



HOW I MET GOD ON
TWITTER

— AND THE JOURNEY SINCE THEN —

MOBOLAJI
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Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the New International Version of the Holy Bible. Those marked (AMP) are taken from the Amplified Bible while those marked (GNB) are taken from the Good News Bible.

This book is dedicated to the woman that tweeted her love story on that beautiful day in December, 2013. Thank you, I met God on your timeline.

And to Jesus, thank you for everything; your love for me is reckless.

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Thank you, dear reader, for investing your time in reading this book; you will not be disappointed.

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INTRODUCTION

There is a void in every human that only God can fill and this is the story of how I got filled. (It is still on-going). It started from twitter, but did not end there so this book is not just about how I met God, but also what I have learned since then. It contains most things you would not often hear about being born-again. So, here we go...

I met God on twitter. It was after I read a lady's timeline that I knelt in a friend's room few years ago and asked God to come into my life. I was tired of our back and forth relationship and wanted to serve Him wholly.

People think Twitter, especially *Nigerian* Twitter is for the unserious, but social media is in our faces and we can no longer ignore it. If we leave Social Media for unbelievers to dominate, then we're making a huge mistake. If you write one tweet about Jesus and 2 people retweet, do you know how many people that tweet will reach? You do not need a pulpit to share God's word anymore, you can tweet it! *This is not to say that offline evangelism is less important though.*

Like most believers, God had actually been after me for a while before that beautiful December day. My heart of stone was gradually changing to a heart of flesh, but it was a lady's tweets that hooked me. She talked about her fiancé's selflessness, love and sacrifice for her. He loved her like Christ loved the church. He picked her to work every day even though they did not particularly live close to each other and she praised him for honouring God and her body. They stayed celibate and I'm sure are now enjoying their Christ-filled sex life.

I thought about that for a while on that bed and thought how bad I wanted something like that. I wanted a relationship that honoured God. I wanted to talk about my partner the way she talked about hers. I wanted a man who was willing to wait till marriage before having sex. I wanted a man to love, care for and trust me. I wanted a man I could be real with who would love me for me- *the seriously-unserious, sometimes mood-changing, loud-laughing Bolaji.*

I realized that the only way to get this kind of relationship was to have God. Even men who claimed to be 'God-fearing' did not do what she said her *bae* (partner) was doing. This was a man after God's heart, not just a church goer. You might ask how I knew her fiancé was what she said he was; my answer- *the heart knows what it knows.*

God used that lady's story to get me. If she could have a relationship that honoured God, then I could too! So I knelt in prayer, called God into my life and asked him to make me a virtuous woman. I wanted God first from then on.

The funny thing is that I was not dating anyone when I said that prayer. Even more interesting is the fact that as at the release of this book, I still am *single*. God set me

up big time, but I have never regretted my decision. There have been times I got tired and wanted to just go back, but I now know from experience that following Jesus is the sweetest thing.

In this short book, I share secrets about being born-again; the things believers are mostly too shy to share.

People mostly spread the *good-life* gospel, the type that deceives us into thinking that being born-again means having it all and walking on roses. I thought so too, until horny days came and I became confused.

Me: *'Why God? But you said all will be well with me when I become born again, so why do I feel this way!'*

God: *'Well, I said all will be well with you, but I also said you will be tempted and will have trails. And I also said I will never leave nor forsake you, nor give you more than you can bear. I said a lot of things you're not referring to in this conversation.'*

Me: *'Ok God, I get the point!'*

As imperfect as I am, I cannot be quiet about Jesus because I know without doubt that He has changed me from the person I was to the person I am and will continually change me to the woman He wants me to be. I love to share my testimony and see people grow in Him.

That is why I wrote this book.

I pray that this book propels you to have a deeper relationship with God and walk in His will for your life. These are things most people don't share but I know this will help you and earnestly pray that you come to full maturity in Christ Jesus.

THE PAIN OF PROCESS

Psalm 73:1-3 (GNB)

*God is indeed good to Israel,
to those who have pure hearts.
But I had nearly lost confidence;
my faith was almost gone
because I was jealous of the proud
when I saw that things go well for the wicked.*

I cried as I poured the oil in my mouth and anointed my head with it. It had been a whole week since I had stayed in the darkness of my room and there was still no word of how my school fees were going to be paid. I, Mobolaji, who encouraged friends and strangers to follow Jesus with all their heart was about to lose it. Where exactly was this God I talked about?

