



The Link

Vol. 2, No 1(2003)

A quarterly non-denominational publication to the body of Christ

For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He examines all his goings (Proverbs 5:21)



In this edition:

Brothers & Sisters Arise, Shine

Mount Up and Soar High

Discovery - The Ways of An Eagle

Releasing your Potentials

Let Your Light so Shine

Kingdom for Kids

Food For Thought - Do I love the Lord?

EDITORIAL

He that observes the winds shall not sow and he that regards the clouds shall not reap says the preacher in Ecclesiastes 11:4. The time has come for us as believers to rise above all that happens around us, the decadence and perils of our time, mount high, and soar in our God-given life. Now is the time to live the kind of life God expects us to live, and be focused at shining for God; doing the works that he left for us, irrespective of age, sex, marital status, in preparation for our soon coming King.

As we stated in the last edition, we have a mandate to arouse the body of Christ from the present lethargy and cause God to use us to prepare the whole body ready to be the best for God in this crooked and perverse period.

Are you ready to go to heaven, will you also prepare your kids for this blessed home? Remember that the godly are scarcely saved (1Peter 4:18), How about what awaits the ungodly and sinners? May you and I be saved on that glorious day. Brethren, we all need to arise, shine and continue to do the work of the Lord; Draw many into the kingdom of God and continue to blossom until we report back to the Lord that called us.

As God reminded you in the last edition that your faith is very precious, endeavour to keep it and live the life that is pleasing

to the Lord by staying above the perversions of the present period.

May we see together on that glorious morning.

Your brethren at 'The Link' love you, but Jesus Christ loves you more and gave Himself for you.

May you be blessed and quickened by the Spirit of God as you read. Remember that Jesus Christ is coming **SOON**, Maranatha.

We acknowledge all those who are contributing to this work, whose gifts and words of advice, and encouragement are considered golden to its ongoing success. May the Lord bless you (Amen).

The articles in this magazine are not published to give you new ideas and doctrines with which you can go and argue with others. Even though as we share the word, there will be doctrinal issues, we believe that God is more interested in His will being done in your lives. We are not interested in condemning, criticising or bringing down other men of God, ours is to do what God has sent us to do. **Allow God to have His way in your lives as you read this publication than insinuating what we did not intend.**

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NKJV - New King James Version.

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Brothers & Sisters Arise, Shine

Kunbi Ajayi

It's a bright new morning, it is time for Sister so & so to get off to work, she looks through her window and the sun was already shining brightly. She looked at her clock it is 7:30 am. Oh no, I am late! She groaned, I was tired yesterday night. She scuttled up from the bed in readiness to start a rushed preparation to work. What is wrong with me? Today is Saturday, hmm. She heaved a sigh of relieve. Deep down in her subconscious, she knows she needn't wake up as early as usual.

She took another peep outside, the sun is shining brightly, and a couple of hours ago it was dark; God indeed is wonderful she mused. Who wakes up the sun? She thought, and the sun wakes up shining. God of course is too wonderful.

Just like this hypothetical sister, have we Christians considered the brightness and the shine of the sun? Have we ever noticed that with the rising of the sun it shines brightly at the same time. Have we considered that as Christians as we arise with the newness of life that God has given us, we need to shine and bring forth the glory of the Lord.

A lot have been done about winning souls for Christ, how many that has been won are shining for the Lord? Living the kind of life God expects them to live and radiating the fragrance of God's knowledge everywhere.

2 Corinthians 2:14 *(But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him)(NIV)*

Brothers & sisters this is the time to arise.

What does it mean to arise?

It means to get up, to ascend, to mount up, to appear, to awake, to rouse, and to stir up. All these are literal meanings of arise relating to its usage.

Often times Christians are called upon to arise and shine. It is the desire of every parent that their child will go through all the rudiment of nursery, primary and secondary education till they pass matriculation exams and go straight to the university. This whole process may look cumbersome but at the end when the child now wears a gown on the day of graduation, he or she shines having endured and excelled academically. Unlike this, God has given unto us all what it will take us to shine for His glory. We just need to come out as the sun in the morning and shine. But do we know all it will take us to shine or do we know what Christ has invested on us?

2 Peter 1:3 *(According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue).*

We are called to arise, shine!

Why are we called to arise?

Simply because the Church has settled down, in a sitting position, into a state of inactivity (though busy accomplishing our own tasks & targets). There is a need to take action, there is a need for movement, and we all need to get up and begin to shine for the Lord.

We are being asked to get up, and leave the grime of sin and to stop sitting down and being comfortable in our beautiful chapels and cathedrals. There is so much to be done.

The call to arise also signifies urgency and speed; the harvest is plenteous, and we have a short time on our hands. We are being asked to get up and walk through the land, through the length and breath of it for Christ; to preach the good news, to set the captives free and manifest the glory of the Lord at this end time. The Lord has given the land to His Church (Genesis 13:17).

We are being asked to get up, to arise from our seemingly unconcerned, inactive positions of sitting down and lift the ones that are weak and weary in the body for God to build us up together.

We are to arise also because we will need to ascend. That means we have descended to a lower ebb. We need to ascend from a position of descent of defeat to a glorious ascent in victory.

In the same way we are being called from living a carnal life, a life dependent on the arm of the flesh and trying to achieve spiritual feats through physical means; we are to ascend to glorious heights of breakthrough by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Church is also expected to mount up with wings as the eagle, so that our force of impact can be felt in a tangible and unquenchable manner in a world where we are the salt and the light.

The Church is called to awake, to rise up from our stupor in sin, to leave the level of being like stones, dumb and inefficient (Habakkuk 2:19) – though heavy and sometimes imposing but so immobile and inert.

The Lord is saying to His Church that she should to arise, move and work for Him.

The Church, the body of Christ, is also expected to rouse from a sleeping state. When you are roused up, somebody or something forces you to wake up. Many are so far gone in a state of slumber that it will require others to rouse them up. Unless we arise and do the work of rousing others, they may stay in this sleeping state till 'king Herod', the adversary destroys them and the babies (spiritual children – new believers) they might have (Matt 2:13).

The Church is to be stirred up from grime and lack that come to our life having deserted the loving care and shelter of the Father. We are to return to our first love, except we actually do that we cannot be reinstated to the glory of the Lord's presence.

We are called to stir up ourselves to realise from whence we are fallen from and to go back to the anchor of our souls. We are called to awake those that are sleeping, to arise from the dead and Christ will give them light (Ephesians 5:14).

Results of Arising.

With the arising comes the shining (Isaiah 60:1).

As you consider the radiance of the sun when it is shining, we are being called to radiate God's glory and presence (Matthew 17:2).

