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A PERSONAL GRATITUDE JOURNAL

***OCTOBER OF
GRATITUDE 2020***

29 days of gratitude, affirmations and complain-fast

Introduction

Have you ever gotten to a point in your life where you wondered where God is? Perhaps, you have been going through a rough patch in life, and you are reaching your breaking point... If you have, it will give you an idea of why I am so passionate about the annual "October of gratitude" challenge that I started exactly 5 years ago.

First of all, I want you to know that irrespective of where you are at right now, God is just a prayer away... I mean, He is that close! He loves you too dearly to let go of you...

Back to the October of Gratitude story, I was at my lowest ebb at the time. I went on my knees; I told God that I was tired of everything that was happening in my life... I was supposed to be praying, but I spent the whole time complaining! Then, something that changed my life forever happened! God spoke to me - I could literally hear his voice!

He asked me a simple question, "it might seem like I have done a little for you, but have you appreciated me for that little?". This broke my heart: I was busy complaining about what God had not done for me, forgetting the numerous blessings he had freely bestowed upon me.

October of Gratitude was birthed out of a desire to give God lavish praise. The kind of praise that King Solomon offered to God and moved God to the point of offering him anything that he desired. The extravagant praise kinda thing... A 29-day journey of giving God my best praise, without complaining...but rather using the power in my tongue to speak God's peace over every raging storm in my life.

This gratitude experience changed my life! For the first time ever, I would be sharing my gratitude journey publicly this year. In previous years, I shared snippets of my gratitude journal on my website (you can read them here: <https://piakazue.com/2017/12/08/my-open-gratitude-journal/>, <https://piakazue.com/2018/10/26/my-twenty-nine-day-open-gratitude-challenge-2017/>, and <https://piakazue.com/2018/10/31/october-of-gratitude-2018/>).

Guidelines for the "October of Gratitude"

Challenge

Thanks for your interest in joining me for on this 29-day journey. I am so delighted to have you join me. Before I begin, let me make this clear: the next 29 days would be hardcore!! I say this from experience - this is my fifth year on this challenge. You would (might) be tempted to give up some time in between...but I pre-urge (if there's any word like that...lol) you to hang in there. Nothing good comes easy...and this is a clear example of one of such instances.

For the next few days, we have a mutual goal: to appreciate God for the little and the big things he has done in our lives, to give God what I call "lavish praise" (another way of saying your very best praise).

In addition to this, we are going to make a **very deliberate effort** to avoid complaining... This is the most challenging part. Several things would happen that you might want to complain about: things would go "south", people would get on your nerves, and so on... Instead of complaining, you are going to take a deep breath and say "Father, give me the grace to praise you through this".

The word of God says, **"Thou shalt* also *decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee*..."* (Job 22: 28 KJV, Emphasis mine). So, the last step would be to speak God-centered positivity into our situation. God's word is infallible and irrefutable, and we would be drawing inspiration and strength for this journey from His word.

Each day, I would be sharing the theme for the day and some highlights from my personal gratitude note. I would also be sharing bible verses

for you to prayerfully meditate on all through your day and some affirmations.

I understand you have a busy schedule, so this would take just a few minutes of your day (and I recommend you do this first thing in the morning when you are at your best). Here is all you need to do:

1. Identify a quiet place where you can find time alone to be with Jesus without any distractions. This place could be in your living room, your bedroom, your kitchen, your bathroom...wherever works best for you. You also want to get the atmosphere set as well. For me, I like to have some worship music playing softly in the background.

2. Next, in line with the theme for the day, appreciate God for all that He has done for you. You remember the kind of praise offering that Solomon offered to God right after he was anointed King of Israel? That is the goal... The type of praise that David offered to God that is evident in the Psalms, to the extent that he was named "the man after God's own heart".... That's what we are talking about. Determine to praise God in a way and manner that supersedes how you have ever done before. Irrespective of how long or short your praise session is, make it worthwhile!

3. If you have a prayer journal, this is a time to get it out and write out whatever God is impressing in your heart. It doesn't have to be lengthy; a simple sentence or two is fine. If you don't have a prayer journal, you should consider having one. I typically like to remain in God's presence until I hear him speak to me. Write down everything God lays in your heart. It could be songs, prayer points, promises, insights, whatever it is...

4. To keep us accountable, I would kindly ask that you drop a message every day, stating that you have completed the day's challenge. This would serve as reminders to others and encourage others to do theirs. It would also be great if you share the insights, gratitude notes and words of affirmations that you have gained from your time with Jesus so that we can all learn from each other.

5. As much as possible, try not to miss any day...but if you do, you would have to start all over again (sorry!).

It is my earnest prayer that God would make this a rewarding experience for us all in Jesus' name.

With love,

Pearl Ahazue

October 2020

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Day 1

Theme

Father, thank you for the gift of life!

Gratitude Notes

Just a few months ago, someone said: "the most important thing in 2020 is to stay alive and healthy!". I found the statement so hilarious at the time... How true that statement turned out to be in the face of the current happenings in the world!

Today, I am so grateful to be alive...

One of the greatest lessons I have learnt this year is that life is a gift - a priceless gift from God. Interestingly, God does not take the life of anyone; he just stops giving...and when this happens, life ends.

Heavenly Father, I know I do not say this enough...but I do not take for granted how mindful you are of me. You never fail (or inadvertently forget) to give me breath each new day. I am not just alive, but I am strong. I am healthy in every sense of the word: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and in every way possible.

I have been to the "delivery room" (whoops! I literally saw how thin the line between life and death is), and I survived it. I have been ill severally, but you raised me up. Ah! I am indebted to you for this.

Through all the ups and downs, each waking breath has been a beautiful reminder that you have not given up on me...and so I should not give up on myself. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Lord!

Affirmations

*"With long life will I satisfy **him (insert your name here)**, and shew **him (insert your name here)** my salvation" (Psalm 91:16 KJV, Emphasis mine).*

Father, I decree that in line with your word, I will live till ripe old age.

I shall not die before my time; I shall not be cut off in my prime; I will see my children's children.

I am like the tree planted by the rivers of water; as my age is...so shall my strength be.

My health shall be divinely sustained by God; I would not suffer from any infirmity.

My body is the temple of the living God; hence it is not the habitation for any form of sickness.

Day 2

Theme

Father, thank you for renewed strength!

Gratitude Notes

A few days ago, during my prayer time, God revealed to me that life is like a marathon. Have you watched a marathon or better still, have you partaken in one previously? If yes, you will have an appreciation of what this statement means.

