



*grenepages*

Issue 3

# Choices

# 3rd Word

**One** of the most beautiful things about life is the fact that it never leave us with one option.

No matter what comes our way, life leaves with us our right to pick from more than one option. Even if you chose to do nothing it is just one of the options. On the long run, either to live or die is still by choice.

As you read this edition of *grenepages* you are bound to realize the options you have had in times past that you didn't even realize. The times you have made good decisions and the times, you have picked the wrong options. Take some time to reflect on the ways your past decisions have influenced your life either for good or for bad.

Here we highlight a number of good choices that make life fulfilling. A choice to stay with God's word both day and night. There's a choice to be available responsible and faithful. A choice to be thankful with either little or much.

While there is a glittering option to quit or give up there is the better option to hold on until you win.

Thus says the Lord: *Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls...* Jeremiah 6:16 (RSV)

*Tobi Olowookere*

Sanmi Akintayo  
WORD ALIVE



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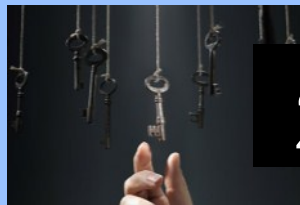
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# Ministering Rhythms

-Joan Abimbola

<https://joanministeringrhythms.wordpress.com>

## Wake up and get inspired

True- many times life do get us tired  
But when we hold tight to Him who never retires  
Even at our weakest, we're still on fire...

Oh! I have seen the most fragile bodies  
Strong at heart, surviving the toughest burdens  
Yes! I have seen frail hands  
Crafting great works that will ever stand

The strongest are not those who never cry  
They are those who cry and still wear a smile  
The toughest are not those who are never scared  
They are those who stand anyway, facing their fears

The bravest are not the warriors able to dodge all spears  
They are those who still fight, though wounded & stressed  
The wisest are not those who have always been right  
They are those who have missed it many times



# Up And Inspired

No amount of failure can stop them from winning  
'Cos you'll never find them quitting  
Then you wonder if by their strength they do this  
No! No!! It's a stronger Power within:-

The Power of the HOLY-GHOST  
The WORD and all that ensure their constant growth  
The Fire HE uses to purify them as gold  
The Godsend that help them; those wonderful souls....

It's not the drug called "hard"  
Not those things that come with strong wine  
It's the Spirit of God most high:-  
The Indispensable, the One you must have!

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*Behold, God is my  
helper; The Lord is  
with those who  
uphold my life.*

**Psalms 54:4  
(NKJV)**



**Questions**

# Real Answers To Real Issues

**QUESTION:**

Sir, if I see a man that I really like, can I pray that God should make him my husband?

**ANSWER:**

It is not appropriate for you to ask God to make a particular man your husband. You should bear in mind that the man has a will of his own, and you should not try to override his will in the name of prayer. In fact, God Himself respects people's will. The bible does not support that kind of prayer, as it tends to be manipulative. Anything that ignores the will of the other person that is involved is a manipulation. What is appropriate for you to do is to ask God to lead you to the right man for you. In addition, the fact that you like a man does not mean God wants the two of you to marry each other. Let God lead you to the right man. It is well with you.

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### QUESTION:

Please, are there conditions under which God will choose not to heal a born again Christian?

### ANSWER:

NO, NO and NO!

There are no conditions under which, God will choose not to heal a believer.

I have heard this question a number of times. You should not let the devil

tell you a lie that God won't heal you for any reason. In

fact, God has already healed you of all diseases and sick-

nesses. You just need to receive your healing by faith.

Your healing is already provided. The bible tells us that

we were healed by the stripes of Jesus.

*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace*

*was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah*

*53:5 (NKJV)*

*who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree,*

*that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--*

*by whose stripes you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)*

God healed us because of what Jesus did. Your healing,

and mine are already 'done deals' through Christ. If you

ever feel sick in your body then start standing on the

Word of God that says, you are healed by the stripes of

Jesus. It is well with you.

