

NOVEMBER 2023: MONTH OF

APPRES A DOR THANKSGIVING DIVINE ACCELERCION

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Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the firstfruits of all your increase: So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine. Prov. 3. 9-10.

Honor your father and mother, the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with thee, and that you may leave long in the earth. Eph.6.2.

he Lord has been good to us in the past ten months. He saved souls, healed, delivered and brought hope to the hopeless; took our ministries, missions and businesses to new and fresh heights in the season of multiple grace. The Lord's great name be praised!

This new month of November is our month of appreciation, thanksgiving and divine acceleration.

Appreciation is giving recognition and high value to something or someone. As we value and appreciate who and what the Lord placed in our lives; our own lives take on new meanings and higher value with divine acceleration in the accomplishment of life goals.

First, we must appreciate God for His mercies in keeping us and all who matter to us alive and well in diverse dimensions: physically, mentally and spiritually (for those who already know Him personally). He daily loads us with benefits (Ps. 68.19). We should also appreciate the Lord for answered prayers and victories He gave us, many of which we did not deserve but received by grace. How about His protection over us and all those who are connected to us as we travelled by land, water and air?

Second, we should appreciate our biological, spiritual and professional parents, mentors and colleagues or siblings, spouses and partners. They add fresh qualities to our lives that cannot be easily quantified. In particular, the specific blessings the Lord gives for honoring those who helped and shaped us is His own way of sustaining His principle of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6.7).

Third, we must appreciate the city and nation in which we live. He expects us to work and labor for the peace and pray for that city and its inhabitants on continuously (Jer. 29.7; Heb. 12.14). Many cities and nations are presently experiencing the devastation of losses of lives and property on a daily basis. We should be thankful that this is not the case in our cities and nations while we pray earnestly for cities and nations at war. In particular, we must remember to work and pray for peace in Israel and other parts of the world such as Ukraine and Sudan that are engulfed in warfare and massive destruction presently (Ps. 122.6). We must pursue and seek peace, as ambassadors of 'Shalom' or God's kind of comprehensive peace, that passes human understanding (Ps. 34.14; Lk. 10.5, Phill.4.6-7).

Finally, we must also learn to appreciate who we are, our giftings and purpose in life--to shine as lights in the midst of darkness, as salt to preserve society from corruption. God has called all to reign and rule with Him as kings and priests: to lead in the secular and spiritual realms--as a true servant leaders, stewards and intercessors for our generation (1 Pet. 2.9; Rev. 5.10). The Christian life should extend beyond the four walls of the church. We are to be active in the political, economic, media, educational, entertainment, family matters of their cities and nations. Voting at national and local elections is mandatory for every child of God of voting age.

Even though we might not all live in nations that dedicate a season of the year for 'Thanksgiving', you should reflect on the opening scriptures deeply on how to action the Lord's instructions to honor Him with your substance and first fruits--and also honor your parents and mentors in specific ways this month. Great blessings accompany every effort at acknowledging and valuing His many gifts to you.

WELCOME TO THE MONTH OF APPRECIATION, THANKSGIVING AND DIVINE ACCELERATION.

Dele Olowu/Amsterdam October 31, 2023