I find that the best way to win a marathon is to stay consistent, to keep your eyes on the goal and not to put in too much effort too soon (saving the best for the last). Unfortunately, many of us live our lives as though life is a sprint. We (over)exert ourselves and invest all our energy in a bid to get things done. However, we fail to realise that we would need all the strength at our disposal to run this marathon called life. When we are faced with challenges, we quickly start to complain and grumble because, in our subconscious, we expect to see a "track" that is free of obstacles; one that quickly leads us to our finish line.

Oh, my Father, as I reflect on my life, I can recall so many times that I have started running this marathon of life with so much strength and vigour. I ran as though I was running a sprint, and shortly afterwards, I was out of strength, weak and vulnerable...

Thank you, Father, for all the beautiful ways that you show up for me.

Thank you for the ways that you raise me up...

Thank you, Father, for how you renew my strength when I am frail.

Thank you for those times when you carried me on your shoulders, even when I had no clue the extent you could go to show me how much you love and cherish me...

Unlike the marathons we are all used to, in the marathon of life, there is no winner! The winner is anyone who completes the race. So, Father, I thank you because I am confident that you would keep supplying the strength to continue in this marathon of life as well as the strength to depend on you every step of the way.

I am forever indebted to you, Lord!

I love you, dearly.

Affirmations

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"
(Isaiah 40:29-31 KJV, Emphasis mine).

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the ways you replenish me when I am exhausted, weak and feeble.

Father, I declare that on the journey of life, my strength would not fail me.

I boldly confess that YOU, O Lord, are my source. As a result, I shall not lack anything. I shall not lack the strength to do those things God has called me to do.

I shall not lack the willpower to complete those tasks that God has helped me to begin. My strength is renewed like the Eagles'.

I receive the grace to do exploits. By the help of God, I can do the impossible and accomplish the extraordinary. I am blessed and tremendously favoured!

Day 3

Theme

Father, thank you for my growth!

Gratitude Notes

It has been such a beautiful experience watching my little boy grow. I remember with fondness the day he was placed into my arms...his first cry, then his first smile...and later on, his laughter. His growth gives me so much pleasure. I love him immensely, but on several occasions, I allow him (and enjoy watching him) try to reach for his toys. After several attempts, he lets out a soft cry that makes me know that I need to step in.

I imagine God looks at us with much more pleasure as He allows different situations in our lives to stretch us and help us grow.

In the past few years, I have grown so much. Lord, I am profoundly grateful for all the hurdles you have strategically positioned in my life to bring out the best in me. Thank you for all the times when I felt I had reached my breaking point and called out for help; you promptly stepped in and provided much-needed relief. Thank you for all the refining you allowed me to go through so that I can come forth as pure gold. Thank you for all the ways that you prune me so that I can produce more fruits for your glory.

Affirmations

*"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape,***

that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV, Emphasis mine).

Father, I receive grace to be still while you work on me to bring out your best in me.

I receive grace to live my life in a way that honours you.

I receive grace to trust you and to wait on you while I go through the growth process.

I receive grace to be fruitful because I am the planting of the Lord.

Day 4

Theme

Father, thank you for my relationship with you!

Gratitude Notes

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of my relationship with you.

It is a rare privilege to have unrestricted access to the King of Kings. It is humbling to know that you are interested in the minutest details of my life. It is too beautiful to know that you are not limited to certain locations - this was evident during the lockdown period. From the comfort of our homes, with an earnest desire to remain connected to you, without the privilege of church gatherings and leaders, you were right there with us.

Thank you because your interest in me keeps you awake (watching over me) even while I'm asleep. Thank you for being my succour in a world full of troubles. Thank you for always listening to me. Thanks for directing each step I take and seeing to my affairs in a way that only a Father can. Thank you for the sacrificial love that made you lay down your precious life for mine: the greatest act of love.

Thank you for always being with me. Thank you for being the best friend and lover I ever want to have! Thanks for all the ways you encourage me to be my true authentic self.

Give me the grace to stay away from ANYTHING that would sever this beautiful relationship that we have.

Affirmations

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13 KJV).

I am a friend of God. His loved and cherished bride.

The Holy Spirit dwells within me, leads me and directs my every step.

My friendship with my Heavenly Father grows in leaps and bounds every passing day.

I enjoy constant and sweet fellowship with my Father.

I am God's biggest deal. The apple of God's eye.

Day 5

Theme

Father, thank you for altering my plans!

Gratitude Notes

My Father, thank you for those times when I have carefully articulated my plans, but in your omniscience, you stepped in and changed my plans.

Thank you for the great plans that you have for me which you progressively reveal to me as I daily walk with you.

Thank you for the times I had no plan and was clueless on what steps to take - you quickly stepped in with the master plan. Your voice behind me told me the steps to take, and I am happier for it.

Thank you, Lord, because though I don't know many things about tomorrow, I know you hold the future...and I know you hold my hands.

Affirmations

*"A man's heart deviseth his way: but **the Lord directeth his steps**" (Proverbs 16:9 KJV, Emphasis mine).*

Father, I declare that my footsteps are ordered by the Lord.

My life is directed by God; I will not make silly mistakes in life.

I will not fall prey to the enemy of my soul. My little efforts produce great results because I walk according to God's plan and purpose for my life.

I live in fulfilment and peace on all sides.

I am profitable. My life brings glory to God.

My life is a blessing to humanity.

I am a living, breathing expression of God's grace.

Day 6

Theme

Father, thank you for the times and seasons of my life!

Gratitude Notes

A few days ago, I carried my son, and he was beaming with smiles as usual (toothless smiles, I must say). "Where are your teeth?" I teased. My husband quickly responded, "Have you seen any normal adult without teeth? Leave the boy alone, at the right time, his teeth will come". I got deep insight from this answer.

Many times, we worry about so many things; we fail to realise that God has a precise timing for each of us, which is different from that of another person. We fail to realise that the times that we hit certain milestones would be completely different from that of others.

Today, Lord, I sit in your presence almost speechless but deeply grateful for the different seasons and times of my life.

For the joyful moments,...and the not so pleasant ones.

For the waiting time, and then those epic moments when you surprise me with your blessings.

For the times when I feel completely alone without you in sight,...and the times when I feel the warmth of your loving embrace.

For the uncomfortable times of growth, and the privilege to be a blessing to others because you have groomed me for such...

For time past,...and time yet to come.