# WORD *Alive*

Sanmi Akintayo

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# Tee-Wai

-Toyin Seth-Ogungbe'

<http://toyeenmakogungbe.blogspot.com>

**Alone** I had fought, sometimes I won and many times in this battle of life, I lost. I lost to anger, envy, bitterness, hate, carnality... The list goes on. At some other times, I was just a victim of hate, unjust critics, assault, abuse... So whether it was my own doing or not, I lost, I fell, I slipped. Then I heard the preacher say, "...It is not good to be alone!" Alas! That was my problem. So, I found him. He made the burden easier; I could lean on the willing shoulders and weep in the available arms. I could laugh and have it shared by another, the whole experience was exciting and different, it grew my strength, my belief and even when I lost, it felt better.

With time, the pressure in this battlefield called life heat 'us' so hard, and even though we stood back-to-back the storms were closing in on us, together we were losing, slipping, afraid and alone. I realized even though he was with me, he was man like me, so we suffered the same fate. Then I heard the preacher say, "... a three- fold

cord is not easily broken" Alas! That was the problem. So our search began for something bigger than the two of us, something wider, deeper and stronger. At the verge of losing hope, HE found 'us'.

He was nothing I had seen before, He was everywhere at a time, He knew our thoughts before we spoke them out. He gave us His word that if we held unto Him nothing could break through to 'us'. I could not fathom such power he exuded.

The battlefield grew so much hotter. At a point, I loosened my grip on the third cord, the depression was enveloping me, so I reached to hold the cord firmer and the mountain of pain, shame, delay... all of them, they got smaller, I felt like a giant in their midst.

I looked at the Almighty and I said, "Your words

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# Who has The Third Cord?

were true, they are disappearing.”

He smiled and said, “My child, again I remind you I cannot tell a lie, neither can I fail, you limit my influence over you when you give the third cord to your fears and your habits.”

“But how?” I asked, “I watched you hold the cord all through the battle.”

“Yes,” he replied, “I never leave the cord from my end, but from yours you give the cord to whatever influences you as the storms of life attack you.”

Again, I heard the preacher ask, “Who has your third cord?”

IN YOUR LIFE, RELATIONSHIPS, HOMES, DECISIONS... WHO HAS THE THIRD CORD? WE MAY LOVE ONE ANOTHER, BUT WE ARE NEVER STRONG ENOUGH TO DO IT ON OUR OWN.

*A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)*

**Hello,** friends!  
My name is Awelewa Daisi and I love to TALK! In fact, I think it was inborn, because the custodians of history a.k.a. my grandma (who calls me Atawewe), my mother and my two-year-old sister (who likes to form big sis.) told me I had been a talker from the day I popped out of my mum's belly. Okay, I did not literally pop out, but anyways I came talking.

The J

I also love to write! I write about anything that comes to my mind, especially the drama going on in my life, a reason for the two-year-old journal sitting on my laps as I lounged on the couch in my bedroom.

My heart is full of joy today and I am very excited that I find it hard to do anything, so I have decided to indulge myself this weekend and just rest. Because guess what? By this time next week, I would be married! Yes, I am leaving spinsterhood forever and moving up to join the club of the married. Somebody say yaay!

I knew this day would come, which was why I de-

cid-ed to record my journey as a spinster in the last two years, when I rented a three-bedroom apartment in Ashi, Ibadan with my two closest friends and began to live on my own. I did it to preserve the memories—some very sweet, some not so sweet and some out rightly bitter. However, through it all, joy came to stay.

I know a part of me is going to miss being single. Nevertheless, I am going to love being married, because of the man I am marrying. \*winks\*

Well, I have decided to share these memories

with you to celebrate this unspeakable joy in my heart, with the hope and prayer that you take something away with you—something that will make you laugh, ponder and make better decisions. I hope you will stay with me until the end.

Enjoy!

And the Journey from 2013



# The Daughter's Inspiration

<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>

-Adeyinka Oresanya



# Journey of Awelewa

...of life and relationships!

*Cadeyinkaonesanya*

begins...

I am Awelewa Daisy, a beautiful twenty-six-year-old single woman, customer service officer at a reputable bank, living with two weird girls (well, I think only one of them is actually really weird) in a brand-new three-bedroom apartment we were favoured to rent at a surprisingly affordable price in an area like Ashi-Bodija, and my most prized possessions are my Bible and my car (because I just bought it some weeks ago).