Imagine the shine of pure gold or diamonds, we are being called to a greater glory as we surrender our lives to the owner of silver & gold (Haggai 2:8). Shinning brighter than the brightness of the firmament and the stars. Praise God.

Who are the people that will shine like these?

They are the ones that have arisen:

- The wise, Daniel 12:3 (*And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever*).
- The righteous, Matthew 13:43 (*Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father...*). You will shine even from now! Stay Righteous.
- Those that allow God, and the gospel to have impact in their lives.

Results of the shinning.

1. A life that draws others to the light; a life that is attractive, that makes those outside the faith to be interested in the glorious gospel. Isaiah 60:2-3.

2. A life of glory. Isaiah 60:9, resources of the nations are being directed to the Lord work, because of the glory of the Lord seen in the Church.
3. A life of Excellency, Isaiah 60:15. You will become a role model that will dictate the path to excellence and greatness.
4. A joyful life, Isaiah 60:15.
5. A life of increase, Isaiah 60:22. Many shall be added to the Church as a result of the glory of the Lord shinning forth through you.
6. A life of praise, Isaiah 60:18.
7. A life of dominion, Isaiah 60:10, 12. You will rule over your enemies, and they will utterly be subdued.
8. A prosperous life, Isaiah 60:11.
9. A life of victory, Isaiah 60:14-15.
10. A life of continual peace, Isaiah 60:18.
11. No more rising and falling, a life of continual growth and promotion.
12. No more sorrow but continuous rejoicing, Isaiah 60:20.

Beloved brethren it is time to arise, shine, for the glory of God is come. It is risen upon you. The Lord has spoken and He will perform that which He purposes in His Church. No matter what the devil does to hinder, decide today not to sleep, slumber, or stay under; it is your time to shine.

Begin to identify yourself in the plan of God at this time, stay by your ministry and do the work of the ministry. The Holy Spirit will definitely back you up to perform and the glory and honour will be the Lord's.

Bits & Pieces



This column came to you again due to popular demand.

We pray that you will allow these short passages to enrich your life than considering their humorous side.

We acknowledge the writers of these passages, most unknown, God bless you and give you more inspiration in Jesus name (Amen).

Free at Last

One windy spring day, I observed young people having fun using the wind to fly their kites. Multicolored creations of varying shapes and sizes filled the skies like beautiful birds darting and dancing in the heady atmosphere above the earth. As the strong winds gusted against the kites, a string kept them in check.

Instead of blowing away with the wind, they arose against it to achieve great heights. They shook and pulled, but the restraining string and the cumbersome tail kept them in tow, facing upward and against the wind. As the kites struggled and trembled against the string, they seemed to say, "Let me go! Let me go! I want to be free!" They soared beautifully even as they fought the imposed restriction of the string.

Finally, one of the kites succeeded in breaking loose. "Free at last" it seemed to say. "Free to fly with the wind." Yet freedom from restraint simply put it at the mercy of an

unsympathetic breeze. It fluttered ungracefully to the ground and landed in a tangled mass of weeds and string against a dead bush. "Free at last" — free to lie powerless in the dirt, to be blown helplessly along the ground, and to lodge lifeless against the first obstruction.

How much like kites we sometimes are? The Lord gives us adversity and restrictions, rules to follow from which we can grow and gain strength.

Restraint is a necessary counterpart to the winds of opposition. Some of us tug at the rules so hard that we never soar to reach the heights we might have obtained. We keep part of the commandment and (pardon the pun) never rise high enough to get our tails off the ground.

Let us each rise to the great heights our Heavenly Father has in store for us, recognizing that some of the restraints that we may chafe under are actually the steadying force that helps us ascend and achieve.

Source unknown

(Continued on Page 10)

MOUNT UP & SOAR HIGH

Segun Ajayi

In these last days, when the coming of the Lord is so imminent, there is an enormous task and challenge facing the Church. It is necessary for us to rise up, mount high and start to soar and exercise tremendous influence for God.

Majority have left the work of the Lord undone, and are struggling to survive in the midst of challenges that have beclouded us at this end-time.

A lot have lost focus and are playing church and religion and nothing much has been achieved for God at this time.

Brethren, we are not even as conscious as the enemy about how little time we have on our hands. The enemy having realised he has a short time kept us busy at doing nothing and he keeps us at believing that we are doing great things for God.

We are loading ourselves daily with activities that are not lifting us beyond the ground.

We delight in eulogies and make a lot of noise, struggle to outsmart one another using every tactic available including the works of the flesh and end up hindering the work that God expects us to continue.

God will arise at this time and fight for His Church, but we also need to position ourselves to be in league with God in this last onslaught.

As we consider issues in this discussion we shall discover ourselves in the word of God and make necessary adjustments that will position us for the challenges ahead.

HOW?

1. Realise you have a need:

You are faint physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Young men do glory in their strength (Proverbs 20: 29), but the youth do fail (Isaiah 40:30), despite the enormous strength they possess, and they become weary and distressed.

It is not too late to own-up when you are weak, God's grace is made perfect in us when we are weak (2Corinthians 12:9).

At times of adversity and difficulty our 'small strength' do fail (Proverbs 24:10). We need God's own unflinching strength.

Wait for the Lord's strengthening wait till you are endowed with power. (Psalms 27:14, 1Chronicles 16: 11).

The Church wants to achieve great things for God at this end-time but it seems to be drawing on her strength as individuals and ministries struggle to out-smart each other in strategies and principles, we seem to have forgotten that without Him we can do nothing. A lot of our energy which seems to be failing is being used beating the air and not lifting us beyond the ground when God is expecting us to mount high. The Lord will arise and raise His body, but we must realise our strength, principles and strategies must proceed from the Ancient of Days.

As we call on the Lord, ask Him for strength, wait on Him, every weakness, and emptiness will be removed and we shall be refreshed in God's presence and strengthened.

2. Realise that efforts, resources and size will fail:

We dispense so much energy with our ideas, methods, vigour, will and drives. Under the situation we find ourselves with the pressures of life, with the things that take our daily toil, with the passions that affect our emotions daily, with the scenes around us that affect our heart, we do fail God and cannot move on. We do encumber ourselves with activities that we assume will move us higher, but we are yet to be lifted above the ground. Realise God invested so much in you and gave you a great potential, which He wants to use to raise you. You have a God-given destiny to amount to greatness in the hands of God and soar high. We seem to limit ourselves to our efforts at planning, our ability to amass resources, our own ideas, our will to survive and zeal to go on. All this we do and most times leave God out of the business. Weariness comes from self-effort, trying to go on in our own strength.

God wants to get involved in what we do and He is equally interested in how we go about it. Our experience will not work, because for every challenge that we face, God has a new way out of it.

God wants to also refuel you, renew your youth, renew your zeal, and drive your will to succeed and give you a fresh vision that will make you to mount high.