I am profoundly grateful, Lord.

Affirmations

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV).

Father, I receive the grace to partner with you for your best to happen in my life.

I receive grace to trust you with every detail of my life.

I receive grace to trust in your time, especially in those moments when I do not understand it.

I receive grace to trust in You alone to meet all my needs and to prepare me for what lies ahead.

I receive grace to grow through what I am going through.

I receive grace to wait patiently for your time, Lord, in every aspect of my life.

Day 7

Theme

Father, thank you for the unseen!

Gratitude Notes

It is easy to appreciate God for the things that we can see...but how about the things which we cannot see as mere mortals?

Numerous battles God has fought and won for us...

Times He has miraculously delivered us from danger...

Times He had healed us, even when we did not realise we were ill...

The list goes on and on.

Someone once said, "*We are all spirits struggling with a human existence*". The truth is, this world we live in is more spiritual than it is physical. As physical beings, there are limitations to how much we can see. Our arch-enemy, the devil, never gets tired. He never sleeps; rather, he is continually thinking of ways to destroy us. Thankfully, we have the invincible God (who see all with his all-seeing eyes) on our side...fighting battles constantly on our behalf.

Father, I do not take for granted your grace and mercy upon me. I may not get the full picture of all that you do for me, but I want you to know I am profoundly grateful. Sometimes, I misconstrue your intentions but thank you for being that loving Father who has got my back always. Thank you for the times you were busy working tirelessly on my case, while I complained about your silence. Thank you for everything you do is working out to fulfil your plan and purpose for my life.

On countless occasions, you have proved to me that you can be trusted.
I never thank you enough, Lord!!!

Affirmations

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end (Jeremiah 29:11 KJV, Emphasis mine).

Father, I receive grace to trust you completely and in everything.

I declare that all your good plans for my life would come to pass in Jesus' name.

God is giving me peace on all sides.

I am divinely shielded from every form of evil.

I am divinely sustained by God.

I enjoy God's unseen privileges.

Special prayer:

Father, open my eyes so that I have a glimpse of the unseen...

Give me a discerning spirit that is ultrasensitive to your leading...

Day 8

Theme

Father, thank you for my achievements!

Gratitude Notes

Irrespective of where you are right now, there would always be people who are steps ahead of you (and that's totally fine; these people ginger us to aim higher). However, there are people who you are several steps ahead of...

My Loving Father, I do not take for granted how far you have brought me. I realise that it is not by my strength, wisdom or skills that I have gotten to where I am; it has been your grace all the way!

Thank You for all my mistakes; you have used them to teach me lifelong lessons, and I have grown so much as a result. They have become an integral part of my success story.

Thank You, Lord, for the big wins - and the small ones too. They have been so timely and beautifully remind me that you are still with me.

Thank You, Father, because I know that as I walk with you consistently, I will achieve amazing results.

Do you remember the days when you cook "play food" with sand, stones and sticks and enthusiastically give to our parents? They receive it with so much joy, "enjoy" it and sometimes would go as far as giving you real money for excellent service... That's pretty much what God

does. He takes out little efforts and amplifies it to the extent that it yields great results. Father, thank you for your reckless love for me.

Thank You for everything I have ever accomplished in my life. I give all the glory to You, Lord.

Affirmations

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon ~~us~~ (me; insert your name here): and establish thou the work of ~~our~~ (my; insert your name here) hands upon ~~us~~ (me); yea, the work of ~~our~~ (my; insert your name here) hands establish thou it (Psalms 90:17 KJV, Emphasis mine).

Father, I receive extraordinary grace for excellence and impact.

My life is purposeful and impactful.

Everything I do brings glory to Your holy name.

Because I walk with God, I shall do great exploits.

The beauty of Jesus radiates through me and in everything that I do.

I am blessed, I am favoured, I am called for greatness.

The hand of the Lord is upon me empowering me to do the impossible, to see the invisible and to achieve far greater than human imagination.

I walk on new grounds - higher grounds - by virtue of God's unending love for me.

My life is an expression of God's grace...

Day 9

Theme

Father, thank you for 2020!

Gratitude Notes

This year has taken a turn which no one anticipated, and it has necessitated significant adjustments to our lifestyle.

Everyone has been impacted in one way or the other... Many have lost jobs and sources of livelihood, some are trapped in places far away from home and are missing the comfort of home and family. Increased pressure of combining work and family commitments in the "work from home" era. Quickly adapting to developing virtual skills to enable one to survive in a world that has gone virtual... Truncated church services (if at all there is a physical service)... Not failing to mention lots of precious lives that have been lost in the midst of all these.

It is almost like the world found itself amid a tempestuous storm. Despite how intense this year has been, Father, I thank you for being my peace... Thank you for being my calm. Thank you for stilling the waves all around me. Thank you for all the ways you have refined me in this unique season of life. Thank you for even keeping me alive to experience these times. Thank you for every blessing I have received this year. Thank you for all the struggles too. Thank you for the highs and the lows...

As I calmly sit in your presence, counting all the blessings you have bestowed upon me in 2020, I am speechless and profoundly grateful for everything...

Thank you, thank you for everything...

Affirmations

"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness (Psalms 65:11 KJV).

Father, the year 2020 is crowned with your goodness for me.

Because I walk with you, I am dripping with fatness.

When men say, "there is a casting down", I say "there is an uprising".

I receive the choicest of God's blessings in this year - every good thing that God has purposed for me in this year shall come to fruition.

The favour of God envelopes me like a shield.

I speak your peace in every area of my life.

Regardless of all that is going on around me, this year is a good and blessed year for me.

Day 10

Theme

Father, thank you for my body!

Gratitude Notes

Father, thank you for my "human form", which you wonderfully and purposefully handcrafted. While I was in my mother's womb, you fashioned me and made each part of me distinctly unique and for your glory.

Over the years, I have seen changes in my body: from birth, through infancy, to childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Even during pregnancy, it was a wonder to watch my body transform each passing day until it could house an entire human being!!

Oh, my Father, forgive me for those times that I wished my hair was not so kinky and difficult to manage, or my nose was a lil bit smaller, or I was made to look different altogether. I know you don't make mistakes, Lord, and all your creation is perfect. So thank you for making me perfectly.

Thank you for taking the time to make me exactly as I look today.

Thank you for giving me the best features; a beautiful artistic expression of the Sovereign God.

Thank you, Lord, for making me unique and different from everyone else.

Thank you for making me for Your pleasure.

