a guide to life through the help of the Holy Spirit makes this easier.

I am walking on this journey and would love you to walk with me. Would ya?

Please, stay beautiful!



Toyin Seth-Ogungbe
TEE-WAI
teewai.com

d

A child had been molested repeatedly by a woman she called ‘Aunty’ who took her from her parents with promises of putting her through school. She looked like life was gradually leaving her.

Frank Olize, the show presenter had ended by promising to keep us updated on efforts to rehabilitate her and punish those responsible for her pain, as the story was unfolding. I could barely sleep, I kept picturing her blank stare, how accustomed she seemed to pain and I prayed for weeks hoping somehow after all the

giving ...a day at a time

buzz she will find someone to tell her she was beautiful, made for more and smile so life will fill those eyes for a moment.

Fast forward recent times, I am older and wiser with more access to information. Each night as my daughter says her devotion; she remembers Leah Shaibu and prays for her deliverance. A feeling of guilt overwhelms me as I recall being so empathetic too.

Stories I now encounter, much worse than the molested child on NTA on the Sunday-Sunday Tonic no longer keeps me awake. I barely remember them after I have taken the first glance at a headline on twitter or a short

video on social media. What happened to me? Do I no longer have an active conscience?

One day I listened to the distinct voice and lyrics of TY Bello's "Cold", I tried to track just when I lost that feeling, that strong conscience that made me react, pray, cry, empathize and speak up. I think it was somewhere between growing up, hustling and feeling incapacitated in the big picture. Thus, my moral compass began a slow journey to numbness.

As I write, I am on a journey back to coming alive, one day at a time.

eh

Is the Church today putting heads together or sharing a Spirit?

We all agree with the pastor, shaking our heads and screaming. The drummer and the keyboardist know how and where to put in effects each time the pastor drops a 'bombshell'.

We all go home telling ourselves how Pastor really vibrated. "O boy, Pastor is becoming something else. Pastor made a lot of sense today."

Yet our lives do not change any bit.

On the other days, it's the other way round; "Church wasn't fun today at all."



Tobi Olowookere
GRACEDPAGES
gracedpages.wordpress.com

Church

wasn't fun today

Pastors need to quit telling the church things that sound logical alone. Pastors really need to quit reading books and coming to tell the church what they read somewhere.

Pastors need to start ascending the heavens to bring down God's word for their congregation per time.

I read about Saul the persecutor of Christians. An encounter with God changed his life forever. At that point, Paul the Apostle emerged. How come members leave services, heading straight to 'Damascus' to continue their evil works? Saul, I mean Paul could not. Are we sure they met God in the service?

Jacob was the one who said at Bethel; "Surely, the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." He wasn't even aware of God's awesome presence until he began to see the manifestations. His life never remained the same after meeting God there. How come members 'meet' God and still go back to their old ways after service? Are you sure God was present at all?

Every person who had an encounter with God in the bible had his or her lives changed. Ours should not be different. Something new should follow us each time we come into the presence of God.

Encounters with God do not just come and go;

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Tosin Babalola
THE PREVAILING WORD
tosinbabalola.blogspot.com

f r

You will know them by what they produce. “People don’t pick grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, do they? In the same way every good tree produces good fruit, but a rotten tree produces bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a rotten tree cannot produce good fruit. Matthew 7:16-18 (GWT)

As we continue this righteousness series, it will be good to adopt the sociological approach of the study of human behaviour -**NATURE versus NURTURE**. This will help to drive home the message of Righteousness. Our nature speaks of what we are made up of from birth i.e. the new birth. We were born by God Himself; He gave to us

fruit of righteousness

THE 1,2,3 OF RIGHTEOUSNESS series

His divine nature and His own very Righteousness (2 Peter 1:4).

