

Ipswich International Church

Daily Devotion

“revealing what is in the darkness”



Monday, 24 – Sunday, 30 March 2025

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
14	31						

Introduction

Over the past several weeks, we have been intentional and methodical in reading, meditating, and pondering the [manifestations of the Spirit](#), particularly the gift of discernment. This journey has been both enlightening and transformative, as we've sought to understand how the Holy Spirit operates in our lives and equips us to navigate the complexities of our world.

Recently, the story of Abram (later Abraham) in Egypt has been recurring in my thoughts. As you may recall, Abram feared for his life when he and his wife Sarai entered Egypt during a famine. To protect himself, Abram asked Sarai to present herself as his sister rather than his wife, fearing that the Egyptians would kill him to take her. This half-truth led Pharaoh to take Sarai into his household, but God intervened by afflicting Pharaoh and his household with plagues. **This story raises profound and unsettling questions:** How many careers have been ruined by misinformation? How many marriages have crumbled under the weight of half-truths and hidden deceptions? How many businesses have been plagued by lies and unethical practices, leading to their downfall? And how many faith communities have been thrown into disarray—left in the "long grass" where confusion and division thrive—because of half-truths, selective honesty, or a willingness to be "economical" with the truth?

Two days ago, on Thursday, during our online Corporate Devotion, Rachel, shared a powerful vision she had received. She described seeing a wooden door—rotten, water-battered, chipped, and eaten away by decay. Suddenly, the door flung open violently, as if someone had pushed it from the inside. When she tried to peer into the room, it was pitch dark, and no one could offer a satisfactory explanation for what she saw. After praying, Rachel returned to the forum the next day with a word from the Lord: "What is in the dark will finally come into the light." Later that morning, as I prepared to leave for the office, the word of the Lord came to me. This week's devotional should focus on prayer—prayer for individuals, families, businesses, and the church. I ran it by three elders almost immediately and they concurred. **We are to intercede against deceptions, lies, half-truths, and every scheme of the adversary.** The enemy thrives in darkness, but we serve a God who brings hidden things to light and exposes every work of darkness. Let us therefore come together in unity, fervency, and faith, standing against every form of deception and declaring the light of God's truth over every area of our lives. Let us pray for discernment, clarity, and divine intervention, trusting that what the enemy intends for harm, God will turn for our good and His glory.

Remember **we may not have it all together, but together we have it all!**

Adewale Adefuye
Ipswich, 22 March 2025

The Peril of Acting on Half-Truth



Genesis 12:10-20 & Genesis 20:1-14



Pharaoh and Abimelech, at different times, acted on incomplete or misleading information, believing Sarai was Abram's sister, and suffered consequences as a result.



1. Have you ever known someone who acted on information they believed to be true, only to face devastating consequences?

- What lessons can we learn from their experience? How can we guard ourselves against making similar mistakes? 2. [How does the story of Pharaoh and Abram illustrate the danger of suffering severe consequences—spiritually, emotionally, or even physically—for acting on misleading, incomplete, or false information? In what areas of life are we most vulnerable to being misled?](#)

3. Did Pharaoh act hastily or without due diligence in taking Sarai into his household? What could he have done differently to avoid the plagues that followed? How can we ensure we don't rush into decisions without seeking clarity and truth? 4. [When making life-altering decisions—such as getting married, buying a house, entering a partnership, or accepting a job—how can we ensure we are acting on complete and accurate information? What role does prayer, discernment, and seeking wise counsel play in these decisions? How can we avoid being swayed by emotions, pressure, or half-truths?](#)

5. How can we guard against the wiles of the adversary, who often uses deception, half-truths, and misinformation to derail our lives? What spiritual practices can help us stay alert and discerning?

What steps can we take to bring hidden things into the light, as Rachel's vision revealed?



1. **Discerning Deception:** Father, sharpen our discernment so that we do not fall into deception—whether it comes from others or even our own self-justifications. Lord, we don't want to be misled by assumptions, fear, or half-truths.

2. **Praying for Leaders to Act with Righteousness:** Father, just as You warned Abimelech, intervene in the hearts of leaders today. Let truth prevail in government, business, and the church, so that deception does not lead to injustice.

