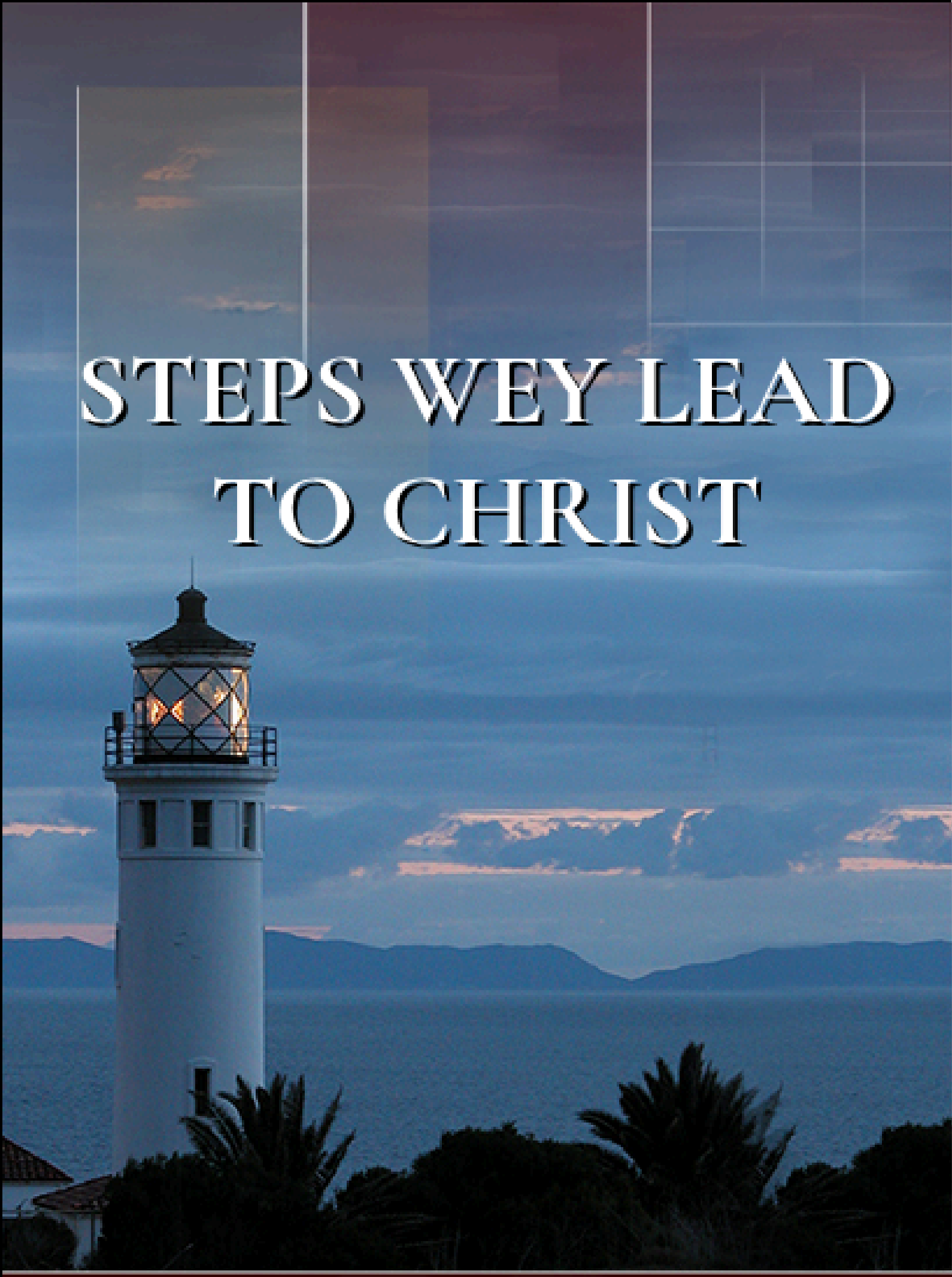
STEPS WEY LEAD TO CHRIST



ELLEN G. WHITE

Steps Wey Lead to Christ

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1 — God Love for All Human Beings

Nature and wetin God don show us both dey testify say God love us. Our Papa wey dey for heaven na the source of life, wisdom, and joy. Look all the wonderful and fine things wey dey for nature. Think about how God arrange everything well to meet the needs and bring happiness, no be only for human beings, but for every living creature. Sunshine and rain wey dey make the earth fresh and happy, the hills, the seas, and the plains, all dey tell us about the love of the Creator. Na God dey provide the daily needs of

all Him creatures. As the psalm writer talk:

"Everybody eye dey look unto You;
And You dey give dem food for the right time.
You open Your hand,
And You satisfy the desire of every living thing."
Psalm 145:15–16

God create human being holy and full of happiness. The beautiful earth, as e come from the Creator hand, no get any sign of decay or curse. Na breaking God law—the law of love—bring sorrow and death. But even inside all the

suffering wey sin cause, God love still dey show. Bible talk say God curse the ground because of man (Genesis 3:17). Thorn and thistle—the difficulties and trials wey make life hard—God allow them for our good, as part of the training wey fit help lift us from the destruction and shame wey sin bring. Even though this world don fall, e no be only sorrow and suffering. Nature itself get messages of hope and comfort. Flowers still dey grow among thorns, and roses still dey cover thorn bushes.

The words **"God na Love"** fit be seen for every flower bud wey dey

open and every fresh blade of grass. The sweet birds wey dey sing, the beautiful flowers wey dey spread sweet smell, and the tall green trees for the forest all dey testify about the gentle fatherly care of our God and Him desire to make Him children happy.

God Word dey reveal who God really be. God Himself don declare Him endless love and mercy. When Moses pray, *"Show me Your glory,"* the Lord answer, *"I go make all My goodness pass before you."* (Exodus 33:18–19). Na this be Him glory. The Lord pass before Moses and proclaim:

"The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and full of goodness and truth, showing mercy to thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin." (Exodus 34:6–7)

God dey **slow to anger** and full of kindness because **He delight for mercy** (Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18).

God don tie our hearts to Himself through countless signs for heaven and earth. Through nature and through the deepest love wey human beings fit know, God don try reveal Himself to us. But all these things no fit fully show how

great Him love be. Even though all these evidences dey, the enemy of good blind people mind. People begin fear God, thinking say He too hard and no dey forgive. Satan make people believe say God main character na strict justice—as if He be harsh judge and hard creditor wey dey always watch people to catch every mistake so He fit punish them. Na to remove this dark picture, and to show the whole world God endless love, Jesus come live among mankind.

The Son of God come from heaven to reveal the Father. Jesus say:

"Nobody don ever see God; na the only begotten Son wey dey close to the Father don make am known." (John 1:18)

And again:

"Nobody know the Father except the Son, and anybody wey the Son choose to reveal am to." (Matthew 11:27)

When one disciple ask Jesus, *"Show us the Father,"* Jesus answer:

"Philip, I don stay with una for long, and you still never know Me? Anybody wey don see Me don see the Father. Why you still dey ask, 'Show us the Father'?" (John 14:8–9)

As Jesus describe Him work for earth, He say:

"The Lord don anoint Me to preach the good news to poor people. He send Me to heal broken hearts, to proclaim freedom for captives, recovery of sight for blind people, and to set free those wey dey oppressed." (Luke 4:18)

Na this be Him work. Everywhere wey Jesus go, He dey do good and heal everybody wey Satan don oppress. Some villages no even get anybody wey dey sick because Jesus pass there heal all of them. Everything wey He do show say God truly send and anoint am.

Love, mercy, and compassion show for every part of Him life. Him heart full of pity for people. He take human nature so He fit meet human needs. Even the poorest and humblest people no fear to come near am. Small children sef love to come near Jesus. Dem like climb on top Him lap and look Him gentle face wey full of love.

Jesus never hide truth, but anytime He talk truth, He talk am with love. He treat people with wisdom, kindness, and respect. He never rude. He never use harsh words without reason. He never purposely hurt anybody wey get tender heart.

He no condemn human weakness. He always speak truth with love. He rebuke hypocrisy, unbelief, and sin, but tears dey Him voice when He talk strong correction. He cry for Jerusalem, the city wey He love, because dem refuse to receive am, even though He be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Even when dem reject am, He still pity them with tender love. Him whole life na sacrifice and care for other people. Every soul precious for Him eye. Even though He always carry divine dignity, He still show deep respect and kindness to every member of God family. For every

person, He see somebody wey sin don damage and wey He come to save.

Na so Christ character be, as Him life reveal am. And na so God character be too. Na from the Father heart the rivers of divine compassion flow come through Christ reach all human beings. Jesus, the gentle and merciful Saviour, na **God wey show Himself inside human flesh** (1 Timothy 3:16).

Na to redeem us make Jesus live, suffer, and die. He become **"Man of Sorrows,"** so that we fit share

everlasting joy. God allow Him beloved Son, full of grace and truth, to leave the glory of heaven and come this world wey sin don spoil and darkness don cover. He allow am leave the place of love and angel worship, to suffer shame, insults, humiliation, hatred, and death.

"The punishment wey bring us peace fall on top am, and by Him wounds we don receive healing." (Isaiah 53:5)

Look am for the wilderness, for Gethsemane, and for the cross. The spotless Son of God carry the burden of sin upon Himself. He wey always dey one with God feel

the terrible separation wey sin create between God and mankind. Because of that pain, He cry out:

"My God, My God, why You don forsake Me?" (Matthew 27:46)

Na the heavy burden of sin, the terrible weight of am, and the separation wey e cause between the soul and God, na these things break the heart of the Son of God.

But this great sacrifice no be to make the Father begin love human beings, or to make am willing to save us. No be so at all! Bible talk say, **"God love the world so much**

say He give Him one and only Son." (John 3:16). The Father love us no be because Christ die for us; instead, na because He already love us make He provide the sacrifice wey go save us. Christ na the One wey God use take pour Him endless love reach this fallen world. Bible talk say, **"God dey inside Christ, dey reconcile the world back to Himself."** (2 Corinthians 5:19). God Himself suffer together with Him Son. For the agony of Gethsemane, for the death wey happen for Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love pay the full price for our redemption.

Jesus talk say, **"Na because I lay down My life, so that I fit take am back again, make My Father love Me."** (John 10:17). That one mean say, **"My Father love una so much say He even love Me more because I willingly give My life to redeem una. As I become una Substitute and Surety, as I surrender My life and carry una debts and una sins upon Myself, I become even more precious to My Father. Through My sacrifice, God fit remain just, and at the same time justify everybody wey believe in Jesus."**

Na only the Son of God fit accomplish our redemption. Only

the One wey always dey close to the Father fit truly reveal who the Father be. Na only the One wey know the height, the depth, and the greatness of God love fit make people understand am. Nothing less than the endless sacrifice wey Christ make for fallen mankind fit fully express the Father love for people wey don lose their way.

"God love the world so much say He give Him one and only Son." He no just give am make He come live among human beings, carry their sins, and die as their sacrifice. He give am completely to the fallen human race. Christ choose to

identify Himself with the interests and needs of mankind. The One wey always dey one with God tie Himself to human beings with bonds wey nothing fit ever break. Jesus **"no dey shame to call dem Him brothers."** (Hebrews 2:11). He be our Sacrifice, our Advocate, and our Brother. He still carry our human nature stand before the Father throne, and throughout eternity He go remain one with the people wey He redeem—the Son of Man. All this happen so that human beings fit rise from the destruction and shame wey sin bring, reflect

God love, and share the joy wey holiness bring.

The price wey God pay for our redemption, the endless sacrifice wey our heavenly Father make by giving Him Son to die for us, suppose make us understand how great the future we fit get through Christ. When the inspired apostle John see the height, depth, and width of the Father love toward people wey dey perish, e heart full with worship and deep respect. As e no fit find enough words to describe how great and tender this love be, e call everybody make dem look am well. He write:

"See the kind love wey the Father don show us, say dem fit call us children of God." (1 John 3:1).

See the great value wey this put on top human beings! Through sin, human beings become subjects of Satan. But through faith for the sacrifice wey Christ make to take away sin, the children of Adam fit become children of God. As Christ take human nature upon Himself, He lift humanity up. Fallen people fit stand for a new position where, through their connection with Christ, dem truly fit deserve the name **"children of God."**

This kind love no get equal. Children of the heavenly King! Wetin a precious promise! Na something wey deserve the deepest meditation. God incomparable love for a world wey no love am back! This truth get power to humble the soul and make our minds submit to God will. The more we study God character through the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness joined together with justice and righteousness. We go also see countless proofs of one love wey no get end, and one gentle compassion wey even pass the deep love wey a

mother get for her child wey don wander away.

2 — Why Sinner Need Christ

Human beings, from the beginning, God create dem with noble qualities and one mind wey balance well. Dem perfect for body and character, and dem dey live in complete harmony with God. Dem thoughts pure, and dem desires holy. But because of disobedience, all these good qualities become corrupted, and selfishness take the place of love. Through sin, human nature become so weak say, by human strength alone, nobody fit resist the power of evil. Satan capture mankind, and na so e for remain

forever if God no step in to rescue us. The tempter plan na to spoil God purpose for creating human beings, fill the earth with sorrow and destruction, then point to all this evil as if na God work cause am.

When man never sin, e enjoy sweet fellowship with the One **"wey all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hide inside am."** (Colossians 2:3). But after sin enter, holiness no bring joy again, and man begin hide from God presence. Na so the heart wey never receive new life still be today. E no dey in harmony with God, and e no find

joy for fellowship with am. Sinner no fit truly enjoy God presence. If dem even allow am enter heaven, heaven no go give am joy. The spirit of unselfish love wey reign there, where every heart answer the love of the Infinite God, no go find any response for him soul. Him thoughts, interests, and desires go different completely from those wey holy beings get. E go be like one wrong note inside the sweet music of heaven. Heaven itself go feel like punishment to am. E go want hide from the One wey be the Light and Joy of heaven. No be say God just decide to keep wicked people

outside heaven; na their own condition make dem no fit live there. God glory go be like consuming fire to dem. Dem go even prefer destruction, just to hide from the face of the One wey die to redeem dem.

By ourselves, e impossible make we escape from the deep pit of sin where we don fall. Our hearts evil, and we no fit change am by our own power. Bible ask, **"Who fit bring clean thing from something wey no clean? Nobody."** (Job 14:4). And e still talk say, **"The natural mind dey fight against God, because e no submit to God law,**

and e no even fit submit." (Romans 8:7). Education, knowledge, strong determination, and all human effort get their own place, but none of dem fit change the heart. Dem fit make person behave better outside, but dem no fit cleanse the source of life inside. There must be one power wey work from inside, one new life wey come from heaven, before person fit change from sin to holiness. That power na Christ. Na only Him grace fit bring life to the dead soul and draw am to God and holiness.

The Saviour talk say, **"Except person born from above,"** unless e

receive one new heart, new desires, new purposes, and new motives wey produce one new life, **"e no fit see the kingdom of God."** (John 3:3). The idea say human beings only need develop the little goodness wey naturally dey inside dem na dangerous deception. **"The natural person no receive the things of the Spirit of God, because dem be foolishness to am, and e no fit understand dem."** (1 Corinthians 2:14). Jesus also talk say, **"No wonder say I tell you, you must be born again."** (John 3:7). Bible write about Christ say, **"Inside am na life dey, and that life na the**

light of mankind." (John 1:4). And na only Him name **"wey God give under heaven among human beings, by which we must be saved."** (Acts 4:12).

E no enough just to know say God kind and loving. E no enough to admire Him fatherly care, or understand say Him law wise, just, and built upon everlasting love. Apostle Paul understand all these things when e talk, **"I agree say the law good,"** and **"the law holy, and the commandment holy, just, and good."** But e still cry from the pain of him soul, **"I be fleshly person, sold under sin."** (Romans 7:14). E

desire the purity and righteousness wey e no fit reach by himself, so e cry, **"Oh, wretched man wey I be! Who go rescue me from this body of death?"** (Romans 7:24). Na the same cry burdened hearts don raise from every country and every generation. And to everybody, the answer remain one: **"Look the Lamb of God, wey take away the sin of the world."** (John 1:29).