Ministers, leaders & presidents of ministries, workers in the vineyard, it is a time for you to consider yourselves and ask God for a fresh insight into His mandate for your life and ministries.

God wants to lift you up out of the slimy pit, out of the mud around you and out of the miry clay till you can mount up and get to the mountains. You can achieve great things for God when you are up there, indeed God will establish your goings.

Psalms 103:5-Who satisfies thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle'

Psalms 40:2-He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

3. Look around you:

• Have an understanding of the time we are in:

2 Timothy 3:1-This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

1 Peter 4:7 - But the end of all things is at hand.

2 Peter 3: 3,10,14

³ *knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

¹⁰ *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works, that are therein shall be burned up,*

¹⁴ *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

A perilous time indeed. A time when many scoffers abound, that will hinder others from awaiting the coming of the Lord. A time to be more conscious of the day of the Lord (which can come anytime – like a thief in the night). A time to prepare ourselves blameless, unruffled and undefiled for the coming King.

- **Dangers lurk around you:**

The devil is out to steal, to kill and destroy, John 10:10, even your faith and send to an early grave.

We are under intense pressure to be corrupted and defiled, lose our values and be tainted with all that goes on in the world (John 2:15). Hi, it is easier these days to compromise and bend the rules, modify doctrines and make things easy so that we can gather the crowd or join the crowd. It is now very fashionable to be a 'Christian', as long as 'nothing spoil' (if the ways of life will not be affected).

There is so much corruption in the world through lusts, and the devil is working to make sure that many die as compromising Christians. Christians beware! God will not change the standard because of you. Change your ways.

Many are also under great struggle and burning their candles at both ends trying to provide for themselves or struggling to possess things, to the detriment of their body and souls. It is not the end that justifies the means, change the rule. Let the way you go about it be equally important. Shall you gain the whole world and lose your soul.

- **Don't under-estimate yourself and the potentials in you:**

The Bible says "they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2Corinthians 10:12).

You are unique and God has deposited great and mighty things in you. Remember, if He can give the Lord Jesus Christ freely and give the Holy Spirit, His treasure He deposited in you, He is expecting you to begin to actualise the purposes why He got you into this mighty heritage (Philippians 3:12).

- **Don't be contented with your present state or achievement.**

There are heights to be reached, there are lands to be conquered, and there are mountaintops to be possessed.

Have an understanding of what you ought to do and God's expectation for His Church. As the Sons of Isaac that had an understanding of what Israel ought to do (1Chronicles12: 32), have an understanding of what God wants you to accomplish in His body. As you begin to actualise this, you will realise God will begin to commend on you more grace to achieve greater things for Him.

- 4. **Move forward, take bold steps:**

Surrender yourself to the Spirit of God and He will show you the next step. The way of man is not in man, it is not in man to direct his own step (*Jeremiah 10:23*).

(A man's heart devise his way: but the LORD directs his steps (Proverbs 16:9)) The steps God may expect you to take may look stupid (the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of man), it may not go with your own understanding. I can assure you that the Lord will enlighten you as you go on, the Lord will illuminate your spirit-man and you will find it easy to go on.

Your steps will be brighter and brighter unto a perfection (*But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day (Proverbs 4:18 (NKJV))*)

Take a bold step; move on, the Lord is with you. If you stay at a point, remember the enemy is still prowling, dangers lurk around and you are likely going to begin to be overtaken by the enemy.

- 5. **Spring up; Flip up; Move up.**

Despise the winds, do not look at the storm, the winds will hinder. Flip up and allow the Spirit of God to propel you.

Don't consider the challenges that confront you, He that is at work in you will take you through. *EVERY STORM OF LIFE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOD TO SHOW HIMSELF MIGHTY.*

In Isaiah 43:2 He promised- "When you cross deep rivers, I will be with you, and you won't drown. When you walk through fire, you won't be burned or scorched by the flames" (NLT).

Breakthrough the storm, spend time in prayers, allow God to help you to breakthrough. Spend time praising God for every challenge you overcome.

In Psalms91:5 He promised- "When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honour them" (NLT).

As you move higher do not look at the cloud below you. After you have gone pass the winds and storms, be rest assured that God will continue to take you higher, you can still move on beyond the cloud. Sometimes we may become content with seeing a cloud (a gathering of multitude). Beyond this, God wants to invest more on you until the cloud can pave way for a great downpour of blessings that will diffuse the cloud and set us moving in the realm

of the Spirit of God, doing greater things for God. There is the danger of falling, continue to soar higher. Set your attention to reach the mountaintops.

- 6. **Spread yourself and allow the Holy Spirit to take you on.**

Do not depend on self. The arm of the flesh will fail you. It is only the Spirit of God that can quicken you. As you rely on Him, He will move you forward. The Holy Spirit gets to lift us as we stretch out on Him. He lifts us up. We will no longer need to make so much noise and commotion, we need to now relax and allow the Spirit of God to move us on in the realm of the Spirit. He will work on you and through you.

When you are finally up you need very little effort to continue. There is tendency to begin to think that you can do it all by yourself. Things are working right, you have broken through; It seems that there are no longer challenges. You will need to depend on the Holy Spirit, if not you will begin to lose the fire, and there is the peril of falling from GRACE to GRASS. Remember it is very easy to fall, take heed.

If you will learn to draw grace from God continually, you will be able to subdue the flesh and will not allow sin. (Sin is a great peril that poses a serious danger. Remember, sin **Shakes, Intoxicates,** and will make you lose focus, and make you a **Nobody**', removing all the potentials in you, till you are back on the ground, in the slum, and in the mud).

You will begin to see all you have overcome as little, and God will be able to use you to impact the life of others and help them overcome challenges. You will be able to bear with others and teach them on the path to move to greatness.

If new challenges come, they will be easy to overcome. You will begin to see the earth and all it contains as little, because you are now above all it contains.

Now you will understand what it is to be intimate with God and continue to enjoy this intimacy. God's presence will radiate joy unspeakable in you. You will then be able to focus your energy, zeal and passions at serving and pleasing God.

May the Lord keep us and help us to maintain our stand and help us to keep focused at doing His will and continue to soar higher in Him, doing great exploits, as we await His coming in Jesus name.



DISCOVERY - The Ways of an Eagle

Segun Ajayi

In Proverbs 30: 18-19a, the preacher said *“There are three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air;....”* - the way of an eagle is a wonderful thing for us to consider. This will lead us to examine the nature and various attitudes of the eagle in considering the life believers are to live that will ensure right positioning in God’s program.

Throughout history, man has had a fascination with eagles. Known as the king of birds, it has been revered as a symbol of majesty, grace, and power. Roman legions marched under the silver and gold emblem of eagles. Egyptians used the eagle as a symbol of victory. In America, the founding fathers put the eagle on the national seal and on their currency.