3. **Restoration from the Effects of Deception:** Where deception has caused harm, we pray for restoration. Just as You restored Sarah and protected Abimelech's household, let truth bring healing and renewal in our lives and relationships.

4. **Recognising and Avoiding Patterns of Deception:** Lord, help us recognise areas where we have repeatedly relied on deception instead of faith. We break free from cycles of fear, dishonesty, or compromise, and we choose to walk in truth.

The Cost of Believing an Evil Report



Numbers 13:1,17-20,25-33



I suggest reading Numbers 13 and 14. The report can be categorised into two parts: observations and recommendations.

Observations:

1. **The Land's Fertility:** the land was indeed flowing with "milk and honey," just as God had promised. They brought back a cluster of grapes so large it had to be carried on a pole between two men, along with pomegranates and figs.
2. **The People Living There:** the land was inhabited by strong peoples, including the Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, and Canaanites.
3. **The Cities:** The cities were large, fortified, and well-defended.
4. **The Descendants of Anak:** they noted the presence of giants, making the Israelites feel like "grasshoppers" in comparison.

Recommendations

1. **Majority Report** (10 Spies) recommend the land is unconquerable. They see the people as too strong, the cities are too fortified, and the giants are too intimidating. They even suggest returning to Egypt.
2. **Minority Report** (Joshua and Caleb) suggest moving forward immediately to take possession of the land, trusting in God's promise and power.



Numbers 13:32 describes the majority report as 'bad' (BSB); evil' (KJV). What makes it bad or evil?

The Israelites' decision to side with the majority report resulted in 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, while Joshua and Caleb were rewarded for their faith. Misinformation can lead to missed blessings and judgment. It underscores the consequences of ignoring God's guidance and choosing fear over faith.



1. **Seeing as God Sees:** Father, I choose to see through the lens of faith, not fear. I reject doubt, and I align my vision with Your promises. I will meditate on Your Word so that my perspective is shaped by truth, not circumstances.

2. **Strengthening My Faith Over Fear:** I refuse to be intimidated by challenges. I declare that no obstacle is greater than Your power, Father. I will walk in faith and act on Your promises, knowing that You are with me."

3. **Guarding My Heart Against Deception:** I take responsibility to guard my heart against lies, negativity, and fear. I will filter what I hear, think, and say through Your truth. I choose faith-filled words over fearful ones.

4. **Standing Firm in Truth Despite Opposition:** Even if I stand alone, I will stand for Your truth. I refuse to follow the crowd into unbelief. Like Joshua and Caleb, I will boldly declare what You have spoken and act accordingly.

Guarding Against the Spirit of Deception



1 Kings 22:1-38



We encounter the story of King Ahab of Israel, a man whose life is marked by a pattern of disobedience to God and a preference for messages that align with his own desires. This passage reveals Ahab's "itchy ears"—a term often used to describe someone who seeks out information or advice that suits their preferences while rejecting truth that challenges or convicts them.

Ahab's itchy ears are evident in his interaction with the prophet Micaiah. While Ahab's ally, King Jehoshaphat of Judah, insists on seeking a word from the Lord before going to battle, Ahab reluctantly calls for Micaiah, whom he dislikes because Micaiah consistently speaks the truth, even when it's unfavourable. Ahab surrounds himself with 400 prophets who tell him what he wants to hear—assuring him of victory in battle—but Micaiah, the lone voice of truth, warns of disaster. Despite Micaiah's warning, Ahab chooses to listen to the false prophets, leading to his eventual death in battle, as foretold by the Lord.



1. Why do you think Ahab was so resistant to hearing the truth from Micaiah, even though he knew Micaiah was a true prophet of God? 2. **Ahab surrounded himself with 400 prophets who told him what he wanted to hear. How can we guard against creating "echo chambers" in our own lives, where we only hear messages that align with our desires?** 3. Micaiah was the only prophet who spoke the truth, even though it was unpopular and dangerous. How can we apply this principle in our own lives when standing for truth is difficult?



