

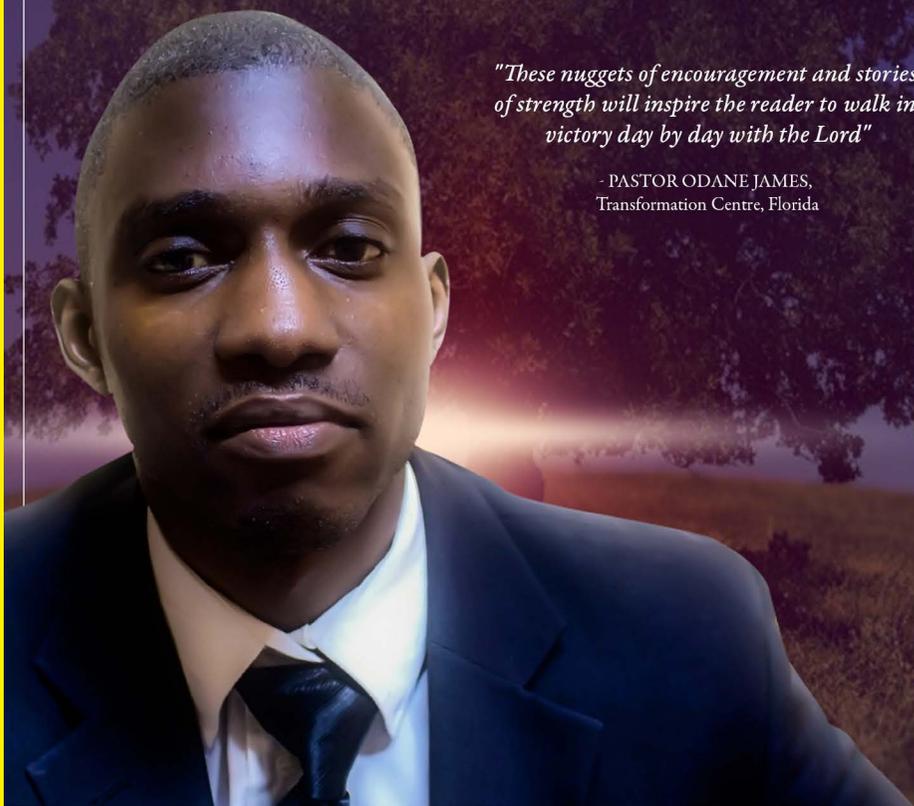
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EMPOWERED LIFE

*A Daily Dose of Inspirational Messages
for Self-Development and Transformation*

*"These nuggets of encouragement and stories
of strength will inspire the reader to walk in
victory day by day with the Lord"*

- PASTOR ODANE JAMES,
Transformation Centre, Florida



ESTON SWABY

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PRAISE FOR AN EMPOWERED LIFE

“An Empowered Life... If read on a daily basis will inspire you to face the challenges that you encounter on a daily basis. Regardless of your age, sex, nationality, mental or financial status you face, obstacles, trials, persecutions and discouragements at times, An Empowered Life mixed with prayer and faith will motivate and encourage you to face these obstacles with a positive attitude.

You will be empowered to rise above your situation and be propelled to fulfill your God-ordained assignment and ultimately reach your destiny.

— Elder Norman Nunes, Belfield Holiness Born Again

“This book will be an inspiration to others as they go through life with its varied trials and circumstances and seek to have a closer walk with him.”

— Elder Ransford Stewart, Wiltshire Holiness Born Again

“Prayer, bible study, and meditation upon the word is the lifeline of the believer.... These nuggets of encouragement and stories of strength will inspire the reader to walk in victory day by day and grow in the grace of God through a consistent relationship with the Lord.

— Pastor Odane James, Transformation Centre, Florida”

REASON FOR THIS BOOK

I love to encourage and motivate others; that is my heart's desire, to motivate and encourage people. I always tell my friends that I encourage and try to inspire people, because when I am going through my problems most times there is no one to give me a word to uplift my spirit; I therefore have to do as David did and encourage myself. Isn't it interesting that the ones who feed the spirits of others most times have no one to feed their spirits?

I strongly believe that it is a part of my ministry, or purpose in life, to play my part in imparting words of wisdom to all those who have ever questioned their purpose in life and even thought of suicide; those who have been bruised by other's words; those who have been belittled and looked down on by others; those who are wondering why they are facing all the things they are confronted with on a daily basis and need strength to overcome; those who feel out of place in society; those who feel like throwing in the towel; those who are involved in ministry, or have a gift, vision or dream and can't understand why they are confronted with so many opposing circumstances that seem to go against the promise of God; those to whom God has made promises and they are not seeing them being fulfilled in their lives and they are about to give up on that promise, and those who are struggling to go higher in God.