Thank you for creating me in Your image and as a reflection of Your grace and glory.

Lord, I am profoundly grateful...

Affirmations

"Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments. (Psalms 119:73 KJV, Emphasis mine).

I am beautifully and wonderfully made by God; God's masterpiece.

My body is the temple of the living God; God lives and dwells in me.

My body is free from any form of infirmity or disease.

I am strong; the Lord renews my strength daily.

I am made in God's image and for His pleasure.

I am loved by God; I am God's biggest deal.

Day 11

Theme

Father, thank you for my family!

Gratitude Notes

Father, I am profoundly grateful for the gift of my family. We get to pick our friends, but you choose our family members and give them to us as a blessing...to make our lives so much more colourful and beautiful.

Thank You, Lord, for an amazing husband that loves You dearly, exemplifies Your love for me in physical terms so excellently, supports me to do those things that are pleasing in Your sight, corrects me in love and encourages me to get better every day.

Thank You, Lord, for the cutest little boy ever! His calm and peaceful demeanour, his Infectious squeals of laughter and beautiful smiles, his excitement to learn new things and to meet new people...and how much joy he has brought into our lives.

Thank You for the other bundles of joy you would bless me with, both in the physical sense...and also, spiritual children. You would give me the wisdom to bring up these children in Your way, Lord.

Thank You, Lord, for the best siblings ever. They made my childhood so much fun and memorable. Till date, they continue to be the best friends and prayer partners a girl could have. I'm so grateful for the gift they are.

Thank You, Lord, for my parents. Thank You for giving them the grace, wisdom and strength to groom me into the wonderful woman you made me be (and I am right now). I am profoundly grateful for all the Godly virtues they instil in me; for the wise counsel and prayers, which are priceless and invaluable.

Thank You, Lord, for my extended family all around the world; that consistently pray for me and wish me well.

Thank You for my spiritual family; those with whom I have become one through Christ.

Thank You, Lord, for the "October of Gratitude" family and all the unique ways you have been blessing us since we began this challenge. Thank You for Your presence has been evident here. Thank You for all the testimonies and praise reports shared here, those shared with me personally...and those that are yet to happen.

Thank You, thank You, thank You, thank You... I can't even thank You enough, Lord.

Affirmations

"Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given (or will give) me (insert your name here) are for signs and for wonders in Israel (insert your country) from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion. (Isaiah 8:18 KJV, Emphasis mine).

Father, my family is called for signs and wonders. We are a wonder to our world.

We are called for great things.

The hand of the Lord is upon us, and we shall do exploits.

God is the master of my home. God's peace reigns supreme, and there is joy and laughter continually.

We are divinely empowered to make a difference in our world.

We are a blessing to our generation.

We are the planting of the Lord; He nurtures us, and we are fruitful. We bear our fruits in the right season.

Day 12

Theme

Father, thank you for the Holy Spirit!

Gratitude Notes

Abba Father, I have no words to describe how grateful I am for the special gift of your Holy Spirit.

My calm in this very turbulent world;

The expounder of the hidden truths of God's word;

The great teacher, who constantly highlights profound lessons from everyday life experiences to me - pointing out God's immeasurable love for me through these experiences;

The One who is that audible voice I hear giving me instructions from the very heart of God;

The one who gives me comfort when I feel like I am about to be swallowed up by a storm...and oh, that sweet assurance that my King is coming for me...

Thank You for being a constant friend.

Thank You for all you do...

Thank You for always being there for me.

Thank You for listening to me and for understanding me in ways that no one else ever can...

Thank You for never giving up on me, even when I give up on myself.

Thank You for continually encouraging me to "keep pressing on..."

Thank You for being much, much closer to me this year than ever before... You made my year a memorable one.

Thank You for loving me the way you do...

Holy Spirit, what a wonder you are!

Holy Spirit, what a wonder you are!

You lead us, you guide us, and you dwell right inside us.

Holy Spirit, what a wonder you are!

Affirmations

*"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, **This is the way, walk ye in it**, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. (Isaiah 30:21 KJV, Emphasis mine).*

Father, I receive grace to continue to walk in harmony with the Holy Spirit.

My footsteps are ordered by the Lord. I enjoy divine leading and direction.

I enjoy sweet fellowship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

I enjoy sweet friendship with the Holy Spirit.

My ears are alert to the instructions and to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

I am divinely empowered to do much more than my physical strength can carry me.

I am divinely empowered to do exploits for God's kingdom and to bless my world.

Day 13

Theme

Father, thank you for my gifts!

Gratitude Notes

When God created man, he deposited priceless treasures in each individual... He asked us to use these treasures to be a blessing to our world. He hid these treasures so deeply within us that we would need to seek His face to find it.

Father, thank You for the unique abilities and talents you have gifted me.

Thank You for the ones I have discovered and for the ones I am yet to discover,

Thank You for the ones I am putting to use.

Father, I ask for the grace to bring glory to your name using all that you have deposited in me.

Affirmations

"The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits (Daniel 11:32 KJV).

Father, I receive grace to walk in line with your purpose for my life.

I am divinely empowered to do great things.

My unique gifts and abilities open great doors of opportunities for me.

I am profitable; I maximally utilise all that God has deposited in me to be a blessing to my world.

I am a great investment; I produce maximal results in all that I do to the glory of God's holy name.

Day 14

Theme

Father, thank you for my mistakes!

Gratitude Notes

Many times, we run ahead of God's beautiful plans for us, take decisions without consulting God, play "God" by trying to figure things out ourselves... The result? We experience difficulties that can best be described as "needless pains".

God does not send everything that comes our way...but he uses everything to His glory!

Father, thank You for the beautiful plans that you have for me.

Thank You for the times I have gone off course, and you corrected me in love.

Thank You for how many times you have turned my mess into my message, scars into stars, tests into testimonies.

Thank You for your redeeming love that never lets me go.

Thank You for how much I have learnt by falling over and over again... These learning experiences have refined me and are an integral part of my growth.

Thank You for being that invisible hand that raises me up each time I fall.

Thank You for not writing me off or dealing with me according to my transgressions.

Thank You for loving me in spite of my weaknesses and frailties.

Thank You for loving me unconditionally.

Thank You for everything...

Affirmations

*"And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28 KJV, Emphasis mine).*

Father, I declare that EVERYTHING I do works out for my good and for my advantage.

I declare that all setbacks are springboards catapulting me to the higher realms of glory that awaits me.

