

# PRINCIPLES FOR MY SON

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## ## A Note From Your Father

My son,

I am writing these principles so that, whatever life throws at us, you will never be in doubt about **what** I believe, what I pray for you, and how I expect you to walk as a man**.**

These are not slogans. They are **anchors** for when life feels confusing, unfair or overwhelming.

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## ## 1. Start With God, Not With Yourself

The world will tell you to "follow your heart."  
Your heart is important - but it is not your God.

Begin with:

- Who God is
- What He has said
- What He calls good and evil

When you start with God, you gain a **fixed reference point** in a shifting world.

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## ## 2. Guard Your Integrity at All Costs

There are things you can lose and recover: money, deals, opportunities.  
There are things you cannot easily recover: **trust, honour, credibility**.

- Say what you mean.
- Do what you said you would do.
- If you fail, own it quickly and repair it fully.

I would rather see you **honest and struggling** than successful and crooked.

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### ## 3. Honour Your Name and Your Word

Your name is not a logo. It is a **\*\*reputation built over years\*\***.

- Do not sign what you do not intend to honour.
- Do not promise what you know you cannot deliver.
- Do not use people as stepping stones.

When people hear your name, let them think: **"I can trust this man."**

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### ## 4. Work Hard, Work Smart, Rest Well

Laziness will quietly erode your potential.

Workaholism will quietly erode your soul.

- Learn to **\*\*work hard\*\*** - with focus, discipline and excellence.
- Learn to **\*\*work smart\*\*** - prioritise, think, plan.
- Learn to **\*\*rest well\*\*** - sleep, take breaks, enjoy beauty and silence.

You are not a machine. You are a man created for **\*\*purpose, not just output\*\***.

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### ## 5. Take Responsibility, Do Not Play the Victim

Life will not always be fair. People will not always be kind. Systems will not always be just.

Still:

- Own your choices.
- Own your reactions.
- Own your next step.

You may not be responsible for **\*\*what happened to you\*\***, but you are responsible for **\*\*what happens next\*\***.

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## ## 6. Choose Your Friends Carefully

The people you walk with will shape:

- Your habits
- Your decisions
- Your vision of what is "normal"

Walk with men who:

- Tell you the truth
- Challenge you when you drift
- Celebrate your growth without envy

Do not confuse **\*\*attention\*\*** with **\*\*loyalty\*\***.

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## ## 7. Honour Women, Protect the Vulnerable

How you treat women says a lot about your character.

- Never use charm to manipulate.
- Never use strength to intimidate.
- Never treat anyone as disposable.

Honour begins with how you speak, look and think.

Treat every person as someone made in the image of God.

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## ## 8. Learn to Handle Money Wisely

Money is a tool, not a master.

- Live below your means.
- Avoid unnecessary debt.
- Give generously and quietly.
- Save and invest with patience, not greed.

If you master your appetites, you will not be easily mastered by money.

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### ## 9. Tell the Truth About Your Pain

Strong men are not those who never cry or never struggle.

Strong men are those who **\*\*refuse to hide in silence and self-destruction\*\***.

When you are overwhelmed:

- Speak to God honestly.
- Speak to someone you trust deeply.
- Ask for help before you collapse.

You never lose dignity by asking for wise help. You lose dignity by pretending until everything breaks.

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### ## 10. Build for Legacy, Not Just for Today

Life is short. Eternity is long. People are watching even when you think they are not.

Ask yourself often:

- \_ "What am I building that will outlive me?" \_
- \_ "What kind of story will my life tell about God, about manhood, about fatherhood?" \_

I want you to live in such a way that **\*\*your children and their children\*\*** can thank God for the decisions you made.

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### ## Final Word

My son,

You will make mistakes. So did I. So will every man you admire.

What matters is that you **\*\*keep returning to truth, to God, and to who you are called to be.\*\***

Whatever happens:

> \_You are my son. I love you. I want you to stand, to build, and to walk without fear.\_

Your father.