

Introduction

There are three potent keys in the Bible that every Believer must arm themselves with, for a fruitful and effective Christian life. They are faith, hope and love (1 Corinthians 13:13). Many believe in God but often find themselves at the point of weariness because while they believe in the promises, they have not positioned nor equipped themselves to be able to receive all that God would have for them. Have you ever been at the point where you felt like your walk with God was more on the theoretical side than the side overflowing with the manifestations of the hand of God?

That is not what God had in mind when He sent His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ to give you a new hope. I need you to understand that the blood of Jesus is too special and mighty to only give you quotes and a good theology. Jesus speaking in John 10:10 tells us that He came to shed His blood, to defeat Satan so that you can live life in abundance. Your Christianity means nothing if you do not use it to draw from heaven the mind-blowing full life that God wants you to have. Remember Isaiah 8:18 says that you are for "signs and wonders" in the land, but you will need to equip yourself to receive this promise all through the year.

This 14-day devotional aims to equip and position you to pull from the heavenly realm all the blessings that has mark out with your name. Without faith it is impossible to receive from God what His heart is desperate to bless you with. You serve a prayer answering God and His response to you is Yes and Amen, but you need faith to receive it from where it is stored. As you are setting goals for the new year, first make sure that you have the capacity through the tool of faith to make those goals a reality. I am praying that as you journey through this devotional through the book of Hebrews chapter 11 and other scriptures, you will begin to experience a spiritual shift that will position you to draw wonders from heaven all throughout your days on the earth in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Mimi Ajala Founder and President Mimi Ajala Ministries

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

+ Day 1

"...Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Goal, goals, goals! It's that time of the year where all you see and hear about is goal setting. Some of us started the process of goal setting from the last quarter of the previous year and that is fantastic. As children of God, many of us separated ourselves in prayer and fasting for God to show us what the new year has in store for us. If you haven't done this before, I want to encourage you to do so because it is never too late.

God doesn't just speak to prophets and ministers; He speaks to all His children that would care to listen. Habakkuk 2:1 says "I will stand upon my watch... and will watch to see what He will say to me...". Based upon what inspirations, instructions, directions and revelations we receive from God, many of set our goals at the beginning of the year. However, what is rarely mentioned is how overwhelming seeing the magnitude of those goals can be. I know that is where a lot of people find themselves. Standing at the beginning of the year extremely hopeful and excited of what this new year as in store while fighting the fears that their goals seem impossible.

The truth is that if you got your goals for 2022 from God, your goal is humanly impossible. Why? God speaks to you from the greatness of His capacity not the inadequacy of your capacity, so while what He has set in your heart seems in possible from your point of view, it is very possible with God.

Take those goals and place the responsibility of achieving them on the shoulders of the One who has the capacity to make them happen. This doesn't void you of all responsibilities, but it gives room for the God of impossibilities to do through you, things that you are struggling to comprehend and gives you the freedom to labour towards all your goals in faith.

"Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of the things we cannot see." Hebrews 11:1

Our imagination is one of the greatest tools God has given us. It is with our imagination that we build, and it is with our imagination that we destroy. As you begin to stare at the pages of the journal where you have written your goals for the year, it is important that you take a moment for those goals to swirl through your spirit, drenching your soul until a picture is formed in your mind. So many want to hit the year running but not many have a clear picture of what they are running towards. God places in your hands what cannot be seen with the natural eyes, but you have seen with your spiritual eyes. Until your spirit paints a picture in your mind, your faith cannot place it in your hands.

God was speaking to the prophet in Jeremiah 1:11 - 12 and asked Him, "What do you see?"

The prophet responds "I see.." God then continues to say, "You have observed correctly...I am watching over My word to accomplish it.". What is it that you see? What picture has the goals you are setting painted for the eyes of your spirit to see. God promises to watch over that picture that has been painted to bring it to pass. Sit down each day with your goals before you and meditate on them, allowing the Holy Spirit of God to form a picture in your imagination and watch as God begin to accomplish them little by little throughout the year

I pray that even from today that you will see a clear picture of what God is trying to accomplish through and in you. I speak to the eyes of your spirit and command them to open up to see as God sees and I join my faith with yours and ask that God in the name of Jesus, will watch over what He has birthed in your heart to accomplish it even to your amazement. Amen.