God is giving meaning to all my mistakes. He is using all my failed experiences to refine my being and to teach me to depend on him more.

My life brings glory to God: my mess and all.

My mistakes work out to my advantage because I am a child of purpose.

I achieve the extraordinary.

Mid-Challenge Words of Encouragement

We must realise that the devil puts up his greatest fight when the victory is close. That's because he wants to rob us of our testimony. We must not relent. Remember, every dark cloud comes with a silver lining. We must not rest on our oars till the victory is won...

This gratitude challenge is bound to get more demanding as the days go by...and the most challenging part is the complain-fast. Our default is to complain when things go wrong, but making a deliberate effort to avoid complaining altogether or to quickly make the shift from complaining to giving thanks requires God's grace.

May God supply us with the much-needed grace to pull through in Jesus' name.

Cheering you on with so much love,

Pearl Ahazue

Day 15

Theme

Father, thank you for my friendships!

Gratitude Notes

Thank You, Sweet Jesus, for exemplifying what true friendship means.

Thank You for an amazing relationship with You and the ability to freely talk to you about anything and about everything... (The best form of therapy ever!)

Thank You for all ways you intercede for me before the Father.

Thank You for paying the ultimate price for me to stand uncondemned by my sins before the Father.

Thank you for bearing my sins, iniquities, transgressions, and infirmities on your own body.

Thank You for the remarkable people you have brought into my life to be a blessing to me.

Thank You for those you have helped me to be a blessing to.

Thank You for those people who tell me the truth even when it hurts the most.

Thank You for those who watch my back...

Thank You for those who constantly lift me up in prayers.

Thank You for those who give words of encouragement and rebuke in love.

Thank You for those who make great sacrifices for me, borne out of a heart filled with love.

I am so, so grateful, Lord.

Affirmations

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13 KJV).

Father, I declare every friendship in my life spurs me to do that which You have called me to do.

I sever every unproductive, unfruitful association by the power in the blood of Jesus and in the name of Jesus.

I am divinely connected to like-minded people; those passionate about pleasing God and making an impact in this world.

I receive grace to be a loyal and selfless friend to my friends; the kind of friend that sticks closer than a brother. The "Jonathan and David" kind of friendship.

My friends are divinely cherry-picked by God and strategically positioned in my life by God.

I shall not fall prey to friendly enemies.

Day 16

Theme

Father, thank you for going the extra mile!

Gratitude Notes

Growing up, I fondly remember the first time my dad asked me to wash his clothes. I washed them enthusiastically, and when they were dry, I folded them neatly and took them to his room thinking I had done exceedingly well. My dad came home and asked me "did you iron my clothes"? "No, Dad", I responded. He then sat me down and explained that when he tells me to wash clothes, he expected me to wash, rinse, hang, iron (sometimes starch) and fold them. That day, I learnt a valuable life lesson: the importance of going the extra mile.

As I sit before your presence, Lord, I can recall how many times when I asked You for little and You give me so much more than I requested for.

Father, thank You for how much you love me. Thank You for all the ways that you exceed my expectations. Thank You for giving me so much more than I ask for. Thank You for giving me things that I do not even ask for. Thank You for being sensitive to my needs.

I am so grateful for your love.

Affirmations

*Now unto him, that is **able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us (Ephesians 3:20 KJV, Emphasis mine)*

I am exceedingly blessed.

I receive grace for extravagant, extraordinary thinking.

I receive grace to go the extra mile in my dealings with people.

My Heavenly Father supplies my every need.

I would not lack any good thing.

I am divinely sustained by God.

Day 17

Theme

Father, thank you for sleep!

Gratitude Notes

Yesterday evening, after a very intense and hectic day (and week in fact), I wanted to spend some time in God's presence before going to bed... You won't believe what happened? I slept off!!!...but that isn't even the exciting part...

I woke up, and the kind of warmth I felt was too beautiful to describe. I felt like a little girl who had slept off on her daddy's chest. I felt so much peace, joy and calm...

It reminded me of the times when my son was much younger. After nursing him at night, I would lay him on my chest, skin to skin, and he would sleep off there. Whenever he woke up, and he was not on my chest, he would let out a loud scream... Over time, we had to make him understand that even when he wasn't on my chest, I was only a call away... He has learnt to sleep independently with the confidence that I would always answer anytime he calls.

Father, thank you for those times when I literally "sleep off" on your chest...

Thank you for sleep, your divine way of rejuvenating and refreshing me for the task ahead of me.

Much more than sleep, thank you for rest... That calm and confident assurance that you have got my back always...

Thank you for everything, Lord!

Affirmations

*It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so **he giveth his beloved sleep** (Psalms 127:2 KJV, Emphasis mine).*

I am God's beloved.

I do not toil and labour, eating the bread of sorrows.

I enjoy sweet sleep from my Father.

I enjoy peace on all sides.

I am at rest, while my Father works things out for my good.

I enjoy rest.

I don't carry burdens that weigh me down and wears me out. I cast my cares on God. I know He cares for me. I carry God's easy yoke and light burden in place of my heavyweights.

I am at peace with myself, with my God, and with all God's creation.

Day 18

Theme

Father, thank you for "October of Gratitude"!

Gratitude Notes

Father, thank You for "October of Gratitude"! I am so grateful for that day you laid in my heart the need to count my blessings rather than complain... The need to develop a daily habit of gratitude on this special month of the year. Thank You for the blessings You have unleashed upon me as a result of this act of obedience. Thank You for opening my eyes to things I never knew I could thank You for.

This year has been extraordinary! It has been FULL of challenges, but these have given me so much more reasons to be thankful. Thank You, Lord, for all the challenges! They are perfecting me into the woman You have called me to be. Thank You for the grace to #KeepPressingOn... Most significantly, thank You for my beloved brothers and sisters who have joined me on this journey of gratitude, affirmations and complain-fast. I ask that you grant their heart desires, fill their mouth with testimonies and make this experience a very memorable one that they will cherish all through their lives!

Thank You for being able to stand before you in gratitude, Lord! Thou great burden bearer. The lifter of my head!