What kind of bird is an Eagle?

An eagle is one of the most powerful birds in the world. Eagles can measure nearly a yard from beak to tail-tip, weigh between 3.2-5.4 kilograms, and have wings that span up to 1.2 -2.4 meters.

Majestic birds, they glide effortlessly at breathtaking altitudes, seemingly unaffected by the turbulent winds that whip across and between mountain crevices. They can soar high in the air for hours without flapping their wings.

Eyes & Beak: Eagles have very keen eyesight and strong beaks. The head of an eagle is large and covered with feathers. An eagle has large eyes that are located on the sides of its head. However, it can see straight ahead. Most birds have keener sight than humans do and other animals, but eagles and hawks are said to have the keenest sight of all. Eagles can probably sight their prey while soaring high in the air. But they usually watch from perches or fly close to the ground while they are hunting. Eagles have large, strong, hooked beaks, which they use to tear up their prey. The eagle's beak measures about 5 centimetres long and 2.5 centimetres from top to bottom.

Feet and legs: Eagles have strong legs and feet. Most eagles have scaly, bright yellow skin on their feet. Eagles seize and kill prey with their long, curved talons. They also use their talons to carry prey to a feeding place. When eagles fight, they dive at each other and try to strike with their talons. The legs of an eagle are covered with feathers. The lower part of the eagle’s legs is bare.

Feathers and wings: Eagles have such long, broad wings and tails that they look clumsy when they are on the ground. But the wings easily support their heavy bodies when they fly. Eagles can glide great distances without flapping their wings. The long feathers in their wings are strong and stiff and they are shaped so the air flows smoothly over the surface of the wing. When the eagle soars, the feathers spread out like fingers and bend up at the tips. Most adult eagles are dark brown or black, but many have white areas. Young eagles do not have feathers that match those of their parents until about 4 years of age.

The life of an eagle: Wild eagles that survive to adulthood are thought to live from 20 to 30 years. In captivity, eagles may live 50 years or more. Most young eagles first breed when they are about 5 years old. Mated eagles are thought to stay together. If one member of a pair dies, the other may find another mate. In winter, eagles may gather in areas with plentiful food. But during the breeding season, each pair claims a territory around its nest and keeps other eagles away. The eagle may defend a territory of about 50 to 160 square kilometres. The eagle holds a smaller territory.

Nests of eagles are called aeries or eyries. Eagles usually build their aeries in the tops of tall trees that are near water. Some nest on high cliffs in the mountains.

Eagles are strong of heart and represent qualities we admire: speed, strength, power, majesty, dependability, courage, tenderness, faithfulness, pride, ferocity, great daring. All of these give them dominion of the skies. These characteristics are evident in the eagle even before it is born. It’s fascinating that an eaglet in the egg has a little tooth that grows on its beak to help it stretch its way through the eggshell and become free. If you help an eaglet to be born you will kill it, because it is that adversity and having to fight to get out of the egg, that actually helps the eagle acquire its great strength.

Have you ever seen an eagle in flight?

Eagles are amazing, for Solomon to have written in the Proverbs that there were four things he did not understand, and at the top of his list was "the way of an eagle in the sky" (Proverbs 30:18-19). Well, I truly believe that God created eagles with some unique characteristics to teach us some beautiful lessons about living out the Christian life.

When you study the eagle, you discover that there is much more to an eagle's life than the effortless soar that has become its identifying feature. Before an eagle soars, he has to learn some difficult lessons. *And the eagle's existence is often filled with troubles, hard work, difficult circumstances, unpleasant environments, discouragement and failure.*

Sound familiar? There are many parallels between the life of an eagle and our own.

What makes Eagles the "King of Birds"?

Eagles are built differently. The design of their wings makes them aerodynamically superior to other birds. When they spread those huge wings, eagles are able to catch the current of the wind and soar like no other bird.

Because of their unique wing structure, eagles soar higher than most any other bird and they can soar aloft for hours because of their ability to ride the currents. In addition, they are able to fly at remarkable speeds. They've been clocked at over 100 Kilometres per hour in level flight, and 240 - 320 Kilometres per hour when they're in a full dive.

Like the eagle, we are different.

Like the eagle, as God's chosen people, we are structured differently. Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Jesus said we are in this world but not of it. ***Our lives should show a marked difference from those around us who don't have Jesus in their lives. We need to soar above the world, even while we're in it, not allowing the world to bring us down to its level.***

There's much about the eagle that is a picture for our walk with God.

We can fly high!

Eagles have an ability to fly at high altitudes, which allows them to build their large, strong nests in very high places.

Like eagles, as believers in Jesus Christ we are intended to fly at very high altitudes—in the heavenlies:

"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6-7).

What does it mean that we are even now seated with Christ in heavenly realms? It means that is our position because of Christ.

Here's how that works in everyday life. ***You go to a job where the name of Jesus is mostly a curse word. You talk to people who never give God a thought, if they believe in him at all. You watch those you love making choices to turn their backs on God. And the dirt of the world seems to infect you, discourage you, and even attract you at times.***

But you remember that you've got eagle's wings, and so in the midst of that degenerate and evil environment, you take off. You soar up to those heavenly realms where you can have instant and constant fellowship with God through Jesus Christ. The world around you may not even be aware that you've just taken off and left them in the dust, but you know it.

You look at the people, who are still earth-bound around you, and your heart is touched with their plight, because you realise they don't have wings to soar. This ability to fly high gives you more than just freedom. It gives you a unique perspective of the world beneath you. You look at everything very differently from heavenly realms, and realise how distorted are your priorities and concerns when you are earthbound.

And our nest is God's Word, which gives us a launching pad for soaring. Without a strong foundation in the Word of God, we'll find soaring difficult. We'll look like eagles flapping their wings instead of soaring on the Wind of God's Spirit.

Did you know that eagles could soar for long periods of time because they don't flap their huge wings?

Instead they use those wings to soar on the wind, and they can soar without exhaustion. ***There is so much to learn from the life of an eagle.***

One of our unique advantages as believers in Jesus Christ, with our new eagle wings, is that we can keep on holding on when it looks like mission impossible. We stretch out those special wings that are ours because of faith in Jesus Christ, and we let the wind of God's Spirit carry us. And with his wind under our wings, we can endure.

If we want to soar like eagles, we have to learn when to let go.

With those huge talons, an eagle is capable of grabbing a very large fish or animal for dinner. However, if that fish or animal is too heavy for him, the eagle may drown or be dashed to the ground because he won't let go once he has latched on to his prey. The very skill he is so well gifted to do can become his tragic end if he doesn't know when to let go.

