



30

SECRETS TO THE

TOP

PAUL ENENCHE_{MD}



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By
Paul Enenche MD

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All scripture quotations are taken from the Authorised King James Version and The New King James Version of The Holy Bible

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INTRODUCTION

“There is no Success without secrets. There is no possibility without responsibility.”

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:1-3

The word, TOP, is defined as the highest part or point of something. It is taken to be the most important position, most senior rank, or the person occupying it. The top is also seen as the best part or section of something. It is said to be the level of highest excellence. It is an enviable place; a place of shining.

A person at the top is believed to do better than others or be greater than others in a given field of endeavour. He is the one at the head of a list or hierarchy. He is the most important, senior, successful, and respected. He is a quality person, but much more than that, he is the finest or best in quality - the most excellent.

You are made for the top!

You are designed to be enviable and not pitiable. You are made to shine and not struggle. Shining is your destiny and not struggling. You are meant to shine spiritually, materially, financially and maritally.

God has no other place for His people but the top. The Most High God cannot be comfortable with His children occupying the low places of life.

God cannot establish His people in the low places of the earth. Struggling through life is never God's perfect plan for His people. Never! The Bible has made it very clear that the place for God's people is the top, not the pit.

Scripture declares in Deuteronomy 28:1, “He (GOD) will set you on high”.

Again in verse 13, the Bible says, “And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath;” You see! We are to be the head. We are to be above only. The top is where we belong! Shining is meant to be our lifestyle. Jesus said:

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth

light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, says we are the light, the illumination, the front-liners, trail-blazers, pace-setters, trained-setters, and the road pointers. We are the ones to lead the way. He describes us as a city set on a hill that cannot be hid. We are not meant to be at the background but at the forefront. We are meant to show posterity the way rather than struggle in obscurity. We are made for the top!

FREE BUT NOT CHEAP

If God has a place for us at the top, what do we do to get there? God's provisions are free but not cheap. There are conditions to meet before His provisions can be accessed. Yes, His provision is for us to be established at the top in life, but there are conditions. Every Divine provision requires human conditions.

All through the Bible, we see that there is no provision for man without conditions. All the provisions of God for Israel always had conditions attached. Deuteronomy 28:1 says,

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

In this book, we will be looking at men like David, Joseph, Daniel, Nehemiah, Esther, etc. We will consider what it was that took them to the top. It is possible that when you hear these names, you quickly conclude that, "these were men or women of God." But I will like you to know that each of them was as secular and civil as you are.

Neither Joseph nor Daniel was a preacher. Abraham did not pastor any congregation. Esther was not a deaconess in church. These were all ordinary everyday people who were practically integrated into the society. They did what everyone else did in their time. But the anointing of God upon their lives, which was a result of their quality relationship with God, made the difference.

It is good to know that whatever God did with Esther, Joseph, Daniel, etc. He can do with any of us today, if we are willing to pay the price; if we are willing to meet the conditions for His provisions.

But what are these conditions? What do you need to do to find yourself at the top - spiritually, materially, financially, or otherwise? What are the secrets?

You see, there is no success without secrets. There is no possibility without responsibility. There is no success without strategies. No one stands out without a standard. Wherever you see someone standing out, there is a standard he embraced or followed in order to get there. Principles are behind the making of principal people. That is why you need to know the secrets to the top. It is true that the top is our place, but there are secrets to get there. To leave the ground level to the top is to be willing to pay the price to get there. To experience the possibility, you must accept the responsibility.

Very few people are willing to accept responsibility; that is why the floor is so crowded while the top is empty. It is the ground level that is so choked-up. The top is always free, though not cheap. In any endeavour - whether spiritual, professional, business or financial - the top is free, but not cheap. If you want to go up spiritually, maybe to become an apostolic or prophetic authority in Ministry, there is space up there; but it is not cheap.

I heard Papa Oyedepo say that, “Things fall on their own; but for anything to rise, a force is required.” You do not need any struggle for something to fall off, but not so for something to rise - a force is required. A price accompanies an upward move. It is the unwillingness to pay the price that leaves the top empty and the basement overcrowded.

When you travel during summer, when a lot of people travel to either Britain or America, you will notice that the economy class is always over-booked. But not so with the first class. It is rarely over-booked. Since more people can afford the economy class, it is always overcrowded. But the first class goes for a higher price which only few people are willing to pay. So it is relatively less congested. It is much like the story of the four friends who brought in their paralyzed friend for healing in one of Jesus’ meetings. There was no room in the house for them to get their sick friend through to Jesus - but the top was free.

And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. Mark 2:4

In this timely book, I want to take you through thirty secrets to the top. And I strongly believe that your encounter with this book will bring you to the forefront, the top, and the most excellent status that God had originally purposed for you. As you read through every paragraph and page, you may need to pause a little and pray. If the Holy Spirit prompts you to do so, please obey Him, and your life will never be the same again, in Jesus’ Name! Amen!

CHAPTER ONE

YOU NEED A VISION

“You cannot move from where you are until you see beyond where you are.”

– Martin Luther King Jr

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. Genesis 37:5

You need a vision (or a dream) to get to the top. The above Scripture tells us that Joseph, that great man, began with a dream.

In verse nine, Joseph dreamt again,

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. Genesis 37:9

To get to the top, you must have a dream, because whatever is not your vision can never be your portion in life. You can never achieve in life, what your heart cannot conceive.

A life left to chance, is a life left in chains. Whenever you see a person who has left his life to chance - whatever will be will be - without a definite vision, that person has left his life in chains. You have to understand that whatever you do not see coming will never come. Joseph saw himself ascending, and his brothers bowing down to him. And it came to pass!

You cannot move from where you are until you see beyond where you are. Martin Luther King Jr said, “A man is not fit to live if he has no purpose for living; or if he has nothing for which he can die.”

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:... Proverbs 23:7

Four years ago, my wife and I were traveling out. At the airport, we met a set of identical twins (boys) who were then airline attendants. As they saw us off to the tarmac to board the flight, I asked them, “So what do you want to do with your lives?”

They echoed, “We want to be pilots”.

My wife said to me, “They look like wild dreamers.”

I told them to come and see me at the office when we return.

They did come to see me, and I got to know that each one of them needed about eleven million naira to see their “wild dream” become a reality. Their father was late, and they had no one to sponsor them. I agreed with them in prayer, that

their dream must come to pass. And we kept on praying.

Eventually, after about a year, they got sponsorship, and all that remained was transport fare to get them to where the training was to take place. My wife and I took care of that.

About six months ago, one of them sent me a message saying, “I have finished my training. Now, I am a certified pilot, qualified to fly a one or two-engine air plane. But I want to go for a Boeing (727, 737) training, that will qualify me to fly bigger aircraft.”

Recently, they sent me a message that they were on their way back home having completed all the training. These were boys that merely had secondary school qualification before I knew them. But if you looked into their eyes, you could see that they were going to become pilots and nothing was going to stop them - not even the fact that they had no father or material wealth. Nothing was going to stop them.

“That is the power of vision,” my wife said, when I told her about their accomplished dream.

What you do not see, you cannot seize. What you do not picture, you can never capture. You cannot just leave your life to chance. You need to have a dream. You need to have a vision. That is your number one secret to the top.

Now I ask you, what do you see?

CHAPTER TWO

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

“You will not be rewarded by how similar you are to people. You will be rewarded by how unique you are as a person.”

...And Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. Genesis 37:2

Joseph was a different person from his brothers. The Bible tells us that Joseph always brought the evil report of his brothers to his father. There was something different about him.

You see, you do not make a difference, if you are not different. You do not stand out, until you step out. I heard from God’s servant, Bishop David Oyedepo that, “You do not make waves until you make moves.” And these moves must be away from those who are normal and ordinary.

My passion, in this book, is to let you know that you have not been called to conform to society. You have been called to transform society. You have not been called to conform to the generality. You have been called to transform the generality. Get this: The desire to be like everybody is the reason for so many nobodies. Everybody wants to dress or speak like somebody. Everybody wants to do what somebody is doing. No; be different!

To flow with the crowd is to be lost in the crowd. And my counsel to you is, do not be afraid to step out, even if you have to stand alone. Joseph stood alone, for almost seventeen years in the prison; but the end justified the means.

You will not be rewarded by how similar you are to people. You will be rewarded by how unique you are as a person. Heaven and earth will reward you by how unique you are as a person. When you struggle to be like someone else, the best you can be is a miserable number two, if you ever get to that position at all.

Be different! Be a pace-setter, not a pace-keeper struggling to keep pace with what everybody else is doing. Be a ‘frontliner’ not in the band wagon. Be the person others want to be like, not the one struggling to be like others. Jesus says you are, a city that is set on an hill that cannot be hid (Matthew 5:14). That is who you are.

Because you believe God’s Word, I prophesy over your life today, that,

You are going to stand out as one that your generation and nation will see as a different person.

You are going to change your world, in Jesus’ Name!

When everybody is sitting, stand. When everybody is standing, stand out. When everybody is standing out, be outstanding! Be different!

CHAPTER THREE

JEALOUSY - AVOID IT!

“When you take your eyes off your goals and begin to look at the progress or success of others, it gives birth to jealousy.”

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying. Genesis 37:9-11

If your desire in life is to get to the top, you must, as a matter of necessity, avoid jealousy. Learn to celebrate greatness and good things.

What rendered the brethren of Joseph useless was the jealousy and envy they demonstrated towards Joseph. That was what kept them in the background.

Jealousy is a product of life without vision. When you take your eyes off your goals and begin to look at the progress or success of others, it gives birth to jealousy. When you take your eyes off your focus, goal or pursuit in life, and fix it on someone else's success or results, you open yourself to jealousy. And you know, once focus is lost, speed is lost. Once speed is lost, success is lost. And ultimately, when success is lost, impact is lost.

What you do not celebrate, you will never attract. What you hate you cannot have. What you do not like you will inevitably lack. Many are where they are in life today because they do not celebrate success, progress, or good things in the lives of other people. You see, bad will is the origin of witchcraft. A man with bad will is just bitter, hateful and resentful over another person's lifting, promotion or advancement.

Have you ever been around someone who is always bitter, critical and resentful? He deems everyone that is successful as wrong. When you see anyone who is always criticizing successful people but does not bother about failures, run away from such a person. He has the spirit of witchcraft.

When you celebrate other people's blessings, and thank God on their behalf, the anointing of the Holy Spirit begins to work on you, and your mind begins to open up. God then begins to work in your life, because what you celebrate, you must attract. Whenever you exist with focus, you must proceed with speed.

Wherever you focus, you must have speed.

Never criticize successful people who are doing well. Do not criticize people who have testimonies, and do not allow anyone to criticize them where you are. When you criticize other people's success, what you are saying, in essence, is that you hate it. You do not like it. You do not want it. The more you continue in that criticism, the more calamity multiplies around you.

If you watch and X-ray the lives of people who talk and recklessly criticize others rashly - no matter who they are - you will notice that everything about their lives is shrunken, dried-up and shriveled. That is all because they have demonstrated that they do not like good things in their lives.

Please, learn to celebrate the great things that happen in other people's lives. You will see the same good things happen in your life too.

CHAPTER FOUR

MAINTAIN DIVINE PRESENCE

“There are people who look up to men so much that they lose their place in God.”

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; Genesis 39:2

To get to the top, you must give top priority to your relationship with God. People who toy with their relationship with God, never go up. They never rise higher. If they manage to go up, they never stay up. If they manage to rise high, they never stay high.

You must maintain the presence of God in your life if you desire to get to the top. The Bible says in Genesis 39:2 that the Lord was with Joseph. Despite all that Joseph passed through, the presence of the Lord never left him. That was the core secret that took Joseph to the top.