The Holy Spirit use many different pictures to explain this truth clearly to people wey desire freedom from the burden of sin. After Jacob deceive Esau and run from him father house, guilt weigh heavily

upon him. Alone, rejected, and far from everything wey make life sweet, the greatest fear for him heart be say him sin don separate am from God, and heaven don reject am. One night, as e lie down for bare ground with only hills around am and stars above am, e dream one wonderful dream. E see one great ladder wey stretch from earth reach heaven gate, and angels of God dey go up and come down on top am. Then the voice of God speak from heaven words of comfort and hope. For that dream, God reveal the answer to the deepest need of Jacob soul—a

Saviour. With joy and thanksgiving, Jacob understand say there be one way for sinner to return into fellowship with God. That ladder represent Jesus, the only bridge between God and mankind.

Na the same picture Jesus mention when He talk to Nathanael: **"Una go see heaven open, and the angels of God dey go up and come down upon the Son of Man."** (John 1:51). Through rebellion, mankind separate himself from God, and earth become cut off from heaven. Between both, no connection remain. But through Christ, heaven and earth join together again. By

Him own merits, Christ build bridge across the great gap wey sin create, so ministering angels fit continue to help and communicate with human beings. Christ connect fallen mankind, weak and helpless as we be, with the Source of endless power.

All human dreams about progress, all attempts to improve mankind, dey useless if dem reject the only Source of hope and help for fallen people. **"Every good and perfect gift na from God."** (James 1:17). True excellence of character no fit exist apart from Him. And the only road to God na Christ. Jesus talk

say, **"I be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Nobody fit come to the Father except through Me."** (John 14:6).

God heart dey long for Him children on earth with one love wey even stronger than death. By giving us Him Son, e pour out all heaven give us in one single gift. The life, death, and intercession of Christ, the ministry of angels, the pleading of the Holy Spirit, the Father Himself working above and through everything, and the constant interest of all heavenly beings—all of dem dey work

together for the redemption of mankind.

Oh, make we stop and think deeply about this wonderful sacrifice wey God make for us. Make we appreciate the great work and effort heaven dey spend to bring back those wey don lose their way and return dem to the Father house. Nothing stronger fit ever encourage us than this. The reward of righteousness, the joy of heaven, the company of angels, fellowship with God and Christ, and the endless growth of all our abilities throughout eternity—no be enough reasons to willingly give our hearts

in loving service to our Creator and Redeemer?

On the other hand, God Word also warn us about the service of Satan. The judgments against sin, the certain punishment wey go surely come, the corruption of human character, and the final destruction of evil all stand as serious warnings for everybody wey choose the path of sin.

Shouldn't we appreciate the mercy of God? Wetin again fit God do pass this? Make we put ourselves for the right relationship with the One wey

love us with amazing love. Make we accept all the help wey God don provide for us, so that we fit be transformed to become like Him, and return to fellowship with the ministering angels, and live again in harmony and close communion with the Father and the Son.

3 — Repentance

How person fit stand righteous before God? How sinner fit become righteous? Na only through Christ we fit come into harmony with God and with holiness. But how we go come to Christ? Many people dey ask the same question wey the crowd ask on the Day of Pentecost, when dem become convicted of their sins and cry out, **"Wetin we go do?"** The first thing Peter answer dem be, **"Repent."** (Acts 2:37–38). Later again, e tell dem, **"Repent and turn back to God, so that your sins go wipe away."** (Acts 3:19).

True repentance include sorrow for sin and turning away from am. We no go leave sin unless we first see how sinful e really be. Until our hearts turn away from sin, there no fit be any real change for our lives.

Many people no understand the true meaning of repentance. Plenty people dey feel sorry say dem don sin, and some even change their outward behavior because dem fear the suffering wey their wrong actions fit bring upon dem. But this no be the repentance wey Bible dey talk about. Dem dey cry because of the consequences of sin, no be because of the sin itself. Na so Esau

grieve when e realize say e don lose him birthright forever. Balaam, when e see the angel stand for road with drawn sword, confess him guilt because e fear say e go die; but e never truly repent from him sin. E no change him heart, and e no hate evil. Judas Iscariot too, after betraying Jesus, cry say, **"I don sin because I betray innocent blood."** (Matthew 27:4).

Judas confess because fear and condemnation hold am. E know say judgment dey come, and the terrible consequences frighten am. But e no get that deep sorrow wey break person heart because e betray the

spotless Son of God and reject the Holy One of Israel. Pharaoh too, when God judgments fall on am, admit say e sin only to escape more punishment. As soon as the plagues stop, e return to him stubborn rebellion against God. All these people cry because of the results of sin, but dem never truly grieve because of the sin itself.

But when person heart surrender to the Holy Spirit, the conscience go wake up. The sinner begin understand the holiness and greatness of God law, wey be the foundation of Him government for heaven and earth. The **"Light wey**

dey give light to every person wey come into the world" (John 1:9) shine inside the hidden places of the soul, and expose everything wey darkness hide. Conviction enter both mind and heart. The sinner begin see Jehovah righteousness and feel fear to stand before the One wey know every secret of the heart while still full of guilt and uncleanness. E begin see God love, the beauty of holiness, and the joy of purity. E desire to become clean and return to fellowship with Heaven.

David prayer after him fall show us wetin true repentance really be.

Him repentance sincere and deep. E no try excuse him sin, and e no pray just because e want escape punishment. David see how terrible him transgression be. E recognize the stain wey sin leave for him soul, and e hate him own sin. E no only ask for forgiveness; e ask for one clean heart. E long to enjoy holiness again and return to harmony and fellowship with God. Na this be the cry of him soul:

> **"Blessed na the person wey transgression, whose sin don cover.**
> **Blessed na the person wey the Lord no count him sin against am, and whose spirit no get deceit.** (Psalm 32:1-2)

And again e pray:

> **"Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love.**

> **According to the greatness of your mercy, wipe away all my transgressions... I acknowledge my sins, and my sin always dey before me... Purify me, and I go clean; wash me, and I go whiter than snow. Create inside me one clean heart, O God, and renew one right spirit within me. No cast me away from Your presence, and no take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your willing Spirit... Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, and my tongue go sing aloud about Your righteousness."** (Psalm 51: 1-14)

This kind repentance no be something we fit produce by our own strength. Na only Christ fit give am. He ascend to heaven and give gifts to human beings.

Na here many people make mistake, and because of that dem miss the help wey Christ want give

dem. Dem think say dem must first repent before dem fit come to Christ, and say repentance na wetin prepare person to receive forgiveness. E true say repentance come before forgiveness, because na only the broken and humble heart go feel the need of a Saviour. But should sinner wait until e don repent before e come to Jesus? Should repentance become barrier between sinner and the Saviour?

The Bible no teach say sinner must first repent before e fit answer Christ invitation, **"Come to Me, all**

of una wey dey labour and carry heavy burden, and I go give una rest." (Matthew 11:28. Na the power wey come from Christ dey lead people to true repentance. Peter explain am clearly when e tell the Israelites, **"God exalt am with Him right hand as Prince and Saviour, to give Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins."** (Acts 5:31). We no fit repent without the Spirit of Christ wey dey awaken our conscience, just as we no fit receive forgiveness without Christ.

Christ na the source of every good desire. Na only Him fit put hatred for sin inside the human heart.

Every desire for truth and purity, every time we realize say we be sinners, na proof say Him Spirit dey work inside our hearts.

Jesus talk say, **"If dem lift Me up from the earth, I go draw everybody come to Me."** (John 12:32). Christ must be revealed to the sinner as the Saviour wey die for the sins of the whole world. As we look upon the Lamb of God for the cross of Calvary, the mystery of redemption begin open for our minds, and the goodness of God

lead us to repentance. By dying for sinners, Christ show one kind love wey no human being fit fully understand. As the sinner behold this love, e soften the heart, touch the mind, and bring true sorrow for sin inside the soul.

E true say sometimes people dey ashamed of their sinful ways and stop some of their evil habits before dem even realize say Christ dey draw dem. But anytime dem sincerely try to change because dem truly want do wetin right, na the power of Christ dey draw dem. One influence wey dem no even notice dey work inside their souls. Their

conscience wake up, and their outward life begin change. As Christ draw dem to look upon Him cross and see the One wey their sins pierce, God law begin speak directly to their conscience. Dem begin see the wickedness of their lives and the deep-rooted sin wey dey inside their hearts. Dem begin understand something about the righteousness of Christ and cry out, **"Wetin sin really be, wey e require this kind great sacrifice to save the sinner? Was all this love, all this suffering, and all this humiliation necessary so that we no go perish but receive everlasting life?"**

The sinner fit resist this love and refuse to come to Christ. But if e no continue to resist, Christ go draw am. As e understand the plan of salvation, e go come to the foot of the cross with true repentance because of the sins wey cause the suffering of God beloved Son.

The same divine mind wey dey work through nature dey also speak to the hearts of human beings and create one deep desire for something wey this world no fit provide. Everything wey the world offer no fit satisfy that longing. The Spirit of God dey plead with people to seek the only things wey fit give

true peace and rest—the grace of Christ and the joy of holiness. Through things we fit see and things we no fit see, our Saviour dey continually work to draw people away from the empty pleasures of sin toward the endless blessings wey dem fit receive through Him. To everybody wey dey try in vain to satisfy their souls with the broken things of this world, God still dey call:

"Make anybody wey dey thirsty come. Anybody wey want, make e take the water of life free." (Revelation 22:17)

You wey your heart dey long for something better than anything this world fit give, recognize that longing as God voice dey speak to your soul. Ask am to give you true repentance and reveal Christ to you through Him endless love and perfect purity. For the life of Jesus, the principles of God law—love for God and love for people—show perfectly. Kindness and unselfish love fill every part of Him life. As we continue to look at Christ and allow Him light shine upon us, na then we begin see how sinful our own hearts really be.

Like Nicodemus, we fit deceive ourselves say our lives upright, our moral character good, and think say we no need humble ourselves before God like ordinary sinners. But when Christ light shine inside our hearts, we go see how unclean we really be. We go recognize the selfish motives and the hatred against God wey don stain every part of our lives. Then we go understand say our own righteousness truly be like dirty rags, and say na only the blood of Christ fit wash away the stain of sin and renew our hearts to become like His.

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Even one small ray of God glory, or one glimpse of Christ perfect purity wey enter the soul, go expose every stain of sin clearly and reveal all the defects and ugliness of human character. E make unholy desires, the unbelief inside the heart, and the impurity of the lips plain to see. The sinner begin see all the ways wey e don reject God law, and under the searching work of the Spirit of God, e spirit become troubled and full of sorrow. As e compare himself with the pure and

spotless character of Christ, e begin hate himself because of him sin.

When the prophet Daniel see the glory wey surround the heavenly messenger wey God send to am, e become overwhelmed by the feeling of him own weakness and imperfection. Describing wetin happen, e say, **"No strength remain inside me, because all my strength disappear, and I become powerless."** (Daniel 10:8). Any soul wey the Holy Spirit touch like this go begin hate selfishness, reject self-love, and seek, through the righteousness of Christ, the purity

of heart wey agree with God law and Christ character.

Paul talk say, as far as outward obedience to the law concern, e be **"blameless."** (Philippians 3:6). But when e understand the spiritual meaning of God law, e discover say e be sinner. Judging by only the outward meaning of the law, e think say e avoid sin. But when e look into the deep meaning of God holy commandments and see himself the same way God see am, e humble himself and confess him guilt. E say, **"One time I think say I dey alive without the law. But when the commandment come, sin come**

alive, and I die." (Romans 7:9). When e understand the spiritual nature of the law, sin appear in all its ugliness, and every confidence wey e get in himself disappear.

God no judge every sin as if dem equal. Some sins carry greater guilt than others, both for God eye and for human judgment. But no matter how small one wrong action fit look for human eyes, no sin small before God. Human judgment incomplete and imperfect, but God judge everything exactly as e truly be. People despise the drunkard and tell am say him sin go keep am out of heaven, while pride, selfishness,

and greed often pass without correction. Yet na these sins especially offend God because dem opposite to Him loving and unselfish character, wey fill the whole unfallen universe. Person wey fall into obvious sins fit feel ashamed, recognize him poverty, and know say e need the grace of Christ. But pride make person feel say e no need anything, and so e close him heart against Christ and all the endless blessings wey He come to give.

The poor tax collector wey pray, **"God, have mercy on me, a sinner."** (Luke 18:13), see himself as one

very sinful person, and other people think the same about am. But e recognize him need, and with the burden of guilt and shame e come before God asking for mercy. Him heart open for the Spirit of God to do Him gracious work and set am free from the power of sin. But the proud and self-righteous prayer of the Pharisee show say him heart close against the influence of the Holy Spirit. Because e far from God, e no realize how sinful e really be compared with God perfect holiness. E feel no need, and because of that, e receive nothing.

If you see your own sinfulness, no wait until you think say you don become better before you come to Christ. How many people dey think say dem never good enough to come to Jesus! You think say you fit become better by your own effort? Bible ask, **"Ethiopian fit change him skin? Or leopard fit change him spots? If no be so, how una wey don get used to doing evil go fit begin do good?"** (Jeremiah 13:23). Our only help come from God. We no suppose wait for stronger feelings, better opportunities, or holier hearts. By ourselves we fit do nothing. We

must come to Christ exactly as we be.

But make nobody deceive himself by thinking say because God love and mercy great, He go still save people wey continue to reject Him grace. We fit only understand how terrible sin really be when we look at the cross. Anytime people talk say God too good to reject sinners, make dem look to Calvary. Na because there be no other way to save mankind, because without that sacrifice human beings no fit escape the power and pollution of sin or return to fellowship with holy beings—no way for dem to share

spiritual life again—Christ carry the guilt of the disobedient upon Himself and suffer in the place of sinners. The love, suffering, and death of the Son of God all testify to how terrible sin really be and declare say there be no escape from its power, and no hope of eternal life, except when person surrender him whole soul completely to Christ.

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Sometimes people wey never repent dey excuse themselves by talking

about people wey claim say dem be Christians. Dem go say, **"I no worse pass dem. Dem no deny themselves, no live carefully, and no behave better pass me. Dem too like enjoyment and self-indulgence just like me."** So dem use other people mistakes as excuse for their own failure to obey God. But another person sins and faults no fit excuse anybody, because the Lord never give us any sinful human being as our example. Na the spotless Son of God He give us to follow. And those wey dey complain about the wrong behavior of people wey call themselves

Christians suppose be the very ones wey show better lives and better examples. If dem know so well how one true Christian suppose live, then no be their own sin even greater? Dem know wetin right, but dem still refuse to do am.

Beware of delaying. No postpone the work of leaving your sins and seeking a clean heart through Jesus. Na here thousands upon thousands don make mistake and lose eternal life. I no go talk much about how short and uncertain life be, but one terrible danger dey wey many people no understand well: the danger of delaying to answer the

gentle voice of God Holy Spirit and choosing to continue inside sin. Because na wetin that delay really mean be. No matter how small sin fit look, if person continue to hold on to am, e fit bring endless loss. Wetin we no overcome today fit later overcome us and finally destroy us.

Adam and Eve convince themselves say nothing serious fit happen just because dem chop the forbidden fruit. But that small act na breaking God holy and unchangeable law. E separate mankind from God and open the door for death and countless suffering to enter our

world. From generation to generation, cries of sorrow don continue to rise from the earth, and all creation still dey groan because of human disobedience. Even heaven feel the effects of mankind rebellion against God. Calvary stand as the everlasting reminder of the great sacrifice wey God require to pay for breaking His holy law. Make we never treat sin as something small.

Every time person break God law, reject Christ grace, or neglect am, e dey harm himself. E dey harden the heart, spoil the will, dull the understanding, and make person

not only less willing to obey the Holy Spirit, but even less able to respond to Him gentle voice.

Many people calm their troubled conscience by telling themselves say dem fit stop doing evil anytime dem like. Dem think say dem fit continue to ignore God mercy now and later still answer Him call. Dem believe say after resisting the Spirit of grace and using their influence for Satan side, one day when trouble come, dem go suddenly change. But e no easy like that. The habits, experiences, and choices of one whole lifetime fit shape person character so deeply say very few

people still desire to become like Jesus.