If we want to soar like eagles, we have to learn when to let go, if we don't know when and how to let go we can drown in our own stubbornness.

What are you hanging onto right now? If it's too big for you to carry, that burden will keep you grounded, preventing you from soaring.

Jesus told us that his yoke is easy and his burden is light (Matthew 11:28 - 30). ***Jesus never intended for us to carry heavy burdens. And when you try to carry them all day long, you can't think of anything else, and then that burden you're carrying starts to have drastic effects in other areas of your life. You can no longer soar. But if you will turn the heavy burden over to the Lord, you'll discover freedom from that impossible burden you've been trying to carry.***

As wonderful as the eagle is, if he doesn't learn to let go of the burdens that are too heavy, he will never soar. The same is true for us.

We can see things that others don't see

Eagle eyes are four to seven times more powerful than human eyes. An eagle's vision is binocular, like the zoom lens of a powerful camera or binoculars, and he is able to adjust his focus to see not only what is close up, but also what is at a long distance.

In addition, the eagle has a second eye-lid, as it were, which protects the eagle from injury when he is catching and handling its prey. This second eye-lid also shields the eagle from the sun, acting like sunglasses, allowing an eagle to fly right into the sun without being blinded by it.

The eagle's eyesight gives him a great advantage over other birds. He sees things coming and can be prepared. From long distances he spots trouble and can avoid it. An eagle sees a potential meal a long way off and is able to find his food easier. With that powerful eyesight, he is not easily fooled or surprised.

Christians, too, have a unique advantage when it comes to eyesight. We can see things that others don't see. The Apostle Paul wrote:

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

If we don't fix our eyes, we'll miss the unseen and see only what can be seen. And when we don't see what is unseen, we lose our Christian perspective and we view everything the same way everyone else does.

Who is the most difficult person in your life right now? Have you ever looked at her or him carefully? It may be a co-worker who has poor work habits or an offensive personality. It could be a family member or a friend.

Ever notice how often this person can ruin your day? That's because you are seeing the seen things about that person—the things that everyone else sees. I would challenge you to

look carefully and ask God to help you see this person the way he does.

God will allow you to see a person's eternal soul, to realise that He loves them and died for them, and to start focusing on what is really important—that person's eternal destiny. God will allow you to see a broken heart, a tragic past, an insecurity or lack of confidence.

You can't flap and soar.

Yes, eagles can soar for hours, but when they try to flap those huge wings, their strength is quickly dissipated and they cannot sustain flight for long at all. In fact, a flapping eagle will eventually become so exhausted that it could cause death, if he is not able to catch the wind current and go from flapping to soaring. This is a major lesson for an eagle to learn, and for us as well.

The most difficult thing for most people to understand and accept in coming to God is that they can never impress him with their performance, and furthermore, they can never perform up to his standards. ***Jesus didn't die to help us perform better. He died and rose again to live his life through us. That's what Galatians 2:20 is all about:***

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

It's not hard for us to live the Christian life; but here's what we've got to understand. Christ rose again to live his life in us. We don't have to do it because we can't do it. It is his resurrection life, inside of us, that enables us, empowers us, to be able to live the way God wants us to live.

God doesn't love me when I'm good and punish me when I'm bad. That's our kind of human love. But God loves me completely, no matter what I do. God will never love me more than he does right now.

And no matter what you've done, how you see yourself, what you think about yourself, or what you do in the future, his love for you will be there. You don't have to perform to earn it. It's yours, right now.

Keep the flapping eagle in your mind and remember that flapping will bring you down. You can't flap and soar. So, let the wind of God's Spirit take you to new heights; rest in the assurance of his unchanging love; pray for your growth in his grace so that you become more and more like Jesus; and then enjoy the ride. You were born to soar, not to flap.

Abide on the rock

Job 39:27-28 (*Does the eagle mount up at your command, And make its nest on high? On the rocks it dwells and resides, On the crag of the rock and the stronghold*) (NKJV)

An eagle's nest is a sight to behold. It is usually perched high in the mountains or on the face of some sheer cliff or rock wall, or in the highest tree in the area. The nest is located in the most remote spot that the bird can find. But wherever the eagle builds a nest, it is built on a firm foundation.

In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus compared a wise man to someone who built his house on a rock. This house was secure and safe in the midst of tempest. On what are you building? Are you building on the rock of Ages, Jesus?

Psalms 27:5 (*For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock*) (NKJV).

Remember He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Can you say like the Psalmist "*Lord, thou has been our dwelling place in all generations*" (Psalm 90:1)".

Stir up your nest

There are several reasons for stirring the nest. One reason is for purification. Eagles are meticulous housekeepers. Their nest can become messy and cluttered with debris. Old fish, rotting and infested with maggots, accumulate in the nest, and the parent eagle is constantly house cleaning. Much of their time at the nest is spent arranging sticks and digging in the nest material. This digging is often done with great vigour. This may go on for a few minutes and be repeated several times a day.

The Holy Spirit is constantly at work in our lives, purifying and cleansing us. God stirs up our nest, that we might be a holy people. ***The blood cannot cover sins we refuse to uncover. "Keep yourself unspotted from the world"*** (James 1:27).

Another reason for stirring the nest it is to wean the young from the nest and promote maturity. So, too, the Lord has a way of dealing with His children. Often we are too comfortable to exercise our wings of faith and move into the will of God. Amos 6:1 warns: "*Woe to them that are at ease in Zion.*"

If your earthly nest is being stirred, if your money or trusted friends are gone, if you feel absolutely helpless and dependent upon God and God alone, rejoice, for you are being weaned from the things of the world. God's ways are seldom our ways. God wants eagle saints. But we would never become such at all if we had our way.

Remember that God has a way of weaning us from this perishing world if we will wholly follow Him.

Periods of renewal.

When eagles are about 60 years old, eagles go through a period of renewal. An eagle would find a secret place up in the mountains. It would start to claw at its face and tear out the feathers that have been damaged over the years. As a result, it would bleed badly. The eagle would then wait patiently for the rays of the sun to heal it. Through this, the eagle renews its strength by getting rid of the unnecessary things otherwise it would not be able to live till 120 years that it normally does.

Like eagles, Christians need to go through a renewal period sometime in our lives, to rid ourselves of unnecessary things and to wait upon the Lord. Renewal is a divine principle where God cuts off the unfruitful things in us so as to bring out the fruitful.

More to be passed across but the Lord wants us to consider our lives in view of what has been considered in this edition. We need to make appropriate amendments and begin to show forth God's glory.

God bless you and renew you today in Jesus name (Amen).

(Editor's Note: I acknowledge the various sources of the information packaged in this article, too numerous to mention. God bless you greatly).