LET'S CREATE

+ Day 3

"By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen." Hebrews 11:3

God is a creator and as His children, we have been designed and called to create just like our heavenly Father. Faith builds, it does not destroy. Faith is what is used to create a life and a world that humanity will be blessed by. You might be reading and thinking I am not looking to do anything massive, I just want to do better this year and that is fine. But know that even with the picture that looks small in your eyes, God is working it together to create something through you. We know Him as the God of suddenly but few have come to discover that God is the God of little by little. In Exodus 23:27-30, God begins to paint a picture in the hearts of the children with prophecies of establishing them in their promise land. He gives a vivid image driving the Canaanites and Hittites out of the land so that the Israelites would become established. God had this massive vision but what some of the Israelites wanted was so simple and small, a place to call their own. God intended to fulfil what looked like a small desire and use it to birth and create what generations would glean from. With all of this in the mind of God, how would He do it? The bible says in verse 30,

I will drive them (anything opposing the promise of God being fulfilled in your life) out a little at a time.

Some of you are believing God to buy your own home this year, to get a better job or to take a leap of faith into something new but God will use that same small desire to create something astonishing. However, He will sometimes do it little by little. Each routine that you develop, each godly and wise habit that you form, every small step you take this year, will lead you to become a co-creator with the Almighty. Get excited about your dreams and desires. Get excited about creating with God, no matter how small it may be.

I pray that God with give you a builder's mindset and that you will allow God to use your life and resources to build what generations after you will glean from. Amen.

SURRENDER

+ Day 4

"It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man." Hebrews 11:4

One of the key aspects of faith, is surrendering to God, to His will and to His way. One of the easiest mistakes people make is to take God's vision and try to accomplish it via their own will and their own way. The result of such a folly is God refusing to be a part of whatever we are trying to accomplish. If God removes Himself from your plan, then immediately your plans become impossible, and you find yourself fighting a losing battle.

In Genesis 4, you see the two sons of Adam and Eve display ways to engage with God. Abel accepted that God wanted the best of himself as an offering. Abel also gave to God an offering that required the shedding of blood. This is something Abel would have picked up from the story of how God had rescued his parents when they sinned. By repeating the same act that God performed in the previous chapter you see how Abel surrendered his life to the ways of God. Abel came to God in need of Him. This pleased God and God regarded Him. That simply means God bestowed worth on Him. However, Cain, like many Christians, came to God with a level of arrogance. He was going to do all the Christian stuff, he would come to God, he would bring an offering, but He will do it his way not God's. Some of us will pray to God to guide us when in fact we have already made up our mind. Cain goes on to bring the works of his hands to the Lord in a display of what his might had gotten him.

It is so easy to develop ourselves to a point where we begin to think that we have prospered because of the personal development and wisdom we have acquired. No matter where God lifts you to, the door that opens before you, the wisdom you gain, surrender your ways to God. Ask Him continuously what He will have you do. It is His vision so ensure that you do it His way.

If you have found yourself reflecting Cain's heart and the previous year for you has been nothing but frustrations and failures, don't condemn yourself. But decide to do what will keep God involved in your plans and goals throughout the year. I pray that God will give you the grace to stay humble before Him, surrendering to His leadership at every stage through the year. Amen.

"By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God." Hebrews 11:5

When it comes to faith, you cannot emerge as a person of faith without making your relationship with God a priority. Faith requires you to trust God but you cannot trust someone that you do not know. A relationship with God that will fuel great faith like the faith that empowered Moses to lead millions of Israelites through the Red Sea unharmed, is more than a shallow fling with God and the routine church service. Such a faith is brought about by walking with God daily. In making plans for the year, make plans for a deeper walk with God that involves an unbreakable commitment. Many want to get from God only what those that are married to His Son, Jesus are entitled to while only wanting Christ as a sugar daddy, Santa or a genie. Imagine a spouse that only comes to you when they need something from you, that is a marriage that is heading for destruction. Christ is searching for intimacy and wants to draw you deeper in Him with each interaction.