1. Thank the Father for divine discernment. **2. Rejecting Flattery and Seeking Truth Over Comfort:** Lord, we refuse to surround ourselves with voices that only tell us what we want to hear. Instead, we seek Your truth, even when it challenges us. Give us the courage to reject flattery and embrace wisdom.
- 2. Developing Discernment to Recognise False Counsel:** Sharpen our spiritual discernment so that we are not misled by false counsel. Help us to weigh every voice against Your Word and to recognise when deception is disguised as wisdom.
- 3. Valuing God's Truth Over Popular Opinion:** We will not conform to the majority when they are wrong. Even if we stand alone like Micaiah, we will boldly uphold Your truth, knowing that obedience to You is greater than the approval of people.
- 4. Resisting the Spirit of Deception and Manipulation:** We reject every spirit of deception and manipulation. We will not be swayed by emotional persuasion, fear, or hidden agendas. Keep us steadfast in integrity, speaking and living by Your truth.

Hananiah the False Prophet



Jeremiah 28



Hananiah told the people what they wanted to hear, falsely claiming that the Babylonian exile would last only two years. This contradicted Jeremiah's true prophecy that it would last seventy years (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10). People who believed Hananiah would refuse to prepare for the long exile, making their suffering worse.



1. Encouraging Rebellion Against God's Will: God had commanded Judah to submit to Babylon as part of His judgment (Jeremiah 27:6-8). Hananiah's lies encouraged resistance against Babylon, leading to greater suffering, destruction, and death.

Those who trusted him fought a battle God had already declared lost.

2. Misleading the Nation Into Judgment: By opposing Jeremiah, Hananiah turned the people away from God's true word. Believing a lie closed their hearts to repentance, leading to further sin and rebellion.

3. Discrediting True Prophets: Hananiah mocked and opposed Jeremiah, making it harder for people to trust true prophecy.



1. Thank the Father for divine discernment.

2. Rejecting False Comfort and Embracing God's Truth: Lord, we refuse to be comforted by false promises that contradict Your Word. Help us to embrace Your truth, even when it challenges us. We will

trust Your timing and plan over misleading words of ease."

3. Developing Discernment to Identify False Prophets: Sharpen our spiritual discernment so that we are not deceived by those who claim to speak for You but do not. Teach us to test every message against Your Word and recognise the difference between truth and deception.

4. Valuing the Whole Counsel of God, Not Just What We Want to Hear: We will not seek only messages that sound pleasing but will embrace the full counsel of Your Word. Help us to receive both encouragement and correction, knowing that true wisdom comes from hearing all that You say.

5. Resisting the Influence of Popular Yet False Messages: We reject the temptation to follow popular but deceptive teachings. Even when the majority believes a lie, we will stand firm in the truth, trusting that Your Word never fails.

Ziba: The Treacherous Tongue



2 Samuel 16:1-4; 19:24-30



Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan, King Saul's son, and the grandson of Saul. Due to his father's friendship with David, David showed kindness to Mephibosheth by restoring Saul's land to him and inviting him to eat at the king's table regularly (2 Samuel 9:1-13). Mephibosheth was physically disabled, having been dropped by his nurse as a child while fleeing after Saul and Jonathan's deaths (2

Samuel 4:4).

Ziba was a servant of Saul's household whom David appointed to manage Saul's estate on behalf of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:9-10). Ziba appears loyal at first, but his true character is revealed when he seizes an opportunity to betray Mephibosheth for personal gain.

I hope you are a **Mephibosheth**—a grateful, humble, and loyal man who remained faithful even when falsely accused and not a **Ziba**—a scheming, opportunistic, deceitful, and treacherous servant who shamelessly betrayed his master to gain favour and personal advantage.

One man chose the path of manipulation and lies; the other, the path of faithfulness and truth. Who do you choose to be?

Lessons for Us: 1. Ziba's actions remind us that not everyone who appears loyal has our best interests at heart. We must be discerning in our relationships. 2. When misinformation harms others, we should strive to restore what was lost and ensure that justice is served. 3. When others deceive us or misrepresent us, God sees the truth and will ultimately vindicate the righteous. 4. It challenges us to be people of integrity, discernment, and justice in our relationships and decisions.



Isaiah 54:17, ESV "No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD."

1. Thank the Father for protection from every contrary tongue.

"As it is written, No lie spoken against us will stand, no false accusation will prevail, and no injustice will define our destiny."

"Father, guard our hearts against bitterness. Let us not be consumed by anger or the desire for revenge. Instead, grant us the **strength to remain faithful**, the **grace to trust in Your timing**, and the **humility to walk in Your will, even when misunderstood**. You will restore what has been stolen and uphold our cause before all."