(BITS & PIECES Continued (from Page4))

If Jesus Came

Would you have to change your clothes
Before you let Him in?
Or hide away some worldly magazines,
And put the Bibles where they'd been?

Would you hide your worldly music,
And put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in,
Or would you rush about?

And I wonder: If the Savior,
Spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing,
The things you always do?

Would you go right on saying,
The things you always say?
Would life for you continue,
As it does from day to day?

Would you take Jesus with you,
Every where you go?
Or would you maybe change your plans,
For just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him,
Meet your closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away,
Until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him,
Stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with relief,
When He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know,
The things that you would do,
If Jesus came in person,
to spend some time with you.

Source unknown

The Final Bid

The very wealthy English Baron Fitzgerald had only one child, a son, who understandably was the apple of his eye, the center of his affections, an only child, the focus of this little family's attention.

The son grew up, but in his early teens his mother died, leaving him and his father. Fitzgerald grieved over the loss of his wife but devoted himself to fathering their son. In the passing of time, the son became very ill and died in his late teens. In the meantime, the Fitzgerald financial holdings greatly increased. The father had used much of his wealth to acquire art works of the "masters."

And with the passing of more time, Fitzgerald himself became ill and died. Previous to his death he had carefully prepared his will with explicit instructions as to how his estate would be settled. He had directed that there would be an auction in which his entire collection of art would be sold. Because of the quantity and quality of the art works in his collection, which was valued in the millions of English pounds, a huge

crowd of prospective buyers gathered, expectantly. Among them were many museum curators and private collectors eager to bid.

The art works were displayed for viewing before the auction began. Among them was one painting which received little attention. It was of poor quality and done by an unknown local artist. It happened to be a portrait of Fitzgerald's only son.

When the time came for the auction to begin, the auctioneer gaveled the crowd to attention and before the bidding began, the attorney read first from the will of Fitzgerald, which instructed that the first painting to be auctioned was the painting of "my beloved son."

The poor quality painting didn't receive any bidders except one. The only bidder was the old servant who had known the son and loved him and served him and for sentimental reasons offered the only bid. For less than an English pound he bought the painting.

The auctioneer stopped the bidding and asked the attorney to read again from the will. The crowd was hushed, it was quite unusual, and the attorney read from the Fitzgerald will: "Whoever buys the painting of my son gets all my art collection. The auction is over!"

He who takes the Son of God will have everything the father has. Accept Jesus Christ today if you have not done so.

Robert Strand

How Would You Know the Savior's Words...

- If you never felt pain, How would you know that I'm a Healer?
- If you never went through difficulty, How would you know that I'm a Deliverer?
- If you never had a trial, How would you know that I'm a Comforter?
- If you never made a mistake, How would you know that I'm Forgiving?
- If you know it all, How would you know that I will answer your questions?
- If you never were in trouble, How would you know that I will come to your rescue?
- If you never were broken, How would you know that I can make you whole?
- If you never had a problem, Then how would you know that I can solve them?
- If you never had known suffering, Then how would you know what I went through?
- If you never went through the fire, Then how would you become pure?
- If I gave you all things, How would you appreciate them?
- If I never corrected you, How would you know that I love you?
- If you had all power, Then how would you learn to depend on me?
- If your life was perfect, Then what would you need me for?

The Second 10 Commandments

1. Thou shalt not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
2. Thou shalt not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
3. Thou shalt not cross bridges before you come to them, for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.
4. Thou shalt face each problem as it comes. You can only handle one at a time anyway.
5. Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.
6. Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems. They can better care for them than you can.
7. Thou shalt not try to re-live yesterday for good or ill, it is forever gone. Concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now!
8. Thou shalt be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own. It is hard to learn something new when you are talking, and some people do know more than you do.
9. Thou shalt not become "bogged down" by frustration, for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.
10. Thou shalt count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

Shake it off and step up!

This parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule.

The mule fell into the farmer's well. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened...and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back, a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back...HE SHOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP! This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up!" He repeated to encourage himself. No matter how painful the blows, or how distressing the situation seemed the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, STEPPED TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE WALL OF THAT WELL!

What seemed like it would bury him, actually helped him...all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity. THAT'S LIFE! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity...THE ADVERSITIES THAT COME ALONG TO BURY US USUALLY HAVE WITHIN THEM THE VERY REAL POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT US

Releasing Your Potentials

'Ranti Ogunkunle

Introduction

The story is told of a man who died and went to heaven. There, he saw Apostle Peter. And believing that Apostle Peter had access to information on the whole world, he asked the Apostle; "Who was the greatest General of all time?" The Apostle Peter pointed to a man who was standing nearby. "That man," said the Apostle, "was the greatest General of all time."

But the new arrival in heaven protested. "It's impossible," he said, "I knew that man down there on the earth. He was just a common labourer." "Well," replied the Apostle, "I didn't know he ended up a common labourer. By the records here, he was destined to be the greatest General of all time."

Dear friend, I want to challenge you as you read this write-up, to rise up and fulfil your destiny. I want to challenge you, to discover your God-given potentials, to develop and to maximise those potentials.

What Is Potential?

Your potential is your latent ability. Your potential is the unused power, hidden talents, and untapped strength.

Potential is all you can be but have not yet become. It is all you can achieve but have not yet achieved.

God has invested gifts and talents in your life, which if exploited, can make you an outstanding success. Take time today, and list the talents that God has invented in your life. Then develop those talents to world class. You will succeed.

Myles Munroe, a motivational speaker says; "That the wealthiest spots in the world are not the oil deposits or diamond mines, they are in the cemeteries!" Think about that.

In the cemeteries, eternally trapped in the dead are great visions and dreams that never became reality. In the cemeteries are books that may never be written and songs we may never hear.

Let me ask you, dear friend, who can you be that you have not yet become? What can you accomplish that you have not yet accomplished?

The situation in our country today cries out to the gifts and talents God has invested in us.

We will make it as a nation and as individuals, when we take responsibility for our situation. We must not accept the present situation as our destiny. Let us rise to the occasion.

Theodore Roosevelt, former American President said, "You must give ability responsibility to expose its possibilities. Do all you can where you are with all you have".

Dear friend, you are a genius waiting to be revealed. You are gifted to be an expert in a particular profession. Find your area of gifting. Then give your job your best shot.

Make no excuses for laziness. Your diligence will create opportunities for you.

Proverbs 18:16 says, "A man's gift will make room for him, and bring him before great men."

Your gifts and talents will make room for you in Jesus name.

You are created to be a star in life. You are born to shine. Right inside you now, are wonderful abilities that can bless humanity. Dig them out, refine them and unleash them on this world.

God never made a failure. Any one who has a gift or talent has the potential for success.

The fact that you failed an examination or interview or in business or in marriage does not make you a failure.