Great faith is birthed in moments of intimacy, where God draws you into Himself and you see (not told) the greatness of His power. You cannot doubt a person whose capacity has been unveiled to you. Imagine encountering a work colleague who looked just like every colleague but one day because your relationship had deepened, they invited you to their home and you discovered that they were in fact a wealthy aristocrat that works for pleasure and not due to a need of finance. If this colleague promises you certain things, you won't struggle to believe that they could do it, your response might be gratitude but probably not disbelief. God wants you to get to know Him intimately so that when you see His glory, you won't struggle to believe Him. The issue we have today is that many of us know about God from our pastors, ministers and fellow Christians and while that is great, you can know God intimately too. The blood of Jesus took away the need for a middleman so that you could come to him directly so grab that opportunity by consistently spending time with God in prayer and His word daily. Find opportunities not just to build yourself up in your business or career but in your spiritual walk with God. Go deeper so that you can believe bigger.

I pray that there will be a fresh desire for God in your life, that you will yearn for Him more than you yearn for progress. Amen.

SET YOUR EXPECTATIONS

+ Day 6

"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Hebrews 11:6

What you don't expect from God you will not get from Him. It's that simple. Some of us try to escape the need for expectation because we fear that if we expect and it does not come to pass then we will have to deal with the pain of disappointment. We don't know that by succumbing to such thinking, we imprison ourselves and block ourselves from receiving anything from God. Satan wants you to be so focused on the fear of disappointment that you don't see the possibility of receiving your expectation from God.

As a child of God, your expectation and prayers that rise to heaven are not like other people who have no relationship with God. Your relationship with God through faith in His son gives you a guarantee and that is "...the desire of the righteous will be granted." Proverbs 10:24.

You don't have to fear disappointment because it is God's delight to grant you your desire. Rest on this truth, God will only not give you a desire that will do you harm. Therefore, free yourself from fear and bring your expectations before the Lord, come boldly and excited about the great possibility that God is going to grant all your expectations. Just like expectant mothers who wait in anticipation for the arrival of their bundle of joy, you too anticipate the arrival of your testimony, prepare to receive what you are asking for, knowing that you have a guarantee that your expectations will be granted.

I pray against every discouragement that wants to turn you away from your hopes and expectation especially during the waiting season in Jesus name. Amen.

"By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household." Hebrew 11:7

The efficacy of your faith rests on your ability to action what God has put in your heart. Your goals are as worthless as the piece of paper that they are written on if you refuse to do what God has laid in your heart to do. Make plans to do not just set goals. Until you action your plans, you will not see the miracle of what you are believing God for. Especially in this generation, we get so excited about writing our plans out for the year. We invest in beautiful and expensive journals. If you are like me, you might be excited by the arrays of pens and highlighters in your pen case. Others are really techy with different templates they have sourced online. Again, this is all great, do whatever you need to do to make you feel organised and excited about your plans for the new year but don't be like the masses that simply stop and feel accomplished by writing down plans but completely forget these plans in February. By August, most of the goal setting population have forgotten what they wrote, or even where the journal is. Then, anxiety begins to sink in by October/November because they look at their life and find that they are still in the same spot they were the previous year only now a year older. That is not the life God wants us to live however, we will continuously end in that same spot unless we place a greater emphasis on actioning the plans than writing the plans.

The children of Israel would have remained slaves in the land of Egypt if they refused to rise and leave Egypt when God created a way, they would have been slain by the angel of death if they didn't apply the blood to their doorpost. They would have been slaughtered by Pharaoh's avenging army if they did not step into the Red Sea. The prize is in the action. We can decree and declare what God has spoken to us, we can write it in our Bibles and even frame it on our wall. But like Noah until we decide to start building the ark that God has commanded, we set up ourselves to suffer what God planned to exempt us from.

I pray that you will receive the grace, that is the empowerment, to action all the plans God has set before you this year in Jesus name. Amen.

ADVENTURING INTO THE UNKNOWN

+ Day 8

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going." Hebrews 11:8

Imagine waking up, packing your all that you own and leaving everything that you know, the stability of routine, family and finance to follow God. However, that's not the best bit. If leaving everything you know is not crazy enough, when your family ask where you are following God to, your response is "I don't know". As I write, I am laughing out loud as to how insane this is and if many of us were Sarah how our response would be, "You must have lost your mind if you think I am leaving stability and you don't even know where you are going.". But thank God Sarah packed her bag and decided to see this move as an adventure and not simply a scary mission doomed to fail.