Understand this: You may lose anything in life, but one thing you must never lose, is the presence of God. And it does not matter what you have lost in life, if you have not lost God's presence, your life remains intact.

For every Pastor reading this book, I will like you to know that, no matter who leaves the church, the only person that must not leave, is God. Members may come and go; but if Jehovah came and stays, relax!

There are people who look up to men so much that they lose their place in God. Beloved, if you could seek God the way you seek human connections or money, I can assure you that your search or struggle for any other thing would be over.

EXCEPT THE PRESENCE

The brothers of Joseph took the coat of many colours from him. Then Portiphar gave Joseph another dress, but his wife collected it from him.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; Genesis 37:3,23

And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. Genesis 39:11-12

They kept on taking things from Joseph; but the only thing they could not take

was the presence of God.

Get this: It does not matter what the devil takes from you; if he has not taken God from you, that devil is a bastard loser. Maybe the devil organized and took your job, interfered with your relationships, took your accommodation or whatever from you, but I tell you, if he could not succeed to take God from you, he is a loser.

You also have to understand that it does not matter where you are located, if God is there, you are in the right place. They took Joseph from the comfort and luxury of his father's house and sold him into slavery in Egypt; but because God was there, the address was good.

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. Genesis 39:2-5

I pity those who run away from their country to other countries. The truth is this: Your success is not in a situation, neither is it in a location; it is connected to your revelation of God, and your association with Him.

I once met a white man in America, a waiter, who lamented his miseries. He told me of many woes and regrets of his life – in America! Yet there are many who run away to America, thinking things will be better for them there.

The man kept on saying, “I knew there was something about you, the moment I saw you...” He kept on and on in his awe of the image my wife and I portrayed, all the way from Nigeria (where many are running away from). And I let him know that it is the presence of God.

Do not over-pursue people, pursue after God! Do not ever let any man take the place of God in your life. Pursue after God, and I can tell you, the things of this life will begin to pursue you.

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:31-33

The presence of God opens doors and commands all manner of blessings, such that people will never be able to explain or understand. They cannot help but notice how good you look and how blessed you are. The Presence of God is the secret! That was the same aura that was around Joseph that Portiphar's wife could not resist.

They had taken away everything from Joseph, except the Divine presence. And with the Divine presence, Joseph had everything. Without the Divine presence, a man is nothing, notwithstanding what he has or where he is.

Go for the presence of God, it will open doors for you anywhere. It will make you stand out in the crowd. It will give you great favour where others have been rejected.

Before you flip over this chapter, lift your hands to heaven and say,

Lord I need Your presence in my life;

I am willing to do what You will have me do in order to have You all around and within me;

*I receive Your Divine presence today
in the Name of Jesus!*

CHAPTER FIVE

MAINTAIN A GOOD CHARACTER

“The depth of your character also determines the height of your destiny”

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? Genesis 39:7-9

Character is one of the secrets that took Joseph to the top. The great evangelist of our time, Billy Graham, said: “If you lose money, you lose nothing; if you lose health, you lose something; but if you lose character, you lose everything.”

The strength of your character determines the weight of your destiny; and the depth of your character also determines the height of your destiny. There are many who are stranded in life, and whose destinies have been arrested by the trap of compromise.

When faced with a compromising situation, Joseph looked his master’s wife in the face and said, “I refuse to compromise. I cannot do it. If I do, I have arrested my destiny.” And I prophesy to you reading this book this moment:

If your destiny has been arrested in any way, I command total freedom, now, in Jesus’ Name!

There are many in life today whose major problem is not witchcraft but character. They are simply victims of bad character. You will do well to know that until your character is adjusted your destiny cannot be established. You must come to a point in your life where you examine yourself, and sincerely ask, “Lord, what is it in my life that needs correction. What is it in my life that needs to be adjusted?”

There are many great people; people of potential; people of influence, who are wallowing in irrelevance, because of character bankruptcy. They tell little lies here and there; give little kickbacks here and there; and make compromises here and there. They do not know that God cannot do anything serious with someone whose character is out of order. It is possible that such a person may end up in hell, if he is caught in that web of bad character at the point of death. Disastrous! This is God’s Word to you this minute: God will never do anything serious with

you, if your character is out of order.

CHAPTER SIX

LIVE PURPOSEFULLY

“To be purposeful is to be thoughtful. To be thoughtful is to be successful.”

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:8

Those who live purposefully end meaningfully. On the contrary, anyone who lives purposelessly will end uselessly. Look at the life of the drug addict, the prostitute, the campus cultist, or the armed-robber for instance - they live purposelessly, so they end uselessly. Your aim in life, determines your end in life.

To get to the top in life, you must live with a sense of purpose. A wise man said, “The purpose of life is a life of purpose.” Now, what does it mean to have a sense of purpose? It means to calculate your steps, and weigh your options, in all that you do in life. It means to think deeply through whatever you do. Think deeply. It is the depth of your thoughts that determines the depth of your life.

Shallow thinking is the reason for shallow living. When you see a man or woman whose life is shallow, it simply means that their thoughts are shallow. Solid lives are products of solid thoughts.

ASK QUESTIONS

When you live with a sense of purpose, you ask questions:

Am I channeling my energy in life in the right direction?

The people around me now, are they the best for my life?

Is what I am doing with my time right now the best use of my time?

Is what I am doing right now in the best interest of my destiny?

Is what I am doing now, in the best interest of my eternity?

Have a sense of purpose. Live a life of deep thoughts.

When the prodigal son lived thoughtlessly, he continued to suffer – eating with pigs. But the moment he began to think, he began to shine.

And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself,

he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Luke 15:15-20

To be purposeful is to be thoughtful. To be thoughtful is to be successful. And to be thoughtless is to be useless! You need to have a sense of purpose.

CHAPTER SEVEN

LIVE BY CONVICTION

“What you are known for will determine your impact in life.”

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence. Esther 3:1-2

Do you really want to get to the top? Live by conviction. People who aim for the top live by conviction, not by consensus or in compromise. Mordecai is a perfect Biblical example of this. Everyone was commanded to bow to Haman; but Mordecai said he was of the seed of the Jews and they do not bow to any man. Verse four of Esther chapter three says, “... for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.” He refused to bow to Haman, and the outcome was that he was catapulted to the top!

Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour. Esther 6:10-11

Those who do not stand for something will fall for just anything. You must be a man or a woman of conviction - one who stands for something; one who will not fall for anything. In your office, your family, your community, wherever you are found, your stand must be known.

WHAT ARE YOU KNOWN FOR?

The lion, the king of the jungle, is known for never feeding on any dead thing. It is known for roaring and tearing flesh. The eagle too, is known for soaring 10,000 feet above sea level. It is known for marrying just one wife and sticking to that mate for life.

What are you known for? What are your convictions? What are your beliefs? What you are known for will determine your impact in life.

When you are flying in an airplane, and you look down from the window, you will see the river crooked. What is the reason for its crookedness? It is simply because it lacks the ability to pursue a straight course. Why? It is because it

wants to take the path of least resistance. So it goes this way and that; always shifting direction. If you are not a person of conviction, your life will be crooked. If you are not a person that pursues a straight course in life, you will certainly come to a point where your destiny cannot be straight.

The psalmist talked about those who will dwell in the tabernacle of the Lord. He says,

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. Psalms 15:1-2,4

That is conviction – the ability to stand by whatever you say.

A man with strong convictions makes up his mind on what to do, and once he is convinced that it is the right thing to do, he does not change his mind about it, even if he gets hurt doing it. The Psalmist says that such is the one God will take up to His holy hill, to the top. Such is the one that will have a place with God. It is not the one that will fall for a stick of cigarette or partake in free money. No! It is “He that sweareth to his own hurt.”

You want God to take you to the top? You must be a Mordecai who refuses to bow to Haman; a Daniel who, because of his conviction and sense of purpose, refuses to eat what everyone else eats; a Joseph who refuses to fall for Potiphar’s wife’s lust. You must be a man of conviction not easily bendable; a person whose “Yes” is yes and whose “No” is no. And you shall get there!

CHAPTER EIGHT

RELEASE THE PAST

“You can learn from the past, in order to lead in the future; but you cannot live in the past and lead in the future.”

Release your past.

It is not possible to walk backwards into the future - no way! Those who face the back have no place in the front. Those who dwell in their past, lose their place in the future. To celebrate the importance of the past, is to lose relevance in the future. To mourn the past is to lose the joy of the future.

Release the past!

You must never allow the past to hold you down. It is possible that your history is horrible. It is possible that you have had very negative experiences in life. But you have to come to understand that your history cannot define your destiny, except you allow it. Your history cannot resist your destiny until you allow it.

Look at Joseph, a slave that became a Prime Minister in a foreign land. He refused to allow a slave-mentality to stop him from becoming a Prime Minister.

Daniel, a eunuch, was a slave in Babylon, but he never allowed the history of his slavery to prevent him from becoming the Vice President in Babylon.

Esther was an orphan and a slave in a strange land, yet did not allow the history of her past to stop her from getting to the top. She became Queen in a strange land.

What does “the past” suggest? It suggests what is past. So let it pass! You can learn from the past, in order to lead in the future; but you cannot live in the past and lead in the future. No! Living in the past will ultimately limit your future. But your past, ordinarily, cannot limit your future, until you allow it.

No matter what your history is, your past cannot limit your destiny, until you allow it. It is possible that the circumstances surrounding your birth are terrible. But you can still make it to the top, the circumstances surrounding your birth notwithstanding. Maybe you were born out of wedlock, or you do not even know who your father or mother is. Such history is not strong enough to stop you, until you allow it.

A woman, about sixty years old, who had been married for years without a child, was one day passing by an uncompleted building. And she heard the sound of babies crying. She went in there and found a set of twins in a carton, abandoned by their mother. She took them home and brought them up as her own. One of

them today, is a renowned motivational speaker par excellence, a counselor to presidents all over the world.

I learnt of a man of God who was used of God in the healing revivals in America. He was a child born and abandoned by parents he never knew. One day, a drunkard was driving home drunk. He parked his car to ease himself by a gutter, when suddenly, he heard the cry of a baby from the bush nearby. He took the child home and raised him - a child who later became one of the most “outrageous” healing evangelists the world ever knew.

This is a man I have watched ministering, and the Holy Ghost would physically land on someone’s shoulder like a dove. I had seen him, in his healing crusades, pull out a metal used to support a fractured arm and the arm was healed instantly. And that man was taken out of the gutter by a drunkard.

Let this get deep down your being: Your history cannot resist your destiny until you allow it. Where you are coming from cannot stop where God wants you to get to, unless you allow it.

Let your past pass. A man jilted you? Let him go. Someone disconnected from you? Let them go. You lost a job? Let it go. Romans 8:28 says,

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

That should make you shout for joy. God always works out for good what the devil planned for evil. Always.

Release the past!

CHAPTER NINE

MAINTAIN EXCITEMENT

“When your heart is heavy, your flight in life can never be easy, because the wind cannot move heavy objects.”

Do you want to get to the top? Maintain excitement. Refuse depression. The wind does not blow away stones. Winds do not carry stones. When you are heavy, your flight cannot be easy.

Someone had said that, “Angels fly because they are light.” That is because nothing depresses them. Nothing worries them. Nothing bothers them. They are not bitter against anyone. They fly, because they are light.

When your heart is heavy, your flight in life can never be easy, because the wind cannot move heavy objects. And who does the wind represent? The Holy Spirit, of course. Look at Acts 2:1-4:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Holy Spirit has not been able to take many Christians to the high places of life where they belong, because they are too heavy for Him to carry. And one thing that can give rise to such weight is depression.