I once heard a story of a man who was so frustrated and depressed that he wanted to jump into a lagoon to end his life... A concerned passer-by saw him and called out to him. "You don't have to end your life. Whatever the problem is, we can talk about it!" the passer-by said to

the depressed man. After much convincing, the depressed man sat down on the floor and for 1 hour, they had a conversation. After the conversation, the two men stood up and jumped into the lagoon!!! After hearing the story, I tried to imagine what the two men would have talked about... It then occurred to me that the devil is like the passer-by. When you grant him audience, he amplifies your problems making them worse than they really are. He gives you the impression that God does not care about you, and you are unimportant. He pretends to care about you and is even prepared to "drown with you". It is all a gimmick. The devil is already lost, drowned for eternity... He wants to get you into the same unfortunate situation he finds himself in. Heavenly Father, thank You for your redeeming grace that pulled me out when the devil almost made me feel that my life was worthless. I owe you my life, Lord!

Thank You for the great thing You are doing in my home country, Nigeria, in this covenant month. It is no coincidence that this is the month the country was birthed, and this month, we are witnessing a great revolution like never before. It almost feels like years of bottled up prayers are being unleashed. Thank You for the great work you are doing, Lord.

Thank You for every good thing that you are doing and are yet to do...

Affirmations

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him (Colossians 3:17 KJV).

Father, I receive grace to always have a heart of gratitude despite all the happenings around me.

I receive grace to put in my very best in all that I do; doing the things that I do as unto God and not unto man.

I receive grace to completely shut out all the negative chatter in my head and to only listen to God's voice.

I receive grace to make the ways that You help me manage my imperfections be an inspiration to my world.

I receive grace to impact my world for good.

I declare that October produces great testimonies in my life, my family, my country, my world.

I speak the extraordinary into existence all around me.

I speak God's peace in every situation in my life.

As a matter of expedience, I begin to see manifestations to bottled up prayers in the name of Jesus!

Day 19

Theme

Father, thank you for my name!

Gratitude Notes

Recently, in a conversation, someone reminded me about how powerful our names are... There is a spiritual dimension to our names, and God does not miss out on that detail. This explains why God had to change Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Saul to Paul... Whenever I read Philippians 2:9, I recall how fervently my husband and I prayed before deciding on the names of our son... Even God was careful to give his only begotten Son a very important and powerful name.

Father, I do not take for granted the wonderful names (which You knew from the beginning of time) that you allowed my parents to give me. It is almost as though my name is prophetic...

Thank You for making me a "Pearl" - an inestimable jewel, a treasure of rarest kind, a gem, a wonder to my world, a precious, invaluable and priceless possession...

Thank you for making me an "Ihuoma" - a beauty to behold (inside and outside), a child of grace with a blessed future, one whose heart is so much more beautiful to her face, with a kind and tender heart like my Heavenly Father.

Isn't it so wonderful that both my maiden name and my family name connote strength? I may not look like it, but Father, thank You for

making me a woman of unparalleled strength and giving me the ability to withstand opposition.

Father, thank You because each time my name is called, it is a beautiful reminder of who you have called me to be.

Thank You for giving my parents the inspiration to give me my name.

Thank You because already, I can see you fulfilling the prophecies that my name carries.

Thank You for even your greater blessings that lie ahead.

I am so, so grateful.

Affirmations

*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and **given him a name which is above every name**: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11 KJV, Emphasis mine).*

I am called and loved by God. He knows and calls me by my name. His love for me is everlasting and unending.

I declare that every good prophecy concerning my name shall come to pass in the mighty name of Jesus.

Every time my name is called, I declare that it shall be a pronouncement of God's continued blessings upon me.

My name shall never be associated with evil. As long as I live, my name shall only be associated with good.

I pronounce God's blessings upon me and upon every bearer of my name.

I will live to fulfil every good prophecy God has made concerning me in Jesus' name.

Day 20

Theme

Father, thank you for my leaders!

Gratitude Notes

In these unprecedented times, this is quite a challenging thing to do...but Lord, I am grateful for my leaders...

First, thank You, Lord, for my political leaders. I understand that no amount of complaining can make things right, especially as You have allowed the rulers of today to occupy their current positions. You have used their flaws to make me realise how much I need You. You have helped me understand through their imperfections that "vain is the help of man" (Psalms 60:11; 108:12). I ask that you give them a heart that seeks to do Your will at all times; one that cares genuinely for those under their care. Also, provide them with the wisdom to make the right decisions that would bring glory to You, Lord...and would be a blessing to me.

Thank You for my spiritual leaders who are saddled with the herculean task of "watching over our souls as they who must give account" to You, Lord (Hebrews 13:17). It is such a blessing to have them agonise in prayer on my behalf, expound Your word to me tirelessly...and to encourage me on my Christian walk. I do not take this privilege for granted. Father, I ask that You renew their strength and continue to give them the wisdom and grace needed to steer Your people on the right path.

Thank You for the leader of my home, my Beloved Husband. Thank You for all the ways you have used him to be a blessing to me. I lack appropriate words to express my gratitude to You for bringing our paths together and beautifully orchestrating our union in a manner that no man can share in Your glory. Thank You, Lord. I ask for your continued wisdom and strength for him, and for the grace to be submissive (as you expect of me) in Jesus' name.

Father, thank You for my leaders at work school as you continue to supply them the grace to make the right decisions.

Thank You for those You have made me lead. Such a huge honour You have bestowed on me. I don't want to fail You, Lord. Help me to follow You continually...that way, I can lead like Christ.

Thank You, Lord, for everything!

Affirmations

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will (Proverbs 21:1 KJV).

Father, I receive grace to continually pray for my leaders rather than complain about their imperfections, knowing fully well that you have absolute control over their hearts and the decisions they make.

I am the daughter of the King of Kings, the ruler of rulers, the leader of leaders. As a result, the favour of God envelopes me and surrounds me as a shield. Every decision taken by my leaders is working out for my good.

When men around me say there is a casting down, I shall say there is a lifting up because my God shall lift me up!

I receive grace to lead the Christ-way. I am an example to my generation. The blood of Christ runs through my veins. I act and think like my Heavenly Father.

I am blessed and favoured.

Day 21

Theme

Father, thank you for my silent seasons!

Gratitude Notes

If you grew up in a home with an African mum, you would understand the importance of unspoken words... Lol. Some words do not need to be verbalised, you can pick up cues from a stern glance or a wink. When you get that cue, if you don't take stock of yourself, you know that trouble is brewing for you.

Have you ever missed an opportunity to meet someone you have always desired to meet (let's say a great person) just because you felt you didn't have anything important to say? Have you ever wondered how you can stand before the King of Kings without a thing to say??

From time to time, I have those moments when I sit in silence before God's presence. No words...just a profoundly grateful heart listening for His voice. For the first time since the start of this year's gratitude challenge, I sat before God in silence... Silent gratitude.