The truth is some the goals that you have written for the year will require you embarking on an adventure of the unknown. The adventure will not always give you stability, it may cause you think of what is wrong with you and look at what is behind but like Abraham, God will tell you to lift your eyes and see. In the desert, the unknown, God caused Abraham to dream with Him. An adventure with God is not one you want to run away from because He will make out of you what your mind may not be able to comprehend right now but He simply wants you to take a step of faith and come on an adventure with Him. Remember that the just shall live by faith (Romans 1:17). This means we are often called into the unknown.

I pray that God will give you the brave heart needed to approach the unknown so that you can end up in the promise. Amen.

"For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God." Hebrews 11:10

One of the amazing things about the story of Abraham was He had pitched His tent with God. He was solely interested in what God was able to build for Him than what He could build with others or even by Himself. Abraham did not forge an idea in his mind and then try to force the hand of God to bless it. He knew that God is the ultimate master grand designer and made His life clay in the hand of God. People achieve great things every day without any faith in God and you could honestly do the same. But the truth is that whatever we accomplish without God only tells us how much more could have been accomplished if we allowed the Master builder to take the lead.

When you look at the universe and the fact that what God created so long ago is still standing strong by the power of His word. When people build without God, they build for a moment and what they have built sits on sinking sand. This is because like grass when God is ready, those accomplishments can be wiped away from them and from the face of the earth.

Abraham was presented with an opportunity to walk into a level of prosperity, and with great confidence, he shut the door, denying anyone the opportunity to claim that they made it. Abraham was desperate to experience what God could build because He knew that no one builds like God. This year, it's easy to take the seat as the chief builder and lead architect but refuse the urge and give God the room to build in your life something that your children's children will inherit.

I pray for you today that God will build with your life what will be a mighty masterpiece in Jesus name. Amen.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

+ Day 10

"By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised." Hebrews 11:11

Every time we experience a challenge, a trial and a difficulty in pursuit, Satan will use the experience to squeeze every faith out of us. The aim of the enemy is that if you are pressed hard enough then you will doubt the heart of God towards you. You may believe He is a healer but you will begin to doubt whether He wants to heal you. You end up listening to testimonies and write yourself off because you have waited long on the promise of God and still not seen His hand perform. No one can deny that you've had faith, fasted but now time has passed and still nothing. Discouragement kicks in not at the beginning of receiving God's promises but in the process of time where we begin to become weary. We trap the timeless God in our timeline and shut Him out of doing wonders in our lives. Just like Sarah, decide that God is faithful even though you have waited and carried the heavy weight of the disappointment that waiting on God can cause.

Yes, you can see everything happening around you, time is running out, some will even say the time has already ran out but judge God faithful. If He said it, He will perform it. Regardless of the storm raging around you, decide to rest in the character of God. He just cannot fail you. Look back at all the times that He came through and rescued you, count your testimonies and you will see that God has not failed you yet and He won't start failing you now.

I pray that when the devil tries to discourage you and convince you that you have no hope, that God will strengthen you in the inner man. Amen.

DEAD BONES CAN RISE

+ Day 11

"Therefore, from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." Hebrew 11:12

Never lose hope as a child of God. It doesn't matter what the situation looks like and who has said what, if where you are right now does not look like the promise, then God is not done with you just yet. That is the assurance that we have in our heavenly Father. The best thing is that we have seen over and over, where God makes greatness come out of what is dead or what seems dead. If God could breathe life into lifeless clay and form a living being, His same breath can breathe into your circumstance regardless of how hopeless it seems and bring wonder out of it. God masters in making dead things blossom. He did it with Lazarus, He did it with the dry bones and He did it with the deadness of Sarah's womb.

Never lose hope because in the Kingdom of God dead things do rise again. Jesus conquered death and the fear of death for every one of us that believe in Him. Whenever you remember that Jesus rose from death, then a new hope must burst into your heart, knowing that if life can come after death, then life can come from whatever challenge you are facing that appears to be hopeless.