Even one wrong character trait or one sinful desire wey person continue to hold onto fit finally cancel the power of the gospel for that person life. Every sinful habit make the soul hate God more and more. Person wey boldly reject God truth or care nothing about am dey only harvest wetin e don sow. Bible no get stronger warning against playing with sin than this word, **"The sinner go be held with the ropes of him own sins."** (Proverbs 5:22)

Christ ready to set us free from sin, but He no force anybody will. If through continual disobedience our will become completely given over to evil, and we no even want freedom anymore or refuse to accept Him grace, wetin again fit He do? We destroy ourselves by continually rejecting Him love. Bible tell us, **"Look, now na the accepted time; look, now na the day of salvation."** (2 Corinthians 6:2). And again, **"Today, if una hear Him voice, make una no harden una hearts."** (Hebrews 3:7–8). Bible talk say, **"Man dey look the**

outward appearance, but the Lord dey look the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

God see the human heart with all the joy and sorrow inside am—the wandering heart wey full of impurity and deceit. He know every motive, every thought, and every purpose. So come to am exactly as you be, even if your soul full of stains. Like the psalm writer, open every corner of your heart before the God wey see everything and pray, **"Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me and know my thoughts. See if any wicked way dey inside me, and lead me**

for the everlasting way." (Psalm 139:23–24)

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Many people accept only one intellectual religion or just the outward form of serving God, while their hearts never become clean. Make this your prayer, **"Create inside me one clean heart, O God, and renew one right spirit within me."** (Psalm 51:10). Be honest with your own soul. Seek God with all seriousness and persistence, just as you would if your very life depended on it. This matter na

something wey you and God must settle, and the decision go last forever. One false hope, without true conversion, fit lead to your destruction.

Study God Word with prayer. Inside that Word, through God law and the life of Christ, you go see the great principles of holiness, because **"without holiness nobody go see the Lord."** (Hebrews 12:14). God Word convince people of their sin and clearly show the way of salvation. Listen to am as if na God Himself dey speak directly to your soul.

As you begin see how terrible sin really be, and as you begin see yourself the way you truly be, no give yourself over to despair. Na sinners Christ come to save. We no be the ones wey must make God willing to accept us. Instead—what an amazing love!—**God, through Christ, dey reconcile the world back to Himself.** (2 Corinthians 5:19). Through His gentle love, He dey call the hearts of Him children wey don wander away. No earthly father or mother fit show more patience with the faults and mistakes of their children than God dey show to those wey He want

save. Nobody fit plead more tenderly with sinners than He does. No human voice ever beg wandering people with more love than God. Every promise He make and every warning He give come from one love wey words no fit fully describe.

When Satan come tell you say you be great sinner, lift your eyes to your Redeemer and talk about Christ righteousness, no be your own. Wetin go help you na to look to His light. Admit your sin, but tell the enemy say, **"Christ Jesus come into the world to save sinners."** (1 Timothy 1:15). And tell am say

through Christ matchless love, you fit receive salvation. Jesus once ask Simon one question about two people wey owe money. One owe small amount, while the other owe very large amount. Their master forgive both of them. Then Jesus ask Simon which one go love him master more. Simon answer, **"Na the one wey e forgive the bigger debt."** (Luke 7:43). We too don be great sinners, but Christ die so that we fit receive forgiveness. The value of His sacrifice enough to present us before the Father and make us acceptable through Him. Those wey He forgive the most go love am the

most, and dem go stand nearest to Him throne, praising am for Him great love and endless sacrifice. Na when we truly understand how much God love us, we begin understand how terrible sin really be. As we realize how far God reach down to rescue us, and as we understand even a little of the infinite sacrifice wey Christ make for our sake, our hearts go melt with tenderness, humility, and true repentance.

4 — Confession

"He wey cover him sins no go prosper: but anybody wey confess and forsake dem go receive mercy." Proverbs 28:13.

The conditions of obtaining God mercy simple and just and reasonable. The Lord no require us to do some grievous thing so that we fit receive the forgiveness of sin. We no need make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or perform painful penances, to commend our souls to the God of heaven or to expiate our transgression; but

person wey confess and forsake him sin go receive mercy.

The apostle talk say, “Confess una faults to one another, and pray for one another, so that una fit be healed.” James 5:16. Confess your sins to God, wey only Him fit forgive dem, and your faults to one another. If you don give offense to your friend or neighbor, you suppose acknowledge your wrong, and na him duty to forgive you freely. Then you suppose seek the forgiveness of God, because the brother wey you don wound belong to God, and by injuring am you sin against him Creator and Redeemer.

The case dey brought before the only true Mediator, our great High Priest, wey "for every way don face temptation just as we dey face am, yet without sin," and wey "dey touched with the feeling of our infirmities," and fit cleanse every stain of iniquity. Hebrews 4:15.

Those wey never humble their souls before God by acknowledging their guilt, never yet fulfill the first condition of acceptance. If we never experience that repentance wey no need another repentance, and never with true humiliation of soul and brokenness of spirit confess our sins, hating our iniquity, we never

truly seek the forgiveness of sin; and if we never seek am, we never find the peace of God. The only reason why we no get remission of sins wey don pass be say we no willing to humble our hearts and comply with the conditions of the word of truth. Explicit instruction dey given concerning this matter. Confession of sin, whether public or private, suppose come from the heart and be freely expressed. E no suppose be forced from the sinner. E no suppose be made in one flippant and careless way, or forced from those wey no get real sense of the abhorrent character of sin. The

confession wey be the outpouring of the inmost soul dey find him way to the God of infinite pity. The psalmist talk say, "The Lord dey near those wey get broken heart; and dey save those wey get contrite spirit." Psalm 34:18.

True confession always get specific character, and dey acknowledge particular sins. Dem fit be sins wey only suppose be brought before God; dem fit be wrongs wey suppose be confessed to people wey suffer injury because of dem; or dem fit get public character, and then dem suppose be confessed publicly too. But every confession

suppose be definite and straight to the point, acknowledging the very sins wey you guilty of.

For the days of Samuel the Israelites wander from God. Dem dey suffer the consequences of sin; because dem don lose their faith in God, lose their understanding of Him power and wisdom to rule the nation, lose their confidence in Him ability to defend and vindicate Him cause. Dem turn away from the great Ruler of the universe and desire to be governed like the nations around dem. Before dem find peace dem make this definite confession: "We don add this evil to

all our sins, to ask for one king." 1 Samuel 12:19. The very sin wey dem convicted of had to be confessed. Their ingratitude oppress their souls and separate dem from God.

Confession no go be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes for the life; everything wey dey offensive to God must be put away. This go be the result of genuine sorrow for sin. The work wey we get to do for our own part dey plainly set before us: "Wash una, make una clean; put away the evil of una doings from before My

eyes; stop to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:16, 17. "If the wicked restore the pledge, give back wetin e thief, walk for the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; e go surely live, e no go die." Ezekiel 33:15. Paul talk, speaking of the work of repentance: "Una sorrow after godly manner, wetin great carefulness e produce for una, yes, wetin clearing of una selves, yes, wetin indignation, yes, wetin fear, yes, wetin strong desire, yes, wetin zeal, yes, wetin revenge! For all

things una don prove una selves to be clear for this matter." 2 Corinthians 7:11.

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When sin don make the moral understanding dull, the person wey do wrong no dey see the defects of him character and no dey realize the greatness of the evil wey e don commit; and unless e surrender to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit e go remain partly blind to him sin. Him confessions no sincere and no come with seriousness. To

every acknowledgment of him guilt e add one excuse to defend him action, saying say if no be for certain circumstances e no for do this or that thing wey dem dey correct am for.

After Adam and Eve chop the forbidden fruit, dem full of shame and fear. At first their only thought na how to excuse their sin and escape the sentence of death wey dem fear. When the Lord ask about their sin, Adam reply, putting the guilt partly on God and partly on him companion: “The woman wey You give me to stay with me, she give me from the tree, and I chop

am." The woman put the blame on the serpent, saying, "The serpent deceive me, and I chop am." Genesis 3:12, 13. Why You make the serpent? Why You allow am come inside Eden? These na the questions wey dey inside her excuse for her sin, so she put the responsibility of their fall on God. The spirit of self-justification come from the father of lies and all the sons and daughters of Adam don show this spirit. Confessions of this kind no come from the divine Spirit and no go be acceptable to God. True repentance go make person carry him guilt by himself and

acknowledge am without deception or hypocrisy. Like the poor publican, wey no even lift him eyes go heaven, e go cry, "God have mercy on me a sinner," and those wey acknowledge their guilt go be justified, because Jesus go plead Him blood for the repentant soul.

The examples inside God Word of genuine repentance and humility show a spirit of confession wey no get excuse for sin or attempt of self-justification. Paul no try hide himself; e describe his sin in the darkest way, without trying to reduce his guilt. E say, "Many of the saints I lock inside prison, after

receiving authority from the chief priests; and when dem put dem to death, I give my voice against dem. And I punish dem many times inside every synagogue, and force dem to blaspheme; and because I was very angry against dem, I persecute dem even to strange cities." Acts 26:10, 11. E no hesitate to declare say "Christ Jesus come into the world to save sinners; of whom I be the chief." 1 Timothy 1:15.

The humble and broken heart, wey genuine repentance don bring low, go understand something about the love of God and the cost of Calvary;

and just as son confess to him loving father, so the person wey truly repent go bring all him sins before God. And e dey written, “If we confess our sins, He faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.

5 — Consecration

God promise be say, “Una go look for Me, and una go find Me, when una search for Me with all una heart.” Jeremiah 29:13.

The whole heart must surrender to God, or the change wey go bring us back to His likeness no fit happen inside us. By nature, we dey far from God. The Holy Spirit describe our condition with words like these: “Dead because of trespasses and sins;” “the whole head dey sick, and the whole heart weak;” “nothing sound dey inside am.” We

dey trapped inside Satan snare, "taken captive by him to do wetin e want." Ephesians 2:1; Isaiah 1:5, 6; 2 Timothy 2:26. God want heal us, set us free. But because this one need complete transformation, renewal of our whole nature, we must surrender ourselves fully to Him.

The fight against self na the greatest battle wey ever happen. Giving up self, surrendering everything to God will, need struggle; but the soul must submit to God before e fit become new in holiness.

God government no be, as Satan want make e look, something based

on blind submission or control without understanding. E appeal to the mind and conscience. “Come now, and make we reason together” na the invitation of the Creator to the beings wey He create. Isaiah 1:18. God no force the will of His creatures. He no fit accept worship wey person no give willingly and with understanding. Forced submission alone go stop every true development of mind or character; e go make man become only like machine. This one no be the Creator purpose. He want make man, the highest work of His creative power, reach the highest development wey

e fit reach. He put before us the highest blessing wey He want bring us to through His grace. He invite us make we give ourselves to Him, so He fit work His will inside us. Na for us to choose whether we go be free from the bondage of sin, and share the glorious freedom of God children.

When we give ourselves to God, we must surely give up everything wey go separate us from Him. Na why the Saviour talk say, "Anyone among una wey no leave everything wey e get, e no fit be My disciple." Luke 14:33. Anything wey go pull the heart away from God

must be abandoned. Mammon na the idol of many people. Love for money, desire for riches, na the golden chain wey tie dem to Satan. Reputation and worldly honor na the things another group dey worship. Life of selfish comfort and freedom from responsibility na the idol of others. But these chains of slavery must break. We no fit belong half to the Lord and half to the world. We no be God children unless we belong to Him completely.

Some people dey claim say dem serve God, but dem depend on their own effort to obey His law, build

good character, and get salvation. Their hearts no dey moved by deep understanding of Christ love, but dem try do Christian duties because dem think na wetin God require from dem to enter heaven. This kind religion no get value. When Christ live inside the heart, the soul go full of His love, with the joy of communion with Him, and e go hold tightly to Him; and when e dey look at Him, self go disappear. Love for Christ go become the source of action. Those wey feel God love controlling their heart no dey ask how little dem fit give to satisfy God requirements; dem no

dey look for the lowest standard, but dem aim to fully follow the will of their Redeemer. With sincere desire, dem surrender everything and show interest according to the value of the thing wey dem dey seek. Claiming to follow Christ without this deep love na only talk, dry religion, and heavy work.

You feel say e too much sacrifice to surrender everything to Christ? Ask yourself this question, "Wetín Christ give for me?" The Son of God give everything—life, love, and suffering—for our redemption. And na we, people wey no deserve such great love, go hold our hearts

back from Him? Every moment of our lives, we don receive blessings from His grace, and because of this we no fit fully understand the depth of ignorance and suffering wey He save us from. We fit look at the One wey our sins pierce, and still decide to reject all His love and sacrifice? When we see the endless humiliation of the Lord of glory, we go complain because the only way to enter life na through struggle and denying self?

The question many proud hearts dey ask be, "Why I need to come with repentance and humility before I fit know say God accept

me?" I point you to Christ. He was without sin, and more than that, He was the Prince of heaven; but because of mankind He became sin for the race. "He was counted among the sinners; He carried the sin of many, and He prayed for the sinners." Isaiah 53:12.

But wetin we dey give up when we give everything? A heart polluted by sin, for Jesus to clean am, purify am with His own blood, and save am with His unmatched love. And still people dey think say e hard to give up everything! I dey ashamed to hear people talk like this, ashamed to write am.

God no dey ask us make we give up anything wey go benefit us to keep. In everything He do, He dey think about the well-being of His children. If only everybody wey never choose Christ fit understand say He get something far better to give dem than wetin dem dey search for by themselves. Man dey cause the greatest harm and injustice to his own soul when e think and act against God will. Real joy no fit dey found for the road wey the One wey know wetin best forbid, the One wey plan good things for His creatures. The road of

sin na road of suffering and destruction.

E be mistake to think say God dey happy when He see His children suffer. All heaven dey interested in man happiness. Our heavenly Father no close the ways of joy from any of His creatures. God requirements dey call us to avoid those pleasures wey go bring suffering and disappointment, wey go close the door of happiness and heaven for us. The Redeemer of the world accept people as dem be, with all their needs, weaknesses, and imperfections; and He no only clean dem from sin and give

redemption through His blood, but He go also satisfy the deepest desire of everybody wey agree to carry His yoke and His burden. His purpose na to give peace and rest to everyone wey come to Him for the bread of life. He only require us to do those duties wey go lead us to heights of happiness wey people wey disobey can never reach. The true joyful life of the soul na to have Christ formed inside, the hope of glory.

Many people dey ask, "How I go surrender myself to God?" You want give yourself to Him, but you weak in moral strength, you dey

under doubt, and your sinful habits dey control you. Your promises and decisions be like ropes made from sand. You no fit control your thoughts, your desires, or your feelings. Knowing about your broken promises and failed commitments make your confidence in yourself weak, and make you feel say God no fit accept you; but you no need lose hope. Wetin you need understand na the true power of the will. This one na the controlling power inside human nature, the power to decide or choose. Everything depend on the right use of the will. God give

humans the power of choice; na their responsibility to use am. You no fit change your heart by yourself, you no fit give God your feelings by your own strength; but you fit choose to serve Him. You fit give Him your will; then He go work inside you to desire and do according to His good pleasure. In this way, your whole nature go come under the control of Christ Spirit; your feelings go focus on Him, and your thoughts go agree with Him.

Desire for goodness and holiness dey right as far as e go; but if you stop there, e no go help you. Many

people go lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. Dem no reach the point of surrendering their will to God. Dem no choose now to be Christians.

Through the right use of your will, your whole life fit change completely. When you surrender your will to Christ, you join yourself with the power wey dey above all principalities and powers. You go receive strength from above wey go help you stand firm, and so through constant surrender to God, you go get the ability to live the new life, even the life of faith.

6 — Faith and Acceptance

As your conscience don quickened by the Holy Spirit, you don see small something about the badness of sin, the power wey e get, the guilt, and the suffering wey e bring; and you dey look am with strong dislike. You feel say sin don separate you from God, say you dey under the control of evil power. The more you try escape, the more you dey realize say you no get strength by yourself. Your reasons no pure; your heart no clean. You see say your life don full of selfishness and sin. You dey long to receive

forgiveness, to be cleaned, and to be free. Harmony with God, to be like Him—wetin you fit do to get am?