I have faced a lot of opposition and opposing circumstances in my short time being on earth, so that sometimes I question if God loves me. Many times I tried to give up on God and throw in the towel, saying, "God, I

will never serve you again”, “Lord, you have deceived me, I am finished with serving you”, but like Jeremiah I could not throw in the towel because God is not finished with me as yet, and neither is he finished with you! God wants me to tell you that you are uncontainable, and he wants to take you to another level in ministry, your career and in other aspects of your life...

Follow me on twitter (see website), as I share many more inspirational messages regularly and post news about upcoming books.

For feedback, interviews or any other engagements, please get in touch with me at:

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And of course, this book would not have been possible without the inspiration, ability and strength God has given me; without him I would be nothing.

Day 1

A GOD OF STRATEGIES

“God is a God of strategies. There are times we may think that our life is going in the wrong direction, but it’s all a part of God’s divine will for you. Like Joseph was strategically sent into Egypt as a slave, so the Lord uses obstacles to strategically position us in the place he wants us.”

Scriptures of the Day: Genesis 39: 1-23; 45:1–11

Discourse

Like Joseph, there are many of us who God has given a dream. God says he will make you a ruler and not a slave, but everything happening in your life is going contrary to what God said. God said he will bless you financially, but all you are seeing is unpaid bills and no money to get you through the rest of the month.

If you are one of the millions of people in this position,

then this message is for you.

God sometimes will strategically lead us down a path that may seem like we are going in the wrong direction, but God knows what he is doing. God know where he wants you to be ten years from now, and just how to get you there. He knows that if he does not at times allow you to face some stormy seas, setbacks, betrayals and so on, you will not have what it takes to be who he called you to be. His ways do not always seem straight or fair, but his will is sovereign and he knows what he is doing. He is not a God who wakes up one morning and decides to send trouble your way; neither is he a God that can be taken by surprise by your trials, or a God whose purpose in your life can be abandoned. At times he may allow us to take a detour, but his purpose for you will always be fulfilled. If he said it, then it shall come to pass.

God showed Joseph when he was 17 years of age that he would be a ruler, but he did not tell or show Joseph the path to the throne. God will show us our purpose and where he is taking us- he is going to make you the CEO of your company, you're going to own your own business, you're going to travel the world preaching the gospel, He is going to make you a pastor- but he will not show you the pit in between the spoken Word or vision and the fulfillment of the promise. Jesus did not tell his disciples that on their way across the lake to go to the other side they would encounter a storm that would threaten to kill them. Why? Because he wanted them to trust him that whatever may come between the spoken Word or promise and the fulfillment of that Word or promise, he would take them through it and bring them to where he said he would take them.

Sometimes if God would show us the path we will have to take to our ministry, purpose or blessing, we would back out and say, 'No, Lord, its okay, I'll pass.' The thoughts God has towards you are of peace and to give you an expected end - not to destroy you.

For the promise to be fulfilled in Joseph's life, he had to be hated by his brothers, thrown in a pit and then sold as a slave in Egypt- the country he would be made ruler of. The pit is not there to keep you down, it is there to elevate you to greatness, because the way up is always down. Do not worry about those who looked down on you and stepped on you, as they are just a stepping stone to where God wants to take you. God knew that in order for you to be great, He first had to allow people to hate you, look down on you, step on you, and so on. He knew that you would not give up, but would use what you have been through to take you higher. However, sometimes we allow what God sends to make us strong and to strategically place us in our purpose to deter us from the path. It's like when walking on a pathway to somewhere, there sometimes will be obstacles on that path, but if we allow these obstacles to stop us then we will not reach the end of the pathway. Joseph was in Egypt as a slave, but slavery was God positioning him for his purpose. God may have told you that you will be the head of a company, but sometimes to make you the head, He first has to allow you to take a job as the Janitor of the company he wants you to manage.

Everything that happened to Joseph was in God's plan: hated by his brothers, thrown in the pit, sold in slavery, Potiphar's wife lied about him and he was thrown in prison

for a crime he did not commit, the promise by Pharaoh's butler to put in a good word to the king for him that the butler forgot. Years of betrayal, imprisonment, disappointments, and rejection were to take Joseph to the throne. Everything seemed like it was going in the wrong direction, but it was all a part of the process and everything happened in God's time, not his. Even though Joseph could not see what God was doing, he kept his eyes on God.

Moving Forward

As you go through this day, what is happening in your life that seems contrary to your vision, or the promise of God? Maybe you are feeling forsaken by God, or like God has forgotten about his promises, but He hasn't. What you are going through is all a part of God's design for your life. I know, because I have been right where you are now. We all want God to take us into our purpose, but first before we can go up we must first go down into our valley. What God is asking of you is that you do not stop on one of those stones, as it's not where God wants you to be; the stepping stone is a stone put in your path for you to reach where God wants you to be. The valley you find yourself in is to take you to the other side of the mountain, a higher mountain than the one you are coming from. Joseph was in the pit, but the pit was not his final destination; it was just the foundation for his elevation.