The seed of success is inside you. The seed best describes the potential principle. Inside every orange seed sleeps an orange plantation. When you plant an orange seed, it grows into a tree. The tree produces hundreds of fruits, which contains thousands of seeds. Seeds, which if planted, will grow into thousands of orange trees.

We can state therefore, that the death of a seed is the burial of a forest. When you destroy a seed, you have destroyed future. A word of caution here for those who commit abortion. The death of those human seeds in the womb may be death of governors, doctors, engineers, lawyers, great men and women. We must not destroy the future.

Dear friend, your thoughts and ideas are seeds. And inside those dream seeds lie your destiny and your wealth.

Awaken the giant within you. Don't call any situation impossible. Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do. Don't give up. Apply for that job. Write that examination again. Bid for those contracts. You may have experienced a set back in business, but there is still something inside you that will take you back to the top.

Release your Potentials

Oliver Wendell Holmes, former U.S judge said, "what lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us". So I say to you, dear friends, that there is a great man or woman inside you. Let this greatness find expression in your life.

Manufacturers of different kinds of equipment give you manuals when you buy their products. In a manual, you have a picture of the product, where the different parts are identified. Usually, the instruction says that you should not plug-in the equipment until you have gone through the manual.

But the point is this; it's only the manufacturer who can adequately describe the full potential of a product. We must realise that we are not creatures of chance. God created us to fulfil great destinies on this earth. He is the one who can accurately describe the potentials he has invested in our lives. Thank God He has given us his manual - the Bible. The Bible shows us who we are and what we can do. It tells us that we are created in Gods class. It shows us that we can dominate this earth. It describes how the devil came to scuttle Gods plan for our lives and then reveals how Jesus came, died and rose again to make it possible for us to succeed in this life.

Dear friend, God's manual, the Bible says that you have the potential to create wealth, To imagine things and bring them into reality, to ask and receive what you want from God, to trample over all satanic forces and prevail.

Read the Bible. Pray everyday. You will discover, develop and maximise your potentials.

You will succeed (Joshua 1: 8).

God does not only see us the way we are, He also sees us the way we could be. All that we see is not all there is. As the year is just beginning, there are coming attractions in your lives that can only be released as you release your potentials. I challenge you again: release your potentials.

Do you want your life to be celebrated this year? – Please release your potentials.

To release your potentials, consider the following steps:

1. **Stay connected to your source.** God is the tree. We are only branches. A branch releases its potentials as long as it is connected to the tree. So, stay connected to God in order to release your potentials.
2. **Understand your resources.** All manufacturers supply necessary resources for the maintenance of their products. For example, the Bible is your spiritual resource just like food is your physical resource.
3. **Have the right environment.** Different seeds grow in different environments. Man was designed to flourish in God's garden. Stay in God's presence. The presence of God is the best environment for the release of your potentials. Maintain an atmosphere of joy around your life.
4. **Work out your potential.** God created man with vast potentials, and taught him to work, so as to release these potentials. Set goals for yourself. Task yourself. Rare solutions will come out of your brain. Then through work, you will see your dreams turn to reality.
5. Finally, **share your potential.** We are created for connection. Potential is maximally released when it is shared. Human beings give carbon dioxide to plants. Plants give oxygen to human beings. You see, what you have is a seed. Sow it into other people's lives. When you give, it comes back in good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

Dear friend, as you give life your best shot, as you dream and work hard, God will bless the labour of your hands. You will become outstanding in your field.

The solutions to our problems in this country will come through you as you release your potentials.



Rufus Oladosu

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Mathew 5:14-16).

The Shinning Light

The Church of God as a corporate entity is a lighthouse of the world. Within the Church is the one who is “the true light that gives light to every man coming into the world” (John 1:7). Since the life which is the light of men (John 1:4) is resident in every true believer, it is expected that He who partakes of His life should shine. There can be no shinning when the light has not come. But when the light (Christ’s life) has been received the only reasonable thing to do is to shine (Isaiah 60:1).

It is very important to remember that God has a great expectation concerning the Church. There is no replacement arrangement in case the Church fails.

The divine plan for the world is centred on the Church. Just as the value of a thing is appraised by how much one is willing to pay for it, the importance of the Church can easily be seen by the sacrifice that God made for her. How glorious it shall be if the Church in general and members in particular begins to realise that the continual existence of the Church is tied to being the lighthouse of God to this dark world. A light that does not shine will be an anachronism. So a Christian that refuses to shine will be self-destruct.

What it means to shine

First and foremost, every thing that God does in a believer is meant to show how God intended things to be in the beginning. It is meant to show God’s original intent and purpose. God desires to show the world how it would have been if man did not fall. The reality of Christianity is that God is restoring us to the position and relationship Adam & Eve once enjoyed before the fall. God’s original plan has not failed, for no plan of His can be thwarted (Job 42:2).

It is self-evident that man having gone far away from the Lord, has lost the grasp on that which is real and satisfying. Satan instead has delivered the counterfeit to men. Satan gives lust in place of love, covetousness in place contentment and the likes. However, the existence of a counterfeit indicates that somewhere there is a real thing. That is what God wants to demonstrate through you and me. He desires we show a different alternative to living; an unpretentious life of joy, peace, purity and power in Christ. Service and self-sacrifice from the one in authority, faithfulness, and dedication to duty, calmness and courage in times of great challenges, chastity in the midst of corruption and love & commitment even when they are not reciprocated are some of the virtues and hallmark of the Christian life. It is not our songs, stickers and shouts of hallelujah that the world is waiting for. It already has

plenty of them. However, when we begin to practice the word and not only to preach it, we will get the attention of those around us and guide them to the life-transforming saviour.

It is sad that the popular opinion about the concept of New Birth is wrong. The New Birth is thought to be an end in itself. So the only message people often hear is “You must be born again”. There is no denying of the fact that without this experience one cannot enter God’s kingdom. The fact is , the New Birth is an entrance into a new life, which has its own rules and principles that must be adhere to. “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind” (Ephesians 4:17). True Christianity is revealed through godly conduct and not mere confession, practice of precepts and not just preaching. When the world sees your good works, they will acknowledge your uniqueness and praise your father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16). Practising the precepts of our faith will do far more to advance the cause of Christ in this age more than any other thing.

Overcoming Obstacles to Shinning

Since the emancipation of the people of this world is hinged on the ministry of the Church, it is not surprising that the devil will try his utmost to cover our light or disconnect us from the power source. However, through adequate and accurate information and application of it, we will not fall into the foxholes of the devil (2Corinthians 2:11). To this end we should pay attention to the following points:

1. Make sure your light has come.

The scripture says “Arise, Shine; for your light has come” (Isaiah 60:1). The light here signifies the life of Christ. Before we can shine brightly with the glory of God you must surrender to God and receive eternal life (John 3:16). You must have an assurance of salvation.

