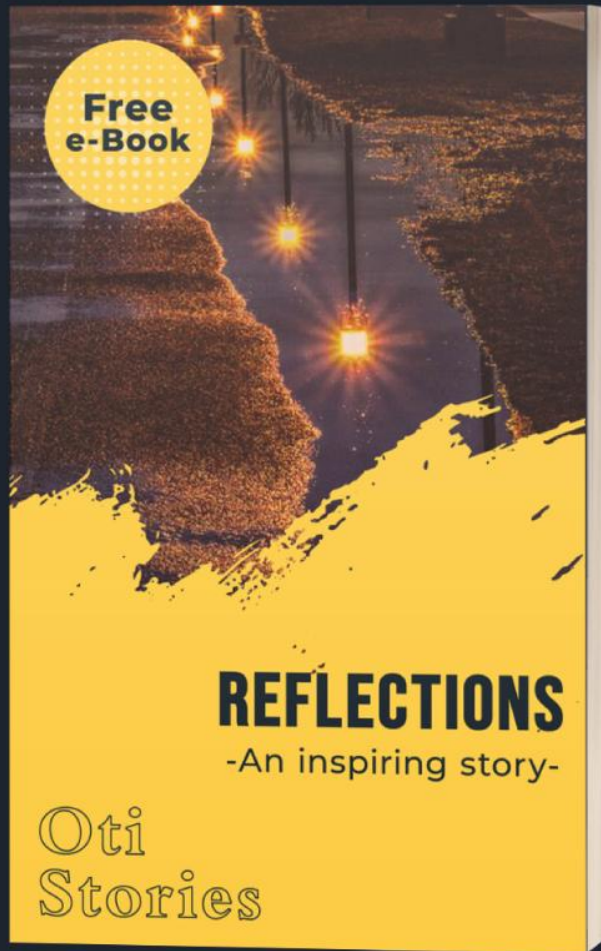


SN-81



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REFLECTIONS - a short inspiring story

Written by Oti Stories

This story makes you see that you too can step out, shine and walk your path. It crushes the feeling of inferiority to other people's accomplishments and helps you genuinely rejoice with others, and partake in their progress without ever yielding to the need to compare yourself with their accomplishments

Do you feel lazy to read it all? Then, you can [LISTEN](#) the audio version



Just like some believers out there, there was a time when I looked forward with great expectation, to a time when I could enter a state where I would no longer feel like I am not as close to God as others are. I used to get this feeling every time I listened to worship songs like Maverick City, Loveworld singers, etc. When I worshipped along I would have thoughts of how wonderful it is to be in a state where I could abide in God's presence and experience the fullness of God's presence. It seemed to me that it is a state where creativity, progress, greatness, compassion, boldness, etc stems from.

This was the hunger I carried for a long time. Hahaha.. . a hunger based on ignorance I would say and I'll explain why.

I had known and believed that God was with me, at least since the word of God says so. But I also felt that God was with different believers in varying degrees. As a result, when I admired believers

who were doing exploits, I often felt like God was a lot more with them than He was with me.

Initially, thinking that way seemed harmless until I realized that I had become so comfortable remaining in my comfort zone. That again did not feel right.

I had a picture of how functional I wanted to be. I had dreams that I knew only God could help me accomplish. But because I saw myself as not yet in the state where I feel so close to God, I wondered if it would ever be possible to accomplish those dreams. At that point, I could only relate to that feeling, as an hunger and desire to be one of God's favorites so that I could be helped by God.

Then on this particular day, I went to the bank to sort out an issue with my bank account. Around that period, there were news making rounds about a certain popular secular or worldly singer who had turned her ways to Christ. So, as I sat in the waiting area of the banking hall, waiting for my turn to be attended to. I heard a group of ladies talking about that same singer who had turned from being a worldly singer. From the way they sounded, I could tell they were not happy with the singer's decision. Then, the blow struck when I heard one of the ladies say, "Now she will start her life all over. She would have to build new fans, a new reputation, etc. What a foolish loss. Couldn't she just give her life to Christ and continue in the path that she had labored so much in?".