Father, I am thankful because You know me in and out. You understand my words...and when I can't find appropriate words to express myself, you understand unspoken words. My silence is meaningful to you...

Thank you for those days when my heart is bleeding, and I sit before your presence in silence, hoping for a dose of your healing balm, and you always come through for me. Thank you, Lord!

Thank You, Lord, for those emotional and character-building days when I come before your presence to tell you about my day, and all I can do is cry!!...like a little girl helplessly calling out to her Father for help. Not an ordinary call, but the SOS call. How speedily you give me your unrestrained attention, oh the warmth of your embrace....and yeah, those times it seems you are literally wiping off my tears.

Thank You for those times I call out to you, and it seems you are nowhere in sight. At those times, I know you are just right over my shoulders, cheering me on. You never left my side... I was just too blinded by my problems to notice your presence. How can you ever leave me when I am Your biggest deal? The apple of Your eyes? Safely nestled in the hollow of your hands??

Thank you, Father, for your reckless, never-ending, overwhelming love!

Affirmations

My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? ...Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life (Psalms 42:2-3,8 KJV).

Father, I receive grace to dwell in Your presence all the days of my life, especially in those silent seasons when it seems you are nowhere in sight.

I receive grace to wait on You until You speak your peace and calm to those difficulties in my life, no matter how long it takes.

I receive grace to freely and liberally express the full dimension of myself in your presence, even if it is spending time in silence before your presence.

I receive grace to always spend my waking hours and the last moments before my eyes close in your presence, even if it means coming before you in silent worship...

Day 22

Theme

Father, thank you for my country!

Gratitude Notes

It was a real struggle doing this but thank You, Lord, for my country. Among several things which I had no control over is the choice of my nationality. I know that you are too meticulous to make mistakes, so it was all a part of your grand plan for me. Thank you for paying such great attention to all aspects of my existence.

Thank you for our leaders, both past and present. Thank you for all that we have been through as nation... Thank You because for every pain we have been through (and we have to go through), there is a purpose - You can't just sit back and watch your people suffer.

Thank you for the great change you are bringing about in our Nation.

Thank you because you are the defender of the defenceless; the helper of the helpless.

Father, I'm searching for the right reasons to be thankful in these times. Help my frailties...

Speak your peace, Lord... Peace, sweet peace...

Dear Lord, remember... We pray our Father. Remember Nigeria, your own land. How she has suffered for years unnumbered. Come now in your power, to deliver Nigeria...

Dear Lord remember, in loving kindness. Remember Nigeria, our fatherland. Come quickly, Saviour. Bring peace forever. In loving favour, remember Nigeria.

(Lyrics by Rev. Paul O. Akazue).

Affirmations

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (**Nigeria, insert the name of your country**): they shall prosper that love thee (Psalms 122:6 KJV, Emphasis mine).*

Father, I remember Nigeria.

May your peace calm every raging storm in Nigeria.

May your wisdom steer our leaders in making the right decisions.

May your grace keep us in safety.

For the sake of the righteous, may the wicked plans of the enemy concerning Nigeria be thwarted.

Day 23

Theme

Father, thank you for a new era!

Gratitude Notes

As the October of Gratitude challenge slowly winds to a close, Father, I am grateful for this beautiful journey of gratitude, affirmations and being intentional about avoiding complaining.

Thank You because, You know, my gratitude would not end. This phase only ushers me into a new era of your faithfulness, grace and blessings. Thank You because, for every living, breathing moment of my life, Your praises would continually be on my lips.

Thank You for You are starting a great thing in my life, in my family, in my sphere of influence, in my country...in my world. Thank You because this great thing You are doing will spring up and it shall be evident for all to see.

Thank You, Lord, for all that I am experiencing now is birthing pains... I expect a great harvest, an overflow...

Affirmations

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert (Isaiah 43:19 KJV).

Father, I walk in new dimensions of your favour and grace upon my life.

Closed doors spring open for me.

You are raising me up exceedingly, abundantly, above my expectations.

Day 24

Theme

Father, thank you for divine health!

Gratitude Notes

For decades, we moved about freely without wearing masks, without a care about the multitude of microbes in the air. We hugged, we shook hands, defiled what we have termed as "social distancing", and God kept us safe! If wealth could guarantee good health, the poorest countries of the world could have been wiped away in the heat of the COVID-19 pandemic, but this was not so... Advanced countries with their sophisticated healthcare systems and highly knowledgeable medical practitioners were gobsmacked in the face of the pandemic. World leaders were not spared either... Father, I do not take for granted the gift of good health...

Thank You for the years you shielded me from different known and unknown diseases...

Thank You for the times I was ill, and I simply called out to you, and you intervened, without any medical intervention.

Thank You for being my steady personal doctor all these years. How can I ever afford to pay you?

Thank You for the air you freely give to us. I can't even imagine how much I would spend all through my lifetime if I needed to pay for it.

Thank You for the numerous times that You have jettisoned the doctor's diagnosis... Ah! Times too numerous to mention...

Much more than physical health, thank you for spiritual healing...for rescuing me from sin and the resulting death, the wage of sin.

Thank You for my emotional and mental health. I know I can cast my cares on you, and you care too deeply about me leave me unattended to.

Thank You for everything, Lord.

Affirmations

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 KJV).

Father, I speak divine health in every aspect of my life.

God sustains me; my body is the temple of the living God.

There is no place for infirmity, sickness, disease of any sort in my body.

I have a sound and a renewed mind.

I am strong, I am healthy, I am happy.

My youth is renewed like the eagle.

I am divinely equipped to do exploits; energised to fulfil God's purpose for my earthly existence.

Day 25

Theme

Father, thank you for sweet fellowship in Your house!

Gratitude Notes

As I prepare to go to Your house today, Lord, I am super grateful for the opportunity to do so. I had always underestimated how much of a privilege it is for Your children to assemble together physically to worship You and to exhort one another.

Thank You because You are not confined to any particular space; You are omnipresent. Thank You for always being there whenever and wherever I call (even times when I didn't call, but you sensed that I needed You).

Thank You for those times when we had to worship You from our various home during the lockdown... Those times helped me appreciate how much of a gift worshipping You in a physical place is. Even in those times, You helped me wax stronger and stronger in You. Thank You, Lord.

