

ROOTED AND POSITIONED TO GLORIFY GOD

The greatest tragedy is not only death, but a life of a believer who is not rooted or anchored in what he believes! We live at a time when many believers are just there! They are not anchored in anything! The bible gives us an account of God delivering the children of Israel with a purpose: He didn't deliver them just to be idle, but "*that they might worship and glorify him in the wilderness*" He was delivering and positioning them to glorify the name of Yahweh in all aspects of life. This truth is known well in the statement that, "*Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever*"

This topic also comes as a warning: that as children of God, we are rooted in the faith of Christ, but also positioned to glorify God wherever we are planted, and that if we have not been planted and positioned by God, we will be uprooted, just as Jesus said in **Matt.15:13** said "*every tree my Father has not planted will be uprooted*" Throughout the bible the idea of man glorifying God is very central; in fact man's folly comes about because of his failure to bring God's glory in his life!! As the bible opens in Genesis, man was charged to have dominion over all creation and that is why after all was created, God said "*It was very good*" (**Gen.1:31**)

Since creation, sin stands in the way for man to glorify God. Creation itself groans because of our sin, as a result of which it has been subject to frustration.

In (**Hosea 4:1-3**) the prophet Hosea said the land mourns and grieves because of the accumulated weight of human wickedness! In his time he witnesses Human sin having a lot of Kilograms!

Today many people are used to sin and it is accumulating a lot of kilograms, and staying with them a little longer, and yet they are saved! To make things worse, many people think being associated with a certain church makes one a born again Christian by default; they think that once you join a certain church, then you will be sinless and will automatically be restored to the factory settings of **Gen.2** before man sinned, when everything was alright! For them, they are rooted and positioned to live in sin. This is why the mission of Jesus is made very clear: (**Matthew 1:21**). Jesus came for the one big mission: To save people from their sins, coz he knew it wouldn't be possible to glorify God if we don't deal with our sin!

But you might wonder: Why didn't he come to save us from poverty, hunger and unemployment? Why does He want to save us from our sins but not from wars and the catastrophes that the world faces? If you bring the subject of "sin", most people shrug their shoulders, stating, "*That is not the kind of problem I have to deal with*". To them,

other issues matter – their tiny apartment in Kampala, their lack of money: their need for a job. According to them, the real problems don't revolve around sin but their superiority at work or the government. Some people don't want to get redeemed from sin but from their wife/ husband. Sin, the very expression, is fairly outdated anyway.

As I mediated on this topic, I was led to ask why Christians should be rooted in the first place:

There are quite a number of factors to explain why we are rooted

- 1. We are rooted and positioned to glorify God, than gratify the desires of the flesh: (Gal.5:16-17)** *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”* In this passage St Paul, challenges believers to actually *“keep in step”* with the Spirit” In **Ps.37:23** it says, *“The steps of a man are established by the LORD, and He delights in his way.”* It is because of failure to keep in step with the Spirit, that many people instead of glorifying God where God has positioned them, are gratifying the desires of the flesh.

We are created to walk by the Spirit; and when the Holy Spirit is in action, he commands reaction!! Positive reaction; even when you are oppressed, frustrated and pressed down you pray about it, rather than undress about it!! For a believer, everything in our lives starts with the Spirit, (**Gen.1:2**) life is breathed into us by the Spirit; our life is sustained by the Spirit. Therefore the Spirit starts and finishes everything in our lives! With the Spirit of God in us, there is a changed view on sin:

After God, the great Surgeon, operates on you, what changes is your attitude, your view on sin. As a born-again Christian, you will still sin but you'll no longer love that sinful behavior. Sinning doesn't give you pleasure anymore but rather grief. God gave you new interests and preferences. All of a sudden, you start yearning for God. This is more than mere religious motivation or obsession; you simply long for Him. He is important to you. When you got saved, you received discernment so that you can see how wrong your life has been up to this moment. Previously, you loved sin and chased it. Now, you hate it. You avoid all evil and desire truth and purity. In the past, your mind was clouded with your ex-boyfriend who even dumped you, for another girl! and you couldn't read the Bible, becoz the space in your disk was running low since your boyfriend was as heavy as a pdf document to occupy in your head! (*some have made it a habit to worry about their ex*) But now, Reading the Bible has become your daily bread. You no longer worry about that past relationship becoz now that you are saved, you understand that in fact God

saved your neck when this man/ woman left you! Now, this is the meaning of being a new person and is brought about only by the Spirit.

The intervention of the Spirit in our lives, reduces the disc space by cleaning your mind, agreeing with Paul in **(Rom.12:2)** where he says, “...*but be transformed by the renewal of your mind*” This happens becoz the Spirit does not deal with dirty minds: the guy is very clean & smart! He doesn't deal with disobedient minds! (*It's sad that some believers today attribute their wrong and disorganized way of doing things to the Spirit of God: one man in Kenya-2008*) Obedience is a central aspect in glorifying God, and its brought by the Spirit. In the days of Noah, obedience saved 8 people, disobedience ended the whole world. The initiator of disobedience is Satan. Today many people are deceived by Satan. In fact Satan has deceived them to such an extent that they can drink paint: Sadolin Paint, fully convinced that it is yoghurt!!

Countless believers are living in defeat coz of deception! The devil has used that deception to open up strongholds in their lives. Strongholds are incorrect thinking patterns based on the deception of the devil. Demons use such strongholds against children of God! In gratifying the desires of the flesh, and in obedience to the demonic spirits which are controlling people's thinking patterns, some ladies now buy hand bags which they have called “*just in case handbag*” this bag is very big to accommodate extra clothes in case they pass by a boyfriend's house to spend a night!! For them this is how Satan has chosen to deceive them!! Satan knows that there is a stronghold in their life in relation to how their marriages in future will be! Such people have given him a foothold for the sin of fornication so that even their children will do likewise in the future. Then they start wondering why their children are not getting married properly, or having early pregnancies (5 am marriages)? Well you set the pace by yourself!