Na peace you need—God's forgiveness, peace, and love inside your soul. Money no fit buy am, knowledge no fit get am, wisdom no fit reach am; you no fit ever hope say through your own effort you go obtain am. But God dey offer am to you as gift, “without money and without price.” Isaiah 55:1. Na your own if you go just stretch your hand and collect am. The Lord talk say, “Even if your sins red like scarlet, dem go become white like snow; even if dem red like crimson, dem

go become like wool." Isaiah 1:18. "I go give you new heart, and I go put new spirit inside you." Ezekiel 36:26.

You don confess your sins, and inside your heart you don remove them. You don decide to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, and ask am make He wash away your sins and give you new heart. Then believe say He dey do this because He promise am. Na this be the lesson wey Jesus teach while He dey earth, say the gift wey God promise us, we must believe say we don receive am, and e belong to us. Jesus heal people from their

sickness when dem get faith in His power; He help dem for things wey dem fit see, so He make dem trust Him concerning things wey dem no fit see—leading dem to believe in His power to forgive sins. He clearly show this when He heal the man wey get palsy: "So that una go know say the Son of man get power for earth to forgive sins, (then He tell the man wey get palsy,) Get up, carry your bed, and go your house." Matthew 9:6. John the evangelist also talk about Christ miracles: "These things dey written so una go believe say Jesus na Christ, the Son of God; and through believing una

go get life through His name." John 20:31.

From the simple Bible story about how Jesus heal the sick, we fit learn something about how to believe in Him for forgiveness of sins. Make we look the story of the paralytic man for Bethesda. The poor man suffer and no get help; he never use him legs for thirty-eight years. But Jesus tell am, "Get up, carry your bed, and walk." The sick man fit don talk say, "Lord, if You go make me whole, I go obey Your word." But no, he believe Christ word, believe say he don receive healing, and immediately he try; he decide

to walk, and he walk. He act based on Christ word, and God give him the power. He become whole.

In the same way, you be sinner. You no fit pay for your past sins; you no fit change your heart and make yourself holy. But God promise say He go do all these things for you through Christ. You believe that promise. You confess your sins and give yourself to God. You choose to serve Him. As surely as you do this, God go fulfill His word to you. If you believe the promise—believe say you don receive forgiveness and cleansing—God go make am reality; you become whole, just like Christ

give the paralytic power to walk when the man believe say he don heal. Na so e be if you believe am.

No wait until you feel say you don become whole, but talk say, "I believe am; e be so, no because I feel am, but because God don promise am."

Jesus talk say, "Anything wey una desire, when una pray, believe say una receive am, and una go get am." Mark 11:24. There is condition for this promise—that we pray according to God will. But na God will to clean us from sin, make us His children, and give us power to

live holy life. So we fit ask for these blessings, believe say we receive them, and thank God say we don receive them. Na our privilege to go to Jesus and be cleaned, and stand before the law without shame or regret. “So now there is no condemnation for those wey dey in Christ Jesus, those wey no walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:1.

From now, you no be your own; you don buy with a price. “Una no be redeemed with things wey fit spoil, like silver and gold; ... but with the precious blood of Christ, like lamb wey no get blemish or

spot." 1 Peter 1:18, 19. Through this simple act of believing God, the Holy Spirit don create new life inside your heart. You be like child wey enter the family of God, and He love you the same way He love His Son.

Now say you don give yourself to Jesus, no turn back, no remove yourself from Him, but every day talk say, "I belong to Christ; I don give myself to Him;" and ask Him to give you His Spirit and keep you by His grace. Just as na by giving yourself to God and believing Him you become His child, so you must live inside Him. The apostle talk

say, “As una receive Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk inside Him.” Colossians 2:6.

Some people feel say dem must first be tested, and prove to the Lord say dem don change, before dem fit claim His blessing. But dem fit claim God blessing even now. Dem need His grace, the Spirit of Christ, to help their weaknesses, or dem no fit resist evil. Jesus like make we come to Him just as we dey, sinful, helpless, and dependent. We fit come with all our weakness, foolishness, and sinfulness, and fall before His feet with repentance. Na His glory to surround us with the

arms of His love, heal our wounds, and clean us from all impurity.

Na here thousands fail; dem no believe say Jesus forgive dem personally and individually. Dem no accept God according to His word. Na privilege of everybody wey follow the conditions to know for themselves say forgiveness dey freely given for every sin. Remove the doubt say God promises no be for you. Dem be for every person wey repent from sin. Strength and grace don provide through Christ to be brought by serving angels to every believing soul. Nobody too sinful that dem no fit find strength,

purity, and righteousness in Jesus, the One wey die for dem. He dey wait to remove their clothes wey sin stain and pollute, and put on dem the white clothes of righteousness; He dey tell dem make dem live and no die.

God no dey deal with us the way limited human beings dey deal with one another. His thoughts na thoughts of mercy, love, and deepest compassion. He talk say, "Make the wicked person leave his way, and the unrighteous person leave his thoughts: make he return to the Lord, and He go have mercy on him; and return to our God,

because He go forgive plenty." "I don wipe away your wrongs like thick cloud, and your sins like cloud." Isaiah 55:7; 44:22.

"I no get pleasure for the death of the person wey die, na the Lord God talk: so turn yourselves and live." Ezekiel 18:32. Satan ready to take away the blessed assurance wey God give. He want remove every small hope and every ray of light from the soul; but you no must allow am. No listen to the tempter, but talk say, "Jesus don die so I fit live. He love me, and He no want make I perish. I get compassionate heavenly Father; and even though I

don misuse His love, even though I waste the blessings wey He give me, I go rise and go to my Father, and talk say, 'I don sin against heaven and before You, and I no worthy anymore to be called Your son: make You accept me like one of Your servants.'" The parable show how the person wey wander away go be received: "When he still far away, his father see am, and he feel compassion, and run, fall on his neck, and kiss am." Luke 15:18-20.

But even this story, wey full of kindness and touching feeling, no

fit fully show the endless compassion of our heavenly Father. The Lord talk through His prophet, “I don love you with everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness I don draw you come.” Jeremiah 31:3. While the sinner still dey far from him Father's house, wasting everything wey he get for strange land, the Father's heart dey long for am; and every desire wey wake up inside the soul to return to God na the gentle pleading of His Spirit, calling, begging, and drawing the person wey wander away back to his Father's heart of love.

With the plenty promises of the Bible before you, you fit still allow doubt enter? You fit believe say when the poor sinner dey desire to return, dey desire to leave his sins, the Lord go strongly stop am from coming to His feet with repentance? Throw away such thoughts! Nothing fit damage your own soul pass believing such thing about our heavenly Father. He hate sin, but He love the sinner, and He give Himself through the person of Christ, so that everybody wey choose fit be saved and get eternal happiness inside the kingdom of glory. Which stronger or more

loving words fit have been used than the ones He choose to show His love for us? He talk say, “Can a woman forget the baby wey she dey breastfeed, so she no go have compassion for the child wey come from her womb? Yes, dem fit forget, but I no go forget you.” Isaiah 49:15.

Look up, you wey dey doubt and shake with fear; because Jesus dey live to intercede for us. Thank God for the gift of His dear Son and pray say He no die for you for nothing. The Spirit dey invite you today. Come with your whole heart to Jesus, and you fit claim His blessing.

As you dey read the promises, remember say dem na expression of love and pity wey words no fit fully explain. The great heart of Infinite Love dey move toward the sinner with unlimited compassion. “We get redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Ephesians 1:7. Yes, just believe say God na your helper. He want restore His moral image inside man. As you come near to Him with confession and repentance, He go come near to you with mercy and forgiveness.

7 — The Test of Discipleship

"If any person dey in Christ, e be new creature: old things don pass away; see, everything don become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Person fit no sabi the exact time or place, or trace every chain of events for the process of conversion; but this no mean say the person no convert. Christ tell Nicodemus, "The wind dey blow where e want, and you hear the sound of am, but you no fit tell where e come from and where e dey go: so be everybody wey Spirit don born."

John 3:8. Like wind, wey no dey visible, but the effects of am dey clearly seen and felt, na so the Spirit of God dey work inside the human heart. That power wey dey bring new birth, wey no human eye fit see, dey create new life inside the soul; e dey make new person in the image of God. Even though the work of the Spirit dey quiet and no dey noticed, the results dey show. If the heart don renew by the Spirit of God, the life go show proof of am. Even though we no fit do anything to change our hearts or bring ourselves into harmony with God; even though we no suppose trust

ourselves or our good works at all, our lives go show whether the grace of God dey live inside us. Change go appear for our character, our habits, and the things we pursue. The difference go clear and strong between who dem be before and who dem be now. Character no dey show by occasional good actions and occasional bad actions, but by the direction of our normal words and actions.

Na true say person fit have correct behavior outside without the renewing power of Christ. Love for influence and desire for respect from others fit produce a

well-organized life. Self-respect fit make us avoid things wey look evil. A selfish heart fit still do generous things. So, how we go know which side we really dey on?

Who get our heart? Who our thoughts dey with? Who we like talk about? Who get our strongest love and our best strength? If we belong to Christ, our thoughts dey with Him, and our sweetest thoughts na about Him. Everything we get and everything we be dey dedicated to Him. We desire to carry His image, breathe His Spirit, do His will, and please Him in everything.

Those wey become new creatures in Christ Jesus go bring the fruits of the Spirit, “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control.” Galatians 5:22, 23. Dem no go continue to follow the old desires wey dem had before, but through faith in the Son of God dem go follow His steps, show His character, and clean themselves even as He clean. The things wey dem hate before, dem go now love, and the things wey dem love before, dem go now hate. The proud and people wey always want prove themselves go become humble and gentle in heart. The

people wey like show off and think say dem better pass others go become serious and quiet. The drunkards go become sober, and people wey live immoral life go become pure. The empty customs and fashions of the world go be abandoned. Christians no go seek the "outward decoration," but "the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit." 1 Peter 3:3, 4.

There is no proof of real repentance unless it brings change. If the person return what he took as guarantee, give back what he stole, confess his sins, and love God and

other people, the sinner fit know say he don pass from death to life.

When we, as people who make mistakes and are sinful, come to Christ and receive His forgiving grace, love begin to grow inside the heart. Every burden become lighter, because the yoke wey Christ give na easy. Duty become joy, and sacrifice become pleasure. The road wey before look dark and covered now become bright with the light from the Sun of Righteousness.

The beauty of Christ character go be seen in His followers. E was His joy to do the will of God. Love for God

and desire for His glory na the power wey control the life of our Saviour. Love make all His actions become beautiful and noble. Love come from God. A heart wey no dedicated to God no fit create or produce am. E only dey found inside the heart where Jesus dey rule. “We love because He first love us.” 1 John 4:19, R.V. Inside the heart renewed by divine grace, love na the principle wey guide actions. E changes the character, controls desires, rules emotions, removes hatred, and makes our affections better. This love, when kept inside

the soul, make life sweeter and spreads a good influence around us.

There are two mistakes wey the children of God—especially those wey just begin trust His grace—need to be careful about. The first one, wey we don already talk about, na looking at their own works, trusting anything wey dem fit do to make themselves right with God. Person wey dey try become holy through his own works by keeping the law dey try do something impossible. Everything man fit do without Christ dey mixed with selfishness and sin. Na

only the grace of Christ, through faith, fit make us holy.

The opposite mistake, and one wey also dangerous, na the belief say faith in Christ frees people from keeping God's law; say because na through faith alone we receive Christ grace, our works no get anything to do with our salvation.

But notice say obedience no be just following rules outside, but service wey come from love. God's law na expression of His own nature; e show the great principle of love, and because of this, e be the foundation of His government in

heaven and earth. If our hearts don renew to look like God, if divine love don enter our souls, no be God's law go show inside our lives? When the principle of love enter the heart, when man don renew according to the image of the One wey create am, the promise of the new covenant go happen: “I go put My laws inside their hearts, and I go write them inside their minds.” Hebrews 10:16. And if the law dey written inside the heart, e no go shape the person's life? Obedience—the service and loyalty wey come from love—na the true sign of discipleship. So Scripture

talk say, “This na the love of God, that we keep His commandments.” “The person wey talk say, I know Him, but no keep His commandments, na liar, and truth no dey inside him.” 1 John 5:3; 2:4. Instead of removing the need for obedience, na faith, and only faith, dey make us receive Christ grace, wey give us ability to obey.

We no earn salvation through obedience; because salvation na free gift from God, received through faith. But obedience na fruit of faith. “Una know say He was revealed to remove our sins; and inside Him there is no sin. Whoever remain in

Him no continue in sin: whoever continue sinning has not seen Him, and has not known Him." 1 John 3:5, 6. Here na the true test. If we remain in Christ, if God's love dey inside us, our feelings, thoughts, plans, and actions go agree with God's will as shown in the teachings of His holy law. "Little children, make nobody deceive una: the person wey do righteousness dey righteous, just as He righteous." 1 John 3:7. Righteousness dey measured by the standard of God's holy law, as shown in the ten commandments wey He give on Sinai.

That kind faith people call faith in Christ, wey claim say e free people from obeying God, no be faith but presumption. “Una saved by grace through faith.” But “faith, if e no get works, e dead.” Ephesians 2:8; James 2:17. Jesus talk about Himself before He come to earth, “I dey happy to do Your will, O My God: yes, Your law dey inside My heart.” Psalm 40:8. And before He return to heaven He declare, “I don keep My Father's commandments, and I remain in His love.” John 15:10. Scripture talk say, “By this we know say we know Him, if we keep His commandments.... The person wey

say he remain in Him must also walk the same way He walked." 1 John 2:3-6. "Because Christ also suffer for us, leaving us example, so we should follow His steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

The condition of eternal life na still the same thing wey e always been,—na the same thing wey e been for Paradise before our first parents fall,—perfect obedience to God law, perfect righteousness. If eternal life dey given with any condition wey no reach this one,

then the happiness of the whole universe go dey in danger. The way go open for sin, with all the sorrow and suffering wey come with am, to live forever.

E been possible for Adam, before the fall, to build righteous character through obedience to God law. But e fail to do this, and because of him sin our nature don fall and we no fit make ourselves righteous. Since we be sinful and no holy, we no fit perfectly obey the holy law. We no get our own righteousness wey we fit use answer the demands of God law. But Christ don make way for us escape. E live for earth among

trials and temptations like the ones we dey face. E live life without sin. E die for us, and now E offer to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, even though your life fit don full of sin before, because of Him you go be counted as righteous. Christ character take the place of your character, and you go be accepted before God as if you never sin.

More than this, Christ dey change the heart. E stay inside your heart through faith. You must keep this connection with Christ through

faith and by always surrendering your will to Him; and as long as you do this, E go work inside you to make you want and do according to His good pleasure. So you fit say, "The life wey I dey live now in this body, I dey live by faith in the Son of God, who love me and give Himself for me." Galatians 2:20. So Jesus tell His disciples, "Na no be una dey speak, but the Spirit of una Father wey dey speak inside una." Matthew 10:20. Then with Christ working inside you, you go show the same spirit and do the same good works—works of righteousness and obedience.

So we no get anything inside ourselves wey we fit boast about. We no get reason to lift ourselves up. The only hope we get na the righteousness of Christ wey God count as ours, and the righteousness wey His Spirit produce by working inside us and through us.

When we talk about faith, there be one difference wey we need remember. There be one kind of belief wey completely different from faith. The existence and power of God, and the truth of His word, na facts wey even Satan and him followers no fit deny inside their

heart. The Bible talk say “the devils also believe, and tremble;” but this one no be faith. James 2:19. Where person no only believe God word, but also surrender him will to God; where the heart don give itself to Him and the affection don focus on Him, na there faith dey—faith wey work through love and purify the soul. Through this faith, the heart dey renewed into the image of God. And the heart wey before no fit submit to God law, and indeed no fit, now dey enjoy His holy commandments, saying with the psalmist, “How I love Your law! Na my meditation throughout the

whole day." Psalm 119:97. And the righteousness of the law dey fulfilled inside us, "we who no dey walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:1.