Nature is different from characteristics (nurture). Nurture is the way an individual has been trained and encouraged in the process of growth. The nature of a dog is different from that of a cat because of their respective progenitor. Nevertheless, a puppy trained like a cat will certainly grow up to behave, act and respond like a cat. No matter how cat-like it behaves, it remains a dog by nature. However, in real sense, the puppy behaving like a cat is completely abnormal. In essence, such a puppy has been living bellow standard, short-

changed and cheated!

Being a New Creature means you now have a new Nature (2 Corinthians 5:17). Please let me re-sound again that this does NOT mean a new order of doing things, ("the things I used to do, I do them no more") or else, unbelievers who live morally upright and pious lives should also be referred to a 'New Creatures.' Becoming a New Creature talks about a change in Nature; having a Nature that has never existed before. It becomes hard for you to tell whether an individual is a New Creature by physical appearance or by the activities, which they perform.

Being a New Creature also connotes the fact that there was an Old Creature. Yes! He is called the 'old man' (Ephesians 4:22; Galatians 3:9; Romans 6:6). While the old man lived in us, we instinctively sinned against God. In fact, with or without doing anything, we were sinners. Now the old man is dead, he died with Christ on the cross. What Baptism means is that this 'old man' died and was buried together with Christ (Romans 6:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:15-16). That old man has been buried and can never rise up again. When Jesus rose up from the dead by the power of God, we were raised together with Him. Interestingly, it was a 'New Man' who rose up and not that former old man (Romans 7:4-6).

Hallelujah!

This is therefore a call on us to respond to that New Nature in us by our walk. The old sinful nature is gone and can no longer dictate to us what to do (Romans 6:4, 9-22; 8:10-13; Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 4:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:15).

When we do certain things, which can be referred to as 'sinful acts', they are works of the flesh, which are not potent enough to change our nature or reverse the work of Christ on the cross because He will not die again a second time to make us righteous. You have the righteousness of God as an irrevocable gift but take note that when you do the works of the flesh, you are living short of who God has made you to

be just like the cat-like puppy. You are not bringing forth the fruits like He expects you to.

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

If you claim to be a believer and your works are no different from that of the children of this world, please **check your salvation again**. It is possible that, like Saul, you have been playing religion (see http://grenepages.com/issue_18/two_kinds_of_righteousness.php).

You may ask, 'How do I walk in this newness of life?' You walk in newness of life by learning; you must be taught (Colossians 1:8-9, 28; 2:6,). This process is also called the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13).

I beseech you to take advantage of every medium, which you know will enhance your knowledge and will better equip you on how to walk worthy of the calling you have received. Do not just go for knowledge, but the right knowledge.

May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation--those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ--for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Philippians 1:11 (NLT)

...continued from page 13

they make very evident marks on lives. How come you claim the Holy Spirit is always present in your services and your congregation never gets to meet him?

Our gathering unto God shouldn't be ordinary meetings. Our messages in church shouldn't just be to impress the people. Our fellowships are not schools. They are not places where we either put heads together or rub minds together. They should be spiritual gatherings indeed, where we share a Spirit. Nobody meets with God and remains the same.

The mad man of Gadara, Jarius whose daughter was raised, Peter's mother-in-law, the ten lepers, Peter and the other anglers, even Lazarus who was dead will forever remember the encounter they had with Jesus. Should ours be different?

Hebrews 12:22-24 talks about the nature of our ideal gatherings. You'll be surprised what it says;

“No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come

to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven, who have now been made perfect. You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.”

How on earth could you have met with all these people and remain the same?

As a church goer I need to learn, that my “being blessed” in a service, Matins or Mass is never a function of how beautiful the Pastor's preaching was. It is not a function of how badly he preached either. My blessings in church have nothing to do with how good or bad the choir is. My blessings in church depends solely on whom I have gone to meet; the Almighty God.

I should get to a point where either Pastor ‘does well’ or not, I will meet God in church. Either the service goes right or not, I will not leave the presence of God without an encounter. It is God I go to meet in church.

The presence of God, especially the gathering of his holy people remains a place of encounters, a place of change and a place of divine turn-around. If we have anything short of these, something needs to be done fast.

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