

In the cool of the evening a 20 year old girl sat down outside thinking of a way to tell her parents she had found love in the arms of a Yoruba boy.

This is a true Life story

Affiong grew up in a very disciplined home, where Christianity was the religion of the family. Affiong was the 6th child out of 9 and also the second girl, very playful and full of life. Started school at a very early age, got good grades and dreamt of being a lawyer, when disaster struck. She lost her Dad to a terminal illness, after her secondary school, she went for business administration and not Law. Along the line that's when she met Maxwell a Yoruba boy. Their love bloomed, yet she was scared to tell her mum because it was a taboo to marry outside her culture, Only an Akwaibomite was permitted to ask for female hands in marriage.

Affiong stood her ground despite the anger and disapproval from her mum and Siblings. Every thing possible was thrown at her, threat to stop paying her fees in the higher institution and everything worth threatening but she was determined to stand up for Maxwell. Years passed and he was partially accepted because no mother will want to lose her child.

Maxwell was a Yoruba boy, a Prince from a very wealthy family. His parents also fought against his decision to marry an Akwaibomite, but Maxwell loved Affiong so much he promised to marry her no matter what, no matter what the family said or did, he stood his ground.

Their love prevailed with time.

So Affiong and Maxwell got married and settled down. God blessed them in their first year of marriage with a baby girl, joy filled the house, the Family of Maxwell and Affiong were so joyful and the only thing they fought about was the name of the baby. Three years down the line, another baby girl came.

The family of Maxwell became sceptical saying won't Affiong give birth to a male child, putting pressure on her, saying who will carry on Maxwell name when he dies, but Maxwell stood with his wife and supported her throughout this period. They were blessed with Four children (3 girls and a boy). When the male child came Maxwell was overwhelmed and grateful he stood up for his wife, his family came back and apologised, for all the hurtful words they said, but Affiong was a woman full of love she never took those words to heart. The Baby boy was named OLUMIDE meaning God gave me Hope. Life was going smoothly, the children grew up well trained, the house was always full of Joy. Every birthday was celebrated no matter the circumstances they made sure their children lacked nothing, went to the best school and served God with everything they had.

In the year 2019 Disaster struck again. Maxwell was a businessman who travelled by sea a lot, came back home sometimes three times in four month, to check on his wife and Family. This time around he couldn't do so, he lost his Life saving his fellow crew mate when their ship caught fire in the middle of the sea. Wailing can be heard in the compound as the news was brought to Affiong and her children by her husband crew mate. For two weeks mourning could be heard in the house, everywhere gloomy. Affiong had lost her Love, he Left her with Four(4) Children to carter for. It was shocking for the kids, they couldn't believe it. It was hard to take in for one month but Life goes on.

Affiong was determined to make sure none of her children lacked anything, she made sure none of them begged or did hard Labour. The Family of Maxwell disappeared into thin air after the time for mourning was over. Not thinking of his wife and four kids, how they will cope without their dad, it was hell for Affiong for some months but for the sake of her children, she pulled herself together and stood strong.

Affiong worked hard and also did some side business to keep her children in school and she made sure her kids got everything they wanted from food to the insignificant ones as long as they asked for it. She was a proud mother defending her children and teaching them the ways of God. She made sure to discipline them in the way of the Lord not sparing the rod as the Bible instructed and not neglecting to bring them back with Love.

She taught them what it meant to love, she taught them to pray and how to forgive. Affiong became her children best friend, did not remarry because she wanted to give all her time to raising her beautiful children in the right way. She was envied by her fellow ladies in the neighbourhood some spoke ill about her but she was never fazed. She was never in a fight or quarrel no matter the circumstances. She protected her children like a mother hen protects her chick for the Hawks.

Affiong was the best in everything, sent her children to the best school and also took everything concerning their education seriously. She never late for any PTA meeting or school function. She filled her children with pride, She watched them grow and her heart was filled with Pride. The First Child also grew up fast, so as to help her mum take care of the younger ones.

Years came and went, her children became adults, who could think and make decisions for themselves. But one thing gave Affiong pride, her children never for once brought tears to her eyes. She always told them that "If I was to be born into another Family, I will still choose you all as my children" This made Joy and her siblings happy, they vowed among themselves to never cause her pain and make sure they lived a discipline and upright life as she taught them from the Bible.

(This is My Story)

Joy grew up very intelligent, surpassing her peers in every subject in school. From her nursery school days, she was competitive and very strict when it came to studying. During her time in primary school, she was recognized as one of the most brilliant students in her set. Her mum saw this and capitalised on it making sure she gets all the books she asked for and even gifted her a dictionary as her birthday gift, Joy was so happy that anytime she came back from school after eating and doing her homework. She went straight for the dictionary.

Down the line in her primary three, she was asked by her mum to go stay with her aunt that's her mum younger sister in another state. Joy loved babies so she was grateful to go. She was to continue her primary school but her aunt knew she was intelligent and registered her for a competition made for people in Junior secondary school one two and three. If she passed, her aunt promised to put her in Junior secondary school 1.