You may be in your pit right now, but don't lose focus and don't lay in self-pity, as where you are now is not your final destination; you haven't seen all you are fully capable of

as yet. Will you trust Him when your life is taking a U-turn? Will you trust Him when you don't understand? God does not expect you to stop in the wilderness, but He expects you to continue into the promise land. God bless you.

Day

2

BUILT TO HANDLE LIFE'S CHALLENGES

“Like a building is constructed to handle a certain amount of pressure, so God has built each one of us to handle the level of test and temptations we may face.”

*Scriptures of the Day: 1 Corinthians 10: 13;
Ephesians 1: 13-14; 4:7-13; James 1:12*

Discourse

Have you ever looked at a bridge, or even the chair you may be sitting on right now, and wondered how is it able to handle the amount of pressure that is thrown at it on a daily basis? For example, many bridges have to hold the pressure of very heavy duty trucks that pass by several times a day. How is it possible to manage the constant pressure of heavy duty vehicles? How is it that the bed or seat you're on now

is able to handle the pressure you put on it on a daily basis?

This is because everything in life is designed to handle a certain level of pressure. When architects and designers are constructing buildings and other things that will be used by us, they first consider the expected weight it will have to carry before they design it and make it available.

Why am I saying all this to you? I want to tell you that before God allowed you to be placed in certain situations, He first constructed you to handle the pressure. Yes, you will feel the heat of the pressure, and sometimes we will have to ask for help; but God will never allow you to be tested more than you are able to bear. The Bible says,

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”- 1 Corinthians 10:13.

That is because God first had to ensure that you are able to handle the level of temptation and test before He allowed the enemy to test and or tempt you. God said unto Satan one day, ‘Have you considered my servant, Job?’ God was able to boast about Job because He knew that Job had enough experience and strength to deal with any attacks the enemy may throw at him. In response, the enemy let God know that the reason God is able to boast about Job is because God had put a fence of protection around Job; I want to tell you that Satan cannot test you with suffering, affliction, persecution and everything life throws in your face without God allowing it or giving him permission to do so. This means that God chooses what we face and at what level.

This tells us that:

1. Everything we face has a purpose- whether it may be to prove to Satan or those around us that God is who He says He is, or it may be one of many reasons, or it is for any divine purpose.

2. God has given you the strength to overcome your pain, suffering, affliction, infirmities and life struggles. God said unto Paul, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness”- 2 Corinthians 12:9. When you are weak, God shows up strong.

Moving Forward

As you go through this day and face all that life has to throw at you, remember you were built to stand. God hand-picked and designed you in such a manner that the enemy is afraid of you. He is afraid that if you realize who you really are, then all that he is doing is futile. Always remember this: How you think about your trials will be the deciding factor if you come out as a victor or a victim. Which one will you be?

Day

3

HAVING PERSISTENT FAITH

“What do you do when God says no? Many people will have you to think that if you have enough faith God will always say yes to you. Your faith will save your mom from death, will heal you of cancer when you ask. But what do you do when you have enough faith but God still says no?”

Scriptures of the Day: Mark 14: 32-36; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Discourse

If you are one of those people who think that if you have enough faith then you will always get what you want, then you are not alone - I too was one who thought that if I had enough faith, God would have let me get that job I wanted (I actually started making plans and telling friends that I was

getting a new job - I just got called for an interview - because I had faith), if I had enough faith I would have completed my education according to my plan, I would have had my dream house right now and the list goes on. I don't know anyone who is as powerful as my pastor, who God has used to bring healing to many people that have eye problems so they are no longer in need of eye glasses, but yet he had to get glasses because he has a hard time seeing, and his wife almost went blind; still they have great faith. I would like to tell you that even if you have faith that could move mountains, or you are as powerful as Elijah, God will not always say yes.

Many people would want you to believe that the reason you didn't get that job, or your child died, or you are not able to get pregnant, or your life seems to be going off track, or you are still sick, is because you do not have enough faith - your faith is weak. Because of this, many of us walk around feeling depressed because no matter what we do, we still do not have enough faith to move God to work on our behalf. You believed and told everyone you were getting that job, your mom would come out of the hospital, your child wouldn't die because God was on the job, you are getting better as God is going to make you walk again; but God said no. You and the whole church prayed and fasted, but God still said no.

What if he was the one who put you, or allowed you to be, in that situation in the first place?

