

HE MAKES ME

Corrupt Human Nature

For several reasons many teenagers are at loggerheads with their family and friends; they could become mad at parents, or an elderly one whom they live with temporarily or permanently. Perhaps you also might have at one time or the other been there, or even now be fighting your parent indirectly with your words and gestures, and with your cold responses to their advances toward you. Perhaps, you might be thinking and feeling you're so unloved in your home or the house you currently live in and feel that the set of people you're living with hate you for being yourself naturally. Or maybe you like me, on some occasions have wished you could just vacate the house and be somewhere else where you can receive some fresh air all alone, or eased from the troubles of the place you call home. The truth is that, all these and the likes happen for certain positive reasons, and a major one is that 'you need to be made', like Moses/Joshua for Spiritual Leadership over Israel; Joseph for Egypt; David as Israel's king; Ruth under Naomi to become the great grandmother of Jesus; Esther under Mordecai as the Queen of Babylon; Daniel, Shedrack, Meshack and Abednego for the royal palace of Babylon even as exiles; the disciples of Jesus for spreading the Good News of Jesus throughout Palestine and beyond; Timothy as church pastor etc.

As I grew through my teen age days, on many occasions I had felt like I should be separated from the other members of the family because of the internal 'terrible' feelings of 'not been loved' I felt being amongst them. Sometimes it would seem to me that I was not being properly understood, and was in disfavor with the people around me on some matters -it brought me a lot of pains and distress. Other times, I would judge it that I was been overused. I found it difficult to see the true definition of love according to 1 Cor. 13 expressed in my daily interactions with every other person. In response to these, many times I nagged at my mum, and nursed unspoken feelings of bitterness and hatred for the other members of the family. When gifts come my way, I become cheerful for a while, but back to the natural me soon after. I grew up this way until I met the Lord Jesus when I was about seventeen years of age old and in SS two then. Things began to change, but not so fast. It is a gradual, step by step change (1 Cor. 3:18).

Needed to be made to fulfill purpose

But the truth is that, all these and the likes happen for certain positive reasons, and a major one is that 'you need to be made' for the top, like Moses under Jethro and Joshua under Moses were made for Spiritual Leadership over Israel; Joseph was made for

governance in Egypt; David was made to be Israel's king; Ruth was made under Naomi to become the great grandmother of Jesus; Esther was made under Mordecai as the Queen of Babylon; Daniel, Shedrack, Meshack and Abednego were made back from Judah for the royal palace of Babylon even before the exile; Jesus was made under the supervision of Joseph and Mary; the disciples of Jesus were made by Him for spreading the Good News of Jesus throughout Palestine and beyond; Timothy was discipled by Paul as church pastor etc. All of these people and others not mentioned grew up just like you, with your kind of lifestyle and testimonies, some even had worst teen age experiences (like David and Joseph who were usually bullied by their elder brothers).

The unique thing with each of these brethren was that they were men of like passions – like everyone else. They all had their silent seasons; the period of their lives when they were not that known to the public; nothing much was known about them, and even their unusual abilities and talents were kept under public notice. In those days they each had a kind of life that was mixed up – a life mostly occupied with many obvious vices and characteristics of the natural man. It was a life full of selfishness and ordinary ceremonial religion. With these, they would not emerge their full potential in the plans and purpose of God for them. Therefore he had them placed under the guard and guide of his chosen human representatives/ disciplinary circumstances for a while. He did this to get them adequately discipled, equipped and formed into his most suitable design of mould, the kind that best suits them for the fulfillment of his unique plan and purpose for them. He was patient for each of their making processes to complete before ever releasing them out to reflect his glory, and spread his knowledge to as far as he prepared and strengthened them to go, at the time he appointed.

He gave me a human Discipler

But now to continue – the son who will receive his father's property is treated just like a slave while he is young, even though he really owns everything. While he is young, there are men who take care of him and manage his affairs until the time set by his father. Gal. 4:1 GNB

I submitted to a senior brother in the Christian faith. He is one in whom I saw Jesus Christ expressing the true divine nature. By way of life, he actually looked like the Christ I was shown and called to become like if I grow up correctly in the knowledge of Christ (Eph. 4:13).

Paul told the Corinthian believers,

“For even if you have ten thousand guardians in your Christian life, you have only one father. For in your life in union with Christ Jesus I have become your father by bringing the Good News to you. I beg you, then, to follow my example.” 1 Cor. 4:16 GNB. “Imitate me, then, just as I imitate Christ.” 1 Cor. 11:1 GNB

I was directed by the Holy Spirit to a true Christian man –Alex Oguh, in Kogi state of Nigeria, who began to tell me about ‘biblical discipleship’ and the processes involved in it. I enrolled into it as teenager and have remained in the process ever since then, with him as the human example of Jesus that I can see and follow.

Before I ever yielded my neck for the learning and making processes, I, in my zeal for the Lord was walking in a deception. I even told my discipler then, it was quite funny. I resolved that since I really wanted to be like Jesus, let Jesus disciple me by himself daily invisibly –that was an impossible resolution, but the Lord Jesus graciously brought another human being like me whom he had helped and was helping to grow into his mature stature. I saw Christ in the man, and I was led by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14) to go and submit under the nurturing arm of the man.

My experiences as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ ever since then have been fruitful and progressive; with the fruits of the Holy Spirit maturing within me day by day, and the beauties of the Lord’s glory being expressed through the various gifts of the Holy Spirit in me.

The Making Process: Discipleship works

Sooner than later, I began to discover that some of the ill-feelings of loneliness, of ‘not being loved as desired’, the unspoken bitter and hateful feelings in my heart for members of my home and how bitter it seemed when the people living around me related with me; these all died out of me. And it was because I also began to know about the features of the self life that were being exposed and disgraced by the Holy Spirit through my discipleship –I was being taught the right things.

I soon became the complete opposite of whom/what I used to be in the house. I became a sincere lover of the individuals I once saw as the devils of my life.

I was being taught about the person and life of Jesus through the daily and weekly teachings I received in my personal and cooperate bible study meetings with other believers respectively. My entire life began to take shape like Christ’s. I learnt obedience to God by the painful and comforting circumstances I was being taken through, they formed part of my making processes (Lam. 3:27). I knew it, and others saw the changes;

that indeed Christ's life was being formed in me daily. Today I am becoming a greater blessing to the body of Christ, because **he makes me**.