The Call to Authentic Christianity



Galatians 2:11-16



We began the week reflecting on **Abram**, who, out of fear, chose to present his wife as his sister. Today, we turn our attention to **Peter**, who also succumbed to fear—this time, leading him into hypocrisy.



Fear is a powerful force, and when unchecked, it can drive even the strongest believers into compromise. Hypocrisy is a **dangerous spiritual disease**—it corrupts individuals, misleads others, and distorts the truth of the Gospel. Peter, who once fully embraced fellowship with Gentile believers, suddenly withdrew from them—not out of conviction, but out of **fear of Jewish critics**. His actions didn't just affect him; they **led others astray**, including Barnabas, into the same hypocritical behaviour.

Peter withdrew from the Gentiles to avoid criticism from Jewish believers.

1. Do we adjust our faith to fit in with different groups? Some act differently at church than at work or social settings, fearing judgment or rejection. 2. Do we exclude or judge others based on race, nationality, or background? 3. Do we follow only the parts of the Bible that are convenient, avoiding truths that challenge their comfort? 4. Do we present a “righteous” image online while living differently in private? For example, posting Bible verses but engaging in gossip, dishonesty, or ungodly behaviour offline. 5. Do we stay silent on biblical truth to avoid backlash?



1. Pray for integrity in your walk that your actions will align with your words. Ask for help to be consistent in living the Gospel both privately and publicly. 2. Pray for wisdom to navigate relationships in a way that honours the Father. 3. Pray for deliverance from the fear of man and not to be controlled by what others think but to always seek His approval first. Pray to live in the freedom and confidence of His love.

A New Rhythm of Fasting: Mark your Calendar

The Monthly Fast ends with a corporate prayer meeting in the Church Building in Barrack Corner, Ipswich IP1 2NB, at 7:30pm

Wed, 2 – Fri, 4 April 2025

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
14	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
18	28	29	30				

Wed, 30 April – Fri, 2 May 2025

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
18	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
19	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Wed, 4 – Fri, 6 June 2025

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
22	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
23	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	30						



October 2024 Vision

For months, God has been revealing things to me during worship, though I didn't fully understand them until Sunday morning when everything came together with clarity for Ipswich International Church.

I often sense a mighty Angel of the Lord over the platform, leading an army of smaller angels who move among the congregation, delivering God's instructions. The angel's tasks include comforting broken hearts and grief, and grounding people to the Holy Spirit's healing. Next, releasing provision, where those in need receive from God's abundance, often through others in the congregation. Then, sharing Truth and securing us firmly in Jesus to ensure we remain steady and secure. Lastly, I saw a covering of protection, like the angel's garments stretched over the people, symbolising peace and sanctification.

God is preparing Ipswich International Church for what is to come—not just superficially but in deep wholeness. This preparation is corporate, requiring unity. **“What you have now is one tenth of what I have planned for you to take hold of,”** he says. He is expanding His people's influence in Ipswich and beyond, calling them to replant stakes in new ground.

The church is being established as an epicentre of provision, both physical and spiritual, to release life. God's people must be whole to display His glory in the places He is calling them to.

A member of the Church submitted this vision via email, and it has been condensed for clarity and brevity. We have prayed about it and looked at how God has been leading us over the past few years. We believe it is truly from Him. Now, we share it clearly for everyone. Each of us has a place in what God is saying. Let's seek Him together, trust His plan, and walk forward with faith and unity.



Our Priorities

OUR BIG PRIORITY

**MAKING
DISCIPLES**

» ADVANCE

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white top, singing into a microphone with her right hand raised. The background is dark blue with light blue geometric shapes.

OUR BIG PRIORITY

**DEVELOPING
LEADERS**

» ADVANCE

A man with short hair, wearing a dark suit, speaking into a microphone with his hands clasped. The background is dark blue with light green geometric shapes.

OUR BIG PRIORITY

**GROWING
CHURCHES**

» ADVANCE

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a floral patterned top, singing into a microphone. The background is dark blue with light orange geometric shapes.

OUR BIG PRIORITY

**REACHING
NATIONS**

» ADVANCE

A man with short hair, wearing a light-colored shirt, speaking into a microphone with his hands clasped. The background is dark blue with light red geometric shapes.