How was it that the people who dishonoured God, His ways and grace got all I always wanted? Why did bad things happen to good people anyway?

Everyday God told me He was with me but I did not want to hear it. I could manage with the little money I got here and there to survive, but to not pay my fees; I was not ready for that!

I remember the night I got to school and poured all I had brought from home on the floor; my roommate asked: *Is this all you brought?* That night, I wondered why my life was the way it was. The devil reminded me of how I lived in Ajayi Crowther (where I spent one University year before I left) and how I was almost never broke. Alerts were constant and if I ever needed anything, I could ask my roommates who were much older than I was. Why then did I lack as a believer?

Psalm 73:4-28 (GNB)

*They do not suffer pain;
they are strong and healthy.
5 They do not suffer as other people do;
they do not have the troubles that others have.
6 And so they wear pride like a necklace
and violence like a robe;
7 their hearts pour out evil,
and their minds are busy with wicked schemes.
8 They laugh at other people and speak of evil things;
they are proud and make plans to oppress others.
9 They speak evil of God in heaven*

*and give arrogant orders to everyone on earth,
 10 so that even God's people turn to them
 and eagerly believe whatever they say.
 11 They say, "God will not know;
 the Most High will not find out."
 12 That is what the wicked are like.
 They have plenty and are always getting more.
 13 Is it for nothing, then, that I have kept myself pure
 and have not committed sin?
 14 O God, you have made me suffer all day long;
 every morning you have punished me.
 15 If I had said such things,
 I would not be acting as one of your people.
 16 I tried to think this problem through,
 but it was too difficult for me
 17 until I went into your Temple.
 Then I understood what will happen to the wicked.
 18 You will put them in slippery places
 and make them fall to destruction!
 19 They are instantly destroyed;
 they go down to a horrible end.
 20 They are like a dream that goes away in the morning;
 when you rouse yourself, O Lord, they disappear.
 21 When my thoughts were bitter
 and my feelings were hurt,
 22 I was as stupid as an animal;
 I did not understand you.
 23 Yet I always stay close to you,
 and you hold me by the hand.
 24 You guide me with your instruction
 and at the end you will receive me with honor.
 25 What else do I have in heaven but you?
 Since I have you, what else could I want on earth?
 26 My mind and my body may grow weak,
 but God is my strength;
 he is all I ever need.
 27 Those who abandon you will certainly perish;
 you will destroy those who are unfaithful to you.
 28 But as for me, how wonderful to be near God,
 to find protection with the Sovereign LORD
 and to proclaim all that he has done!*

I love these scriptures because towards the end, David understood that God was not evil or wicked, but allowed things to happen in our lives for a reason. We do not have to envy the wicked that enjoy because it is only but for a moment, our reward is eternal. Why worry so much about 100 years here when it is shorter than eternity.

Revelation 7: 14-17 (GNB)

“I don't know, sir. You do,” I answered.

He said to me, “These are the people who have come safely through the terrible persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. That is why they stand before God's throne and serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will protect them with his presence. Never again will they hunger or thirst; neither sun nor any scorching heat will burn them, because the Lamb, who is in the center of the throne, will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Our eternal home has no pain; you wouldn't even feel it if someone pinched you.

When my best friend lost her brother, I could not believe it. You hear deaths from afar and pray for God's comfort for people but when it comes so close, you never know what to pray about.

How can a good, handsome and fulfilled young man die without explanation? What kind of God will allow that happen?

I still pray for strength and comfort for their family, but as cliché as it may sound and as silly as it may seem; over time, I have come to see how much closer they have all become with God. I do not understand it all but I do know that truly, every *painful* thing works together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

There is a pain that comes with process, especially for every believer. Do not think that everything will automatically be smooth for you because you are saved. Do not be deceived that your process will be quick and easy. Do not compare your life with that of unbelievers or even believers; no two people have the same process.

It may seem like some people get a quick fix and have the perfect life, but if you go close, you will see that every true believer has paid and continually pays a price to follow Jesus. We have to carry our cross daily if we are ever going to grow as Christians.

But remember, no one said a cross is light and easy to carry. There is pain that comes with process, but there is a joy that awaits the saints. Even in your process, Christ is there.