Thank You for the sweet fellowship we have shared on this group over the past 25 days (Wow! 25 days already? Where did all the time go?). It has been amazing! Thank You for the testimonies so far and the ones yet to come. Each time I read messages on this platform, it feels like I am praying - and that's right because each message is a prayer. Father, I am grateful that You can use virtual platforms like this to encourage Your people.

Most importantly, thank You for making my heart Your home. Thank you for the opportunity to commune with you everywhere I am (because You are there also), and for the assurance that you constantly give me Your full attention.

Affirmations

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord (Psalms 122:1 KJV).

Father, I declare that my heart is your home. My body is your temple. My gifts and talents are your tools. Use them maximally to Your glory.

I spend every moment of my life in Your loving presence, encapsulated in the warmth of Your love. Your presence brings me great joy.

Surely, Your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell Your presence forever.

Day 26

Theme

Father, thank you for every answered prayer!

Gratitude Notes

Father, I am so grateful today for every prayer I have prayed that you have answered. It is so encouraging to know that you care about every detail of my life, and if I am ready to ask in prayer, then you are more than prepared to answer.

Thank You for the times I felt you had left me, but in reality, you were answering my prayers - you just answered in a way different from what I was expecting.

Thank You for those times that you answered my prayers even before I asked. You looked beyond my flaws and imperfections, saw my need, and met that need.

Thank You for the times you answered me while I was still asking. Those times helped me appreciate that you are a "very present help in times of trouble".

Thank You for all the times that you exceeded my expectations - you are indeed a loving Father. You always go above and beyond.

Thank You for those prayers that it took a long time (in my own perception of time) for you to answer. You were preparing me for the

blessing You had for me, and when the blessing came, it was perfectly ready for it.

Thank You for always being a listening ear to my prayers...for the ways you cheer me up with songs, beautiful reminders of great things you have done for me in the past, your promises in your word...or a word of encouragement from someone!

Thank You for everything, Lord. I am grateful!

Affirmations

I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill (Psalms 3:4 KJV, Emphasis mine).

Father, I declare that my prayers would always be a sweet-smelling savour to you.

I receive grace to remain steadfast, immovable, unshakeable in the place of prayer.

I receive grace to trust you every step of the way while you do your excellent work on me (and in me).

I received grace to wait upon you, even as you continually renew my strength.

I receive grace to trust you every step of the way irrespective of how you choose to answer my prayers.

Day 27

Theme

Father, thank you for not giving up on me!

Gratitude Notes

Five years ago, when I personally started this gratitude challenge, I had gotten to a point in my life where I was giving up on myself. I was disappointed because my life wasn't going according to my plan... I was fed up!!! I was in dire need of change...help...an intervention...a miracle...

Who would have thought I could publicly share my daily gratitude journey (and testimony) five years later? I never imagined this... God was preparing me for a task I had no clue about! God was changing me, so I could change the way I see things...and be a blessing to someone else. Father, I am profoundly grateful and humbled by this.

Father, thank you for all the ways that you reach out to me when I need you the most. Thank you for allowing your plans to override mine, and helping me understand that your plan for me is so much better than my plan.

Thank you for not writing me off. Thank you for giving me another chance. Thank you for helping me see how much you have done for me. Thank you for helping me appreciate you for even the littlest of things.

Thank you for your redeeming love that always brings me out of difficult situations. Thank you for helping me see that I was never buried, I was rather planted, and in due course, my fruits will spring up.

Thank you for continually working on me to make me the woman you want me to be.

Affirmations

*The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, **I have loved thee with an everlasting love**: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee (Jeremiah 31:3 KJV, Emphasis mine).*

I am a work-in-progress.

Father, I receive grace to wait on you while you continually work on me to make me into that wonderful woman that you called me to be.

I receive grace to be still while you finetune me (I know it won't be an easy process).

I receive grace to go through the "birthing pains" that is paramount in bringing out what you have planned for my life.

I receive grace never to give up on you, just like you never give up on me.

Day 28

Theme

Father, thank you for the grace to pull through!

Gratitude Notes

These 28 days have been really tasking but beautiful at the same time...

Father, I am so grateful that you supplied the grace to pull through.

Thank You for your strength when I did not have the strength to carry on.

Thank You for helping me to see you in every situation, especially when nothing seemed to work out right.

Thank you for all these wonderful people who joined me on this rewarding journey.

Thank you even for keeping us all alive to witness this day...

Thank you for all the affirmations and declarations we have made from the very first day till today.

Thank you for speaking your peace to every raging storm in our lives.

Thank you for the new dimension of you that is being unveiled to us...
Dimensions unlocked by lavish praise.

Thank you for perfecting everything concerning us.

I love you, Lord.

Affirmations

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved (Matthew 24:13 KJV).

Father, I receive grace to continue in this discipline of daily gratitude even long after this challenge is over.

I receive grace to praise whenever I have the tendency to complain about anything.

I receive grace to continually wait upon you while you renew my strength.

I receive strength to do exploits.

I receive strength to impact on my world.

I receive strength to remain steadfast, unmovable, unshakeable in my walk with you all the days of my life!

Day 29

Theme

Father, thank you for!!!!

Gratitude Notes

It's so beautiful to be alive to witness this day... I know this might not be a new year for you as it is for me, but I'd like you to see it as a new beginning... A new season of being intentional about giving God thanks in all that you do, minimising complaining and a new season of praise-unlocked extraordinary blessings...

Today, I would allow you freely express gratitude to God for anything He lays in your heart.

For me, I am grateful to the One who has kept me from the first day of my life... to date! Through thick and thin, ups and downs, God has remained true and faithful. In this bumpy ride of life, He has remained that friend that never fails when everything else fails. As long as I live, Lord, my every breath will give you praise. If your inanimate creations can give you praise, how much more a living, breathing me?? So will I!!! So much more will I, Lord!!!! I receive grace to praise you till my living always brings smiles to your face and profound joy to You.

Final Words

Thanks once again for joining me on the 29-day October of Gratitude journey. May God richly bless you...

As the 29 days of gratitude are officially over, what next??? I know that is a question that quickly comes to your mind... Well, this should not be the end of the sweet fellowship we have shared with our loving Heavenly Father. Neither should it be the end of our gratitude for God's blessings. Instead, this should stir up something in you that spurs you on to continue your own daily gratitude notes and affirmations...

One final thing...

The next October of Gratitude challenge would take place October 1 to 29, 2021...so if you would like to take part, please save the dates!

See you all soon...(hopefully in another challenge).

Cheering you on with so much love...

Pearl Akazue