

Welcome to The Citadel Global Community Church where stars are born and great futures are created. Welcome to the home of consummate and conscientious nation builders whose hearts are open to the plans of the Holy Spirit, and in whose lives all things godly are possible because we choose to win by righteousness.

DON'T LET THE PAST DICTATE YOUR FUTURE

...holding on to God's word despite contrary situations

By Pastor 'Tunde Bakare

Faith in the Face of Contrary Situations

Have you ever prayed for something, and you had an assurance in your heart that God has answered your prayers by the magnitude of peace that settles in your heart, but as soon as you step out, you begin to see the exact opposite of what you prayed for? If that has happened to you before, you will be completely confused if you are not trained in the things of the Spirit because God's ways and thoughts differ from ours. The way you expect God to answer your prayers, some of the time, is not the way He will answer them.

Every fresh new golden era of human history has always been directly preceded by the devotion of righteous men and women and their passion for God because they knew Him and understood what God was doing and where they were going. For the band of seventy that was to land in Egypt and

escape death by famine, Joseph was their forerunner and pioneer (**Genesis 45:1-9**). When the storms of life hit him, Joseph did not realise that it was the outworking of destiny in his life from the time he was thrown into the pit by his brothers to the time he landed in prison in Potiphar's house (**Genesis 37:23-28; 39:1-23**). He did not fully understand at the beginning of his dilemma that all things would work together for his good (**Romans 8:28**).

The Greatest Gifts Lie Ahead

For those rooted in religious worship without a significant relationship with Yahweh, John was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord (**John 1:23**). He was the son of Zacharias—a serving and devout priest who knew, practised, and was established in all the rudiments of Judaism (**Luke 1:5-25**). But John, his son, had to be prepared in the desert. He dressed and ate differently because he

carried a different message. Every fresh new golden era of human history has always been preceded by the devotion of righteous men and women who knew their God and what He was doing. These pioneers and reformers are God's antidotes to the status quo. They had to separate themselves from their past in order to consecrate themselves to the sound-beat from heaven.

The greatest gifts the church of Jesus Christ has ever seen do not lie in the dusty books of theological rhetorics, nor do they lie in the higher educational theology. As great as the apostles were, the greatest gifts the body of Christ has ever seen do not lie in the book of Acts or buried with the apostles of the Lamb. For the Church, the greatest giftings and miracles lie before us. Stop looking back with nostalgia. The greatest days in the body of Christ lie ahead of us. The only thing that can stop this weight of glory is sin—besetting and habitual sin for which we have repented many times. Do not let your past dictate your future.

Insights into the High Priestly Prayer

In **John 17:1-26** and **John 18:1-27**, Jesus prayed for the apostles and disciples. Shortly after this prayer, Jesus crossed over the brook Kidron. If you are a student

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WHO WE ARE

"We are a people sent to the nations, governments and powers of the earth as the voice of reason, possibilities and hope. We are the instrumentality of catalysing change and centralising God in the governance of nations. Our mandate is to enforce the Kingdom of God over the kingdoms of this world that have become the Kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ. We are men and women, boys and girls who love God and love people and who serve God and serve people. We always seek to give hope and to be at the forefront of driving change both spiritually and governmentally. We exist, primarily, as a fully functional church and conceptually as a governmental force for change, good governance and leadership."

THE CGCC CREDO

- ➔ Love God, Love People
- ➔ Serve God, Serve People
- * By doing the above, we glorify God individually and corporately.

OUR COMMITMENTS

- ➔ Wholehearted Worship of God
- ➔ Prayer
- ➔ Ministry of the Word
- ➔ Evangelism
- ➔ Seeing People Grow Deeper (Discipleship)
- ➔ Helping People Build Vital Relationships with Other Believers

OUR CORE LEADERSHIP VALUES

- ➔ Compassion
- ➔ Intelligence
- ➔ Responsibility
- ➔ Judgement
- ➔ Influence

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of reformation, you would know that every time there was a cleansing of the temple in the days of Jehoshaphat and the kings of Judah, they would carry all the filthiness in the holy place and throw them into the brook Kidron (**2 Kings 23:6**). So, for Jesus to atone for the sin of the whole world, He must not only go to the Cross but also cross the brook Kidron to gather all the debris of the sin of mankind and carry them to the Cross.