If you've been born-again, even for a day, you must grow as a believer. You cannot afford to remain in one spot all your life and claim that you are a Christian. You cannot go to Church on Sundays, live as an unbeliever the rest of the week and think that you are spiritually well. I once read that there is no middle ground for a born-again. If you feel that you have been on one spot for too long, you are actually backsliding because every believer either grows or diminishes spiritually.

As comfortable as *lukewarm* may sound, it does not really exist for a believer. I love this part of the song *Unlimited God* by Olumide Iyun: *'When I think that I have seen you, you show me there is much more. When I think that I have known you, you show me there's much more. When I think that I have touched you, you show me there's much more. You are exalted, unlimited God.'*

God is unlimited, explore Him. Embrace the pain of your process so that you can grow and mature spiritually.

Amen?

Amen.

JESUS IS NOT A MAGICIAN

I know you must have heard that God is always there and answers at our beck and call; this is true but not in its entirety. God is always with us, but He will not perform magic or declare *abakadabra* on our every want. If you are going to serve God, serve Him out of love. Serve God for who He is and not just what He can give you. It is sad that many people only want to know the Jehovah Jireh God and don't want to have anything to do with the person of God.

Let me tell you a story.

There was a young man, let's call him Kweku, who had been born-again for a long time. He knew God personally and shared testimonies often. However, a time came when things became very tight for him. He asked me to pray for him and after I did, I sensed that He was disobeying God concerning some things.

I told him exactly how I felt and what God told me about Him. The thing was that he had also shared with me some time back that God had asked him to do some things, but he refused. So, when I prayed, God reminded me of that.

Anyway, as things got tight, he wondered where God suddenly was. God was just too quiet for his liking, so a thought (*a very devilish one at that*) entered his heart. He decided to denounce the faith, in case his new religion will pay him better. He forgot that news spreads like wild fire and it was heart breaking to see and hear things about him.

The funny thing was that I later found out that though he had publicly professed another god, he secretly still read his Bible. When he was counselled and checked on, he confessed that it all started as a joke- a very expensive one! He was still a Christian, but did not know how to make it public again.

I reassured him of God's mercy and forgiveness; but I was also very truthful with him.

I plainly told him that when he fully comes back to Christ, it will not guarantee that everything will become rosy for him. Following Jesus does not mean that you will start to hold balloons and sleep on bed of roses all the days of your life.

The Bible says that in this world we WOULD (not might) have trouble, but we should be of good cheer because He has ALREADY overcome the world! We will face challenges and things will not always be easy; but our love for God should propel us to follow Him every day.

Jesus is not a magician, He is a miracle worker.

He will not do *abakadabra* just to please you. He will teach you faith and what it means to rely on Him for EVERYTHING!

My second semester in level 300 in University was not a very funny one financially. I loved God but was tempted many times to ask if He was real and saw my needs. God the provider (Jehovah Jireh) definitely seemed quiet at that time of my life.

I was scared. I cried.

I remember how He always told me 'Paid in Full' whenever I started to worry about my school fees but I did not understand why He did not pay it when I wanted. The Monday we were not allowed to enter school premises was especially hard for me; my heart broke. Still, it did not change the fact that God was and always will be good.

I prayed, decreed and declared, but I was only fooling myself. God did it at His time and His time was perfect. And guess what?

It was paid in full! I was actually still spending the remainder of my fees for like a month, so I didn't really bug anyone for pocket money.

Many of us have gone through this one way or the other. We have believed God for things that did not happen when we wanted; however, God remains faithful.

We must always remember that only a magician does '*fast-fast*' wonder, God does *lasting* miracles, not magic. Magic fulfils selfish and unnecessary purposes but miracles show the power and presence of God in our lives.

So when you contemplate the joke of changing faith because Jesus is taking too long, better remember the title of this chapter!

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO KEEP GOING FOR ALTAR CALLS

Most born-again Christians will tell you that they went for at least 5 altar calls before they got serious with Christ. I can't even count how many times I went out to give my life to Christ whenever I felt 'touched' by a preacher's words. I would cry and *surrender*, but because I never knew what to do after every altar call, I always went back to square one.

Here's the simple thing to do after an altar call: believe that God has heard you and that you are now born-again. Then, start to read your bible!