We are told of a personal experience in the Bible with one of the greatest writers and apostles of all time, the apostle Paul. Paul was one of the greatest apostles in the Bible, who received an abundance of revelation, laid his hand

and prayed and raised the dead, healed the sick, preached the gospel in many cities and turned many powerful cities upside down, who was feared by many and respected by others. He was a very powerful man of God, full of faith; but he had a very depressive issue. He had an infirmity of the flesh, a thorn in his flesh to buffet him lest he should be exalted above measure. For this he sought the Lord, not once or twice, but three times. This was a big thing for Paul to handle and so he said ‘No, I cannot handle this thing any longer.’ So he, with all his faith and all the credentials behind his name, preached the gospel to those in need, raised the dead, healed the sick, preached even while he was in prison, went where he was sent, and was so gifted and special that he was taken up into the third heaven. He did not go to God about being shipwrecked, he did not go to God about getting out of prison, he didn’t go to God and beg God to reduce his persecution, affliction and sufferings. He did not go to God and ask him to stop letting people hate and want to destroy him. He did not go to God for riches to do his work and to live a happy life. But...he went to God asking God to remove this thorn in his flesh, “For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me” (2 Corinthians 12:8). He asked God for a small thing and God said NO. The one time he had a problem and needed it dealt with God said no, request denied. ‘But God, I didn’t come to you asking you to get me out of prison...’ No, request denied. ‘But God, I didn’t complain or beg you not to let me get shipwrecked...’ No, request denied. The man who did so much for God, and had such great faith that he could raise the dead, did not have his request granted. He saw the power of God every day, the

sick being healed, dead raised, signs and wonders through his ministry, he gave up his high-class life and friends to serve God, but this one thing he asked God for, he did not get. Jesus was the closest to the Father and yet after asking for his life three times had to say in the end, Lord let your will be done.

What do you do when God says no to an embarrassing issue you've been having, when he allows your only child to die, when you have been doing everything you can for him and serving him with all your heart, but he does not allow you to get that job you wanted, when sickness is rocking your body and he says you have to go through it?

God said to Paul, Paul I know you have done so much in serving me and you have been faithful in preaching my word, the reason why I didn't grant you your request and remove this issue is because, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). 'Paul, you're troubled with this right now, but you will have to endure it because your issue shows how strong I am.'

I want to tell someone reading this book right now that God cares very much about you. It is not because he wants you to suffer or go through the stuff you're currently going through, but he wants you to know that before he puts you in a certain situation, he measures what you are able to bear with the strength he is giving you to go through it. He says as thy day is, so is thy strength (Deuteronomy 33:25); what that means is the bigger the situation is, the bigger the strength he has given you to endure it. Yes, you may be depressed right now; yes, your co-workers and boss are making every day

at work very difficult for you; yes, sickness may be rocking your body right now; yes, the person He blessed you with is about to die; yes, you are about to lose your home and everything you have worked hard for; yes, your marriage is in turmoil; yes, your back is against the wall right now and you don't know where to turn- but God is saying to you right now that He has given you the strength to endure it and come out as pure gold. You may not think you can handle this thing you're going through and it's too much for you to bear, but "as thy days, so is thy strength be." God will never give you more than you are able to bear. His grace is enough to take you through your problems. I will not tell you that your situation will get any better soon, I will not tell you you're going to understand right now why you're facing certain situations in your life, but I want you to trust God. You may say, 'God, this is too much for me to bear.' God would not ask you to trust Him if it wasn't important.

David sought the Lord for his son in fasting and prayer for many days, but his son still died (2 Samuel 12:15-24). When his son died he got up, ate and worshipped the Lord. Why? It was not because he didn't love and want the child to live, but he rose up ate and worshipped because he realized that God had given him the grace to endure the pain of losing a child; God said no, no, your child will die. Of course it took him a while to get over the death of his child, but God was his comforter. You may cry yourself to sleep, walk with your head down, or feel depressed; you might have to endure poverty, hunger, or not having good clothes to wear, but God loves you and wants you to know that he sees your situation, but in his divine will he knows he has given you

the strength to go through it. Not only that, you will have a shout in the end.

Moving Forward

As you go through this day with this issue over your head, and as you face the rest of your life, I want you to know that God will not always say yes to you, no matter who you are, how much faith you have or how gifted you are. God, in his sovereignty, at times will choose to deny our request. He denies it at times because God has entrusted you with trouble, and sometimes he gives us a thorn to buffet us so we will not become high-minded. I want to encourage you to hold on to God and not lose faith in his love for you. You may cry now, but I promise you if you endure the pain of being rejected you will have your shout. I want to tell you that the sickness or issue you're now facing will not destroy you, but that God will use it for his glory.

What do you do when God says no? You trust and wait upon him.