Then there are those non-believers who think that by immersing themselves in sin, God is not bothered because they have never subscribed to his values! So why should God punish them? But the bible says in **2 Thess.1:8** “*He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*” As if this is not enough, in a rather ironic way, non-believers even think that God will answer their prayers even as they engage in evil: (*a member of the Kifeesi gang*) God will still punish you! In **Ex.32:33-35**, the LORD told Moses saying: “*I will erase whoever has sinned against me from my book. On the day I settle accounts, I will hold them accountable for their sin.*” The bible continues: *And the LORD inflicted a plague on the people for what they did with the calf Aaron had made.* So, had he not chosen them? Look, If you have succeeded in executing evil, thinking its God who blessed you, you just fulfilled the scripture in **Acts 17:30-31**

which says, *“In the times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people, everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness”* In fact if you are not saved by today, and you are still thinking that God will continue to bless you, you are provoking his anger because the day you will bring all your complaints, frustrations, worries before God, He will dismiss them with costs!!! He will say, *“These issues you have brought before me, are dismissed and I order costs to each one of them”* now that’s when you will pay heavily for your sin, becoz every sin has a cost! The danger of sin, is that it will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay.

- 2. *You are rooted and positioned to glorify God and in so doing prosper.*** Let me tell you, prosperity is a result of living a life that glorifies God. You can never prosper when you are in active rebellion against God. In **Job 9:4**, the bible says: *“God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered?”*. In other words, who has rebelled against God and prospered? The bible is full of this; that when one would live a life that glorifies God, they would prosper, and have abundance. When one would endeavor to spend time with God, they would prosper! A good example of this is in **2 Chronicles 1**, where we read that God appeared to Solomon after a day filled with worship and sacrifice and granted him his wish. Rather than choosing fame or fortune, good health and all that, Solomon humbled himself before God and asked for wisdom. As a result, God chose not only to grant him wisdom, but also to bless him with great wealth, honor and fame that has stood the test of time. Solomon therefore prospered!

There is something that strikes a chord in us here! That in order to prosper, our daily lives should seek the face of God in worship which is a whole life! That we cannot talk about prosperity minus a continuous life of worshipping and glorifying God!. being in the presence of God is the beginning of prosperity. Solomon spent a day in the temple sacrificing before the altar. It was only after such a day of praise that God appeared to Solomon to grant him whatever he might wish. After all, *“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1)*. When you begin to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, when you glorify God in all your ways, indeed all other things are added unto you! There is something significant in the amount of time you give to God! Solomon spent a day before God! In our time, here is an example of how your social media status looks like, versus the time you give God: Whatsapp= last seen is 3mins; Facebook last seen= 2mins; twitter last seen= 4 minutes, Bible last seen= 11 months ago: leaving only December becoz you came during a Xmass service! The amount of time you spend in the presence of God, even when you are reporting to an ungodly boss in your

office, will throw into confusion those who are against you when God prospers you, by removing that boss and replacing him/her with yourself! For those crying out to God for a job; Give God more time, God will give you more jobs! You will have jobs, and not a “job”. This will happen because God knows your name since you have a relationship that is sustained on a daily basis! It is just a matter of time! Now that’s where many believers lose it, because God’s time is not man’s time. It also took Solomon time and hard work to have this wealth. In **2 Chron.1:14**, the bible says, “*Solomon accumulated 1,400 chariots and 12,000... horsemen...*”, the word “accumulate” suggests a process: it means to gather together gradually! You don’t accumulate instantly!! So be careful of Preachers who tell you to speak and it comes. These days they now have a special concept for this, they call it, “*writing your destiny with your tongue*” that you just speak something and it happens. That you stand near cars and claim them: you try to stand near the Cathedral van, we shall take you to police. That’s not how Solomon who the Lord himself promised to bless, acquired his wealth. It was a process, and he lived a life of worshipping and glorifying God!!

- 3. *We are rooted and positioned to glorify God, by denying ourselves:*** the life of glorifying God involves denying oneself for the sake of Jesus being glorified. Within the xtn cycles, the aspect of suffering has been misunderstood. Christians have become too familiar with seeing the cross, nicely polished and displayed in their churches, wearing it around their necks or talking about it everywhere; but not many actually know its essence. Not many want to talk about the implication of denying oneself! St Paul and so many other disciples, got commissioned to suffer for Jesus name. In **Acts 9:16** “*I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name*” When God calls, He calls us to commitments that necessitate suffering, not for comfort. If we don’t deny ourselves, we will deny Christ; If we deny ourselves, we wont deny Jesus! Its as simple as that! The Bible gives us plenty of examples of suffering because of God’s calling. So friends to be rooted and positioned to glorify God, is not simply walking with swagger like you would do after winning the elections! It means denying oneself and suffering for His name! Certain hard situations in our lives, bring glory to God. In **John 11:4** the death of Lazarus was not to lead to death, but to bring glory to God!! When we get saved God positions us in a place where we can actually follow him. The journey of following Him is one with difficulties, tough times! In fact God’s twitter account is @[Matt.16: 24](#), which says “*Then Jesus said unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*”

This happens because God has made all things for his own glory. In **Prov. 16:4** the bible says "*The Lord hath made all things for himself: that is, for his glory.*" In fact, God will have glory even out of the wicked & if the wicked refuse to give him glory, he will get glory upon them. In **Exod. 14:14**. The Lord said to Moses, "*...and I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD*"

Pharaoh had refused to glorify God by obeying his voice! God instead gained glory on him! Self denial