After that beautiful evening that I knelt in my friend's room for my final altar call, I felt a strong need to begin to read my Bible. I could not wait for Church services anymore. I enjoyed my time with God and read the New Testament in a very short time; all that *Sunday-Sunday* business stopped.

Thank God my Bible was relatively new then and it was leather, if not, it would have always been dusty by Sunday. Coincidentally, I had bought an NIV Bible before resuming school in Ghana; with my money. I do not even know what got into me to do it, because I was not yet born-again at that time. I now know it was God's plan.

I remember one time I read the book of Job and was amazed. I was challenged by his story and how he was ready to live for God even when things got very tough. I can still see myself in retrospect- lying on my bed on the top bunk, holding my green and orange leathered Bible, soaking in every lesson!

Your Bible is your manual. If you ignore it, you will not know what to do after your altar call, so you will simply go back to what you're familiar with. This is the reason people keep going for altar calls. They feel that they have not kept to their word since the last altar call; therefore, they need to go for another to show repentance.

An altar call is like a proposal, you don't keep asking for someone's hand in marriage. Once you say or get a *Yes*, you immediately begin to plan your wedding. When you say *Yes* to God, you don't have to keep going out to publicly declare it in form of an altar call. Your desires and aspirations will change and people will soon notice that you are no longer the same.

Altar calls are a great opportunity for people to come to Christ and I believe it should be done before or after every Christian gathering. You, my dear friend, don't have to keep going out in every meeting. I understand that you may feel guilt because you went back to your old ways; but God knew that and made provision for your shortcomings.

People who have been following Jesus for more than 40 years still have weaknesses though they have grown. They have matured, yet, God still works on them to become more and more like Him. This means you do not have to feel bad about yourself. Do not let the devil play the guilt trick on you so that you can dwell in God's presence. Guilt only takes us away from God.

Hebrews 4:15 (AMP)

For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but One who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, yet without [committing any] sin.

I sincerely don't understand why people are asked to close their eyes when people are called for altar calls. This is one of the greatest decisions one can ever make so it should not matter if people look or not. I know that it is done so that others will not stare or look down on those accepting the call; still, it is not something that should be associated with shame. It's like saying one's wedding guests should close their eyes when the Minister asks the couple to kiss. Do you know how many people would have been waiting for that very moment? The photographer better be on guard because people that could not attend the wedding will love to see that particular photo. I love how a certain preacher asks those around to hug and celebrate those who answer the altar call, because it really is worth celebrating.

Luke 15:7 (NIV)

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Your answer to this call is the beginning of a love story that will change your life forever. No fairy-tale can beat the kind of mind-blowing, jaw-dropping, eye-popping love that Jesus has for you.

You need to get to know Him. The only way to do this is by reading your Bible. If you are a new believer, you might want to start reading only the words written in red ink in your Bible. Those are the words of Jesus and this will help you know Him better. How else can you get to know someone other than studying their words and actions?

Some of Jesus' actions will shock you. If you are a religious person, His ways will probably even annoy you, but you know what, no one loves people like He does. He loves the saint and sinner alike. Fun fact: Did you know that Jesus asked a crowd who were about to stone a woman caught 'red-handed' in adultery to stone her only if they had no secret sins of their own? They all dropped their stones and left the

woman (See John 8:1-11). How do you think this woman will see Jesus for the rest of her life?

They did not lie against her; she really was caught in adultery, so why would Jesus ask them to pardon her? Because that's who He is; a great lover, persistent forgiver, grace giver and life restorer.

He can do the same for you and it will not happen by having the Guinness World Record for the person with the highest response to altar calls. After you accept to live for Jesus, what next?

Read your Bible so you can get to know your Saviour more.

MILK OR BONES? THE BELIEVER'S CALL TO MATURITY

Let's admit it; this chapter fits perfectly after the one on altar calls. A beautiful journey laced with joy, peace, fears, tears and Christ starts after every altar call. The altar call leads you to a beautifully uncomfortable route because you will go through a lot of dying: dying to self. An altar call is the start to a lifelong walk with God, but spiritual growth is what is expected after the call.

1 Peter 2: 2-3 (NIV)

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Humans dislike things that fight their flesh; but that is what the Christian race really is about. One morning, God woke me at about 6:03am and I was unhappy. Why wake me so early for a class of 10am? I usually wake early every day, even when I don't have anywhere to go. I have been programmed this way and asked God that particular day why I had to wake so early. He led me to read Joyce Meyer's 'Starting your day right' and it was not a coincidence that she talked about how Jesus was an early riser. He woke before everyone to go spend time with God in solitary places. If I claim to be His follower, I have find time to do the same.