Joy saw this as an opportunity to stand out and decided to participate, out of 200 students that participated. She came out number 1. She was filled with joy and couldn't wait to go home and tell her aunt. The news was sent to her mum and pride filled her heart. Her aunt fulfilled her promise and joy never went below first to third Position throughout her stay in secondary school.

Joy was busy loving God so much that if she's not found in the library reading then she's in church. If not she's at home reading books either literature or books on new words in a dictionary.

At the age of 15 was already done with her secondary school looking to the future to become a medical doctor, a long life dream because she taught "If I become a doctor I will make sure no one dies again" As time went by, she applied for Jamb, wrote but never got admission to become a Doctor, it was saddening and she almost got depressed but she had her mum who was always there to listen.

During this period her classmates in secondary school were calling to tell her they have been admitted into the higher institution to study their respective dream courses. Joy refused to be depressed, she knew she was intelligent and applied for a teaching Job at such a young age, she went for an interview, passed and was given the Job. In a school filled with graduate that studied education, she excelled and was promoted from teaching kindergarten to the primary level and the highest class because of her determination and how good she was in whatever she wants to do, this gave her joy and she became the talk of the school. Even the founder of the school came in person to see her, she was awarded best teacher of the month.

Joy never gave up, she knew God had plans for her. She wrote that Jamb applied for another course in a different University and got the admission easily after five good years. Everyone at home heard the news and their joy knew no bounds, but her mum was the happiest, she knew that her prayers had been answered. She took her time to advise Joy and prayed for her, gave her all she needed to use to start life in this new environment and wished her all the best. Joy cried her eyes out because she thought she would never be close to her mum again, but her elder Sis was with her throughout the period in her new environment.

Life in a new environment was fearful and full of people her age derailing from the reasons they came to the higher institution in the first place. All Joy could do was call her mum, asked for advice and pray. Life was not as smooth as she wanted, she was an indoor person, never kept friends as she thought "No one will understand me" also thinking she might fall into the wrong group. She kept her hope alive and prayed to God to bring her to the right place and people.

As time went on she found where she truly belong, where she could serve God without boundaries as she prayed for. Back in Secondary school, she heard a lot about Pastor Chris and Christ Embassy. She was determined to find them in school and join them, because the more she prayed, the more God pushed this thought to her spirit.

Her long search came to an end when she found a fellow coursemate who attended the church and took her there as it's called on campus BELIEVERS LOVEWORLD. Joy was at

peace and all her years in school, she spent them loving God to the fullest, serving him and doing all she had vowed to do. She found where she belonged and she felt at home. Joy served God truthfully and kept herself pure, neglecting all the world offered and standing on the teachings of her mum and her Pastor.

Every holiday was a time she looked forward to because she had so much to tell her mum, who happens to be her best friend. They could sit for hours discussing and never getting tired. She told her mum all she went through in the hands of some lecturers and how some students dropped out because of their carelessness and some because of the difficulty of BIOCHEMISTRY

Affiong listened to her daughter without being distracted, laughing and contributing where necessary. Even when Joy left for school her mum made sure to keep in touch and always no matter the distance and kept telling her how much she loves her.

Affiong was a listening mother, she treated all kids the same, putting favouritism aside and loved all her children equally and gave them time when it's needed. She made sure her children could talk to her about anything without being judgemental or overreacting. This made Joy and her siblings open up to her about everything. This made their relationship blossom into something beautiful.

Joy graduated after years, with flying colours and good results, she became a biochemist and not a Doctor, this did not pull her down but brought her to a place of purpose. Till today her family has always been by her side, through thick and thin, loving and being supportive.

Life may not go the way you want it to, may not be as fast as you want to achieve that goal but Joy learnt to live and depend on God whatever the case may be. She loved her siblings and loved God even more. As a young girl she never let the things of the world sway her into being a disappointment or bringing shame to her single mom. She made sure she stood her ground no matter the pressure to do otherwise because she too had dreams.

Joy's role model was her mum, every night she prayed and cried to God to give her mum the best of everything she prayed for, protect her and keep her to enjoy the fruits of her labour. As a young lady in her mid twenties, all Joy thought about was to make her mum proud and happy always and not neglecting the fact that she wants to live her life serving God totally.

She was determined to bring Joy to her mom who had all this year sacrificed her youth to make sure she and her siblings had the best of everything from education to clothes even to the irrelevant things. It may take a while, be strong, don't compare your current state to others even your friends, good things take time, you're not on the same path with your peer no need to rush, everything you ever prayed for will come rushing when the time is right and trust me. I am a testimony to that.

This made the love for Joy and her siblings grow stronger, they stood up for themselves, protected one another, supported one another and made sure to stick together.

I am not where I want to be now, but I know I will get there. Be determined, let that pressure push you to do good and not Don't be in a haste and do things you might not regret now but will stand against you in the future.

"Remember for every seed you sow there's an Harvest and for everything you do there are consequences".

If you have younger ones, support them, pray for them, listen to them, never be judgemental. Your words are like a sword it can either shape them or destroy them.

Parents don't be too quick to react and judge, first listen, ask questions, give advice, chastise and don't forget to use the rod where necessary. No matter the age, your children are your babies, they will never outgrow you. Love them regardless