

# Inspiration today

## FOCUS ON YOUR DREAM IN 2019

"Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear fig? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh." James 3:11-12 NKJV

Joseph in the bible had every reason to be bitter because people around worked against him. Firstly, for hatred, his brothers sold him and he became a slave in a foreign land, then Potiphar's wife lied against him and he went to prison for an offense he did not commit. Pharaoh's chief butler had a dream in prison which he interpreted and it came to pass. The chief butler was released from prison and restored to his position in the palace, yet he forgot Joseph (Gen.40:23). Joseph's response was that all these were orchestrated for evil but God meant it for good and for the fulfilling a divine purpose.

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." Genesis 50:20 NKJV

God fulfilled His purpose for Joseph and that of an entire nation because, Joseph decided not to be bitter. Think of how many destinies have been cut short or shattered by bitterness. We all desire Joseph's kind of favour but we don't want his kind of experience. If you think those you are bitter against are not good, consider how your own 'goodness' sent JESUS to the cross? Could you be so good that JESUS still had to die? If JESUS died for those who are not good, would you say JESUS died for you? If Joseph had been bitter, his dream would have died unfulfilled. His focus was not what people had done to him but his dream. He did not know how God would make his dream come through

but as young as Joseph was, he knew he had a role to play and that may be just avoiding bitterness. He became BETTER off than his brothers and all those who hated him, because he refused to be BITTER.

In this new year 2019, my prayer for you is for grace to drop every bitterness and open the door to fulfilling your dreams in Jesus name. Bitterness would defile anybody and make him drop from grace.

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; Hebrews 12:14-15 NKJV Just as we can't be clean being BITTER, even so we can't be BETTER being BITTER.

Finally, never forget this:

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 NKJV

What one is bitter about could be the spring board to fulfilling God's dream.

Happy new year and abundant blessings

## December BIRTHDAYS

- <sup>1</sup> Jasper Onuora 2<sup>nd</sup>, <sup>2</sup> Anu Adewuyi 3<sup>rd</sup>, <sup>3</sup> Florence Adeniyi 5<sup>th</sup>,  
<sup>4</sup> Emmanuel Ighodaro 12<sup>th</sup>, <sup>5</sup> Ngozi Ibe 18<sup>th</sup>, <sup>6</sup> Kai Akinyelure 22<sup>nd</sup>,  
<sup>7</sup> Demilade Dele-Ajayi 24<sup>th</sup>, <sup>9</sup> Olivia Lewis 25<sup>th</sup>



### Dominion Assembly

Jesus Christ the same yesterday,  
and today and forever.  
Hebrew 13:8

#### Vision/Mission Statement

1. To Make Heaven
2. To take as many people as possible with us
3. Committed to Spiritual revival in the Merseyside region and the United Kingdom
4. To make Holiness our lifestyle
5. Helping members grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ through the Word, Prayer & Evangelism
6. To be relevant in our community through helping the elderly, the homeless & the vulnerable
7. We will pursue these objectives until spiritual revival comes to our Nation & the world is reached for Jesus Christ our Lord

#### Services Sundays

Prayer meeting 9.30am

Church Service  
11.00am—1.30pm

Evening Service 6pm—7pm

Holy communion Services  
First & Third Sundays  
Last Thursdays every month

#### Thursdays

Bible Study 6pm—7.30pm

#### Prayer Meeting

5pm daily except Thursdays



## Notices

Children aged 7 and below **MUST** be accompanied to the restrooms at all times

### ♠ Use of disabled toilet

Male Children, 12 and under are no longer allowed to use the male toilets. Henceforth, they should use the disabled toilet

### ♠ Evangelism

Every Saturday 10.30am at Tuebrook.  
11am City Centre

### ♠ Water Baptism

If you are born again and want to be water baptised by immersion, please see Pastor Christiana Ikeri

### ♠ Children Christmas Party

Sunday, December 23, 2018.  
Please let all our children come and enjoy with the Lord

### ♠ Child Dedication & Thanksgiving

Bro. & Sis. Ezenekwe are in church on Sunday December 23, to thank God for His goodness and faithfulness and to dedicate their beautiful daughter .