2. Be rightly connected.

Jesus says, “without me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). It is self-evident that the life we live as Christians is God’s life. Hence, an adequate fellowship is necessary to actualise the potentials of that life. Whatever is making you too busy to commune with God is injurious to your effectiveness. The death of a tree plucked by the roots will not be apparent immediately, but within a short a short time it will dry up. So stay connected.

3. Deal with all encumbrances and dissipations.

They are like heavy rain clouds that often block the light of the sun. The scripture calls them weight. If we desire God’s glory to radiate brightly through us, we must jettison them (Hebrews 12:1). These include unprofitable relationships, activities and bad habits. When these shrouds are removed our light will shine brightly and God’s name will be glorified among the nations.

God bless you and keep you shinning till the time of His appearing in Jesus Name (Amen).

Kingdom for Kids

Matthew 18:3 (... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven).
Matthew 19:14 (... Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven).

Hi Kids, The link believe that you are a part of God's kingdom too and God is interested in reaching you at your level and influencing you to show more interest in the Lord.
Come along with us as we go on a parley ride together. Have a wonderful time.

Brain Teaser

There are the names of 16 books of the Bible in the passage bellow. See how many you can find:

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts...and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so that she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

Bible BEE ©A kid's Heart-akidsheart.com

Change the order of the letters below to find things that we should "Bee"

			HINT (Check the passages below)
1.	LUHFATN	BE _____	Psalms 100:4
2.	INDETGIL	BE _____	Proverbs 27:23
3.	ATHUFFLI	BE _____	Revelation 2:10
4.	RGOTSN	BE _____	Ephesians 6:10
5.	IMFECRLU	BE _____	Luke 6:36
6.	NDIK	BE _____	Ephesians 4:32
7.	OEDSR	BE _____	James 1:22
8.	LDGA	BE _____	Psalms 32:11
9.	ESOVORCUT	BE _____	1Peter 3:8
10.	OETNTCN	BE _____	Phillipians 4:11
11.	USGAOEUROC	BE _____	Psalms 31:24
12.	SEIW	BE _____	Proverbs 8:33

The Bible

Preparing for a long trip, a traveler said to his friend: "I am just about packed. I only have to put in a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sword, a hammer and a set of books I have been studying."

"But," the friend replied, "you can't get all that into your bag."

"Oh, yes," replied the traveler, "it doesn't take much room." He placed his Bible in the corner of the suitcase and closed the lid.

Always delight in the word of God, the Bible, it contains all you need to make it through your journeys on the earth:

Proverbs 4:20-23 (My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh).

A Child's Perspective of God

Written by Danny Dutton, age 8 from Chula Vista, California, for his third grade homework assignment to "Explain God."

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way, He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK.

His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore, He could stay in Heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only, more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy it's God. Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong! And, besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

And that's why I believe in God.

(Editor's Note: Why don't you believe in God like this little friend in this writing above? Jesus loves you so much and he delight in becoming your Lord, allow Him today).

EXPLORE

In the beginning God created everything perfect and He had wonderful fellowship with Adam and Eve. But man decided to disobey God. This resulted in sin and death.

Saviour for You

God didn't want us to die and live without Him forever. He said, "I will die in your place." So God (Jesus) came to this earth and died on the cross and shed His blood for us. If we believe this and accept Him into our heart as our Saviour, He forgives us for disobedience and we are born into God's family.

Forgiveness

Now when God looks at us, He doesn't see our "black" sin, but a clean heart that is forgiven. Forgiveness makes us clean and white as newly fallen snow.

Growth

As we yield ourselves to Him, we grow as a Christian. Just as green plants and trees grow and produce fruit, so we grow in our Christian life and produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Special Promises

As we go through life, we have a precious promise that is as "good as gold." God has promised that as His child we will live with Him forever in His wonderful home called heaven, where the streets are paved with gold.

Do you want to be a part of His wonderful family and accept Jesus today?

If you do, He will forgive your sin and make you one of His children. All you have to do is talk to Him and ask Him. He will hear you because God sees and hears us right now.

You can pray a prayer like this, if you would like:

Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me for all my sins and come into my heart right now.

Thank you, Jesus, for forgiving me my sins and coming into my heart right now. Amen.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

DO I LOVE THE LORD?

God's utmost desire for man, created in His image and ransomed by the Blood of His dear Son, is for man to love Him and keep His commandment. If you ask many in the Church today "Are you serving God?", they will answer you positively saying, "I am a Pastor, I am an Evangelist" and so on. Pause a bit however and ask yourself this question "Do I love the Lord?". Can you sincerely say "I love the Lord"? In what way(s) have you proved this to God himself and to the whole world? Lets us examine the following:

How obedient are you to the word of the Lord and instructions of the Holy Spirit?

The new testament alone contains about 1,050 commands. Do you obey these commands?

Remember disobedient is equal to rebellion and rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (*1 Samuel 5:22^b-23^a... Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*)

Jesus says, **If you love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15)**

The Scripture says in 1John 2:4-5, "If someone says, "I belong to God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and does not live in the truth, but those who obey God's word really do love him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in him (NLT)".

Don't you love the world?

You need to show that you love the Lord by what else you love.

Remember that the Lord cannot share your heart with the world. Anyone that loves the world the love of the father is not in him (*1John 2:15-17 -Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world. And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever*)(NLT)

The Scripture says in I John 5:21 **"Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts"**(NLT).

Do you have a genuine love for our brethren?

You need to have a sincere love for each other.

Let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions (1John 3:18)

Anyone who hates another Christian is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them. We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters. But if anyone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to help—how can God's love be in that person?

Jesus says in Matthew 10:34-35, **"now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."**(NLT)

Do you share Christ with others?

Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 says, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

How do you react in adverse situations?

You need to realize those who love God have to always be joyful, keep on praying, and always be thankful, irrespective of happenings. For this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus (1Thessalians 5:17)(NLT).

All things will work together for your good (Romans 8:28).

Those who put their trust in the Lord will be like mount Zion that cannot be moved (Psalm 125:1).

You need to move situation and not the situation moving you.

Do you labor for God or seek personal gain?

You need to serve God earnestly not because of what the Lord will give to you but out of a passion for the Lord and to bring glory to Him continually. Your labour for God determines your love for Him.

Do you serve God or mammon (money & riches)? Jesus says in Luke 16:18 "You cannot serve God and mammon"

Do you desire to know Him more so that you can serve Him better or you seek know Him to get bread. Press forward as did Apostle Paul in Philipians 3:12 (But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be (NLT).

You need to identify yourself in the plan of God for His body and begin to pursue it vigorously. GOD BLESS YOU.