I was not being vain when I said I was beautiful. Many of my friends, male and female, usually affirm it. Why else do you think my mama named me Awelewa (the one with multiple beauties)? And yes, I am still single at twenty-six—a status many have come to associate with desperation, pity, raised eyebrows, shaking of head and many other negativity—but I am not bothered anymore.

You are asking me, “*Did you just say it doesn’t bother you anymore?*”

Yes, I said no more because it used to bother me a lot, especially when my close friends and classmates from school began to get married immediately after Youth Service, have babies and post their happy moments on Facebook and Instagram.

It bothered me because that was the time the brother I was engaged to decided he had seen another lady more spiritual than I was, and who would fit properly by his side when he becomes a minister. This was someone I had courted for two years after serious prayers and conviction from both sides!

I had wondered for months after the break up about the time I had gotten less spiritual in the course of our relationship. For Christ’s sake, I was the prayer secretary of my departmental Christian association then and if not anything, that position had made me more serious about my walk with God.

It bothered me when Lara, my once-very-close friend stated in an offhand manner, “*You are not*

*married, you don't understand my situation,"*

when I asked why she did not pick or return my calls anymore.

It bothered me when my mum would subtly ask, *"Awelewa, are you bringing a male friend to our Christmas party this year? Your younger sister said we should be expecting her male guest o!"*

She would say it with a smile on her face that suggested she was teasing me. However, beneath that smile was a curiosity short of anxiety about the fact that I was getting close to the big three-zero and I had not ever told her to expect any male guest for our festive gatherings.

It bothered me when I saw Sara, my closest friend and flat mate settle for less in the name of relationship.

*"Babe, I don't want to ever enter grace mode, it's not a pleasant condition. A man in hand is worth thousands in the streets,"* she would say.

'Grace mode' is a state when a lady is no longer hot stuff in the marriage market, biological clock is ticking like crazy, ready to make its way home and it will only take the special grace of God for Prince Charming to locate such a lady in time.

I told Sara no woman ever wants to enter 'grace mode' either.

Being single bothered me when some months after my break up, two guys approached me separately—one with alcohol stench living in his

breath and the other with a cup overflowing with male ego and pride... *"Awe, I'm a guy and you are a girl. When I'm talking, you don't talk."*

Please, don't get this twisted, both went to church and were workers in different units.

That was what made me have a long talk with myself and I came to this conclusion—it is better for me to marry late than for me to marry wrong. *Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof and patience is better than pride.*

This patience brought my darling into my life, and right now, we are really taking our time to know each other with marriage in view. I am not going to rush into anything in life, especially marriage.

The plans of God for me are good and not evil to give me a better end. I don't see the end now but I desire to be happily married and when you hope for something like that, you have to wait for it with patience.

So that when it's my time to post my family pictures on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and whatever social media platform happens to arise at that time, I will do so with a genuine smile and joy in my heart.

I hate the concept of suffering and smiling.

*... to be continued.*

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available

## *...The Available Becomes The Able*

*Continued from page 15*

Another mistake we can make is to look for faithful men who will carry on our own traditions and ideologies. We must search out faithful men and be ready to listen to whatever new ideas that they bring. Do not put them in a box where all they think is **‘this is how we have always done it’** rather than **‘this is what the Lord is saying right now.’**

As far as the work of the ministry/service in His vineyard is concerned, some Christians grumble that they are not being charged with responsibilities because they have not paid the price – faithfulness. This alone will earn you opportunity even when you least expect it. I know you are too ‘loaded’ with all that gift and talent but nobody is going to discover you until you are available.

The requirement from a steward of Christ and a Minister of God is faithfulness.

1Corinthians 4:1-2 *SO THEN, let us [apostles] be looked upon as ministering servants of Christ and stewards (trustees) of the mysteries (the secret*

*purposes) of God. Moreover, it is [essentially] required of stewards that a man should be found faithful [proving himself worthy of trust].*

(Amplified Version)

Of a truth there are no vacancies in the House of God, He is quick to replace any unavailable vessel with an available one because the work must go on.

Proverbs 22:29 *Do you see a man diligent and skillful in his business? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.* (Amplified Version)

Proverbs 25:13 *Like the cold of snow [brought from the mountains] in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to those who send him; for he refreshes the life of his masters.* (Amplified Version)

Proverbs 25:19 *Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.* (Amplified Version)

Luke 14:16-24

(verse 21) Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' (NKJV)

I walked into church on a Saturday afternoon for rehearsals and as the clock ticked, just a few members showed up. The choir Director insisted that we go ahead to commence rehearsal as I heard her say, "In the house of God, there are no vacancies." This is a true saying and worthy of all acceptance.