### ♠ Crossover Service

Monday December 31, 2018 starts at 10pm  
There will be Holy Communion

Today's Sunday School—Lesson 16

## CONTROL YOUR TONGUE

Memory Verse: "For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind; But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. James 3v7-8

Lesson text: James 3v1-12

### A. Characteristics of an uncontrolled tongue

An uncontrolled tongue will bring a lot of destruction and say a lot of very hurtful words. According to our spiritual reading, it is full of scheming petty craftiness and it is evil. It delights in lying and it is a constant source of trouble, anger and irritation in homes. Flattery, talking behind people's backs, wicked lying, talkativeness and deceitful words that cause friendships to break up are some other features of a tongue that is out of control. Such a tongue is under the control of the devil. It is like a raging fire that destroys. It makes a person mentally and emotionally defiled. It is a trap, a deep pit and a restless evil. Ps. 52v2 & 4; Job 15v5; Prov. 17v4; Job 20v16; Ps. 109v2; Ps. 120v2; Ps. 10v7; Ps. 5v9; Prov. 25v23; Jer. 18v18; Job 27v4; Matt. 15v18-20; Prov. 12v13; Prov. 22v14; Rom. 3v13; James 3v16

### B. Results of an uncontrolled tongue

A tongue that talks out of control causes a lot of damage. Divine favour and goodwill will be far away from a person whose tongue is not bridled. Even if the person acquires wealth, he or she will waste it on needless slanderous litigations. God will not pay attention to the prayer of someone whose tongue brings such hurt and pain to others. A person whose tongue is not controlled falls into evil temptations and are ensnared by their speech. Prov. 10v31; Prov. 21v6; Isa. 59v1—3; Prov. 17v20.

### Conclusion

Anyone with an uncontrolled tongue is living a dangerously fragile and uncontrolled life. The beginning of perfect living is the right use of our tongue. Pray that the Holy Spirit will take over your tongue. James 3v2

## Open Heaven for today THE FOURTH MAN IN THE FURNACE

**Memorize: When thou passed through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isaiah 43:2**

**Read: Daniel 3:20-30 (KJV)**

Our memory verse reminds us of God's promise to be With His children whenever they pass through the storms, rivers and fires of life.

We see this promise literally fulfilled in the lives of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when they were confronted with Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace. For your own good, you need to understand that these words proclaimed by God in **Isaiah 43:2** are not empty promises. To the three Hebrew boys, the Lord who helped the Israelites walk through the waters during their exodus from Egypt was also able to deliver them from the fire of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace in accordance to His promise. In contrast to these young men, many people today would not want to take this promise of God literally. However, the experience of the three Hebrew boys shows that none of God's promises will go unfulfilled in our lives if we hold unto them. Let us consider what the young Hebrew men did to draw the presence of the Fourth Man into the furnace and see how it applies to each one of us. Essentially, they decided to be different and lived a separated life in the land of unbelievers. They took a collective decision with Daniel not to defile themselves with pagan lifestyles and delicacies (**Daniel 1:8-17**). A proverb in my native tongue says, "There is a tendency for a child to change his good name in a foreign land." This was not the case with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. For this reason, the Lord of Hosts Himself came to join them when they were thrown into the burning furnace. The Fourth Man in the furnace was no other person than the Son of the Living God (**Daniel 3:25**). Beloved, if God could fulfil His promise in **Isaiah 43:2** in the lives of these men, He will also fulfil this promise to us. However, you need to ask yourself if you are living a separated life. Is there any difference between you and everyone else who does not know your God? Do you behave one way in church and another way outside church? If someone spends time with you, can they indeed say that you have been with Jesus? You need to live a life that gives a positive answer to these questions. I decree into your life today that the grace to live a separated life will come upon you in Jesus' Name. The waters of life will not drown you, and the fire of the enemy will not burn you in Jesus' Name.

**Prayer Point: Sweet Holy Spirit, I ask that you convict my heart to live a separated life daily.**

Open Heavens Daily Devotional Lessons was written by Pastor E.A. Adeboye, the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God