This is why God wakes me early; but even when I wake late, the first thing I do is spend time with God. My time with God takes at least 1 hour on most days. So, if I do not wake early, that time will suffer and it will tell on my spirit and character.

My flesh does not like to wake early to spend time with God; there, I said it. It used to be such a struggle for me to spend time in prayer and read the word. After I released my first book, the devil came after my prayer life. There were times I will wake and just sit on my bed, not saying a word to God. My sister had a dream about me and it confirmed that the devil was serious about killing my spiritual life.

I started sleeping more than usual and one day I screamed when a classmate told me that I had been sleeping too much. He had a dream about me and told me how God showed him that I had been sleeping and needed to jack up my spiritual life again. Honestly, I was in total shock that day because I had thought about it that same morning- that I had been sleeping too much and it was eating into my time with God. I finally repented.

Instead of running away in guilt, I confessed and repented. I actually even thanked God for loving me enough to correct me.

Hebrews 12: 5-6 (NIV)

And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

God will allow you to take milk for a while, but a time will come when He will ask you to break bones. You will need to grow up and dig deeper roots with God. As you mature, you will know it and be marvelled at your relationship with God. What I love most is that there's no end to this walk; people who have been born-again for 40 years are still maturing because every day is an opportunity to become more like Christ.

If you battle to hear or recognize God's voice clearly, then spend more time with Him. Desire spiritual growth and He will fill you. I'm at a stage where I ask for God's opinion about something and almost immediately get an answer. As I walked to school one day, I meditated on how I was enjoying Christ and never thought I could get to a stage where I could hear Him clearly. What was or is the secret? I started to spend more time with God, I wrote in my journals more than I ever did before, I became unashamed about sharing my faith and I sincerely desired spiritual growth.

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

I still fall; I still make mistakes but God sees my hunger and has promised not to leave me dry.

Matthew 7:7 (NIV)

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Ask any believer and their secret for spiritual growth will be the same. You cannot grow if you do not spend time with God or read your Bible. Every child is weaned for a reason. A mother does not continue to give a 5 year old breast milk when other 5 year olds can now eat proper food; so what do you think God will do as a parent?

When I just got born-again, God answered many of my silly prayers and questions. I think He does that for new believers so that you can know without an iota of doubt that He exists but you will have to grow.

I have friends who have shared how there's a new level of expectation as they mature in Christ. Now that I know that relationships ought to honour God, I don't spend time telling God that I urgently need a boyfriend like I used to when I just got saved. I was 18 and I thought God ought to have known that every saved girl needed a good-looking saved boy immediately.

How naive I was and still can be. In the next 30 years, I might not be praying about certain things I currently pray about because as I mature, God gives more revelation and the Holy Spirit guides prayers according to God's will, not mine.

My point is that growth is not an option for a believer, it is a necessity. When God calls me to another level of maturity, I begin to sense it. I suddenly have an itch and discomfort in my spirit to move up. I shared with a friend when God asked me to start spending time with Him every evening and she shared how He had also asked her to wake every midnight to pray in the spirit. It got to a point that I looked forward to my 8pm's. Even as I walked home, I always sensed that God's presence was waiting in my room for our time together.

It was a time of deep revelation. He would tell me so much about my life, what I needed to work on, the friends I needed to let go, His purpose and plans for my life; He told me so much and I wrote them all in my journal.

Do you feel spiritually stagnant? Have you remained on one spot for so long that you no longer enjoy your relationship with God?

Maybe God is calling you to maturity. I hope you answer.

HUNNY, YOU WILL BE HORNY!

I confided in my best friend at a time when I was feeling horny and she asked me to trace it to what I had been feeding my mind on. When I did that, I found that though I was watching mostly good stuff, some movies and shows were polluting my mind. She did not even console me or anything, after asking me to be mindful, we moved on to something else. Before we move on, you should know that it helps to have someone or people of spiritual wisdom who you can confide in on matters concerning sex. Not all churches openly guide youths on this, so fortify yourself with proper friends and spiritual authority.