It will be good to lay a foundation by saying that God has called every believer into the work of the ministry. The moment you were saved, you received the responsibility to carry the gospel to others in order that they might be saved as well. You did not just receive the responsibility but you were also given the ability to carry out the task. Thus, we are called 'able ministers'. Someone defined responsibility' as 'responding to ability'.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 - Not that we are sufficient in

ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but (our sufficiency is from God, who has made us competent[ to be ministers of( a new covenant,... (ESV)

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him]. (Amplified Version)

1 Corinthians 9:16-17 For if I do this work of my own free will, then I have my pay (my reward); but if it is not of my own will, but is done reluctantly and under compulsion, I am [still] entrusted with a [sacred] trusteeship and commission. (Amplified Version)

As we read in the text, God is not all out looking for those who are fit and altogether correct to carry out His work, He simply requires faithfulness, those who are available. For the purpose of this discuss, I would consider faithfulness in service to God within Christendom and not necessarily 'the

preaching of the Gospel' although it is a common factor to both. 2 Timothy 2:2 explains this properly as Paul wanted to teach Timothy how to cast the vision. He instructed him to commit



# The Prevailing Word

-Tosin Babalola

<http://tosinbabalola.blogspot.com>

# The Available Becomes The Able

to **'able men who shall be faithful'**, No! Because the sad thing about faithful man is that, they are not always faithful. Instead, Paul instructed him to commit to **'faithful men who also shall be able'**.

*And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also. (Amplified Version)*

The truth of the matter is that faithfulness is the key to success of any endeavor in life, especially in the Ministry. Also, at the point where the disciples needed to replace Judas Iscariot, they had criteria and a category of people they intended to select from: men who had been with them ALL THE TIME when Jesus went in and out with them.

The only requirement was FAITHFULNESS.

*Acts 1:21-22 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. (KJV)*

Sometimes, looking out for faithful men may seem like an act of compromise of quality for quantity (because they may not look competent enough for the work at such point in time). There is error in this notion because every believer has already been enabled for the work of the Ministry. All that is needed is opportunity earned by faithfulness. [Continue reading...](#)

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mise:

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# Little Is The Needed Much

**In** the English dictionary, little is the opposite of much. In reality, little means so much.

Just a little salt is enough to make the food taste good. You don't need so much. Just a little yeast makes the flour rise. It doesn't have to be as much as the flour. The little things often taken as insignificant, turns out to mean much more than we imagine.

The woman with the widow's mite had just little. That money was too little to do anything. She could have delayed her giving until the day she would have something bigger. Yet out of love, she gave the little. Despite all the big offerings, Jesus noticed the little. Her blessing obviously was in no way little.

When there was a need to feed the five thousand. All Jesus and his disciples had was just little;



five loaves of bread and two fishes for five thousand. Jesus simply accepted the little and gave thanks. After feeding the crowd, the remnant was much more than the provided little.

All that the widow of Zarephath had was just a little food, too little to sustain herself and her son. In fact, she told the prophet: that was the last they would eat before they die of hunger. Not long after did she realize that all she needed to take her family off the list of hunger and death was to give the little to God. The little was just the needed much.

We all complain of having too little. We take that as excuses for not carrying out our responsibilities. We delay urgent needs that need to be met until we have enough. Why not be thankful for the little you have and start with that?

Don't wait till you have a lot of money to start your business, start with the little you have.

Don't wait till you have a lot of spare time before you attend to family needs. Use the little time you have.

You don't have a lot of money is not an excuse not to help the needy, give out the little you

can afford.

Don't delay the ministry till when you have a lot of money and members. Start with what you have.

Take a clue from Jesus. Though he was sent by God and was God himself, in ministry, all he had available, to feed a congregation of five thousand was five loaves of bread and two fishes. He did not ignore the provision. He did not complain either. He simply received it with thanksgiving and used it. He knew quite well that no matter how little or much it seems to human eye, God provides just enough.

Start with the little you have available. That little is the needed 'Much'.

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