Depression is the opposite of elevation. It suggests a downward movement, while elevation suggests an upward movement. Victims of depression are never candidates for elevation. When people allow themselves to become victims of depression, they have excused themselves from the realm of elevation in life.

In spite of his prison experience, Joseph maintained his excitement. He was constantly on the lookout for who to cheer up. At one time he was concerned about the sad countenance of one of the prisoners, who happened to be Pharaoh’s cupbearer. He cheered him up with a hopeful interpretation of his dream.

Nehemiah was careful never to appear before the king (as his cup bearer) wearing a sad countenance (Nehemiah 2:1b).

If you want to go up in life, you must understand that there can be no ‘upliftment’ without excitement. You must be careful to maintain a lifestyle of celebration and shouts of joy.

Learn this about excitement: Your strength is at the mercy of your joy.

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10

So, to lose joy is to lose strength; and without strength, there can be no flight.

Understand also, that your wisdom is at the mercy of your joy. Your inspiration is at the mercy of your joy.

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. Isaiah 12:3

You can easily draw inspiration, revelations or Divine ideas when joy is in your heart. But when you are depressed, your mind is blocked, your ears are blocked, your spirit is blocked.

Have you ever been so heavy-hearted that you passed by someone you know very well, on the street, without even noticing him or her? That is because your mind was so occupied with depressing issues. In such a state, you are never able to receive that inspiration or Divine direction that will take you to your next level. Why? It is because everything is blocked.

What you attract into your life is determined by the state of your heart.

All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast. Proverbs 15:15

That word, “afflicted” is talking about the depressed and the sorrowful. All his days are evil because he is sorrowful and refuses to be happy. Consequently, all the things that need to happen for him to remain in that state, just keep on happening in his life, and around him. On the other hand, for the man that makes a choice to be happy, all that he needs to stay happy will keep happening.

In essence, your attitude is the seed that will produce the harvest that you receive into your life. My counsel to you, therefore, is this: you must make a quality decision to enjoy life, not endure it. That is because you do not have a spare life. Stop all the squeezing and frowning of your face. To frown your face is to fry your life.

Bishop David Abioye has rightly said that when your face is long, your journey must necessarily be long. That is, long face equals long journey. Come on, dear friend, celebrate God!

If you are frustrated because you are not yet married, note that there is someone who, apart from being unmarried, has nowhere to lay her head. There are people in worse situations than you are in. There are people whose desire and prayer

request to God is to get to where you are.

Get this: If you cannot celebrate God for the garri you are eating now, you will never taste that spaghetti (or whatever food) you are desiring. Celebrate God for the small and underrated car you have now, so that He can change your level.

Are you living in a one-bedroom flat now? Celebrate God, so that He can move you to the next level. Do not let the devil ruin your life. Do not let any of the forces of witchcraft ruin your life. Life is worth living.

Ecclesiastes 9:4 says, “For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.” And the Psalmist says, “I will not be afraid of ten thousand people that stand against me round about. For thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.”

One of the things I have noticed about successful people is that they are very excited, very enthusiastic, very positivistic. Then one thing I have noticed about people who are failures is that they are very negativistic and pessimistic – always seeing the bad side of everything.

They are the kind of people that see a glass half-filled with water and say, “It is half-empty,” rather than say, ‘It is half-filled’. The “empty” is their focus. They do not recognize that “half-filled” means “it will soon be filled,” while “half-empty” suggests that “it is finishing.” Their thinking is backward and so follows their life. They never ever see the brighter side of things and their appearance follows suit.

Have you ever noticed that when a horse and a cow are both lying down, and want to stand up, they both stand up in two different ways? The cow stands up with its hind legs first, and then the front follows. The horse rises up, first with its front, and then the hind legs, because it is ready to run. What do we see there? The cow is backward-minded, while the horse is forward-minded. You now understand why no one uses cows for races. Do you not?

Maintain excitement, refuse depression, and you will be making your way decisively to the top.

CHAPTER TEN

BE FAITHFUL

“The extent to which you can be trusted by God is the same extent to which you can be entrusted with divine resources”

If you want God to take you to the top, you have to be faithful and trustworthy - especially in financial matters. The level to which you are blessed in life is at the mercy of your faithfulness.

A faithful man shall abound with blessings: Proverbs 28:20

God does not have a scarcity of blessings; He only has a shortage of faithful people. If God would see faithful men and women, the blessing will flow, and keep flowing.

The level of your blessedness is determined by the level of your faithfulness. Any level of blessing you have seen in your life is a product of the level of faithfulness you have manifested so far. If your faithfulness to God will increase, the blessings of God in your life will also increase.

The extent to which you can be trusted by God is the same extent to which you can be entrusted with Divine resources, promotions, elevations, etc. My counsel to you is, be faithful. That is to say, be dependable. Do not be a chameleon - both with God and man. Be trustworthy. Be reliable. Let your word be your bond. Let people who have to deal with you be able to go to sleep knowing that their ten million dollars in your hand is safe.

Refuse to back-stab. Refuse to double-deal. Refuse to short-change people that God brings in contact with you. There is a person who goes into partnership with other persons and he ends up pushing out the other persons. That is an unfaithful person. He can never go far.

Give your boss rest. Give your colleagues, partners and contemporaries rest with your character, and watch God lift you up. Be faithful where you work. Be faithful to duty. And if you are the boss, be faithful to your employees. Be faithful in all that you do.

Look at Joseph. Of all that was committed into his hands, nothing was lost.

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from

the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. Genesis 39:2-5

Be faithful always, knowing that the top is your portion.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

LIVE READY

“The difference in how people end up in life is in the management of opportunities.”

So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God. 2 Chronicles 27:6

Smith Wigglesworth said, “Never get ready; always live ready.” That is, never wait for opportunities. Always prepare for it.

When Pharaoh sent for Joseph, Joseph took off his prison garments and put on garments fit for the palace, because he was ready for that opportunity.

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. Genesis 41:14

Opportunity is universal, but success is not universal. The difference in how people end up in life is in the management of opportunities. I have heard it said that success is the outcome when opportunity meets with preparation. Invariably, whenever opportunity arrives and preparation is not on ground, ridicule is the outcome. A wise man had said that, it is better to be prepared and have no opportunity, than to have opportunity and lack preparation.

The best cure for lack of preparedness is to never allow idle moments in your life. Do not live with a mentality beclouded by where you are now. Live, rather, with a perspective of where you want to be. Live today as though you are existing in your tomorrow.

Now, what do I mean by that? Do not fast and pray when trouble arrives. Fast and pray before trouble arrives. Do not look for a passage of scripture to quote because there is an emergency. Let the scripture to quote be in you before the emergency arrives.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16

If you are a preacher, do not study the Bible for what to preach. Study the Bible because you need to live. Do not read because the examination time is near. Study to be educated, instead. Study to be ready for the opportunities of life that may come at any time.

Do not wait for a job opportunity to catch you unprepared. If you are an

applicant, do not wait to be called up for a job before you prepare for an interview. Get prepared ahead. If you do not do this, it will neither be God's nor the devil's fault when you get into an interview room and they ask you, "Are you familiar with this software?" and you say, "No." Then they bring up something else and say, "Are you familiar with this?" You say, "No." When they discover you are not ready, they will send you away.

Do not ever get ready; always live ready. Live prepared!

CHAPTER TWELVE

BE DILIGENT

Your work determines your worth.

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men. Proverbs 22:29

If you truly desire to be on top, you must be diligent. Be a hard worker. Refuse to be lazy. The higher you will want to fly in life, the harder you will have to work. If you ever went through the university, you probably must have discovered that distinction students do not work at the same rate with average students. Their level of work is always different.

If you have ever seen a locomotive (a train), you will realize that the temperature of the head portion is different from the rest of the other portions. The head is hotter because it has to drive the rest of the locomotive. To remain in the front, you must generate the heat.

If the leading coach of a train ever comes to the same temperature with the rest of the coaches, then you know the train has come to a halt. It is parked.

Listen dear friend, you cannot do ordinary things and expect extraordinary results. You must make up your mind to be diligent. That is the way to get to the top.

One of the most respected professions in our society is the medical profession. True or false? Doctors have a lot of respect. When they say, a man is a Consultant Surgeon or Neurosurgeon or a consultant Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon, he is well respected. The bigger the title, the greater the respect.

Now, you know of course, what it takes to answer any of these big medical titles. First, you have to go through secondary school, write the JAMB (Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board) examination (probably more than one attempt), to gain an admission into the university. When you finally get in, you begin with the very competitive basic medical sciences, then you get into anatomy, physiology, community medicine, biochemistry, etc. When you are done with all that, you get into pharmacology, histopathology, microbiology and chemical pathology. After that, you go into obstetrics and gynaecology, human medicine and surgery, then ophthalmology, ear/nose/throat surgery, and much more.

When you are done with all that (after many years), you go for a housemanship, and then the compulsory National Youth Service (NYSC).

All that will bring you to the basic level, where you are now set for the specialization that will bring you the big titles. If you want to, it will take you another four rigorous years to become a general surgeon. Then another six to seven years to become a Neurosurgeon - the likes of Ben Carson.

Do you know that the highest paid public servant in the United States of America, Connecticut State, is a Neurosurgeon, and a Nigerian? He is paid close to one million dollars per annum. Why is he receiving that much? It is because of the level of hard work he put in to arrive at such a status.

If you are lazy, life cannot be easy for you. But the moment you make up your mind to divorce and disconnect from the path of laziness, you will begin to enjoy ease in life. Proverbs 12:24 says, "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule:..." In other words, a man that is diligent must be established in authority. Your work determines your worth.

My advice to you is simple: Deploy your energy. Deploy your wisdom. Deploy your potentials.

In everything you do in life, make it easy for God to promote you. Be creative. Be innovative. Do not behave like others. Behave like you want to get to the top. Be diligent!

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY

“Never accept or give any excuse for being where you are...Accept responsibility.”

If you want to be at the top, you must accept responsibility for your life. While you are in the hands of God, you take your destiny in your hands. What that means is that you have to stop waiting for chance occurrences or a miraculous rescue. Do not sit down and rot away. Do all you can to move beyond where you are.

Imagine that you are a young lady. You refuse to do any work and you are not ready to pay your house rent. All you say is, “I am waiting for my husband to come and marry me.” You are simply a liability in existence. No man wants to marry a liability. You have to rise up and take responsibility for your life. You do not have to sit where you are and lament or give excuses why you are still where you are.

Do not give or accept any excuse for being where you are in life. It does not matter what it is - whether it is the economy, your history, geography, family background, or your parent’s refusal to send you to school - never accept or give any excuse for being where you are. Refuse to blame anybody either. Accept responsibility. I once heard Bishop David Abioye say that, “You are not a failure, until you have found who to blame for it.” And Mark Twain said, “There are a thousand excuses for every failure, but never a good reason.”

Take a look at the life of the impotent man at the Pool of Bethesda. He had been there for thirty-eight bitter years. Then Jesus came by and asked him, “Do you want to be well?” Now read the man’s response:

The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. John 5:17

The man simply blamed people for where he was in life. This is the same thing that goes on in society today. Many complain that their fathers did not train them in school. But many of us forget that our fathers had no fathers to train them either. Yet, they were able to make a life for themselves.

Could that man not have at least, crawled his way close to the water? Could he not keep his legs in there, waiting for the angel that always came to trouble the water? He sat there, for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him in the

water.

You have waited so long for people to help you, and the help is nowhere in sight. God is speaking to you right now. It is time for you to rise up and say,

I am not waiting for anyone's help anymore.

I am taking my destiny in my hands, under God.

I am going to succeed.

I am moving to the front.

I am not going to remain where I am, in Jesus' Name!