If no one has told you already, I now have to let you know that being born again does not mean you will lose all sensations in your body. It means now you have God to guide you and your love for Him will challenge you to stay pure. Yes, your love, not fear!

The truth for most believers is that even when they do not take in anything that pollutes their minds, they sometimes feel sexual urges or simply put- horny. The religious group has made it almost forbidden to speak about sex and I wonder, if we cannot get the truth from the Church, the world will be waiting to teach us lies as truth.

Many people before the age of 13 already have a conceited idea of sex because most parents don't talk about it or rather present it in fear or as something from hell.

When I got saved, I had questions:

Why do I still often feel horny?

What kind of God puts urges in man and then asks them to wait to be touched?

Is it sinful for me to even feel this way?

Becoming a believer does not mean you will automatically be without temptation and I am sharing this because of my struggle with this same topic. It took a while for me to grasp the subject of sex and why it was God's will that sex be *only* done in marriage. I have come to understand that today's society have idolized sex and do not even realize it. It is worshipped as a god by people who cannot admit it.

Many of us have been made to believe that celibacy is a curse and only those who 'pretend' to be holy stay celibate till marriage. This made me think- why do marriages still break? If sex is so awesome, why can't it keep a home and sustain love forever? Most especially, why does the devil make people feel like they're missing out on something if they're not having sex?

It is everywhere, if not explicitly, then in ways that it cannot still be ignored. We can't even watch movies in peace because there will be something to remind you that you're missing out of the glorious sex life. Whew!

What can believers do?

We have bodies and we should be worried if it does not feel or have sensations, but how do we stay sane without sex and honour God with our lives?

It boils back to the fact that sex is being worshipped and you need to step out of that service now and never look back. Life will not suddenly become a fairy-tale when you start having sex, so why pause your life? Fight the devil back with the truth of the word, but you must first come to the realization that sex is not the solution to your problems.

What are you consuming? And by this, I don't mean food.

What do you feed your mind?

Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please the flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Ask yourself two questions when you feel horny:

What have I been feeding my mind lately?

Is this from my sinful desires or the natural that will pass?

If you've guarded your heart as best as you can, it means the feeling is natural and will pass. The temptations will come, but if you sow your time into the Word, you will be able to reply that feeling and live over it, until the right time.

I Thessalonians 4: 3-5 (NIV)

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God...

Finally, let's realize right now that love and not fear should compel us to keep ourselves pure. You may remain a virgin until after marriage and not be pure before God. Purity cannot be attained without God so do not even try to do this on your own.

Never get to the point where you think purity is by your power. I often hear of people and couples (who are not yet married) who deliberately sleep in the same room, go on vacations together, etc. because they feel they are spiritually strong enough to do so. Please, remember that just because you have not fallen does not mean you will never fall. Why put yourself in such situations when the Bible says to flee from all appearances of evil?

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (NIV)

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Not everyone will understand why I am so open in this book, but these are things we all feel and think. As believers, we sometimes get carried away by putting on a façade like we're in a movie, but these are real life issues and must be addressed.

PRAYER IS NOT THE ONLY KEY

Christians can pray. We can spend our whole lives praying about something but refuse to do what we know God has asked us to do. I remember hearing someone say “Stop praying about what God has already said and just obey”. We need to pray about any and everything as believers, but there is a problem if that’s all we do.

When I got born again, a lot of things changed. This change was painful and I just could not understand why God was putting me through all I was going through. I had heard such nice things about Him, but I didn’t feel He was treating me nice at all.

To be honest, I put all my attention on the Jehovah Jireh attribute of God and spent so much time asking for a lot when I just got saved. I wanted God to provide my every *want* and I particularly remember that He asked me to make new friends, but I continued praying about keeping my old ones. I do not know if the prayer was to soften His heart, but at that point, prayer was not the key.

Believers can pray, but what is the point of prayer if it is out of God’s will? Why do we fervently pray about things that God has already answered? I think we do this when God’s answer does not favour our flesh, so we keep on praying what we have set in our hearts to do.

I remember how much I prayed and fasted about my first book, ‘Letters to Our Fathers’. I asked God to bless the e-book and spread it to other continents so that people can be blessed. I was praying about an e-book that God had asked me to first publish as a paperback. I did not admit that I was fearful because I knew that releasing an e-book was the *faithless* thing to do; God had already answered me- His will was paperback so that most typical Dads will have access to it.