There are people wey don know the forgiving love of Christ and truly want to be children of God, but they see say their character still no perfect, their life still get faults, and they dey ready to doubt if their hearts really don receive renewal from the Holy Spirit. To these people I say, no give up in despair. Many times we go need bow down and cry at the feet of Jesus because

of our mistakes and weaknesses, but we no suppose lose courage. Even if the enemy defeat us sometimes, we no be thrown away, abandoned, or rejected by God. No; Christ dey at the right hand of God, and E dey pray for us. The beloved John say, "I write these things to you, so that you no sin. And if anybody sin, we get an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1. And no forget the words of Christ, "The Father Himself love una." John 16:27. E want restore you back to Himself, to see His own purity and holiness reflected inside you. And if

you surrender yourself to Him, the One wey start good work inside you go continue am until the day of Jesus Christ. Pray more seriously; believe more completely. As we stop trusting our own power, make we trust the power of our Redeemer, and we go praise Him who be the health of our face.

The closer you come to Jesus, the more you go see your own faults; because your vision go become clearer, and your imperfections go show more clearly compared with His perfect nature. This na evidence say Satan deception don lose their

power; and the life-giving influence of God Spirit dey wake you up.

No deep love for Jesus fit stay inside the heart wey no understand its own sinfulness. The soul wey Christ grace don transform go admire His divine character; but if we no see our own moral ugliness, na clear evidence say we never see the beauty and excellence of Christ.

The less we see things to value inside ourselves, the more we go see things to value in the infinite purity and beauty of our Saviour. Seeing our sinfulness push us to the One wey fit forgive; and when the

soul, knowing say e helpless, reach out for Christ, E go reveal Himself with power. The more our feeling of need push us to Him and to God Word, the more higher understanding we go have of His character, and the more completely we go reflect His image.

8 — Growing Up Into Christ

The change of heart wey make us become children of God dey spoken about for the Bible as birth. Again, dem compare am with the germination of the good seed wey the farmer plant. In the same way, those wey just convert to Christ be like "new-born babies," to "grow up" reach the maturity of men and women inside Christ Jesus. 1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 4:15. Or like the good seed wey dem plant for the field, dem suppose grow and bring fruit. Isaiah talk say dem go "be called trees of righteousness, the planting

of the Lord, so that He fit be glorified." Isaiah 61:3. So from natural life, examples dey taken to help us understand better the mysterious truths of spiritual life.

No matter all the wisdom and skill of man, e no fit produce life inside the smallest thing for nature. Na only through the life wey God Himself give, plant or animal fit live. Na the same way, na only through the life from God spiritual life dey born inside human hearts. Unless person "born from above," e no fit become partaker of the life wey Christ come give. John 3:3, margin.

Like life, na so growth dey. Na God dey make the bud open and the flower produce fruit. Na by His power the seed dey develop, “first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.” Mark 4:28. And prophet Hosea talk about Israel say, “he shall grow as the lily.” “They shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine.” Hosea 14:5, 7. And Jesus tell us “consider the lilies how they grow.” Luke 12:27. The plants and flowers no dey grow because of their own care, worry, or effort, but because they receive the things wey God provide to support their life. The child no fit, through worry or

him own power, add to him height. Na the same way you no fit, through your own worry or effort, achieve spiritual growth. The plant and the child grow by receiving from their surroundings the things wey support their life—air, sunlight, and food. Wetin these gifts of nature be to animal and plant, na wetin Christ be to those wey trust Him. E be their "everlasting light," "a sun and shield." Isaiah 60:19; Psalm 84:11. E go be like "dew unto Israel." "He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass." Hosea 14:5; Psalm 72:6. E be the living water, "the Bread of God ... which

cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." John 6:33.

Through the priceless gift of His Son, God surround the whole world with an atmosphere of grace wey real like the air wey move around the earth. All those wey choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere go live and grow until they reach the stature of men and women inside Christ Jesus.

Just like flower dey turn toward the sun, so the bright rays fit help complete its beauty and shape, na so we suppose turn toward the Sun

of Righteousness, so heaven light fit shine on us and our character fit develop into the likeness of Christ.

Jesus teach the same thing when E say, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch no fit bear fruit by itself, unless e remain inside the vine; na so una no fit, unless una remain inside Me.... Without Me una fit do nothing." John 15:4, 5. You depend on Christ to live holy life just like the branch depend on the main plant for growth and fruit. Without Him you no get life. You no get power to resist temptation or grow in grace and holiness. If you remain inside Him, you go flourish. If you

draw your life from Him, you no go dry up or become without fruit. You go be like tree wey dem plant beside rivers of water.

Many people think say dem need do some part of the work by themselves. Dem trust Christ for forgiveness of sin, but now dem dey try by their own effort to live right. But every effort like this must fail. Jesus say, "Without Me una fit do nothing." Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness—all depend on our union with Christ. Na by staying connected with Him every day, every hour—by remaining inside Him—we go grow in grace. E

no be only the Author, but also the Finisher of our faith. Na Christ first, last, and always. E suppose dey with us, not only at the beginning and the end of our journey, but at every step of the way. David talk say, “I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.” Psalm 16:8.

#

Do yu ask, “How I go fit stay inside Christ?” Na di same way as when yu first receive am. “As una don

receive Christ Jesus di Lord, so make una waka inside am." "Di just go live by faith." Colossians 2:6; Hebrews 10:38. Yu give yourself to God, make yu belong fully to am, serve am and obey am, and yu take Christ as your Saviour. Yu no fit pay for your own sins or change your heart by yourself; but after yu give yourself to God, yu believe say because of Christ, He don do all dis for yu. Na by faith yu become Christ own, and na by faith yu go grow inside am—through giving and receiving. Yu must give everything—your heart, your will, your service—give yourself to am

so yu fit obey all wetin He require; and yu must receive everything—Christ, di fullness of every blessing, to stay inside your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your helper forever—to give yu power to obey.

Give yourself completely to God for morning; make dis be di first thing wey yu do. Make your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, make I belong completely to You. I put all my plans for Your feet. Use me today for Your service. Stay with me, and make all my work happen through You." Dis na something wey yu must do every day. Every morning

give yourself to God for dat day. Surrender all your plans to am, make am decide whether dem go happen or not according to His will. So day after day yu fit put your life inside God hand, and your life go dey shaped more and more like Christ life.

Life inside Christ na life of rest. Maybe yu no go always feel strong happiness, but yu suppose get steady and peaceful trust. Your hope no dey inside yourself; e dey inside Christ. Your weakness join with His strength, your ignorance join with His wisdom, your weakness join with His lasting

power. So no look to yourself, no allow your mind stay only on yourself, but look to Christ. Let your mind think about His love, di beauty and perfection of His character. Christ for His self-denial, Christ for His humility, Christ for His purity and holiness, Christ for His unmatched love—dis na wetin your soul suppose think about. Na through loving Him, copying Him, and depending completely on Him, yu go change to become like Him.

Jesus say, "Remain inside Me." Dis words show rest, stability, and confidence. Again He invite us, "Come to Me, ... and I go give yu

rest." Matthew 11:28. Di psalmist talk about di same thing: "Rest in di Lord, and wait patiently for Him." And Isaiah give dis promise, "For quietness and confidence go be your strength." Psalm 37:7; Isaiah 30:15. Dis rest no mean say yu no go do anything; because inside di Saviour invitation, di promise of rest join with di call to work: "Take My yoke upon you: ... and yu go find rest." Matthew 11:29. Di heart wey rest most inside Christ go be di one wey work most seriously and actively for Him.

When your mind dey always on yourself, e turn away from Christ,

di source of strength and life. Na why Satan always try make people focus on things wey go distract dem from di Saviour and stop di connection between di soul and Christ. Di pleasures of di world, di worries and troubles of life, di mistakes of other people, or your own faults and weaknesses—through any of dis things he go try distract your mind. No let his tricks deceive yu. Many people wey truly want serve God, he often make dem focus too much on their own faults and weaknesses, and by separating dem from Christ he hope to win. We no suppose

make ourselves di center and worry with fear about whether we go be saved. All dis things turn di soul away from di Source of our strength. Put your soul in God care and trust Him. Talk and think about Jesus. Let yourself disappear inside Him. Remove every doubt; throw away your fears. Say like Apostle Paul, "I live; yet no be me again, but Christ dey live inside me: and di life wey I dey live now for body, I dey live by faith in di Son of God, wey love me and give Himself for me." Galatians 2:20. Rest in God. He get power to protect wetin yu give to Him. If yu leave yourself for His

hand, He go make yu more than conqueror through Him wey love yu.

When Christ take human nature upon Himself, He connect humanity to Himself with a love connection wey no power fit break except a person choose by himself to break am. Satan go always bring temptations to make us break dis connection—to choose to separate ourselves from Christ. Na here we need to watch, struggle, and pray, so nothing go tempt us to choose another master; because we always get freedom to choose. But make we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, and

He go protect us. Looking to Jesus, we dey safe. Nothing fit remove us from His hand. As we continue looking at Him, “we dey changed into di same image from glory to glory, even as by di Spirit of di Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18.

#

Na dis way di early disciples gain likeness to di dear Saviour. When dem hear di words of Jesus, dem feel say dem need Him. Dem search, dem find, and dem follow Him. Dem dey with Him for house,

for table, for private place, and for field. Dem dey with Him like students dey with teacher, every day receiving lessons of holy truth from His mouth. Dem look to Him like servants look to their master, to learn their duty. Those disciples na people "with same human weaknesses like us." James 5:17. Dem get di same fight against sin. Dem need di same grace so dem fit live holy life.

Even John, di beloved disciple, di one wey reflect di likeness of Saviour pass others, no naturally get dat beautiful character. He no only dey confident too much in

himself and ambitious for honor, but he dey quick to react and vex when people hurt am. But as di character of di Divine One show itself to am, he see his own weakness and become humble because he understand himself better. Di strength and patience, di power and kindness, di greatness and humility wey he see for di daily life of di Son of God fill his soul with admiration and love. Every day his heart dey drawn closer to Christ, until he forget himself because of love for his Master. His angry and ambitious nature surrender to di shaping power of

Christ. Di renewing power of di Holy Spirit change his heart. Di power of Christ love bring transformation to his character. Dis na di sure result when person join with Jesus. When Christ stay inside di heart, di whole nature change. Christ Spirit, His love, make di heart soft, bring di soul under control, and lift di thoughts and desires toward God and heaven.

When Christ go back to heaven, His followers still feel His presence with dem. E be personal presence, full of love and light. Jesus, di Saviour, wey walk, talk, and pray with dem, wey speak hope and comfort to

their hearts, after giving di message of peace, was taken from dem into heaven. And di sound of His voice return to dem as di cloud of angels carry Him—"Lo, I dey with una always, even unto di end of di world." Matthew 28:20. He go up to heaven with human form. Dem know say He dey before God throne, still their Friend and Saviour; say His love and care no change; say He still connected with suffering humanity. He dey present before God di value of His own precious blood, showing His wounded hands and feet, remembering di price He pay for

those He save. Dem know say He go heaven to prepare places for dem, and say He go return and take dem to Himself.

When dem gather together after He go heaven, dem eager to present their requests to di Father in Jesus name. With deep respect and seriousness, dem bow down in prayer, repeating di promise: "Anything wey una ask di Father in My name, He go give una. Before now una never ask anything in My name: ask, and una go receive, so una joy go complete." John 16:23, 24. Dem raise di hand of faith higher and higher with dis strong

assurance: “Na Christ die, yes, and more than dat, He rise again, and He dey even for God right hand, where He dey pray for us.” Romans 8:34. And Pentecost bring dem di presence of di Comforter, di One Christ promise, say He “go dey inside una.” And He also say, “E better for una make I go away: because if I no go, di Comforter no go come to una; but if I leave, I go send Him come to una.” John 14:17; 16:7. From dat time, through di Spirit, Christ go continue to live inside di hearts of His children. Their connection with Him become closer pass when He dey physically

with dem. Di light, love, and power of Christ living inside dem shine through their lives, so people see dem and "wonder; and dem understand say dem don dey with Jesus." Acts 4:13.

Everything wey Christ be to di disciples, He want be to His children today too; because for dat last prayer, when di small group of disciples gather around Him, He say, "I no dey pray only for these ones, but also for those wey go believe in Me through their word." John 17:20.

Jesus pray for us, and He ask make we become one with Him, just as He and di Father dey one. Wetin kind of connection dis be! Di Saviour say about Himself, "Di Son no fit do anything by Himself;" "di Father wey dey inside Me, na Him dey do di works." John 5:19; 14:10. So if Christ dey live inside our hearts, He go work inside us "both to want and to do wetin please Him." Philippians 2:13. We go work like He work; we go show di same spirit. And so, as we love Him and remain inside Him, we go "grow up into Him for everything, wey be di head, even Christ." Ephesians 4:15.

9 — Di Work and Di Life

God na di source of life, light, and joy for di whole universe. Just like light rays wey dey come from di sun, and like streams of water wey dey burst out from living spring, blessings dey flow from Him go to all Him creatures. And anywhere God life dey inside human hearts, e go flow out to others with love and blessing.

Our Saviour joy na inside lifting up and saving people wey fall into sin. Because of this, He no see His own life as something too precious for

Himself, but He endure di cross and shame. In di same way, angels dey always busy working for di happiness of others. Na this be their joy. Wetin selfish hearts go see as shameful service—helping people wey suffer and wey look lower in character and position—is di work of angels wey never sin. Di spirit of Christ self-sacrificing love na di spirit wey fill heaven and na di very source of its happiness. Na this same spirit Christ followers go possess, and na this kind work dem go do.

When Christ love dey inside di heart, like sweet perfume, e no fit

hide. Everybody wey we meet go feel di holy influence. Christ spirit inside di heart be like spring for desert, wey dey flow to refresh everybody and make those wey dey close to perish desire to drink di water of life.

Love for Jesus go show through di desire to work as He worked for blessing and lifting up of humanity. E go lead us to show love, tenderness, and sympathy toward all creatures under di care of our heavenly Father.

Di Saviour life for earth no be life of comfort or living for Himself, but

He work with constant, serious, and tireless effort for di salvation of lost humanity. From di manger reach Calvary, He follow di way of self-denial and He no try escape from difficult works, painful journeys, and exhausting care and labor. He talk say, "Di Son of man no come make people serve Him, but to serve others, and to give His life as ransom for many." Matthew 20:28. Na this be di one great purpose of His life. Everything else was secondary and under this purpose. E be like food and drink for Him to do God will and finish

His work. Self and personal interest no get any part for His labor.

So those wey receive Christ grace go ready to make any sacrifice, so that others wey He die for fit share di heavenly gift. Dem go do everything wey dem fit do to make di world better because dem dey inside am. This spirit na sure sign of person wey truly change. Immediately person come to Christ, desire go born inside him heart to tell others about di precious Friend wey e find in Jesus. Di truth wey save and make holy no fit remain locked inside him heart. If we wear Christ righteousness and we full of

di joy of His Spirit living inside us, we no go fit keep quiet. If we don taste and see say di Lord good, we go get something to tell. Like Philip when e find di Saviour, we go invite others come to Him presence. We go try show dem di beauty of Christ and di unseen realities of di world wey dey come. There go be strong desire to follow di same road wey Jesus walk. There go be serious longing say people around us go "see di Lamb of God, wey carry away di sin of di world." John 1:29.

And di effort wey we make to bless others go return as blessing to ourselves. Na this be God purpose

when He give us part inside di plan of redemption. He give humans privilege to share in divine nature and, in their own turn, spread blessings to their fellow people. This na di highest honor and greatest joy wey God fit give humanity. Those wey join in this work of love dey come closest to their Creator.

God fit don give di message of di gospel and all loving service work to angels for heaven. He fit use other ways to complete His purpose. But because of His endless love, He choose to make us workers together with Him, with Christ and

di angels, so that we fit share di blessing, di joy, and di spiritual growth wey come from this unselfish service.