I challenge you to rise up to the occasion. Go where others avoid. Be determined. Be decisive. Surely, there must be a way, if there is a will. Refuse to live in self pity. To pity yourself is to pit your life (that is, to put your life in a pit). Shake yourself from the dust. There is no greatness without responsibility.

Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion. Isaiah 52:1-2

Something good and great can, indeed, come out of your life, if you will decide today to take responsibility.

DECLARE NOW:

God is my connection and God is my greatest help.

I am not waiting for man anymore.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 says;

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

If Joseph could succeed in a foreign land without connection, and Daniel could succeed in a foreign land as a slave, you have no excuse.

Lift your voice to God and pray:

I receive Divine help.

I receive Divine guidance.

I accept responsibility, in Jesus' Name!

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

CONNECT TO DIVINE GUIDANCE

“Divine direction is a product of determination and passion.”

To get to the top in life, you must connect to Divine guidance. The reason you need to connect to Divine guidance is because your flight is connected to your light. Papa Oyedepo said, “Divine guidance is the conqueror’s trade secret.”

When there was famine in the land, while everyone else was going down, Isaac kept rising higher and higher because he heard from God.

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;

Genesis 26:1-3

Isaac did as God told him, and God blessed him.

And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him. Genesis 26:6,12-14

No man hears from God and runs into trouble.

King David fought many battles and never lost any, because he never went to any battle without hearing from God first. That is Divine guidance. To hear from heaven is to shine on earth. To hear from above is to stay on top.

Please note that there is a difference between a ‘good idea’ and a ‘God idea’. Not every good idea is a God idea. The difference between the two is that a good idea MAY come to pass; but a God-idea MUST come to pass.

ENJOYING DIVINE DIRECTION

Determination and passion

If you must enjoy Divine direction, you must have a determination and passion for it. Divine direction is a product of determination and passion. For instance, before I found whom to marry, I was determined and passionate about marrying

the right person. Before I stepped into Ministry, I was determined and passionate to know what kind of Ministry God was calling me into and where it was going to be located. To be Divinely directed, you must be determined and passionate to be Divinely directed.

Ask Questions

You do not deserve answers until you ask questions. I have discovered that your intelligence can be rated by the answers you supply; but your wisdom is rated by the questions you ask. If you could say, “Lord, what would you have me do? What exactly should I pour my life and energy into?” you can be successful. If you could patiently wait on Him, He will show up for you.

So many people today would have been in a better shape materially, financially, and all round, if only they had heard the voice of God before they went into marriage or school. Many would have been in a better shape in life if only they had heard the voice of God before going into the business they are into. They were in so much of a hurry that they could not wait for His voice.

If the step you are taking is out of Divine guidance, you have nothing to fear, but if the step you are taking lacks Divine guidance, think twice.

If your desire is the top, one of the greatest steps to connect you up there is Divine guidance.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

BE THE BEST

Excellence is our heritage. Mediocrity is a misrepresentation of the Divine nature.

Excellence is the nature of God. If you want to get to the top, you must be the best.

As God's people, excellence is our heritage. Mediocrity is a misrepresentation of the Divine nature. Whenever you see a child of God living a mediocre life (a mediocre wife, employee, whatever), that person is misrepresenting God. To bring honour and glory to God, you must be the best. To give Him pleasure, you must be the best. To see the favour of God in your life, you must be the best.

Joseph was the best. Esther was the best. Daniel was better than anyone in his field. David too was the best. They all enjoyed the favour of God in their lives. In order to see the favour of God in everything you do in life, you must be the best.

May I ask you a question please? If your father was the physics teacher in your school, and you were asked to write Newton's Laws of Motion but you wrote Gauss' law instead, would it be morally justifiable for your father to give you the first position in that examination? Of course, no. Why? It is because you failed the examination. Until you supply the facts, they will not supply you the marks.

Many of us are asking God to do what is unjust. Here you are, a mediocre who refuses to give your best in what you do, and you want to force God to place you above better people. God is too righteous to do injustice.

Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity. For the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways. Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment. Job 34:10-12

Beloved, if you want God to favour you, please make it easy for Him by producing excellence in whatever you do, and your story will change.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

UNDERSTAND TIMES

“If you understand the times, you will end up as a commander in your generation.”

To get to the top, you must understand the times. You must understand Divine appointment and placement. You must understand what God’s purpose for your life is. You must understand your place in destiny. Much more, you must understand the implication of your existence.

THEY KNEW THE REASON

Esther knew why she was in the kingdom for such a time.

Jesus knew the reason why He came:

For this purpose .the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

David knew why he was in the battle field face-to-face with Goliath. When his oldest brother, Eliab, was angry with him for showing up in the battlefield, he asked, “What have I now done? Is there not a cause?”(1 Samuel 17:29).

Joseph knew that he was to bring solution to the problem in Egypt, because he had seen it in a dream a long time before.

Now, the question is, what do you know about yourself? What is your understanding about the implication of your existence in this generation, in your family, in your community?

THEY KNEW NOT THE REASON

Esau was a man who did not know the implication of his existence.

And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright. Genesis 25:29-34

Esau lost his birthright; he lost his destiny, forever.

Samson was another man who did not know the implication of his existence. He did not know the gravity of the oil on his head; so he died like a pauper.

Adam and Eve did not know the implication of their existence in the garden of Eden; until they were driven out of it.

Beloved, you need to understand the implication of your existence - by asking God questions. Such questions are: “Lord, who am I ? Why am I here? What do I represent to my generation?”

In the first Book of Chronicles the twelfth chapter and the thirty-second verse, we read about the sons of Issachar:

And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

You see, if you understand the times, you will end up as a commander in your generation.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

DEVELOP YOURSELF

“Information is the basis for promotion.”

If the top is your dream, you must develop yourself. Do not ever abandon yourself. Develop yourself!

What you know so far, is what has brought you to where you are presently. In order to go farther than where you are right now, you must know more than you know right now. Everything you know - every revelation, every information, and every understanding of the Bible you have right now accounts for where you are right now. If you want to move beyond where you are right now, you must of necessity, know beyond what you know right now; because information is the basis for promotion.

A child in the primary school, for instance, must know beyond primary school level to qualify for secondary school. When he gains enough information at the Junior Secondary School (JSS) level, he qualifies for Senior Secondary School (SSS). And then he goes on like that, till he qualifies for entrance into the university. Your information level determines the rate of your promotion; and your revelation determines your elevation.

Paul the Apostle said in Galatians 2:2, “And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.” So, for you to go up in life, there must be revelation. You must make up your mind to develop yourself. Be a life-long learner. Refuse to graduate from the university of the universe.

To really develop yourself, you have to commit yourself to daily growth. Keep on growing daily. Everyday that comes, you must be determined to grow - in the knowledge of God; in the knowledge of your career, profession or field of endeavour; in financial education; in your human relationships - you must determine to grow. Smith Wigglesworth had said that anyone that is on the same spiritual plane for two consecutive days has backslidden.

Keep on running. Keep on flying. Keep on swimming. For, not to run is to rot. Not to fly is to fall. Not to swim is to sink.

Continue to know, till you are known for what you know. David was in the wilderness. He knew how to play the instrument; and the knowledge of what he knew brought him out of the wilderness, into the palace.

Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

1Samuel 16:18-19,23

Although he was lost in the wilderness, what David knew brought him out. So, it does not matter where you are located. If you can only know, what you know will bring you out of obscurity. Seek not to be known. Determine to know instead; and what you know will make you known. But, you should be determined to know relevant things:

The knowledge of God;

The knowledge of your career;

The knowledge of your destiny;

There are three departments of your being: your spirit, soul (mind, will and emotions) and your body. To fulfil your destiny, you need, a fervent Spirit, a sound mind, and a healthy body. A healthy body is a product of good nutrition and adequate exercise. A sound mind is a product of information and wise reasoning. A fervent spirit is a product of revelation, intercession and association with the Almighty God.

There are people whose bodies are healthy and their spirits fervent all right, but their minds are dull.

Everyone is dull hearted, without knowledge... Jeremiah 51:17 (NKJV)

In the above Scripture, the minds of the people are dull because they cannot remember the last time they fed their minds with good food. Just like your body needs food, both your mind and spirit also need food. The food for the body is the physical food you eat. The food for the mind is knowledge; and the food for the spirit is revelation from the Word of God.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4

When you have balanced diet in your body, mind and spirit, then there is no devil that can stop you from fulfilling your destiny.

Why would you graduate from the university and the last time you opened any book was when you were in school? What an injustice you are doing to yourself.

I charge you to commit to continuous study, and you will surely fulfil your destiny.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

REFUSE TO BE DISTRACTED

Never you waste the time of your life responding to people who...are going nowhere.

And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. Nehemiah 6:12

Distraction is the enemy of distinction. In order to get to the top, you must refuse to be distracted. To reach your destiny in life, you must refuse to be distracted. Refuse the influence of the Sanballats and Tobiahs, and their contemporaries.

Do not let anyone or anything take your focus off your pursuit in life. Anything that is not your intention must not command your attention. So, avoid distraction.

Understand this: There is nothing that threatens the devil like a focused life. When a man, woman or destiny is focused, it is a threat to the devil. So he begins to do whatever he can to break your focus. A divided focus equals divided energy; and divided energy equals divided destiny.

I heard that those who go to the forest to catch lions, when they have found one, would normally put a four-legged stool before it; then the lion (trained to focus), tries to focus. And as its eyes continue to go here and there in an attempt to focus on the legs of the stool, it goes into inaction, and becomes too paralyzed to make a move. By the distraction of focus, there is a paralysis of action. It is weakened by the paralysis of distraction; then the lion-tamer catches the lion effortlessly.

Your focus determines your fire. So, your fire is at the mercy of your focus. Show me a focused man, and I will show you a fire-full man. Be focused!

If you get a magnifying glass and focus the beam of light on pieces of dry paper, you will set the papers on fire. Ordinary sunlight is incapable of setting anything on fire, but just because of a simple focus of its beam, dry paper, wood and even a forest can be set on fire.

Jesus gave only three and a half years of focus, and this world has not recovered from it.

In fifty-two days, Nehemiah focused on building the city wall, and finished it, in spite of all the distractions from Sanballat and Tobiah. That is the power of focus.

It was by focus that David brought down Goliath. He kept his eyes on the giant's forehead. Everyone saw a giant, but he saw an open forehead.

And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. 1Samuel 17:48-49

You see, your focus determines your fire. Your focus determines your speed. In Habakkuk 2:2, we read, “And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.”

Your focus determines the speed with which you run your life and assignments. So, refuse to be distracted. Your focus is your fire. Your focus also determines your light. Matthew 6:22 says, “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.” So, your focus also determines your light.

Be watchful; because every time you are headed in a direction to achieve something with intensity, the devil will raise distractions. Listen, it will not appear before you and say, “I am distraction.” No! It sometimes comes in form of opposition, criticism, strife, competitive jealousy, backbiting and backstabbing. They could also come in form of multiple battles: report of sick relatives or emergencies here and there. All the devil wants is to tie you down, because he is afraid of your focus. But you are going to let him know, “I am going on to achieve my destiny first; and I will return later to attend to this distraction.”

Please, do not do yourself the injustice of responding to every opposition; keep going. When you return with your testimony, they “will see” as they did prophesy.

They have said, “Let us see how he will become a father or mother of children.” Do not respond to them. Keep running and it will not be long, they will see.

Never you waste the time of your life responding to people who have no business with life - people who are going nowhere. They sit at the spectators’ stand just watching; criticizing and commenting on everything. They are not in the line of action. They have to pay to enter the stadium to watch those who have been paid to play. That is where those kind of people belong in life. They sit at the spectators’ stand just watching and commenting. They are not in the arena of action.