Though prayer is vital, it is silly when believers continue to pray out of God’s will. It is even dangerous because God permits things we fervently ask for, even though they might not be His will for our lives.

Most times, obedience is a greater key than prayer. When you pray about something, commit to do whatever answer God gives you, no matter how it freaks you out. If God only gives us comfortable answers that feed the flesh, what then do we need Him for?

The problem is that many secretly expect God to answer prayers in a certain way. It is almost like having the answers we want even before asking God what He thinks or desires.

What are you still ‘*kabashing*’ (speaking in tongues) for that God is saying- **first obey!**

In Acts 12 (I advise you read the whole chapter), King Herod arrested Peter to please the Jews.

Acts 12:5 (NIV)

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

God heard them and sent an angel to release Peter, even he never expected his release to happen the way it did. The people praying day and night for him did not actually expect a miracle either.

Acts 12: 12-16 (NIV)

When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door.

When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

"You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "it must be his angel."

But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.

These people had been praying fervently for Peter to come out of jail, but when Rhoda shared the testimony, they thought she was crazy. Sounds familiar?

Many times we pray with our own criteria and refuse to recognize or accept God's will because we expect answers in a certain way. When we pray, let us ask and truly mean for God's will to be done.

Prayer is the key to everything. I pray about small and big things and God answers; but most times, obedience is really the key. Make the move that God has been asking you to make (no matter how small or silly it sounds to humans and no matter how uncomfortable it makes you feel) and then keep backing it up with prayers.

IT IS NOT THAT COMPLICATED

I remember the day I walked into a room where they were having an argument about Jesus and Christianity. A friend who does not believe in Jesus Christ and often asks questions about our faith was the loudest and I wondered why the other believers there argued with him.

Our belief in Jesus is not something we can explain to an intellectual because we don't believe like the world believes. He wants a proof, one he can see and almost touch but Jesus asks that we first believe, and then we will see and touch Him in our lives.

Being born-again is really not as complicated as people think. Or, is it? It might be difficult to explain to friends, but what happened to our hearts and life is really not as complicated as people make it seem. When someone asks what being born-again means, you can just say- I got serious with Jesus!

Anyone who asks you about a guy or girl and you reply- *Oh, I got serious with XXX* knows that the relationship is now official. This means no more beating around the bush. When you get serious with someone, you no longer hide your relationship status because you have become committed to one another. You look out for one another, pray together and for each other, buy things to show you care and most of all- you begin to spend more and more time together.

Even when you're not together physically, you think of your partner often and make hour's long phone calls with no substantial gist.

Isn't that how we really become when we get born-again? (Except, with Him, there's always substantial gist)

Our love for God begins to grow. We start to forgive and love others as He asked us to. We read our Bibles more often and spend more time with Him. He is the one we think about first thing in the morning and the one we speak to before we close our eyes to sleep. We even share inside jokes with Him that no one understands.

So, is being born-again that complicated after all?

When a relationship gets serious, your big picture is marriage. Why date someone you can never marry?

It is the same with God.

Being in a relationship means dropping all ex's phone numbers and focusing on *le boo*; it means trust. You will not always be with your partner, but you trust that they will never cheat or hurt you deeply.

It's almost the same with a relationship with Jesus Christ. We drop all traditional limiting beliefs when we come to Christ; at least we should and we begin to trust that God is always good.

Before being born again, our trust was mostly put in men and we did not have total reliance on God. There was always a plan B (which most times was God.) But now, He becomes our plan A, without a plan B. He becomes our all in all and favourite person to talk to. It is really not that complicated.

People try to make you look stupid when you say you're born-again, or when you refuse to do the things you used to do.

Perfect example- I went to another state to visit my friends from school. I hooked up with a close male friend and we had lunch together; as we ate, a senior from school passed by and we exchanged pleasantries. Next thing my friend says- "Do you know **** is now born again?" And then he begins to laugh mockingly, like the guy was stupid to be saved.

I was confused as I was a 'newbie' myself. I told him I was also now born-again and asked why he was laughing? He then got serious and asked what the difference was? What was different about the old and new Bolaji? And why did we feel the need to differentiate it? I explained some of the changes I noticed about myself, but at that time I sincerely doubt I hit the jackpot with my explanation.