We dey brought close to Christ through sharing in His suffering. Every act of self-sacrifice wey we do for di good of others strengthens kindness and generosity inside di giver heart, making him closer to di Redeemer of di world, who "was rich, but because of you He became poor, so that through His poverty you fit become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9. And na only when we fulfill God purpose for creating us that life fit truly become blessing to us.

If you go work the way Christ want His disciples work, and win souls for Him, you go feel need for deeper experience and greater knowledge about divine things. You go hunger and thirst for righteousness. You go beg God, your faith go become stronger, and your soul go drink deeper from di well of salvation. When you meet opposition and trials, dem go push you go Bible and prayer. You go grow in grace and knowledge of Christ, and you go develop rich experience.

Di spirit of unselfish work for others dey give depth, stability, and

Christ-like beauty to character, and e dey bring peace and happiness to di person wey possess am. Your desires go become higher. There no go be space for laziness or selfishness. Those wey exercise Christian qualities like this go grow and become strong to work for God. Dem go get clearer spiritual understanding, stronger and growing faith, and more power for prayer. God Spirit, as e move inside their spirit, go bring sacred harmony inside their soul as answer to divine touch. Those wey dedicate themselves to unselfish work for di

good of others dey surely working out their own salvation.

Di only way to grow in grace na to do di very work wey Christ command us—to use our ability to help and bless those wey need di help we fit give. Strength dey come through exercise; activity na condition for life. Those wey try maintain Christian life by only receiving blessings from God grace but doing nothing for Christ, dey try live by eating without working. And for spiritual life just like natural life, this always lead to weakness and decay. Person wey refuse exercise him body go soon

lose power to use am. In di same way, Christian wey refuse use di abilities God give am no only fail to grow into Christ, but e also lose di strength wey e already get.

Di church of Christ na God appointed instrument for saving people. Its mission na to carry di gospel go di whole world. And this responsibility dey on all Christians. Everybody, according to him talent and opportunity, must fulfill di Saviour command. Christ love wey God reveal to us make us owe something to all those wey never know Him. God give us light, not

only for ourselves, but so we fit shine am on others.

If Christ followers truly wake up to their duty, thousands go dey where only one dey today preaching di gospel for lands wey never hear am. And those wey no fit personally join di work go still support am with their resources, sympathy, and prayers. And there go be much more serious work for saving souls even inside Christian countries.

We no need go to heathen lands, or even leave di small circle of our home, if na there our duty dey,

before we work for Christ. We fit do this inside our home, inside di church, among people we dey relate with, and among those we dey do business with.

Most part of our Saviour life for earth He spend doing patient work inside carpenter shop for Nazareth. Angels wey dey serve God attend di Lord of life as He walk side by side with ordinary people and workers, without people recognizing or honoring Him. He was faithfully fulfilling His mission while doing His humble trade, just like when He healed sick people or walked on top of di stormy waves

of Galilee. So, even for di lowest duties and humble positions of life, we fit walk and work together with Jesus.

Di apostle talk say, “Make every person remain where God call am, and stay there with God.” 1 Corinthians 7:24. Business person fit run him business in a way wey go bring glory to him Master because of his honesty and faithfulness. If he truly follow Christ, he go carry his religion into everything wey he do and show people di spirit of Christ. Di mechanic fit be hardworking and faithful representative of Him wey work for humble places among di

hills of Galilee. Everybody wey call himself Christian should work in such way that others, when dem see his good works, go be led to glorify their Creator and Redeemer.

Many people don excuse themselves from giving their gifts to Christ service because other people get better abilities and more advantages. Many people believe say only those wey get special talents need dedicate their abilities to God service. E come to be understood by many say talents na only for certain favored people, while others no need share di work or di reward. But na not so di

parable show am. When di master of di house call his servants, he give every person his own work.

With loving heart, we fit do even di smallest duties of life "as unto di Lord." Colossians 3:23. If God love dey inside our heart, e go show for our life. Di sweet fragrance of Christ go surround us, and our influence go lift people up and bring blessing.

You no suppose wait for big opportunities or expect special abilities before you start working for God. You no need worry about wetin di world go think about you.

If your daily life dey show purity and sincerity of your faith, and other people see say you truly want help dem, your efforts no go be wasted.

Even di humblest and poorest disciple of Jesus fit be blessing to others. Dem fit not know say dem dey do any special good thing, but through their unconscious influence, dem fit start waves of blessing wey go spread wider and deeper. Di blessed results fit remain unknown to dem until di day of final reward.

Dem no feel or know say dem dey do something great. Dem no need trouble themselves with worry about success. All wey dem need do na to quietly continue, faithfully doing di work wey God providence give dem. Then their life no go be useless. Their own souls go continue becoming more like Christ; dem go be workers together with God for this life, and because of this, dem go prepare themselves for di greater work and endless joy of di life wey dey come.

10 — Knowledge of God

Many na di ways wey God dey use to make Himself known to us and bring us close to Him. Nature dey talk to our senses without stopping. Heart wey open go feel the love and glory of God as e dey shown through the works of His hands. Ear wey dey listen fit hear and understand the messages of God through the things of nature. Green fields, tall trees, buds and flowers, cloud wey dey pass, rain wey dey fall, small stream wey dey make sound, and the beauty of heaven, all dey speak to our hearts and invite

us make we know the One wey create all of them.

Our Saviour join His precious lessons with the things of nature. The trees, birds, flowers of the valleys, hills, lakes, and beautiful heavens, together with the things and situations of everyday life, all were connected with the words of truth, so that His lessons fit always come back to mind, even among the busy worries of human work and life.

God want make His children value His works and enjoy the simple and quiet beauty wey He use decorate

our earthly home. He love beautiful things, but more than outward beauty, He love beauty of character; He want make we develop purity and simplicity, the quiet grace wey flowers show.

If we listen well, the things God create go teach us precious lessons about obedience and trust. From the stars wey dey move through space following their path from generation to generation, down to the smallest atom, everything in nature dey obey the Creator's will. And God care for everything and sustain everything wey He create. The One wey hold countless worlds

throughout the universe, at the same time care about the needs of the small brown sparrow wey dey sing its humble song without fear. When people go to their daily work, when dem pray, when dem sleep at night, and when dem wake up in the morning; when rich person dey eat for palace, or poor person dey gather his children around small table, all of them dey watched with tenderness by the heavenly Father. No tear dey fall wey God no notice. No smile dey appear wey He no see.

If we truly believe this, all unnecessary worries go disappear.

Our lives no go full of disappointment like before, because everything, whether big or small, go remain in God's hands. He no dey confused by many problems or overwhelmed by their weight. Then we go enjoy peace of soul wey many people don forget for long time.

As your senses enjoy the attractive beauty of the earth, think about the world wey dey come, the one wey no go ever know the damage of sin and death; where nature no go again carry the shadow of the curse. Let your imagination picture the home of the saved, and remember

say e go be more glorious than anything your brightest imagination fit show. In the different gifts of God in nature, we only see small shine of His glory. It is written, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9.

The poet and the person wey study nature get many things to talk about nature, but na the Christian dey enjoy the beauty of the earth with the greatest appreciation, because he recognizes the work of his Father and sees His love in

flowers, bushes, and trees. Nobody fit fully understand the meaning of hills and valleys, rivers and seas, if he no see them as an expression of God's love toward humanity.

God dey speak to us through His providence and through the influence of His Spirit on the heart. In our situations and surroundings, in the daily changes happening around us, we fit find precious lessons if our hearts open to understand them. The psalmist, when he looked at God's work, said, “The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.” “Whoso is wise, and will observe these things,

even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord." Psalm 33:5; 107:43.

God dey speak to us through His word. There we get a clearer revelation of His character, His dealings with people, and the great work of redemption. There we see the history of patriarchs, prophets, and other holy people of old. Dem were people "subject to like passions as we are." James 5:17. We see how dem struggled with discouragements like us, how dem fell into temptation like we do, but still gained courage again and overcame through God's grace; and

when we see this, we receive encouragement in our own search for righteousness. As we read about the precious experiences given to them, the light, love, and blessings they enjoyed, and the work they did through the grace given to them, the same spirit that inspired them creates in our hearts a desire to become like them in character—to walk with God like them.

Jesus said about the Scriptures of the Old Testament—and even more this is true about the New Testament—"They are they which testify of Me," the Redeemer, the One in whom our hope of eternal

life is centered. John 5:39. Yes, the whole Bible speaks about Christ. From the first record of creation—for "without Him was not anything made that was made"—until the final promise, "Behold, I come quickly," we read about His works and hear His voice. John 1:3; Revelation 22:12. If you want to know the Saviour, study the Holy Scriptures.

Fill your whole heart with the words of God. They are the living water that removes your burning thirst. They are the living bread from heaven. Jesus says, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and

drink His blood, ye have no life in you." And He explains by saying, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:53, 63. Our bodies grow from what we eat and drink; and in the same way, in spiritual life, what we think about and meditate on gives strength and shape to our spiritual nature.

The subject of redemption is something the angels desire to understand; it will be the knowledge and the song of the redeemed throughout the endless ages of eternity. Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now?

The endless mercy and love of Jesus, and the sacrifice He made for us, deserve the most serious and respectful reflection. We should think deeply about the character of our dear Redeemer and Intercessor. We should meditate on the mission of the One who came to save His people from their sins. As we think about these heavenly things, our faith and love will become stronger, and our prayers will become more accepted by God, because they will be filled more and more with faith and love. They will be wise and full of desire. There will be a stronger confidence in Jesus and a daily

living experience in His power to save completely all who come to God through Him.

As we meditate on the perfection of the Saviour, we will desire to be completely transformed and renewed into the image of His purity. There will be a hunger and thirst in the soul to become like the One we worship. The more our thoughts are focused on Christ, the more we will speak about Him to others and show Him to the world.

The Bible was not written only for scholars; instead, it was made for ordinary people. The great truths

needed for salvation are made as clear as daylight; and nobody will make mistakes and lose the way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the clearly revealed will of God.

We no suppose take the testimony of any person as the final word about wetin the Scriptures teach, but we suppose study God's words by ourselves. If we allow other people to do our thinking for us, our abilities and strength of mind go become weak. The great powers of the mind fit become small

because dem no dey exercised on things worthy of deep thought, until dem lose the ability to understand the deep meaning of God's word. The mind go grow bigger when we use am to study the connection between the subjects of the Bible, comparing one scripture with another and spiritual things with spiritual things.

Nothing dey strengthen the mind more than studying the Scriptures. No other book get the same power to lift up thoughts and give strength to our abilities like the wide and noble truths of the Bible. If God's word was studied the way e

suppose be, people for get wider understanding, better character, and stronger purpose, things wey rarely dey seen for these days.

But little benefit dey come from rushing through the Scriptures. Person fit read the whole Bible finish and still fail to see its beauty or understand its deep and hidden meaning. One passage wey person study until its meaning become clear and its connection with the plan of salvation become known, get more value than reading many chapters without a clear purpose and without gaining real instruction. Carry your Bible with

you. Whenever you get chance, read am; keep the verses inside your memory. Even while you dey walk on the street, you fit read one passage and think about am, so that e go remain fixed inside your mind.

We no fit get wisdom without serious attention and prayerful study. Some parts of Scripture truly clear enough that nobody fit misunderstand them, but there are others whose meaning no dey on the surface for person to see immediately. Scripture must be compared with Scripture. There must be careful searching and prayerful thinking. And this kind of

study go surely bring great reward. Like miner wey discover precious metal hidden under the ground, the person wey continue searching God's word like someone looking for hidden treasure go find truths of great value, truths wey careless seekers no go see. The words given by inspiration, when we keep thinking about them inside our hearts, go become like streams flowing from the fountain of life.

The Bible should never be studied without prayer. Before we open its pages, we should ask for the Holy Spirit to give us understanding, and it will be given. When Nathanael

came to Jesus, the Saviour said, “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” Nathanael asked, “Whence knowest Thou me?” Jesus answered, “Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.” John 1:47, 48. And Jesus go also see us in our secret places of prayer if we search for Him asking for light so we fit know what is truth. Angels from the world of light go stay with those who humbly seek divine guidance.

The Holy Spirit lifts up and glorifies the Saviour. His work na to show Christ, the purity of His

righteousness, and the great salvation we receive through Him. Jesus says, “He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you.” John 16:14. The Spirit of truth na the only true teacher of divine truth. How great must be God's value for humanity, since He gave His Son to die for us and also appointed His Spirit to be our teacher and constant guide!

11 — The Privilege of Prayer

Through nature and revelation, through di way He dey guide things, and through di influence of His Spirit, God dey talk to us. But dis ones no enough; we need also to pour our hearts out to Him. To get spiritual life and strength, we must get real relationship with our heavenly Father. Our minds fit turn toward Him; we fit think about His works, His mercy, and His blessings; but dis one no be, in full meaning, communion with Him. To commune with God, we must get

something to tell Him about our real life.

Prayer na when we open our heart to God like we dey talk to a friend. No be because God need us to tell am who we be, but because through prayer we fit receive Him. Prayer no dey bring God come down to us, but e dey lift us up go meet Him.

When Jesus dey on earth, He teach His disciples how to pray. He tell them make dem bring their daily needs before God and throw all their worries upon Him. And the promise He give them say their

requests go be heard, na the same promise for us today.

Jesus Himself, while He live among people, many times dey pray. Our Saviour identify Himself with our needs and weakness because He become someone wey dey ask and seek from His Father fresh strength, so He fit face duty and trials with courage. He na our example in everything. He be our brother in our weaknesses, “in all points tempted like as we are;” but because He was without sin, His nature rejected evil; He passed through struggles and pain of soul in a world full of sin. His human

nature make prayer become both a need and a privilege. He find comfort and joy in communion with His Father. And if the Saviour of humanity, the Son of God, feel the need to pray, how much more should weak and sinful human beings feel the need for serious and constant prayer.

Our heavenly Father dey wait to give us the fullness of His blessings. Na our privilege to drink deeply from the fountain of unlimited love. E really surprising say we dey pray so little! God ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of even the humblest of His children, yet many

times we dey hesitate to tell God our needs. Wetin angels of heaven fit think about helpless human beings, wey dey face temptation, when God's heart full of endless love dey long for them and ready to give them more than they fit ask or imagine, but dem still pray so little and have so little faith? Angels love to bow before God; dem love to stay close to Him. Dem see communion with God as their greatest joy; but the children of earth, wey need God's help so much, dey satisfied to walk without the light of His Spirit and without the presence of God.

The darkness of the evil one surround those wey neglect prayer. The quiet temptations of the enemy pull them toward sin; and all this happen because dem no use the privilege God give them through prayer. Why should the sons and daughters of God hesitate to pray, when prayer na the key in the hand of faith wey unlock heaven's storehouse, where the unlimited resources of God's power dey kept? Without constant prayer and careful watching, we dey in danger of becoming careless and leaving the right path. The enemy always try to block the way to the place of mercy,

so that through serious prayer and faith we no go receive grace and power to overcome temptation.

There are some conditions wey make us sure say God go hear and answer our prayers. One of the first ones na to feel our need for help from Him. He promise, “I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground.” Isaiah 44:3. Those wey hunger and thirst for righteousness, those wey desire God deeply, fit be sure say dem go be filled. The heart must be open to the influence of the Spirit, or God's blessing no fit enter.

Our great need itself na an argument wey speaks strongly for us. But we must seek the Lord to do these things for us. He says, “Ask, and it shall be given you.” And “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Matthew 7:7; Romans 8:32.

If we keep sin inside our hearts, if we hold on to any known wrong thing, the Lord no go hear us; but the prayer of the person wey truly repent and humble heart dey always accepted. When all known wrongs have been corrected, we fit

believe say God go answer our requests. Our own goodness no go ever make God accept us; na the worthiness of Jesus go save us, and His blood go cleanse us; but we still get work to do by following the conditions of acceptance.

Another important part of powerful prayer na faith. “He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6. Jesus tell His disciples, “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24. Do we truly trust His word?