Theodore Roosevelt once said he has no time for the man who just sits outside the arena watching. He said he has time only for the man who is in the ring, who has felt the blows and the punches and sweated blood and water. That is the kind

of man he has an ear for.

Refuse to be distracted!

When people backbite you, do not turn your face to them; turn your back to them, because they are behind you, anyway. Let them remain at the back. And the more they “bite” you, the more you run forward. Let them continue biting so you can keep running forward; because you do not want to give your back to anyone to bite.

You need a laser beam focus and a bulldog tenacity to fulfill your destiny. You know, the sons of the prophets kept taunting Elisha, “Do you know your master will be leaving you today?”

And he said to them, “I know it, just hold your peace there. I will answer you when I have collected the mantle...”(paraphrased).

Refuse to be distracted!

It is Satan that appoints people to come and distract you. Just keep on going.

God asked Noah to build the ark and bring in two of every animal. When he was done, it was like, “On your marks, get set, go...” The cheetah ran fastest and dashed in. The kangaroo, the ostrich, the eagle, the lion, the antelope, etc. followed. But they still could not shut the door of the ark until the tortoise, the snail, the centipede, the millipede and all the other slow animals went in.

Just keep going. Tell your mockers and detractors, “I am coming!” You are not going to allow anyone else’s speed or looks to distract you.

Refuse to be distracted.

Refuse to be destroyed.

Refuse to be stagnated!

CHAPTER NINETEEN

MAINTAIN A BUOYANT PRAYER LIFE

“Your stand with God at the place of prayer affects your stand in life. Never ever play with your prayer life.”

If the top is your dream, you must maintain a very buoyant prayer life. Your prayer quality affects the quality of your destiny. I like you to understand that kingdom authority belongs to the prayerful. Your stand with God at the place of prayer affects your stand in life. Never ever play with your prayer life. Do not take your prayer life for granted. It determines your destiny.

Prayer was the secret of Esther’s life. It was Daniel’s secret also. You see, if your voice is known to God at the place of prayer, that voice must be heard on earth. So, just ensure that your voice is known to God in prayer, for if you do, it becomes compulsory for your voice to be heard on earth. My counsel to you, therefore is, develop a buoyant prayer life. Ensure that God is the first person you talk to every morning. Let your wife, children and everyone else know it.

Organize every other schedule in your life around your schedule with God. Let God be your centre of gravity. Let everything else in your life rotate around Him. Martin Luther said, “I have so much to do today that I have to spend the first three hours of the day in prayer, before I go out.” Meanwhile, someone else would say, “I have so much to do today that I cannot pray.” Martin Luther believed that if he must succeed in all that he had to do any day, he must spend three hours in prayer before going anywhere or doing anything else.

I will like to let you know that whatever business makes you ‘prayerless’ is a business of the bee: it keeps making honey for others and never any for itself. When you neglect prayer in order to have more time for other things, you lose rather than gain.

Let God’s voice be the first voice you hear every morning. Begin your day with the Bible, tapes or cd’s. By all means, just make sure something is playing that you are listening to and let that be the Word of God, first thing in the morning. Let God also be the first to hear your voice in the day. Hear from Him first and speak to Him first.

To get to the top, you must necessarily maintain a buoyant prayer life.

CHAPTER TWENTY

GO THE EXTRA MILE

“To get to the top, you must be ready to go the extra mile. Do not do what everyone is doing; do more than that.”

Extra height is a product of extra mile. Ordinary things produce ordinary results; and extra things produce extra-ordinary results. To get to the top, you must be ready to go the extra mile. Do not do what everyone else is doing; do more than that. Do not be an average employee, be an extra-mile employee in your office. Go the extra mile.

I have come to realize that there is no success without excess. The successful students, for instance, read excessively. In class, they ask questions in excess. No excess, no success - but excess of the right action anyway.

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE EXTRA MILE

Jesus said in Matthew 5:41, “And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.” That is the extra mile.

To go the extra mile as an employee, for instance, you may have to resume for work earlier than the stipulated time, and close later than others. That is the extra mile. Do beyond what your job description stipulates (positively), to make a deposit in the life of your boss and make a difference where you are. That is the extra mile. And when you begin to function like that, water must find its level. Life will definitely equilibrate for you.

If you are a messenger who goes the extra mile at work like a manager, you cannot remain a messenger for long. No!

There was this Christian brother who was a cleaner in an office. He would always go to work earlier than others, and close later than others. Much more, he was also doing some extra things beyond cleaning the office. One day, the Managing Director (a white man) walked in, and asked him to go clean up a certain office, that it was for the new General Manager. He did as he was told. When he was done cleaning, the MD said to him, “That is your office. And you are the new General Manager.” He was a messenger working like a General Manager. So water found its level. His life equilibrated. That is the law of equilibrium.

If you do more than you are hired to do, you will eventually be paid more than you were expected to be paid. Your life must somehow rotate and find its level. That is the principle of the extra mile.

Abraham's servant asked Rebecca for water to drink, and she went the extra mile.

And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. Genesis 24:17-20

Pharaoh brought in Joseph to interpret his dream, and Joseph went the extra mile.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine. This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh. Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land; And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous. Genesis 41:15,25-31

Joseph went beyond the interpretation of the dream to offer the solution.

Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine. And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. Genesis 41:33-

37

Joseph was literally describing himself; and by the time he was done offering the solution, Pharaoh said,

Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is

none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. Genesis 41:38-41

That is the principle of the extra mile.

David's father sent him to go take food to his brothers at the war front, and he went the extra mile. He delivered the food all right. But the sight of Goliath commanded his attention. And then he asked, "Who is this uncircumcized Philistine?"

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? 1Samuel 17:26

All of David's brothers were at home 'lazying' away their lives and destinies. He alone looked after their father's flock; yet he was the youngest. That is the principle of the extra mile.

Saul's father sent him to go look for his lost donkeys. Three days after, he still had not found them, and he went the extra mile. His servant suggested they go see a man of God in town, "Perhaps he can show us the way that we should go." Saul said, "Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was"(1Samuel 9:10).

Saul was not sent to see a prophet. He was sent to look for donkeys. But he went the extra mile. And the extra mile brought an extraordinary result: he was anointed king of Israel.

The extra is the difference between the ordinary and the extra-ordinary. Remove the extra and everything becomes ordinary. Stop dragging your feet about like an old man. Stop supporting your waist like a pregnant woman. You are too young for all that. You need some 'kkracious' anointing. You need alacrity.

Add something to something you are told to do - something positive and profitable - and something will be added to your life that will lead you to the top.

CHAPTER TWENTY ONE

CONNECT TO THE FATHER'S BLESSING

“To go further in your chosen pursuit in life, you need a father.”

Your father is your feather, assisting you to fly into your future - to the top. He is your ladder. To go further in your chosen pursuit in life, you need a father.

You probably have heard the stories of several young men and women who could not further their education because they lost their fathers. Such stories abound in Africa. As a matter of fact, my father could not go further in school because he lost his father.

As it is in the physical, so it is in the spiritual. To go further in destiny, you need a father. And that is the context of this chapter - spiritual fathers.

Isaac's blessing was rooted in the impartation he received from his father. The father's blessing was the secret of Isaac's success and prosperity. Genesis 26:13-14 says of him:

And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.

In Genesis 25:5-6, the Bible says,

And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac. But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.

The question is, if Abraham gave “all that he had” to Isaac, what then did he have left to give to the other sons? We see here that it was not necessarily a physical blessing that he gave Isaac. It was the Divine deposit he had in him that he imparted to Isaac. What made Abraham what he was? It was the blessing of God upon his life. And that was what he gave to Isaac. He gave physical things to others, but he gave the substance of his life to Isaac. No wonder Isaac did not remain in the pit. He was the envy of his generation. The father's blessing was the secret of Isaac and Jacob.

In Genesis 27, Isaac consciously blessed Jacob. Earlier on, he had made a request to Esau, his first son saying, “Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die” (Genesis 27:3-4). It was Jacob, however, that brought the venison, and Isaac began to bless him:

Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee. Genesis 27:28-

29

That blessing thoroughly changed Jacob's life. Genesis 30:43 says of him, "And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses" (Genesis 30:43). Nobody would have ever heard of Jacob but for the father's blessing upon his life.

The father's blessing was also the secret of Joseph's success and greatness.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. Genesis 37:3

Abraham gave the blessing to Isaac, Isaac passed it on to Jacob and Jacob, in turn, passed it on to Joseph. I believe that the Coat of Many Colours was a mantle of impartation that defined Joseph's colourful destiny. See where he ended up:

And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt. Genesis 41:38-44

Please understand that the blessing in your life is as strong as the blessing over your life. That is, the blessing you experience in your life is directly proportional to the blessing that comes upon your life. You are blessed to the capacity of the blessing that is flowing from higher quarters into your life. If there is no one blessing you from the top, there is a limit to how far you will be blessed on the earth.

Hosea 12:13, the Bible says,

And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved. Hosea 12:13

Your prophetic coverage determines your destiny coverage. The strength of the prophetic covering you have over you determines the width of your destiny coverage. Do not joke with the blessing of a father, pastor, prophet or mentor over your life. I know pastors who have no regard for fathers and mentors, and their lives and destinies are as stunted as a dry shrub in the desert. Many are in church and have no value for the blessing of a father, or pastoral coverage. Consequently, their destinies are scattered.

It was a prophet (Samuel) that God sent to bring David out of the wilderness.

And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. 1Samuel 16:1, 13

David remained connected to Samuel all through his reign. When Saul was after his life, he ran to Samuel, and remained under his covering for safety.

And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee? So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth. 1 Samuel 19:17-18

This was prophetic covering. If David had no regard for the prophet of his life, his life and destiny would have been aborted before the time appointed. Your destiny will not be aborted, in Jesus' Name!

DO THIS...IF YOU HAVE NOT!

Identify who your pastor, or prophet is. No one appoints a pastor or prophet over himself. God gives a pastor or prophet over your life.

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:15

God directs you to a church or reveals to you who your prophet is. Then you identify him and stay connected to God's instruction to you through that person. A prophet whose instruction you do not value will never profit you. The anointing or mantle he carries will never profit you.

I have a mentor and a prophet over my life. Many times, I have attempted to carry out some agenda or projects in Ministry, which I had to suspend after due

consultations with him. Some of these projects or steps I wanted to take were things I was so sure were the right things to do. For some, it was so painful not to go ahead with what I had intended. But my mentor had said, “No, do not do it!” And I had always ended up seeing and realizing why he said, “No”. The unction your prophet carries will never profit you if you negotiate his instructions to you.

SOW

Another thing you can do to connect to the blessing of the father, mentor or prophet is to sow into the anointing in his life. Isaac asked Esau to bring him the venison he loved so his soul could bless him. You have to sow into the life of your mentor spiritually, materially and financially.

Saul said to his servant, “But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? For the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we?”(I Samuel 9:7). He knew he needed to sow into the life of the servant of God he was going to consult.

Presently, we have a generation of people who have no value for the fatherhood, prophetic or apostolic anointing. They come to you and all they make is demands of, “Pray for me. Bless me.”

In Bible days, people never went to see a prophet empty handed. For over ten years of my life now, every month that comes, ten percent (or more) of my income goes to my prophet. I am as faithful in doing it as I am faithful in paying my tithe; and that changes my life in every way - spiritually, financially, etc. If this secret were not true, I would not write on it. And I would not write on it if I was not practicing it.

Some time ago, my little daughter and I came from a trip, from where she received some financial blessing. Then, she needed something, and her mom said to her, “You just got some money, why not use it?” And she said, “I have not paid my tithe. I have not given my Prophet’s offering...” Then she added also that she had to redeem the pledge she made in the church the previous Sunday. As a result, she said she could not touch the money.