When I heard that statement I instantly felt irritated. And as a result, I spontaneously voiced to myself, “God is faithful to His own”. It just came out of my mouth. And it came out with so much conviction that made me see myself as God’s own for the very first time. For a moment, I could no longer feel that hunger or distance from God anymore. Rather, I felt so confident in God's love for His own. There my understanding opened and I realized that the hunger I had felt and carried for years was actually the feeling of unworthiness which I had yielded to as a result of comparing myself to others. This feeling could be very overwhelming and limiting. In as much as it comes in various ways, its main aim is to cripple a believer. This is the same feeling of guilt and shame that God has set us free from through the sacrifice of Jesus. But I didn't recognize it. I thought it was a passion-driven hunger to draw closer to God. If only I had spotted that the more I drew closer to God, the more this feeling made me feel unworthy. I wouldn’t have given attention to it at all. This hunger made me feel empty, unworthy, useless, distant, etc. And I accepted it all these years.

So in that instance, I realized that the same way I admire Christians that are making an impact is the same way I would be admired if I focus on God’s love for me, what the Word says He is to me, and what the Word says God has done for me. God has made the believer's life so beautiful that there is always something to admire in every believer walking in righteousness.

Then I realized that I had turned my eyes to others, and that had always made me feel less loved by God. Indeed that's what jealousy can do. At that point, it had become obvious to me that the difference between me and those I admired is that they had stepped out with confidence in the Lord and not looked in the direction of self-doubt, seeming physical limitations, etc.

So I likened it to a scenario where people on a ship had to walk a tiny line to move over to another ship. How frightening that is right? So imagine I watched people cross over walking on that tiny line without falling into the sea. Then I also watch some others who didn't crossover successfully. Instead of looking at those who had crossed as a reflection of the possibility of crossing, I yielded to the thought that I was more disadvantaged and would probably not make it if I tried.

Each time anyone crossed over successfully, I would feel they were stronger than I was and that I wasn't good enough. I forgot to also acknowledge that they all held a line supporting them to ensure they don't fall. And that line was also available to help me as well.

As I pondered on these things waiting for my turn to be attended to on the bank, I suddenly remembered a dream I had the night before that didn't make any sense to me until that moment.

In the dream, I saw a large crowd of worshippers, singing and worshipping God. As they sang I saw that their clothes were radiantly glittering. They seemed full of the spirit of adoption that made them boldly sing to God with confidence. They seemed to be in that place where they were perfectly rooted in God's plan for them.

They were peaceful, joyful, vibrant, glorious, bold, fulfilled, etc. There was nothing missing and nothing was broken with them. They were so complete. Oh, it was a perfect state and God was so pleased with them. It was a state of Righteousness.

As I watched them, I sang with them as well. And suddenly I stopped and I asked God if He could make me one of them. I said, "If I could only be like them I am sure that my life will be extraordinary. I will be free from limitations. I will be in a place of full manifestation of the spirit of God. I will be able to show forth God's glory without bounds and without limit". Oh, it's a state of perfection where neither guilt nor condemnation exists. A place where my heart is full of God's word and my actions and my life are totally supernatural.

As soon as I made that request, I heard a voice say to me, "Look at yourself and stop looking at others. When you look at others see them as a reflection of possibilities to you and not impossibilities. Do not compare because comparison limits you from walking in your path and recognizing your abilities. When you don't see yourself (yourself as God describes you) you could forget who you are and not

enjoy who you are. You feel offended when you see others because you have forgotten that you have the rod of God in your hands as well”.

Following the instruction, I looked and I saw that I had been dressed in the same attire as the worshippers all the while. I have been one of them; the people I have so admired and thought I could never be like. Not knowing that the state that had produced such beauty, and precision in their lives is the state I had always been in. I had been made righteous. I had been made perfect. I had been helped. God's hands had always been on my life. But I had not accepted it because I had looked down on myself due to comparisons instead of appreciating others and seeing that what I admire is possible for me as well.

Your life is about you and not about others. It's good to see the good in others and rejoice with them. But you cannot do so if you don't first see the good that is in you.

The experience I had that day, made a difference in me. Now I am conscious that I had been made righteous and perfect. I am conscious that I had been given the ability to rise and to manifest God's glory through my dreams, desires, and everywhere I find myself. Now I see the advancements of other believers as an education on how much more this righteous life can produce in me.

Henceforth, I could understand that like the group of ladies who were discussing the new Christian singer, when one seeks to see only fault in others, they are towing a path that could make them concentrate on correcting others and forgetting to work on themselves. In as much as they want the best for someone else, they should also know that it matters to them more, that they are better versions of themselves.

Now that I have learned that when I see good in others, I should see it as a reflection of possibilities for me, and not a reflection of impossibilities, I have been able to rejoice with others, learn, appreciate myself, step out, and grow.

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