The promise is wide and without limit, and the One wey promise am dey faithful. When we no receive exactly the thing we ask for at the time we ask, we still suppose believe say the Lord hears us and He go answer our prayers. We dey make mistakes and our understanding small, so sometimes we ask for things wey no go truly bless us, and our heavenly Father, because of His love, answer by giving us the thing wey go be best for us—the thing we ourselves for choose if we had God's perfect understanding and could see everything as e really be. When our

prayers look like say dem no get answer, we suppose hold on to the promise, because the time of answer surely go come, and we go receive the blessing we need most. But to claim say prayer must always be answered exactly the way and for the exact thing we want, na overconfidence. God too wise to make mistake, and too good to refuse any good thing from those wey walk uprightly. So no fear to trust Him, even when you no see immediate answer to your prayers. Depend on His sure promise: "Ask, and it shall be given you."

If we allow doubts and fears to guide us, or try to understand everything wey we cannot see clearly before we have faith, our confusion go only increase. But if we come to God knowing say we helpless and dependent, as we truly be, and with humble and trusting faith tell Him our needs, He whose knowledge unlimited, who sees everything in creation and controls everything by His will and word, He fit and He go hear our cry, and He go bring light into our hearts. Through sincere prayer, we connect with the mind of the Infinite One. We may not receive any special sign

at that moment say our Redeemer dey near us with compassion and love, but that na still the truth. We may not feel His physical touch, but His hand dey upon us with love and tender mercy.

When we come to ask God for mercy and blessing, we should have love and forgiveness inside our own hearts. How we fit pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," and still hold unforgiveness against others? Matthew 6:12. If we want our prayers to be heard, we must forgive others in the same way and

measure we hope God go forgive us.

Continuing in prayer na one condition for receiving. We must always pray if we want our faith and experience to grow. We suppose be "instant in prayer," to "continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2. Peter encourage believers to be "sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 Peter 4:7. Paul instructs, "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Philippians 4:6. “Mas unu, wey una love,” Jude tok, “una pray wit di Holy Spirit, keep una sef inside God love.” Jude 20, 21. Prayer wey no stop na di connection wey no break between di soul and God, so dat life from God dey flow enter our life; and from our life, purity and holiness dey flow go back to God.

E dey necessary make person dey serious and consistent for prayer; no let anything block you. Try your best make di connection between Jesus and your own soul remain open. Find every chance to go where people dey pray. People wey truly dey seek connection wit God

go show for prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty and eager to receive all di blessings wey dem fit get. Dem go use every opportunity to put dem sef where dem fit receive di light from heaven.

We suppose pray for family circle, but most important, we no suppose neglect secret prayer, because na there di soul dey get life. Soul no fit grow well when prayer dey neglected. Family prayer or public prayer alone no dey enough. For quiet place, make your soul open before God eye wey dey examine everything. Secret prayer na only God wey dey hear prayer fit hear

am. No curious person suppose hear di burden of those kind prayers. For secret prayer, di soul dey free from outside influence and excitement. Calmly but with strong desire, e go reach out for God. Sweet and lasting na di influence wey come from God, the One wey dey see inside secret place and whose ear dey open to hear prayer wey come from heart. Through calm and simple faith, di soul dey communicate wit God and receive rays of divine light to make am strong and support am for battle against Satan. God na our tower of strength.

Pray for your private place, and as you dey do your daily work, make your heart often rise up go God. Na like this Enoch walk wit God. Those quiet prayers dey rise like precious incense before God throne of grace. Satan no fit defeat person whose heart dey firmly placed on God.

No time or place dey where e no good to send prayer go God. Nothing fit stop us from lifting our hearts to God with serious prayer. Even among crowd for street, or while doing business, we fit send prayer to God and ask for His guidance, like Nehemiah did when he made his request before King

Artaxerxes. Anywhere we dey fit become place of communion wit God. We suppose always keep di door of our heart open and invite Jesus to come and stay inside our soul like heavenly guest.

Even if bad and corrupted atmosphere surround us, we no need breathe that dirty influence, but we fit live inside di pure air of heaven. Through sincere prayer, we fit close every door to dirty thoughts and sinful imagination by lifting our soul into God presence. People wey open their hearts to receive God support and blessing go walk in a more holy atmosphere

than dis earth, and dem go have constant connection wit heaven.

We need to see Jesus more clearly and understand better di value of eternal things. Di beauty of holiness suppose fill di hearts of God children; and so that dis fit happen, we need seek heavenly things through God revelation.

Make di soul rise upward, so God fit give us breath from heaven atmosphere. We fit stay so close to God that when unexpected problems come, our thoughts go turn to Him naturally, just like flower dey turn go sun.

Carry your needs, your happiness, your sadness, your worries, and your fears before God. You no fit make Him tired; you no fit put burden too heavy on Him. The One wey count every hair for your head no dey ignore di needs of His children. “The Lord dey full of pity and mercy.” James 5:11. His loving heart dey touched by our sadness and even by di things we talk about am. Carry everything wey trouble your mind go Him. Nothing too big for Him to carry, because na Him hold all worlds and control everything for di universe. Nothing concerning our peace too small for

Him to notice. No part of our experience too dark for Him to understand; no problem too difficult for Him to solve. No disaster fit happen to di smallest of His children, no worry fit trouble di soul, no happiness fit come, no sincere prayer fit leave our mouth, without our heavenly Father knowing and caring about am. "He heal people wey heart break and He bandage their wounds." Psalm 147:3. Di relationship between God and each soul dey personal and complete, like say no other person dey for earth for Him to care for,

and like say no other person dey wey He give His beloved Son for.

Jesus tok, “Una go ask inside My name; and I no dey tell una say I go ask di Father for una, because di Father Himself love una.” “I choose una... so anything wey una ask di Father inside My name, He go give una.” John 16:26, 27; 15:16. But to pray inside Jesus name mean more than just mention His name for beginning and ending of prayer. E mean say we pray with Jesus mind and spirit, believing His promises, trusting His grace, and doing His works.

God no mean say any of us suppose become like hermit or monk and leave di world just to worship. Our life suppose look like Christ life—between di mountain and di crowd. Person wey only pray and do nothing else go soon stop praying, or his prayers go become just empty routine. When people remove themselves from social life, leave di place where Christian duty and sacrifice dey happen; when dem stop working seriously for di Master wey worked seriously for dem, dem lose di reason for prayer and no longer get motivation for devotion. Their prayers become

selfish and focused only on themselves. Dem no fit pray about human needs or di growth of Christ kingdom, asking for strength to serve.

We lose something when we ignore di privilege of meeting together to strengthen and encourage each other for God service. The truths from His word begin lose their importance and brightness inside our minds. Our hearts stop receiving light and motivation from their holy influence, and our spiritual life become weak. As Christians, we lose plenty when we no show care and sympathy for

each other. Person wey isolate himself no dey fulfill di position God designed for am. Developing our social relationships properly brings us closer to others and becomes a way for growth and strength in God service.

If Christians dey gather together, talking with each other about God love and di precious truths about salvation, their own hearts go become refreshed, and dem go refresh each other too. Every day we fit learn more about our heavenly Father and receive new experience of His grace; then we go want talk about His love. And

when we do am, our own hearts go become warm and encouraged. If we think and talk more about Jesus and less about ourselves, we go have much more of His presence.

If we go just dey think about God the same way we dey see proof of His care for us, we go always keep Him for our thoughts, and we go enjoy talking about Him and praising Him. We dey talk about things of this world because dem matter to us. We dey talk about our friends because we love dem; our

happiness and sadness dey connected with dem. But we get much greater reason to love God pass our earthly friends. E suppose be the most natural thing for us to put Him first in all our thoughts, to talk about His goodness and tell people about His power. The rich blessings wey He give us no be to make us so focused on dem that we forget to give anything to God; instead, dem suppose always remind us of Him and connect us with love and gratitude to our heavenly Benefactor. We dey stay too close to the low places of earth. Make we lift our eyes go the open

door of the sanctuary above, where the light of God glory dey shine through the face of Christ, the One wey "fit save completely those wey come to God through Him." Hebrews 7:25.

We need praise God more "because of His goodness and because of His wonderful works to the children of men." Psalm 107:8. Our worship no suppose only be about asking and receiving. Make we no always think only about our needs and forget the blessings wey we dey receive. We no dey pray too much, but we dey too slow to give thanks. Every time, we dey receive God mercy, yet how

little gratitude we dey show, and how little we dey praise Him for all He don do for us.

Long time ago, God tell Israel that when dem gather together for His service, "una go eat before the Lord una God, and una go rejoice in everything wey una hand do, una and una households, because the Lord una God don bless una." Deuteronomy 12:7. Anything wey we do for God glory suppose be done with happiness, with songs of praise and thanksgiving, not with sadness and heavy heart.

Our God na Father wey full of love and mercy. We no suppose see His service as something wey dey make heart sad or bring suffering. E suppose be joy to worship the Lord and take part in His work. God no want His children, people wey He prepare such great salvation for, to behave like say He be hard and demanding master. He na their best Friend; and when dem worship Him, He want dey with dem, bless dem, comfort dem, and fill their hearts with joy and love. The Lord want His children to enjoy serving Him and to find more happiness than hardship in His work. He want

those wey come worship Him to carry away precious thoughts about His care and love, so that dem fit have courage in their daily work and receive grace to act honestly and faithfully in everything.

We must gather around the cross. Christ and Him crucified suppose be the main thing we think about, talk about, and feel deep joy about. We suppose keep every blessing we receive from God in our minds, and when we understand His great love, we suppose be ready to trust everything into the hands wey were nailed to the cross for us.

The soul fit rise closer to heaven through the wings of praise. God dey receive worship with songs and music in the courts above, and when we show our gratitude, we dey come closer to the worship of heavenly beings. “The person wey offer praise dey glorify God.” Psalm 50:23. Make we come before our Creator with holy joy, with “thanksgiving and the voice of melody.” Isaiah 51:3.

12 — Wetin We Suppose Do About Doubt

Many people, especially those wey just start their Christian life, sometimes dey troubled by thoughts of doubt. For Bible, many things dey wey dem no fit explain or even understand, and Satan dey use these things to shake their faith say Bible truly na revelation from God. Dem dey ask: “How I go know the correct way? If Bible truly na God word, how I fit free myself from these doubts and confusion?”

God no dey ever ask us make we believe without giving enough evidence wey our faith fit stand on. His existence, His character, and the truth of His word all dey established through evidence wey appeal to our understanding; and this evidence plenty. But God never remove the possibility of doubt completely. Our faith suppose stand on evidence, not only on things wey we fit prove with our eyes. People wey want doubt go always find chance to doubt; but people wey truly want know truth go find enough evidence to build their faith on.

E impossible for human mind, wey get limit, to fully understand the character or works of the One wey no get limit. Even the sharpest mind and the most educated person no go ever fully understand that holy Being. “Fit you discover God by searching? Fit you fully understand the Almighty? E high like heaven; wetin you fit do? E deeper than hell; wetin you fit know?” Job 11:7, 8.

Apostle Paul shout: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How impossible to search His judgments and understand His ways!” Romans 11:33. But even though “clouds and

darkness surround Him," "righteousness and judgment na the foundation of His throne." Psalm 97:2. We fit understand enough about His dealings with us and the reasons behind His actions to see unlimited love and mercy together with unlimited power. We fit understand as much of His plans as e good for us to know; beyond that, we must trust the hand wey get all power and the heart wey full of love.

The word of God, just like the character of its divine Author, get mysteries wey human beings wey get limit no fit ever fully

understand. How sin enter the world, Christ becoming human, new birth, resurrection, and many other things for Bible, na mysteries too deep for human mind to explain or completely understand. But we no get reason to doubt God word just because we no understand all the mysteries of His actions. For the natural world, mysteries wey we no fit solve dey surround us everywhere. Even the smallest forms of life still dey give scientists problems wey the wisest philosophers no fit explain. Everywhere, there are wonders beyond our understanding. So why

we go surprise say spiritual things too get mysteries we no fit fully understand? The problem dey only because human mind weak and limited. God don give us enough evidence inside Scripture about its divine nature, and we no suppose doubt His word because we no understand every mystery about His ways.

Apostle Peter talk say inside Scripture there are "things hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people twist... to their own destruction." 2 Peter 3:16. People wey doubt don use the difficulties inside Bible as argument against

am; but instead, those difficulties na strong evidence that Bible truly come from God. If Bible only talk about God things wey humans fit easily understand; if His greatness and majesty fit be completely captured by human minds, then Bible no go carry the clear signs of divine authority. The greatness and mystery of the subjects inside Bible suppose make our faith stronger that na truly God word.

Bible reveals truth with simplicity and perfect fit for human heart needs and desires. This one don amaze and attract highly educated minds, while at the same time

allowing even humble and uneducated people understand the way of salvation. Yet these simple truths dey talk about things so great, so far-reaching, and so beyond human ability to fully understand, that we fit accept dem only because God don reveal dem. In this way, the plan of salvation dey opened before us, so every soul fit understand the steps to take: repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, to receive salvation the way God planned. But underneath these truths wey easy to understand, there are mysteries wey hide God

glory—mysteries wey overwhelm human mind during study, yet fill sincere seekers of truth with respect and faith. The more person study Bible, the more convinced e become say na the word of the living God, and human reasoning bows before the greatness of divine revelation.

To accept say we no fit fully understand the great truths of Bible simply means say human mind get limit and cannot fully grasp the infinite; man, with his small human knowledge, cannot understand all the purposes of the One wey know everything.

Because dem no fit understand all the mysteries inside Bible, skeptics and unbelievers reject God word; but even some people wey claim say dem believe Bible still dey in danger of falling into this mistake. The apostle says: “Make una be careful, brothers and sisters, so that nobody among una get evil heart of unbelief and turn away from the living God.” Hebrews 3:12. E good to study Bible teachings carefully and search into “the deep things of God” as far as Scripture reveals dem. 1 Corinthians 2:10. While “secret things belong to the Lord

our God," "things wey He reveal belong to us." Deuteronomy 29:29.

But na Satan work to twist the searching ability of the mind. Pride sometimes enter when people study Bible truth, making dem feel angry and defeated if dem no fit explain every part of Scripture the way dem want. E dey difficult for dem to accept say dem no understand everything wey God reveal. Dem no want wait patiently until God decide to show more truth. Dem feel say human wisdom alone enough to understand Scripture, and when dem fail, dem indirectly reject its authority.

True say many ideas and teachings wey people believe come from Bible actually no get foundation inside Bible, and some even go against the whole message of inspiration. These things don cause doubt and confusion for many people. But the problem no be God word; na human beings twisting its meaning.

If created beings fit fully understand God and all His works, then after reaching that point, there would be no more discovery of truth, no more growth in knowledge, and no more development of mind or heart. God would no longer be supreme; and

man, after reaching the highest level of knowledge, would stop moving forward. Make we thank God say e no be like that. God infinite; inside Him dey "all treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3. And throughout eternity, humans fit continue searching and learning, but dem never go finish discovering the treasures of His wisdom, goodness, and power.

God plan be say even for this life, the truths of His word go continue opening more and more to His people. There is only one way to receive this knowledge. We fit understand God word only through

the light given by the same Spirit wey inspired the word. “Nobody knows the things of God except the Spirit of God;” because “the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:11, 10. And Jesus promise His followers: “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide una into all truth... because He will receive from Me and show am to una.” John 16:13, 14.

God want human beings to use their reasoning ability; and studying Bible go strengthen and lift the mind more than any other kind of study. But we must be

careful not to treat human reasoning like God, because reasoning itself get weakness and limitation. If we no want Scripture become unclear to us, so that even simple truths become hard to understand, we need have the humility and faith of a small child, ready to learn and asking for help from the Holy Spirit.

Understanding God power and wisdom, and knowing that we cannot fully understand His greatness, suppose make us humble. We suppose open His word like person wey dey enter His presence—with holy respect. When

we come to Bible, our reasoning must recognize an authority greater than itself, and our heart and mind must bow before the great **I AM**.