I then thought in my heart, “How I wish I knew these things when I was her age. My life would have been definitely different from what it is at present.” Note that the Prophet she was referring to, is me, her father.

PRAY

Besides sowing into the life of your prophet, you also have to release goodwill towards him. Release intercession from your heart of hearts. Your heart must

continually bless any man or woman that God has placed over your life. Wish them well. Intercede and pray for them. I have noticed that the more I pray for an anointing that is higher than mine, the more that anointing affects my life.

When I hear about any good thing happening in the life of my father in the Lord, or my pastor, I rejoice and celebrate. I do not get scared or intimidated, or think that it is a realm I can never attain. No! I wish him well. For instance, no one can criticize my mentor in my presence or to my hearing. I will react violently. You cannot be castigating my pastor and claim to be my friend. I will disconnect from you instantly.

This, I believe, is the reason why many are where they are today. They call someone their prophet, but they can comfortably criticize the person. You should not sit in the midst of people talking against the pastor whose church you attend, and you are comfortable to still sit there with your mouth closed.

When someone insulted David one day, one of his servants said, “My Lord, permit me to go and cut off his head. I will strike him just once, not twice.” Only David could tell his servant to calm down.

Pa S.A. Sadela, still alive today at 110 years (and still preaching and going up and down), was assistant to the founder of Christ Apostolic Church, Apostle Babalola. He spoke of how, in spite of the ugly things people used to say about his boss, he chose to submit himself under the man’s authority. He said to himself, “God saw this man before me, and chose to make him my head. So, I have no complaint.”

My dear friend, connect with the father’s blessing. It is the secret for the top. Never join those who pick churches and pastors and run them down. Those are agents of the devil. Run from them or you will be a partaker of the curse they have incurred upon their lives.

Connect with the father’s blessing, if the top is your dream.

CHAPTER TWENTY TWO

BE A FIGHTER

“If you have made up your mind to get to the top, then you have made up your mind to be a fighter.”

And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. And Saul said to him, Whose son art thou, thou young man? And David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite. 1Samuel 17:57-58

And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. 1Samuel 18:6-7

There is no flight without a fight. If you have made up your mind to get to the top, then you have made up your mind to be a fighter.

By fighting lions and bears, David had the audacity to fight Goliath. When the time came, and by that victory, he was announced into authority and influence in Israel.

Samson was judge and leader of Israel and was known for his brutal fighting spirit.

To leave where you are presently, you have to fight your way from there. If you do not like the level where you are now, you do not fly from there, you fight from there. You do not fly to the top; you fight to the top.

You need to know that before a baby is born, about 99.99 million cells from a man will have to compete. The one that defeats the rest, hits the egg, fertilizes it and pregnancy takes place. You too won a race in your mother's womb. Nine months after, you still had to fight through the contractions to make your way to the birth canal to be born.

And when a baby is born and refuses to cry, they have to give it a smack on its buttocks to make it cry. Then it gives a shrill: “I win! I win!” as a cry.

Life in itself, is a fight. To sit down in one place and be lamenting your losses, crying and whining, looking for who will pity or sympathize with you, will bury you in the pit. You better wake up and fight.

I once read a story of a man who went to see a doctor. After all examinations, tests and investigations, the doctor said to him, “It is like you are not going to

make it. I will advise you to go put your house in order, because you are going to die.”

The man responded in anger, “So, who is going to take care of my wife and my children? I will not die!” The title of that book was, “Iron Will.” The man was so brutal in his decision. And guess what? He did not die!

It was with this same fighting spirit that Moses brought down the Egyptian who molested a Hebrew. Then he fled to the wilderness from where he came with the same fighting spirit to deliver God’s people from the hands of Pharaoh.

It was also with that fighting spirit that our Saviour Jesus Christ fought His way to the cross; from the cross to the belly of hell, and then rose from there. And having spoilt principalities and powers, He made an open show of them, and ascended into heaven.

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15

It was the fighting spirit that made Paul the apostle say,

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2Timothy 4:6-8

I also read about the French military General, Napoleon Bonaparte; how that with 100 men, he went ahead to rout an opposing army that was greater than them both in number and in ammunition. As Napoleon crossed the bridge with his one hundred men to meet the enemy army on the other side, he asked his men to blow up the bridge.

When that was done, he made them understand that they had to either fight to win or fight to die. These hundred men stood their ground and fought, and won. Why? very obvious: Victory belongs only to fighters. You must therefore make up your mind to be a fighter - especially in spiritual battles against the forces of darkness that want to collapse your destiny by all means.

Flying from Lagos to Abuja one day, I sat beside an Aeronautic Engineer and I asked him to tell me some things about the aircraft and how it flies. He told me that there are four major forces that the aircraft has to contend with in order to fly.

First, it has to overcome its own enormous weight, which wants to keep it on the ground. The second is the drag - the force of the wind - which tends to oppose its

motion forward. The aircraft then supplies the third and fourth forces - the lift which takes it up and the thrust which propels it forward.

He made me understand that flight happens when lift overcomes weight and thrust overcomes drag. That is, the force that lifts up the aircraft must overcome the force that wants to keep it down (the weight). The force that pushes it forward, must overcome the force that drags it backwards. And when that happens, the aeroplane must fly.

That is the way it is with your life and destiny. There are ancestral and generational forces seeking to keep you down, but there is the power of resurrection that wants to take you up.

There are some limitations inside you that want to push you backwards, but there is the power of the anointing and revelation of the Word of God that want to push you forward. It is up to you then to make a choice: which force you will allow to dominate in your life.

For you to move up, lift must overcome weight and thrust must overcome drag. What are the things pulling you down? What are the things dragging you backwards? Determine to generate enough force to contend with them. That is what makes you a fighter.

When you are tired of poverty, prosperity arrives. When you are tired of bondage, liberty arrives. The prodigal son demonstrated this:

And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee... Luke 15:15-18

You must come to a point where you fight your way out of what is limiting your destiny.

Do you want to get to the top? Are you really ready for the top? My counsel to you is this: Do not dodge battles. Face them and phase them out. What faced your mother that now wants to face you, face it and finish it. What hindered your father, that is planning to hinder you, face it and finish it.

There is definitely hope for you. After all, there are things you now know which your father did not know; so what killed your father is not permitted to kill you. There are revelations you now have which your family members never had. Your ancestors never attended the kind of church you are now attending. So the

generational and ancestral witchcraft that killed them cannot kill you.

I want you to take good note of this: every battle that comes in your life is not to destroy you, but to reveal you. The Goliath battle in the first Book of Samuel and the seventeenth chapter, came to reveal David, both to himself and to his generation. It was not to collapse him. And I need to let you know that, as a child of God, whatever will collapse you, will never confront you. God will never allow it.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

That should let you know that the battle you are celebrating, God has already ‘commonized’ it. As long as you are connected to his might, you are equal to any fight. Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). The Philip’s Modern English translation puts it this way: “I am equal to anything by the strength of Christ that works in me.” Yes, you are equal to any emergency. As long as you are connected to His might, you are equal to any fight.

I see you going to the top already.

DECLARE NOW WITH CONFIDENCE:

I see myself going high.

No devil can stop me!

CHAPTER TWENTY THREE

BE A RISK-TAKER

“Most front-liners are risk-takers whether in Gospel circles or wherever - most world shakers are risk-takers.”

There is no rise without risk. And there is no reach without risk. If you desire to be at the top, you must be a risk-taker.

Do you know the major difference between Africans and Caucasians? It is in risk-taking. The traditional African background discourages risk-taking. You are always advised to be careful, or to take it easy. They say to you, “You know money? It does not grow on trees. So be very careful.”

That is why, if you watch the Olympic games, Africans do not usually participate in the risk-oriented games. You will rarely see Africans in skating, mountain-climbing, surfing, car racing or walking tight ropes. No!

Africans have some risk-discouraging statements in proverbs like, “A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.” And that limits their performance. But the Caucasians take all manner of risks. And that is why there is literally no limit to their inventions.

What many of us do not know is that another spelling for faith is r-i-s-k. I have come to realize that most front-liners are risk-takers - whether in Gospel circles or wherever - most world shakers are risk-takers.

Look at Mordecai, for instance. Everyone else bowed down to Haman, except him.

And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence. Esther 3:2

That was a risk!

When Esther took a decision to go before the king to plead for the Jews, without an invitation from the king, it was a risk. It was against the Persian law.

Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. Esther 4:10-11

But she decided to take a risk.

Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

Question: Did Esther perish? No! Many times the fear that others envisage do not really exist when the risk is taken.

Moses' decision to go deliver the Israelites from the hand of Pharaoh was a risk (Exodus 5-12).

When Daniel purposed in his heart not to eat the food from the king's table, he was taking a risk.

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king. Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

Daniel 1:8 -12

The risk was justified

And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. Daniel 1:20

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. That was a risk.

There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Daniel 3:12

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said to the king himself:

O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou

hast set up. Daniel 3:16-18

Daniel, again, took a risk when in defiance of the king's decree, he went on to pray to his God, as his custom was; even at the risk of being thrown into the lion's den (Daniel chapter 6).

A 17-year old boy stood before Goliath, and defying his height and threats, said to him:

This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 1 Samuel 17:46

That was a risk David took!

When Martin Luther came with the message of "The just shall live by faith and not by any man-made laws," without fear of the Roman Church, it was a risk.

When, in the days of racism, a woman named Rosa Parks decided to sit down in that bus, on the 2nd of December 1955, refusing to stand up for any white man, it was a risk.

When Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the steps of Lincoln Memorial on August 8, 1963, and boldly declared his dream of a coming day when slaves and slave-owners will sit together, it was a risk!

Beloved, where there is no risk, there is no rise. If you dream of rising to the top, you will have to be a risk-taker.

When a young medical doctor, came into Abuja from Jos, with a bag and a medical doctor wife, going from one street in Abuja to the other, not knowing where to go, where to sleep or who to go to, claiming that God had called him, and not even knowing where his salary would come from; it was a risk.

There are people who are still calculating how to start, long after God has called them into Ministry. They lack the audacity to confront the challenges of stepping out into Ministry. As for us, see where risk has brought us. praise God! If I have another opportunity, I will still take yet another risk.

STEP OUT!

Until you stick out your neck, you do not rise above the crowd. That is the definition of risk – sticking out your neck to rise above the crowd; stepping out to stand out.

You see, beloved, your future starts where your fear ends. Your future does not start until your fear has died. Your future begins where your fear ends. The death

of fear is the birth of the future. To fear the reaction is to take no action. That is, those who fear reactions never take actions. So they remain paralyzed in stagnation.

My counsel is this: Identify what must be done, weigh the options, choose the best option and get started. It is only when you begin to move that you come to realize that your fear is also 'fearing' you. Yes, your fear is afraid of you, it is just that you do not know it.

I heard of a man of God who went somewhere to preach in a crusade. He was a guest in another pastor's house, and in the night, he prayed and lay down on the bed to sleep. By 3.00 AM, he woke up to see "a demon" in the middle of the room. Then he began to pray in tongues, and the demon simply shifted position and remained. Then he began to bind the demon and declare Scriptural realities, after which he commanded the demon, "Get out!" The demon shifted again and remained.

The man of God burst into some more diverse tongues, and the demon shifted a little, but still remained! This battle continued till 6.00 AM. As rays of light came into the room, he suddenly realized that it was a raincoat he had spent all night binding. The raincoat hung there and occasionally moved this way and that, as breeze from the window blew against it. And all the while, this pastor thought it was a demon.