After Jesus had finished praying, He was arrested. He willingly surrendered Himself to the authority. Meanwhile, Peter denied Him, although he repented and wept bitterly. But if anyone had told Peter that God had answered the prayer of Jesus that day and that he (Peter) would one day preach the gospel to the same crowd before whom he denied Jesus, he would not have believed them. If anyone had told Peter that he would see the resurrected Jesus, he would not have believed them because he had failed Him (**Matthew 26:69-75, Acts 2:14-42**). If anybody had told Peter that he would walk in greater grace and anointing, he would never have believed them (**Acts 1:12-14; 4:31-33**). If Peter had allowed his past to dictate his future, he would have disqualified himself. The enemy will always bring your past to your face, but you must rise and tell him, "That was then; this is now."

Taking a Cue from Peter's Experience

It was when the resurrected Christ and Pentecost were around the corner to bless and empower that the Christians faced Satan's fire of opposition. The fire of satanic opposition will rise to the hottest when the next corner you turn is your greatest time of power and blessing. The reason the enemy singled out Peter was because he knew in advance that Peter would preach the message on the day of Pentecost. He knew that Peter would be great in the sight of God and also knew what God would do

with him and through him (**Acts 5:15**).

Peter did not know what was waiting ahead of him as the devil was messing him up. The opposition fire of the enemy will get to its hottest point when you are very close to your breakthrough. If you accept his package, he will shortchange you, and you will go into oblivion because you brought yourself under condemnation and did not stand strong.

If you have to be judged for your sin, then the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary was murder because you can only be judged one time for one sin. I am not saying you can live recklessly after you have become saved. Rather, I am saying provision is already made so that you can continue to be strong in the seasons of life. The greatest days of your life are ahead of you. Separate yourself from the past, and do not let your past dictate your future. The greatest darkness will manifest just before the break of dawn. People will get sickest before they get healed. Do not be discouraged that you went through fire last year because the greatest glory is about to burst forth in your life.

Change Your Language

It is the time when God chooses to be God all by Himself that you begin to see everything around you scatter in different directions. Unless your language changes and you pick the frequency of heaven, you cannot understand why you went through what you went through. Unless you change your language, you cannot understand that the result of your problem is glory. A few days after Peter went through what he went through was when he was going to become a foremost apostle. What an awesome man he became because of the glory that burst forth in his heart.

I do not want you to be ordinary Christians anymore. I do not want you to be superficial believers anymore. I do not want you to have

OUR 4-DIMENSIONAL OPERATIONAL DYNAMICS

- ➔ Church-in-the-House
- ➔ Church-in-the-Community
- ➔ Church-in-the-City
- ➔ Church-in-the-Cloud.

OUR 4-DIMENSIONAL GROWTH DYNAMICS

- ➔ To grow up.
- ➔ To grow big.
- ➔ To grow very rich.
- ➔ To grow together.

any needs so that you can meet the needs of other people. God will bless you so richly that what you have will command so many resources that you will not know what to do with them.

Key Lessons from Lazarus' Story

Bad things happen to good people; it does not matter how righteous you are (**John 11:1-5**). God allows it to happen some of the time because of what He wants to do in the lives of such people. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were good people. Their home was a centre of kingdom activities. Hardship, difficulties, and difficult times are not indicators that God's love is withdrawn from you. God is not a fair-weather friend—He is a faithful God. In your difficulties, He loves you; in your depravity, He still loves you (**John 11:1-5, Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 36:5, Psalm 36:5**).

Man's Extremity Is God's Possibility

Although Jesus assured Mary and Martha that Lazarus' sickness was not unto death, Lazarus eventually died of the sickness. In fact, he was buried, but God's word came to pass (**John 11:4,11-14, 38-39**). Even though the circumstances may appear contrary, God does not abandon His word (**Isaiah 55:11**). Man's extremity is God's possibility. If you are going to walk and get results in this year and in the years to come, expect extreme situations because man's extremity is God's possibility (**John 11:38-44**). Your problem is not unto death but for the glory of God so that Jesus may be glorified through it. You cannot afford to let your past dictate your future because the greatest days of your life lie ahead of you (**John 11:4**).