Many tins wey dey look hard or no clear, God go make dem clear and simple for people wey dey find understanding with this kind heart. But without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we go always fit twist the Scriptures or understand am wrongly. Plenty people dey read Bible but dem no dey gain anything, and sometimes e even dey harm dem. When person open

God word without respect and without prayer; when the mind and heart no dey focused on God or no dey agree with His will, doubts go fill the mind; and even inside Bible study, unbelief go increase. The enemy go take control of the thoughts, and e go suggest wrong meanings. Anytime people no dey try with their words and actions to live according to God, no matter how much knowledge dem get, dem fit make mistake for understanding Scripture, and e no safe to depend on their explanations. People wey dey search Bible just to find mistakes no

get spiritual understanding. Because their eyes no clear, dem go see many reasons to doubt and reject things wey actually dey simple and clear.

No matter how dem try hide am, the real reason for doubt and unbelief, most times, na because person love sin. The teachings and rules of God word no sweet proud and sinful hearts, and people wey no want obey am dey ready to question the authority of the Bible. To find truth, we must truly want to know truth and we must be willing to obey am. Everybody wey come to Bible study with this kind spirit

go find plenty evidence say na God word, and dem fit gain understanding of the truth wey go make dem wise for salvation.

Christ don talk say, “If anybody really want do God will, e go know whether this teaching come from God.” John 7:17. Instead of complaining and questioning things wey you no understand, follow the light wey God don already show you, and you go receive more light. Through Christ grace, do every duty wey God don make clear to you, and you go receive ability to understand and do the ones wey still dey confuse you now.

There is one evidence wey everybody fit have—the highly educated person and the person wey no get much education—the evidence of personal experience. God invite us make we test for ourselves the reality of His word and the truth of His promises. He tell us, "Taste and see say the Lord good." Psalm 34:8. Instead of depending on another person word, we suppose experience am ourselves. He promise say, "Ask, and una go receive." John 16:24. His promises go surely happen. Dem never fail, and dem no fit fail. As we come near Jesus and enjoy the

fullness of His love, our doubts and darkness go disappear because of the light of His presence.

The apostle Paul talk say God "don rescue us from the power of darkness and bring us enter the kingdom of His dear Son." Colossians 1:13. Everybody wey don pass from death enter life fit "confirm say God na true." John 3:33. Such person fit testify: "I need help, and I find am for Jesus. Every need wey I get, He provide; my soul hunger don satisfy; and now Bible be like the revelation of Jesus Christ to me. You ask why I believe Jesus? Na because He be my divine

Saviour. Why I believe Bible? Na because I don discover say na the voice of God speaking to my soul." We fit have evidence inside ourselves say Bible na true and say Christ na the Son of God. We know say we no dey follow stories wey people create with tricks.

Peter encourage his brothers make dem "grow for grace and for the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18. When God people dey grow for grace, dem go continue to understand His word more clearly. Dem go discover new light and beauty inside the holy truths. This one don happen

throughout the history of the church for every generation, and e go continue reach the end. “The path of the righteous person be like the morning light, wey dey shine more and more until the perfect day.” Proverbs 4:18.

Through faith, we fit look toward the future and hold the promise of God say our understanding go grow, human abilities go join with divine power, and every part of our soul go connect directly with the Source of light. We fit rejoice because everything wey confuse us about God ways go one day become clear. Things wey hard to

understand go receive explanation; and where our limited minds see only confusion and broken plans, we go see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. “Now we dey see like through unclear glass, but later we go see face to face; now I know partly, but later I go know fully, just as God know me.” 1 Corinthians 13:12.

13 — Rejoicing in the Lord

Pikin dem wey belong to God, God call dem make dem represent Christ, showing people the goodness and mercy of the Lord. Just as Jesus show us the true character of the Father, na so we suppose show Christ to the world wey no know His tender and caring love. Jesus talk say, "As You send Me go inside the world, na so I also send dem go inside the world." "I dey inside dem, and You dey inside Me; ... so that the world go know say You send Me." John 17:18, 23. The apostle Paul tell the followers

of Jesus say, “Una clearly be the letter of Christ,” “wey everybody know and dey read.” 2 Corinthians 3:3, 2. Inside every one of His children, Jesus dey send letter go the world. If you be follower of Christ, He dey send through you a letter go your family, your village, your street, and the place where you dey live. Jesus wey dey inside you want speak to the hearts of people wey never know am. Maybe dem no dey read Bible, or dem no dey hear the voice wey dey speak to dem through its pages; dem no dey see God love through His works. But if you truly represent Jesus,

maybe through you dem go understand something about His goodness and dem go come love and serve Him.

Christians dey set as people wey carry light for the road go heaven. Dem suppose reflect to the world the light wey dey shine on dem from Christ. Their life and character suppose make other people get the correct understanding about Christ and His service.

If we truly represent Christ, we go make His service look attractive, just as e really be. Christians wey carry sadness and darkness for their

hearts, wey dey complain and grumble, dey give people wrong picture about God and Christian life. Dem dey make people think say God no happy when His children dey happy, and by doing this dem dey give false witness against our heavenly Father.

Satan dey happy when e fit lead God children enter unbelief and hopelessness. E like to see us doubting God, doubting His willingness and power to save us. E like make us feel say God go use His providence harm us. Na Satan work to present the Lord like somebody wey no get compassion

and mercy. E dey twist the truth about Him. E fills the imagination with wrong ideas about God; and instead of focusing on the truth about our heavenly Father, many times we focus on Satan lies and dishonor God by doubting Him and complaining against Him. Satan always dey try make religious life look full of sadness. E want make am appear like hard work and suffering; and when a Christian shows this kind picture through his life, because of his unbelief, e dey support Satan lies.

Many people as dem dey move through life, dem dey always

remember their mistakes, failures, and disappointments, and their hearts dey full of sorrow and discouragement. When I dey Europe, one sister wey dey always do this and dey suffer deep distress write to me, asking for words wey go encourage her. The night after I read her letter, I dream say I dey inside one garden, and somebody wey look like the owner of the garden dey guide me through the paths. I dey gather flowers and enjoying their fragrance, when this sister wey dey walk beside me call my attention to some ugly thorns wey dey block her way. There she

stand dey cry and dey sorrow. She no dey walk on the path following the guide, but she dey walk among thorns and bushes. She cry say, "Oh, no be pity say this beautiful garden spoil with thorns?" Then the guide talk say, "Leave the thorns alone, because dem go only wound you. Gather the roses, the lilies, and the pink flowers."

No be true say you get some bright moments for your own experience? You never get special times when your heart full of joy because of the Spirit of God? When you look back for the chapters of your life, you no dey find some pleasant pages? God

promises no be like sweet-smelling flowers wey dey grow beside your path everywhere? You no go allow their beauty and sweetness fill your heart with joy?

The thorns and bushes go only wound and trouble you; and if na only these things you gather and show to others, you no dey only ignore God goodness for yourself, but you dey stop people around you from walking on the path of life.

E no wise to gather all the unpleasant memories of your past life—your sins and

disappointments—to talk about dem and cry over dem until discouragement cover you. A discouraged soul dey full of darkness, blocking God light from entering his own heart and throwing shadow on the path of others.

Thank God for the beautiful pictures wey He don show us. Make we gather together the blessed promises of His love, so we fit always look at dem: The Son of God leaving His Father throne, putting humanity on Himself, so He fit rescue man from Satan power; His victory for our sake, opening

heaven to humanity, showing human eyes the place where God reveals His glory; the fallen human race lifted from the pit of destruction where sin put am, and brought back into connection with the infinite God, passing the divine test through faith in our Redeemer, wearing Christ righteousness, and lifted to His throne—these na the pictures God want make we think about.

When e look like say we dey doubt God love and distrust His promises, we dey dishonor Him and make His Holy Spirit sad. How mother go feel if her children dey always

complain about her, like say she no want their good, when all her life effort na to help dem and give dem comfort? If dem begin doubt her love, e go break her heart. How any parent go feel if their children treat dem like that? Then how our heavenly Father go feel when we distrust His love, the same love wey make Him give His only Son so we fit have life? The apostle write, "The One wey no spare His own Son, but give am for all of us, how He no go freely give us all things together with Him?" Romans 8:32. Yet many people through their actions, even if not through their words, dey say:

“The Lord no mean this for me. Maybe He love other people, but He no love me.”

All this dey harm your own soul; because every word of doubt wey you speak dey invite Satan temptation; e dey make your tendency to doubt stronger, and e dey make the angels wey dey minister to you sad. When Satan tempt you, no speak any word of doubt or darkness. If you choose to open the door for his suggestions, your mind go fill with distrust and rebellion. If you talk out your feelings, every doubt wey you express no only affect you, but e be

like seed wey go grow and produce fruit in other people lives, and maybe e go become impossible to remove the effect of your words. You yourself fit recover from temptation time and Satan trap, but other people wey your influence affect fit no escape from the unbelief wey you put inside dem. How important e be make we only speak things wey go give spiritual strength and life!

Angels dey listen to hear what kind report you dey give the world about your heavenly Master. Make your conversation be about the One wey dey live to pray for you before the

Father. When you hold your friend hand, make praise to God dey your lips and your heart. This go turn his thoughts toward Jesus.

Everybody get trials; sorrow wey hard to carry, temptations wey hard to resist. No tell all your troubles to other human beings, but carry everything go God through prayer. Make this be your rule: never speak one word of doubt or discouragement. You fit do plenty to make other people life brighter and strengthen their efforts through words of hope and holy encouragement.

Plenty brave souls dey under serious pressure because of temptation, almost ready to faint for the fight against themselves and the powers of evil. No discourage person like this for the middle of the hard struggle. Encourage am with brave and hopeful words wey go push am forward. That way, Christ light fit shine through you. "None of us dey live for himself." Romans 14:7. Through our unconscious influence, other people fit receive encouragement and strength, or dem fit become discouraged and turn away from Christ and the truth.

Many people get wrong idea about the life and character of Christ. Dem think say He no get warmth and happiness, say He be strict, harsh, and without joy. Many times, this kind sad understanding dey affect the whole religious experience of people.

People often talk say Jesus cry, but dem say nobody ever see Him smile. Our Saviour truly be a Man of Sorrows, and He know grief, because He opened His heart to all the suffering of humanity. But even though His life was full of self-denial, pain, and care, His spirit no break. His face no show sadness

or complaint, but always show peaceful calmness. His heart be like fountain of life, and everywhere He go He carry rest and peace, joy and gladness.

Our Saviour was very serious and fully committed, but He was never gloomy or unhappy. The life of people wey follow Him go get serious purpose; dem go have deep understanding of their personal responsibility. Foolish and careless behavior go reduce; there go be no noisy excitement or rude jokes; but the religion of Jesus dey give peace like river. E no remove the light of joy; e no stop happiness or make

person lose cheerful smile. Christ no come make people serve Him, but He come to serve others; and when His love dey rule our hearts, we go follow His example.

If we keep only the unkind and unfair things wey others do for our mind, we go find am impossible to love them the way Christ love us. But if our thoughts stay on the wonderful love and mercy Christ show us, the same spirit go flow from us to others. We suppose love and respect one another, even with the faults and weaknesses wey we cannot avoid seeing. We should develop humility and stop

depending too much on ourselves, and show patience and kindness toward the faults of others. This go remove selfishness from our hearts and make us people wey get broad heart and generosity.

The psalmist talk say, “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you go live for the land, and truly you go receive food.” Psalm 37:3. “Trust in the Lord.” Every day get its own burdens, worries, and confusion; and when we meet each other, how quickly we ready to talk about our problems and difficulties. So many worries wey no even belong to us enter our minds, so many fears we

allow, and so much anxiety we express, as if we no get a loving and merciful Saviour ready to hear all our requests and help us anytime we need Him.

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In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ teach His disciples precious lessons about the need to trust God. These lessons dey meant to encourage God's children for all generations, and dem don reach our time full of teaching and comfort. The Saviour point His followers to the birds of

the air as dem dey sing their songs of praise, without carrying worries, because "dem no dey plant, and dem no dey harvest." And yet the great Father dey provide for their needs. The Saviour ask, "Una no better pass them?" Matthew 6:26. The great Provider for humans and animals open His hand and provide for all His creatures. The birds of the air no dey below His care. He no dey drop food inside their mouth, but He dey make provision for their needs. Dem must gather the grains wey He scatter for them. Dem must prepare materials for their small nests. Dem must feed

their young ones. Dem dey go their work singing, because "una heavenly Father dey feed them." And "una no better pass them?" As intelligent and spiritual worshippers, una no get more value than birds of the air? The One wey create us, preserve our life, and form us in His own divine image, no go provide for our needs if we trust Him?

Christ point His disciples to the flowers of the field, wey dey grow plenty and shine with the simple beauty wey heavenly Father give them, as expression of His love for humanity. He say, "Look at the lilies

of the field, how dem dey grow." The beauty and simplicity of these natural flowers pass the glory of Solomon. Even the finest clothes wey human skill fit produce no fit compare with the natural grace and shining beauty of the flowers wey God create. Jesus ask, "If God dey dress the grass of the field, wey dey alive today and tomorrow dem go throw am inside fire, no be more He go dress una, una wey get small faith?" Matthew 6:28, 30. If God, the divine Artist, give simple flowers wey die in one day their delicate and different colors, how much more care He go show to those wey

He create in His own image? This lesson from Christ dey correct the anxious thoughts, confusion, and doubts of a heart wey no trust God.

The Lord want all His sons and daughters to be happy, peaceful, and obedient. Jesus say, "My peace I give una; no be the kind wey the world dey give. Make una heart no trouble and make una no fear." "I don tell una these things so that My joy go remain inside una, and una joy go complete." John 14:27; 15:11.

Happiness wey person dey search because of selfish reasons, outside the way of duty, no dey balanced, e

dey change, and e no last; e go disappear, and the soul go remain with loneliness and sadness. But joy and satisfaction dey inside God's service. Christian no dey left to walk for uncertain paths; e no dey left with useless regrets and disappointments. Even if we no get the pleasures of this life, we fit still rejoice while looking forward to the life wey dey come.

But even now Christians fit enjoy the joy of communion with Christ. Dem fit have the light of His love and the constant comfort of His presence. Every step for life fit bring us closer to Jesus, give us deeper

experience of His love, and take us one step closer to the blessed home of peace. So make we no throw away our confidence, but make we hold strong assurance, stronger than before. "Up till now the Lord don help us," and He go continue to help us reach the end. 1 Samuel 7:12. Make we look at the memorials, reminders of the things wey the Lord don do to comfort us and save us from destruction. Make we keep fresh for our memory all the tender mercies God don show us—the tears wey He wipe away, the pains wey He calm, the worries wey He remove, the fears wey He

chase away, the needs wey He provide, and the blessings wey He give—so that our strength go increase for everything wey dey ahead during the rest of our journey.

We cannot avoid looking forward to new troubles for the coming battle, but we fit look at the past and the future, and talk say, "Up till now the Lord don help us." "As your days be, na so your strength go be." Deuteronomy 33:25. The test no go pass the strength wey God go give us to endure am. So make we continue our work from where we find am, believing say whatever

come, strength enough for that trial go be provided.

And soon, the gates of heaven go open to welcome God's children, and from the lips of the King of glory the blessing go enter their ears like the sweetest music:

“Come, una wey My Father bless, inherit the kingdom wey He prepare for una from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:34.

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Then the redeemed go receive welcome to the home wey Jesus dey

prepare for them. There, their companions no go be the wicked people of the earth, liars, idol worshippers, people wey no pure, and unbelievers; but dem go stay together with those wey overcome Satan and through divine grace don form perfect characters. Every sinful desire, every imperfection wey dey trouble them here, don be removed by the blood of Christ, and the greatness and brightness of His glory, wey far pass the brightness of the sun, go be given to them. And the moral beauty, the perfection of His character, go shine through them, with worth wey far pass this

outward beauty. Dem no go get any fault before the great white throne, sharing the honor and privileges of the angels.

When we look at the glorious inheritance wey fit belong to person, “wetin person go give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:26. Person fit poor, but he still get inside himself a wealth and dignity wey this world no fit ever give. The soul wey Christ redeem and clean from sin, with all its noble abilities dedicated to God's service, get value wey pass anything. And there dey joy for heaven, for the presence of God and the holy angels, over

one soul wey dem redeem, a joy wey dem express with songs of holy victory.