Can you not see, that most of the things you are afraid of are actually nothing?

I take authority over the spirit of fear in your life right now. Whatever has tied you down up until now, I bind that devil, and I cast it out now in the Name of Jesus!

Fear as an acronym is:

F -false

E -evidence

A -appearing

R -real

For instance, the enemy camouflages like a lion to tear down your destiny. But he is not a lion.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 1Peter 5:8-9

You do not need to fear the camouflage of satan. The negative thing you fear excuses you from the positive. Those who fear failure are excused from success. Part of the success process is your willingness to embrace failure, if necessary. You must make up your mind: “Even if I fail, as long as I succeed at the end, there is no challenge.”

If you are afraid to propose to that lady because you are afraid of how her refusal will hurt your ego and dignity, you will remain unmarried. You must be willing to confront the challenge of a “No!” from anyone in order to see the possibility of a “Yes.

If you are going to the top and you mean to get there, you must necessarily take risk.

CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR

INVEST IN PEOPLE

“When you raise people, they will in turn raise you. If you really caught fire, catch someone else and set him on fire.”

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. Genesis 14:14

It is required of anyone who wants to get to the top to be a people-developer. It has been said that to live for self is to live like a slave. I have also heard it said that to live for self is to live for less.

Abraham had men he was training, and that was the reason for his reigning. The degree to which you train people is the degree to which you will reign in life. It is not possible to raise people and you are not raised alongside.

To invest in people is to harvest influence in life. Invest in people and you will invariably harvest influence. That is why every people-developer is a people-influencer.

David took 400 nonentities and made mighty men out of them all.

And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men. 1Samuel 22:2

Imagine how these same men are described in 2 Samuel 23:8:

These are the names of the MIGHTY MEN whom David had...(Emphasis mine)

These were the people that fought the battles. In 2Samuel 21:15-17, we have this record:

Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint. And Ishbibenob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David. But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.

The people were invariably saying, “You have trained us to fight battles. Now, go and rest, we will fight the battles for you.”

Just like David, Daniel took advantage of his promotion to make a case for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego:

Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king. Daniel 2:49

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were eventually lifted to the same level as Daniel.

You see, when you raise people, you will come to a point in your life where it becomes impossible for you to be stranded. Let me give a vivid example with Pastor E. A. Adeboye. Where he is today, whatever he chooses to do - whether to work or not, to preach or not - he can never be stranded all his life. This is because of the multitude of lives he has raised from zero level to great heights of success and accomplishments in life.

Look at Bishop David Oyedepo too. It is too late for him to fail - even if he wanted to - because he has so many sons who are heads of mega churches all over the world, and they will never allow his hands to drop.

I personally, in my own capacity, have people from all over the world, calling and sending in gifts of all kinds monthly, testifying of how my preaching of the Word on cable, the internet, etc., has affected their lives.

Look, when you live for yourself, you live like a slave; but when you live beyond yourself, you live beyond your time. In all your pursuits in life, ensure that you pour into others. Pour into others the grace, the blessings and revelation of God in your life. Pour it out. It will take you up and keep you up.

In your life time, for instance, make sure there is at least one child you train from primary school level to either secondary or university level. Let there be someone you helped to stand.

Someone I had known from childhood once came to me, lamenting about how he had sought for a job to no avail. I asked him if he could get into business and he said he could, but that he did not have the money to start one. All I did was give him the much I could and told him to go see what that could start for him.

A few months later, he returned to me with about double what I had given him, as prophet's offering for me, saying, "I have come to say, thank you!" Not long after again, he had finished a contract from which he paid money in seven digits into his personal account.

I then challenged him to pick someone up and do unto that person as I did unto him. "Give him money", I said, "and teach him how to multiply it."

When you raise people, they will in turn raise you. If you really caught fire, catch someone else and set them on fire.

In those days, while we were in the university, we told ourselves that our major assignment was “Fire Distribution!” And I can tell you that, today, there are many people around the world who caught that fire from us more than twenty years ago and are still on fire. The fire has not gone out. I met one of them recently; he is an Assistant Pastor in a great church. That was university fire; still burning.

Invest in people. Raise people. In every assignment you find yourself in, pour something into people. Change people’s levels, and your level will never remain the same. Upgrade people’s status and your status will keep changing. Upgrade people’s destinies. It is a secret to the top.

CHAPTER TWENTY FIVE

MAINTAIN A PASSION FOR THE KINGDOM

“Your favour for God’s kingdom will command God’s favour in your direction.”

Your passion for God affects your motion in life. Your passion for God also affects your portion in life. Your passion for God determines your position on the earth.

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. Psalms 35:27

Anyone who favours God’s cause is a candidate for the success that God gives.

Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof

. Psalm 102:13-14

The favour of God flows for people who favour Zion. God is interested in anyone who is interested in Zion. To favour the cause of the kingdom is to attract the favour of God. Show me a man who does not care about the cause of God on the earth, and I will show you a God who also does not care about such a man. Your favour for God’s kingdom will command God’s favour in your direction. Passion for God’s kingdom will take you to the top.

It was passion for God that took David to the top. He confronted Goliath at the risk of his own life; but see where God took him to.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego went into the fire because of their love for God. See where they ended up.

Nehemiah left the comfort of the palace to go and rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem, and he ended up a Governor.

My dear, your passion for God’s kingdom will take you to the top. Let God be the reason for which you live. Let everything about your life revolve around God. Whether you make money or have academic pursuits, let it all revolve around God. Let God be the reason you are alive.

Because of the level of fire and passion for God I carried in me while I was in the University, many thought I was not going to go through school. They thought I was going to run off and start Ministry. The fire was so much. I had an

agreement with God though. I had said to Him, before I went into the University, “Lord, I am going in as a Campus Evangelist, a Minister of God; not just to become the one and only medical doctor. I am going in there because your work is taking me in there. Medicine is going to be my pulpit. Only ensure that I do not fail any examination as I preach the Gospel.”

It was an agreement; and as I began to rage through that campus like a tornado, a mobile fire, I kept on passing from one level to the other in my course of study.

Then, when I was set for marriage, with the same passion, I said to God, “Lord, give me a wife that will be ready to follow me to the Sahara Desert, if you do send me there; a wife that would be willing to follow me anywhere at the shortest notice. Not a woman who would suggest going to Paris rather than go where you would send me. Not a woman who would be talking money when I am talking Ministry.”

What I am trying to pass across is the fact that passion will make you make decisions for things that pertain to the kingdom rather than for carnal, earthly and natural things that disconnect you from God instead. This is the reason why many do not see the favour of God in what they do.

For instance, show me a man who will say, “Lord, in this business, you are my principal partner. I am not in it because I want to make money and become a rich man; but to promote your kingdom,” and I will show you a Jehovah who will show up for that man.

Let God be the reason for which you live, and the reason for everything you want to achieve in life. When God is the reason for which you do the things you do, then you will come to a point where the devil has no claims over your life.

Samuel’s mother said to God, “Give me a son (not because I am barren; not because I want to be like other women), and I will donate him to you as a priest.”

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1Samuel 1:10-11

The demon of barrenness heard that and packed its bags and fled, knowing that God was involved in the matter. Did she get what she asked for? ‘Sharp sharp!’ instantly, urgently. No delay.

For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there. 1Samuel 1:27-28

May I say this again: let God be the reason you are alive. In the real sense of the word, you will never be involved in examination malpractice when you are in school; you will never be involved in fraudulent business practices, if God is the reason why you are alive.

Let your heart beat permanently after God. That is what it means to have a passion for the kingdom. At every point in time, let everything about and around you remind you and others of God.

Psalms 42:1 says, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." This is talking about a permanent heartbeat for God - either in worship or praying in the Spirit. Anytime you are in a state of 'prayerlessness,' 'worshiplessness' or 'studyness,' you are in a state of emergency, spiritually.

This is what I mean: If you do not feel like praying, studying the Bible or worshipping, your heart is just cold and dry, you are in an emergency spiritual situation that needs an emergency rescue operation. By a permanent desire to worship, and an inalterable yearning after God, you confirm your spirituality. By the buoyancy of your spirit and the vitality of your soul, you confirm the health of your spiritual life. When that is in place, relax, you are on your way to the top.

GIVE YOUR RESOURCES

A passion for the kingdom also demands that you use your money (your resources) to promote the welfare of the kingdom. It does not matter whether you speak in the tongue of men or of angels, if you are stingy towards God, you do not like God. You may say you love God, and then you hear about kingdom expansion, evangelism, TV outreach and all other commitments required of you, and you are not moved. The reason is not that you are poor, it is actually bankruptcy of spirituality.

Your heart would be permanently moved to release your resources for the cause of the kingdom if you are always asking, "What can I do for the kingdom? How can I promote God's work on a permanent basis?"

Before God called me into Ministry, I had thought we were going to have a Medical Centre, where even the security man at the gate will also be empowered to cast out devils or lay hands on a tumour and it would disappear. Then there would be no need for any prescription anymore. I thought we would have a Medical Centre where the Lab Technician would cast out the demon of HIV

using the person's blood sample as a point of contact. I thought we would have a Medical Center where the nurses would bring total deliverance to children with meningitis. I am talking about a hospital where every member of staff would be on fire. That was the kind of picture I had. And I know that hospital will still be a reality someday.

I had seen myself going from running such a hospital to preaching the Gospel all over the world and returning again to the hospital. But God said to me, "You are going full blast into the preaching of the Gospel;" and I said, "Yes Sir!"

Before then, I just wanted to serve God. I had this awe and respect for pastors that made me ever ready to offer any form of service or hospitality required; and they would always bless me in return. Such were the things that confirmed my permanent heartbeat and passion.

Beloved, when your resources begin to flow into the cause of the kingdom, your passion is confirmed, and your portion no devil can take.

EXCITED SERVICE

One of the things that also confirm your passion for God is excited service. You just want to do something - clean chairs, sing in the choir, sweep the church or be in the ushering department. That is excited service. You just want to do something for God.

I remember when I rededicated my life to Christ. I got so excited about serving God that I went to the campus fellowship and cleaned up the meeting venue all alone, long before the old members arrived. Then I stood out at the entrance to the venue to welcome members to the fellowship. Subsequently I also joined the choir and was also involved in intercession. That was how passionate my commitment to kingdom service was.

I want to tell you that it is not the right thing to merely attend church and sit like a 'big man'. The boss-mentality will put you in a box. Do not be a member of a church and all you do is complain about what people are not doing well: "The chairs are not even clean. The traffic control is so poor," etc. Join them and assist to control it well. Do not sit in the House of God and keep complaining about what is not working.

Is there a department you are interested in, but it does not exist in your church? Then create it - with the permission of the leadership, of course. By all means, ensure that you are fully involved in the work of the kingdom of God. That is what will take you from the pit to the top.

CHAPTER TWENTY SIX

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD

“Those who trust in God cannot rust in life.”

For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not. Isaiah 30:15

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. Jeremiah 17:5-8

Confidence in God determines competence in life. Confidence in God is the key to influence on the earth. Men and women who are confident in God are influential on the earth. Confidence in God offers you a covering in life. Your strength is in your confidence in God.

If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Job 14:14

We can put Job 14:14 this way: “Death cannot take me, because I am waiting on God for something.” The truth is that those who wait on the Lord cannot waste on the earth.

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31

Maybe you have been waiting for God to give you a wife, a husband, a child, a job; or to settle you in one way or the other. And many have watched you and thought you are wasting your time going to church. I will like to let you know that those who wait on the Lord are not permitted to waste in life. No!

Reassure yourself, “I am waiting on God; I am not wasting in life.”

Those who trust in God cannot rust in life.

