

Inspiration today

Victory in Life

Every living organism is subject to death. Many believe in God and assert that with God nothing is impossible. Many more don't believe in God and blame Him for all their tragedies and calamities. If there is God and nothing is impossible with Him, why did mum or dad or my pretty little angel die? Why did not God stop them from dying? A student was expelled for not meeting the minimum required attendance to continue his studies, so he put the blame on the Vice Chancellor, because as head of the university he should have stopped him from skipping classes. Today, fish, birds and generally wildlife are dying by ingesting industrial and plastic wastes which are gradually entering the human food chain. Why is God doing nothing to stop mankind from doing this. What will life be like if God has to intervene in all the affairs of man. Surely, it will be boring, robotic, without freedom or soul or affection.

Only the bible has the answer to this mystery. "The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God warned him, you may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." Genesis 2:15-17 NLT.

Man has freedom to choose his moral actions but not the prerogative to choose its consequences and we know that every action has its own consequences, good or bad. God created man in His image and likeness with all of God's attributes of love, peace, righteousness, wisdom, creativity, kindness, mercy, everlasting life etc. These godly attributes are latent in man and waiting to be released when man chooses God by faith as his life and continues in relationship with Him.

"Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us..... Genesis 1:26 NLT Unfortunately, mankind (Adam) chose death at the garden of Eden through disobedience.

"When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned..... But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ..... For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:12, 15-17 NLT

When the sin problem is taken care of in anyone's life, death will automatically end but unfortunately sin has a tight grip on mankind and has become his nature.

"And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it..... Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin." Romans 7:18-25 NLT

"But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life." 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 NLT

God's free gift of victory in life through Jesus Christ is available to ANYONE who would receive it. It is a choice one must make NOW to qualify for the resurrection with Jesus Christ. Call on the Lord Jesus NOW and ask Him to please save your soul.

Abundant blessings

March BIRTHDAYS

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| 1 Emmanuel Adeniyi 1 st , | 2 Ifeoma Keren Ezenekwe 3 rd , |
| 3 Ezekiel Agbonghile 6 th , | 4 Ezenekwe Chukwuma 7 th , |
| 5 Pastor Chijioke Ikeri 10 th , | 6 Michelle Sobande 14 th |
| 7 Jerry Ukpog 23 rd , | 8 Stepheny Eromosele 26 th |



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

Today's Sunday School—Lesson 30

BEFORE YOU SAY 'I DO'

Memory Verse: "Let all things be done decently and in order" 1 Cor. 14v40.

Lesson text: Genesis 29v11-20

A. The Importance of Courtship

Christian courtship is that period before wedding/marriage when a Christian brother and sister make plans, relate and reach a compromise on so many issues pertaining to their future together. Courtship is very important and necessary for the intending couple to observe during which proper biblical foundation must be laid in order to have a happy married life (1 Thess. 5v21). One vital issue that must be addressed during this period is to obtain the consent of both parents (Gen. 24v54-59)

Courtship is also a period to know each other's views, personalities, temperament, characters intimately in order to forge a lasting relationship. This time of courtship should NOT be used to explore one another sexually or emotionally (1 Cor. 6v18-20; Rom. 12v1-2). You can pray, study the bible or attend Christian programmes but avoid hanging out in secluded and tempting places (2 Cor. 2v11; 1 Thess. 5v22). Know each other's strength and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, parents etc. it is also expedient that you take marriage counselling lessons together during courtship (Prov. 11v14)

B. Red flags to watch out for

There are a number of "red flags" to look for before entering a permanent marriage relationship. Unfortunately, these indicators may not be visible until after the marriage takes place, since some Christians are 'skilled' at hiding their true nature or change with circumstances.

However, a short list of things to look out for include irrational jealousy, deception, a constant desire to always be in control (dominate the other partner), physical or emotional abuse/violence, a quick (hot) temper, cruelty towards animals, adherence to unscriptural traditional values, attempts to isolate the other person from his or her friends and family, drugs or alcohol abuse, smoking and disrespect for boundaries, privacy, personal space or moral values.

If you see any of these warning signs or strange behaviours in a person you are entering a relationship with, please pray and seek advice from your Spiritual leader, or marriage counsellor before you say 'I DO'. (Mk. 14v38; Prov. 15v22; 19v20). Marriage should not be viewed as a do or die affair. You have a destiny to fulfil (Jer. 29v11). You may consider the saying that 'a broken courtship is better than a broken marriage' and make a wise/informed decision (Eccl. 10v10; 1 Cor. 7v15b)

Conclusion:

Watch and pray before you say 'I DO'.

Open Heaven for today THE WORD PROSPERS

Memorise: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the things whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

Read: Isaiah 55:9-13 (KJV)

Through **Isaiah 55:11** we understand that the word of God has purpose, direction and the capacity to prosper. I pray that the Almighty will send His word to you today for the purpose of settling all that concerns you in Jesus' Name. Since the word of God has the capacity to prosper, it can therefore activate prosperity in the life of anyone it is working for. Unquestionably, the word of God is very powerful. In fact, God's power is inherent in His word. To understand the power in God's word, **Hebrews 11:3** makes us to understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. The Holy Spirit also says in **Hebrews 4:12**:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Through this scripture, the Holy Spirit reveals to us that God's word has the power to effect change in the spirit, soul and body of man.

However, in spite of the power that God's word possesses, its capacity to activate prosperity does not work in the life of everyone. For this capacity to be activated, a person must first embrace and revere the word of God. You embrace God's word by believing what it says, and you revere it when you obey what it commands and live by its principles. Unfortunately, many children of God who believe His word and desire to prosper are not prosperous because they refuse to reverse the word. For example, the word-made-flesh said in **Luke 6:38**:

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measures, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Only those who believe this word and act on it will prosper by the power embedded in it. It is not the hearer but the doers of God's word that are justified (**Romans 2:13**). Prosperity will stay with them and overtake them all the days of their lives. Here is what the Holy Spirit says in **James 1:25** concerning those who revere the word of God by obeying its commands and living by its principles:

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

I pray that you will begin to prosper by the word of God from today in Jesus' Name.

Key Point

You embrace the word of God by believing what it says, while you revere it by obeying what it commands and living by its principles.

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