I pray that God will raise everything that seems dead in your life, whether it is a marriage, a lost job, lost purpose or passion in Jesus name. Amen.

FAITH FOR GENERATIONS

+ Day 12

"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised..." Hebrews 11:13

Have you taken a moment to realise that God promised Abraham descendants as many as the stars of heaven (Genesis 15:5) and verse 6 Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6)? God promised this to Abraham at a point where he was very old and did not have even one child.

However, when Abraham died the only thing he had in his hand from God was Isaac. Abraham closed his eyes on the earth and only saw Isaac. At this point it was the end and he could have cursed God and be convinced by Satan to believe that God had not fulfilled His promise but instead Abraham in Genesis 25 looked at Isaac and believed in the promise of God. Even though all He saw was Isaac at the point of His death, He still believed God because He understood that God's work in our lives is not limited to our lifetime but to generations after us.

God is a God of generations, therefore, some of the promises that God has given you will manifest in the lives of your generation after you. You are planting the seed of faith now but also be aware that those mighty seeds of faith will germinate fruits for your children and theirs, not just natural children but spiritual also (people that God has tied your destiny to).

Look now and see that whether you a Christian or others who are Muslim or Jewish, all call Abraham father, a number too great to count from generation to generation. Abraham didn't see the fulfilment of that promise from this side of the earth, but He saw God fulfil every bit of His promise from heaven's throne room.

Stop boxing God in the tiny frame of your short life. What He is trying to fulfil in your life will reverberate through generations after you. God is a God of generation, and He is releasing generational blessings through your daily faith walk.

I pray that God will bestow upon you a generation blessing, that will cause the generations after you to bless the God of heaven because you lived. Amen.

LAY IT ON THE ALTAR

+ Day 13

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac...He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead..." Hebrews 11:17-19

Obsessing over achieving a goal is a trap that we can easily fall into. This is because there is a thin line between having great faith and pursuing the promise and allowing the promise to become a god in your eyes. It is important to stop yourself from getting to a place where you will do anything to achieve something even if it means dishonouring or displeasing God. The beauty of faith is that God is at the centre of it all. We are chasing Him, we are in love with Him, we want what He wants, we believe in Him, and we want to partner with Him. It's about Him and who we have elevated Him to be in our lives.

When faith is about you, it will not bring forth anything great but when faith is about God, then He unveils the beauty of His wonder and glory in your life. When Abraham was tested to see whether he loved the promise more than the God of the promise, he chose to be without the promise so that He could be with God. Abraham rushed early in the morning with a willing heart to lay the promise. God didn't have to encourage him, Abraham encouraged himself by resting on the character of the One he trusted.

This year as you pursue your goals, keep God first, don't walk away from Him in pursuit of your dreams. Place the promise on the altar because the hand of God is the safest place for those dreams.

I pray that nothing will steal your heart from God, and He will remain the priority of your life. I pray that your faith will be all about God and not just obtaining the promise. Amen.

"He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead..." Hebrews 11:19

There are times when you will find that your life looks nothing like the promise. There are times where it will look like you have received your promise from God and suddenly, all you have believed for looks like it's about to be snatched out of your hands. In those moments, trust God. God is a promise keeper and because He is a keeper of His promises, you can have absolute faith in God no matter what you gain or appear to lose in life. The stability of your faith is not in the wins of life but in the character of God. If He spoke, somehow, He will do it.

Abraham finally received the promised of a son after waiting on God to do it for 25 years. Now God was asking for the promised son (Isaac) needed for Abraham to have descendants as many as the stars in the sky to be killed before Isaac was old enough to have a child! But Abraham didn't frown his face at God instead He remained standing sure on the integrity of God to say that if He kills what He promised to use, He can raise it up from the dead. Abraham had at this point not seen like we have that people can be raised from the dead, but he knew God's heart and character.

I heard a powerful statement, "When you can't understand God's hand, trust His heart.". I believe that this statement must become an anchor in the life of every believer because there is no guarantee that you will understand what God is doing or where He is leading you. Sometimes it will appear like you are worse off when you follow God but trust His Heart. You must have absolute faith in the integrity of God.

I pray that when the enemy tries to shake your faith, that God will ensure that your faith will not fail you. Amen.

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