There was another time I met up with old friends in the same state. It was like a mini-reunion. I cannot really remember what I did but a friend said- "You see what I was telling you! These born-again people still act the same. Bolaji, you are still proud! **** too is still proud, even though he claims to be born-again."

I must confess, I felt bad. When I left, I asked God why He didn't just change everything about me if I was now a 'new creature'. Over the years though, I have learned this- being born-again does not mean all imperfections will suddenly fly. Also, I do not have to measure myself with the yardstick people give me. Someone calling you proud, wicked, etc. does not mean you are those things.

People and friends might not get it. They want you to keep doing the same things you did together, so, you will be abused when you refuse. Another thing I have noticed is that people think that saying you're born-again and now unable to do old things means you're claiming to be better than them.

I mean, do we not all go to Church? So, what is this one feeling like?

But Joyce Meyer says sitting in the garage does not make you a car. You can sit in the church and not be transformed; so these people do not get it when you suddenly change.

There's one more story to illustrate my point. I had followed an old friend to church one time and had an amazing time there. However, it felt a little weird because I could not connect with the person as I would a born-again. When it was time to give

an offering, the person dropped a very **small** amount. I did not plan to see that, but it broke my heart and I think God allowed me see it to teach me.

God then said- *Bolaji, that used to be you! You used to drop a 'widows mite' even though you had enough to give in full.*

I knew my friend was well to do and had just had a party, so I did not understand why the person gave so little to God. Before I took God serious, I did not really care what He thought about me too. I did not care how I dressed or spoke; I did not care how I gave either. What was tithe? In my mind, I needed the money and if God provided it in the first place, why should I give Him out of it again?

But, God is a *good good* Father who patiently waits on us. It's not about money, but how we care about His feelings and will.

It is not that complicated. It might not be the easiest thing to explain, but it really isn't complicated to be born-again.

1 Corinthians 1: 18-19 (NIV)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

I do not joke with my Twitter (and social media) timeline because of the impact of the *mysterious lady's* timeline on my life. The lady who 'led me to Christ' had no idea she did so by just sharing her sweet love story and her faith in Jesus Christ.

Do not follow people that will pollute your timeline. I take the time to check people's profiles and bios before I accept friend requests or follow them. Twitter has a beautiful 'mute' button that many of us need to use more.

Your timeline is your ministry. Whatever you talk about must honour God, whether it is politics, entertainment, books, entrepreneurship, etc. Do not keep posting things that will make people doubt your salvation. **Your timeline is more powerful than you think**; it has even become the CV/Resume that many organizations check before they recruit or employ. It does not mean that you should become uptight or uneasy about social media, just honour God with it.

It can be painful when God asks you to delete something or not bother to reply someone; especially if you feel like you need to vent but it pays to obey God. Do not be a cyber-bully or someone who posts hateful comments anonymously. It does not profit your soul.

Your timeline is a ministry, let it honour God. And who knows, someone might write about how they met God on your timeline too.

Ephesians 3: 16-18 (AMP) (Emphasis mine)

*May He grant you out of the riches of His glory, to be strengthened and spiritually energized with power through His Spirit in your inner self, [indwelling your innermost being and personality], so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith. **And may you, having been [deeply] rooted and [securely] grounded in love, be fully capable of comprehending with all the saints (God's people) the width and length and height and depth of His love [fully experiencing that amazing, endless love]; and [that you may come] to know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ which far surpasses [mere] knowledge [without experience], that you may be filled up [throughout your being] to all the fullness of God [so that you may have the richest experience of God's presence in your lives, completely filled and flooded with God Himself].***

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mobolaji Olorisade fondly calls herself the CEO, the Chief Encouragement Officer; she uses her words to perform this role. She's a writer, editor and Social Change Agent; her first book LETTERS TO OUR FATHERS was written to Fathers and young men for them to know and understand their role in the family and the importance of men's involvement in every home. It can be purchased [here](#).

She is the co-founder of GEMGirl Initiative, a non-profit organization in Ghana that exists to groom teenage girls into responsible citizens who can achieve their dreams. GEMGirl Initiative has successfully organized two FEED THE HOMELESS projects that have fed more than 500 people in total; including gift clothing and free medical check-up.

Mobolaji loves her country, Nigeria, and believes that it will one day live to truly be 'The Giant of Africa'. Above all, she was found by love Himself, Jesus, and lives only for His glory.

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