Those who look up to God must go up in life. Joseph went up. David went up. Nehemiah went up. Those who look up to God will always go up in life. Those who look up to God cannot go down in life. There is only one direction for those who look up to God to go; and that is UP.

*They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.
Psalms 34:5*

That also means, their weight was lightened, and they were not ashamed.

If you are not hopeless, then, you cannot be helpless. If you have not lost hope, then your help is sure. If you have not lost hope in God, then you cannot lack help from God. This explains why the devil makes men to lose hope. As long as your hope is alive, your help is on the way. And as long as your faith is alive, your change must come.

Confidence in God was Job’s secret.

*Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways
before him.
Job 13:15*

Confidence in God was Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s secret.

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Daniel 3:17-18

Confidence in God was Daniel’s secret. The king came to the lion’s den the following day to check on Daniel and asked him, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? (Daniel 6:20).

*Daniel answered from the lion’s den, “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut
the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him
innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no
hurt”(Daniel 6:21-22).*

None of all these men I have mentioned were useless men. None! Job, for instance, we were told, was “the greatest man in the East.” Their secret was confidence in God.

I want to implore you to look away from man and look up to God. We have

already seen from Scriptures that it is a curse for a man to look up to another man for anything in life. It does not really matter who or what that person is, as long as the person is human. To look up to a human being in great confident trust is to come under God's curse.

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. Jeremiah 17:5

By the mercies of God, our Ministry is running on heaven's budget. There is no one in the church who will cease to pay his/her tithe today and then the Ministry is stranded. There is no one who can claim that he or she is the major sponsor of the Ministry. Anyone who would do that jeopardizes his life, because God has said He will never share His glory with any man.

You need to know, however, that there are some Ministries today that solely depend on men for the running of the Ministry. There are people they consider "major sponsors" of the work. That is not what it should be. Confidence in God is the key. Confidence in Him may make you look or sound arrogant to some people. Many may mistake your confidence for pride. But David talks about making his boast in the Lord(Psalm 34:2).

Again, if you plan to get to the top and remain on top, here is my counsel to you: Never you give up on God. Never!

Also, keep His promises, not your problems, in perspective. Let His promises be your focus.

Finally, trust Him, even when you cannot trace Him. You may not even know from which angle His help is coming, but trust Him all the same.

A little girl had a revelation of Jesus, and she saw Jesus and herself move through a certain place, with Jesus in front and she behind. Then at a point, in the vision, she could only see Jesus' footsteps. "Where are my own footsteps?" she wondered.

Later on, she asked Jesus, "Jesus, what happened out there? Why did I not see my own footsteps?" And Jesus answered, "That was the point where you were too weak to walk, so I picked you up and put you on my shoulder. That was why my footsteps alone were visible."

In an examination hall, when the invigilating teacher notices you are not following the instructions, he tries to put you in order. And the conversation between you two continues for as long as you are not getting the instructions right. But when everywhere is quiet, the teacher will not be saying anything to you. Most likely then, you are getting the instructions right.

That is what happens, sometimes, when it is like you cannot trace God. It is because He is confident that you are not going to miss your way; that you are headed in the right direction; and that you will land safely. So He just looks out for you to land.

Have confidence in God and He will see you through the darkest tunnel and lead you to the top without any encumbrances.

CHAPTER TWENTY SEVEN

PUT SERVICE AHEAD OF STATUS

“Your impact is more important than your income”

And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, Nehemiah 1:3-4

If you want to go up in life, you must put service ahead of status. Nehemiah was working in the palace as the king's cupbearer. It was a most trusted position for a most trusted person, and also a most dangerous job too. If anyone ever poisoned the king's wine, Nehemiah would be the first to taste it, and thus, must be the first to die.

Yet, with such a respected and promising status, he could not imagine continuing in such luxury in the palace while the walls of Jerusalem remained broken down, with God's people in great distress. He chose to leave the palace for the slum. He chose to leave the pleasure of the palace for poverty instead. That brought the turnaround in Nehemiah's destiny. From being the king's cupbearer, he became the Governor of Judah - just by putting service ahead of status.

Understand these and meditate upon them:

Your impact is more important than your income.

Making a difference is superior to making a living. In your place of work, church, family, and neighbourhood, you must make a difference. That is more important than just making a living.

Your service in life determines your rewards with God. Many harass God continually with requests of, “God, do this for me. God, do that for me.” Meanwhile, they are neither serving God nor man. Your service in life determines your rewards with God.

Those who live for status, end like statues. Have you ever seen a statue? It may be beautiful, yes, but it is immobile, useless and good for nothing. Those who live for status, always looking for positions, end up as statues. But those who live for service end in stardom. Ask Moses and David, and they will tell you they served their generations.

For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: Acts 13:36

Joseph served his generation.

And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Genesis 45:7

Again, those who live for status end like statues. Those who live for service end in stardom.

Where you live is not as important as what you live for. That is why someone living in a ghetto might have a more meaningful existence than someone living in a GRA (Government Reserved Area) or even a castle. Where you live is not as important as what you are alive for.

Now I ask you: What is your reason for living? What difference is your life making?

What you drive is not as important as what drives you. People are driven by very different things. There are people driven to change their generation. Some are driven to eradicate poverty. Some are driven to send the devil back to hell; to take prostitutes off the streets or to deliver people from drug addiction. Then, there are those driven by pleasures - people who are always talking about their latest cars, etc.

Someone once expressed concern about the model of car my family owns, and was wondering if it could not be changed for a better one. The truth of the matter is that there is no model of car my wife and I want now that we cannot have. But, like Jesus said, "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things which he possesses"(Luke 12:15).

Please, do not misunderstand me. If God has blessed you enough to own a jet, go ahead and buy one. If God has blessed you to own the latest model of BMW, go ahead and get it. But what I am communicating to you is that what you drive is not as important as what drives you.

You need to know that what drives you can eventually bring you to a place where you can afford to drive anything you desire in this life. If the right thing, the right vision or the right passion drives you, you will soon come to a place where there is nothing you want to drive that you cannot drive.

I will really like you to come to that place where you are passionately, excitedly and enthusiastically optimistic. That place where you are "infectiously" passionate; where no one comes around you and is not "infected" by a passion to change their generation.

What you get out of life is not as important as what you give into life. Most people go into politics only for what they will get out of the government. Meanwhile, there are those who are looking out for what they can give to their generation before they leave this world - people like Martin Luther King Jr; J. F. Kennedy, George Washington, etc.

Please make up your mind, and be determined to put service ahead of status. Do not ever struggle for position anywhere you are found. Just struggle for function, and the function will give you a position. You know, no one can hide a pastor material for long enough in the ushering department. He would not last there, because, even as he stands in his office as an usher, people can literally see him oozing the pastoral anointing.

You see, you do not need to struggle to be known. Do not struggle for position. Just determine to deploy potential. Your generation is asking what you came to earth with for them: "What did you bring from eternity to this world? Download it," they say.

I see you having an encounter that the devil cannot pretend not to notice. Now, here is my counsel to you: Refuse to live for self, begin now to make a difference. Wherever you are, become relevant; be known for the impact you are making.

Some people die and people rejoice; but there are those who die and a generation continues to feel the vacuum.

I heard this story: A man died, and at his funeral, there was this man that cried profusely. Everyone thought it was because he loved the man so much. But he was lamenting, "The man is owing me money. How can I get my money back now?" Terrible! Is it not? Someone said to him, "Why not wake him up and collect your money?"

Put service ahead of status. Shun the way of eye service and ostentatious displays. It is better that someone is delivered from the spirit of addiction or alcohol by the heavy-weight unction flowing from your voice in the choir, than that you received a standing ovation for your wonderful voice. That would be a waste of opportunity.

Put service ahead of status and watch yourself soar to enviable heights.

CHAPTER TWENTY EIGHT

WORK IN WISDOM

“Wisdom is the secret of stardom.”

Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

Ecclesiastes 8:1

The way to the top is paved with the tiles of wisdom.

Wisdom is the secret of stardom. If you see a star in any area, he or she is wise in that area. Solomon's stardom was sponsored by the wisdom of God in his life.

And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her. And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. 1Kings 10:4-7

Wisdom is the key to freedom. Joseph's freedom was secured by wisdom. He had the wisdom to interpret Pharaoh's dream and to proffer solution to the interpretation. And that took him from the prison to the palace.

And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. Genesis 41:38-41

Wisdom establishes a kingdom.

By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. Proverbs 8:15-16

So, wisdom does not only give you a kingdom, but much more, it establishes you as king over that kingdom.

To be wise is to rise. To be a fool is to fail. Foolishness is a major sponsor of failure in life. There are many relationship failures, business failures, and failed banks - all caused by foolishness.

You cannot be successful until you are strategic. You must be a strategic pastor, businessman, politician, etc. to be successful. It was strategy that Barrack Obama employed to win the election into the White House as President of the United States of America. While the old voters voted who they wanted, he introduced new voters - people who had never voted before all their lives. Thus he pulled them all in. Then he also maximized the power of the internet. You cannot be successful until you are strategic in your approach.

The Bible says in Proverbs 14:1 that “Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.” This tells us that stupidity is the major reason for the instability of homes. I would like to describe stupidity as an affliction called, “Stupiditis.” You see, I cannot understand why a man and his wife would agree to succumb to tension. Neither of them is happy and they do not care if it remains so. Another word for stupidity is “Mumulity”.

One day, a couple took many hours of my day talking about their marital problems. From that day on, I swore never to allow such a waste of my time. Abraham Lincoln said, “Every adult above the age of forty is responsible for the way his face looks.”

I once read the humorous story of a man who was once a pastor, but later decided to leave the work of a pastor to become a funeral home director -that is, taking care of dead bodies. When concerned people asked him, “Why?” He said, “When I was a pastor, couples would sit me down for hours counseling them, yet, in the end, they still go on and divorce. But now, any position I lay these dead ones, they remain there. They do not give me headache. There is 100% compliance.”

CAUTION: Do not abandon your Divine call because of human action.

If you have been in four relationships that ended up broken. Sit down and ask yourself, “What is happening here? What is it that needs to be corrected?”

Imagine that your husband is always angry with you. You should ask yourself, “What am I not doing right? What am I always saying wrong?” Watch and correct it.

Only a fool will keep doing the same things over and over again and expect different results. That is actually the definition of madness.

Wisdom! Wisdom! Wisdom! That is what takes men up. You cannot be struggle-free until you are strategy-full. It was wisdom that took Joseph, Daniel and David up. Of David, we read,

And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely:

and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants. And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by. 1Samuel 18:5,14,30

And David kept rising to the top.

Understand that the wiser you are, the “shinier” your life.

VISIT THE WISDOM BANK

The Word of God is our wisdom bank. The Bible is the book of wisdom. If you need wisdom, connect yourself to the Word of God, and definitely, your life will change. Every single day of your life, endeavour to get something out of the wisdom bank—the Bible.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Matthew 7:24-25

The sayings of God equal wisdom. Connect yourself with this Book of wisdom and act on the Word.

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2Timothy 3:15

I counsel you today, not to be an ignorant man. Be highly learned and highly informed. Go for spiritual information, and other information related to every area of your endeavour.

Then also, take the time to think. It is not everything that prayer alone will handle. In Isaiah 1:18, God said, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

This tells you that even God, the Almighty, believes in your using your brain. Sit down and think. Your mental muscle is not developed until you begin to reason. You are only confirmed a wise man if you are a confirmed thinker. And the deeper your thoughts, the stronger your life.

I know you have quiet time, worship time, prayer time, but I would also like you to sit down and have thinking time - with pen and paper ready by your side to

document the products of your thinking, 'strategizing' and planning.

Planning is the crux of thinking:

Think on what can be done;

Write down your thoughts;

Weigh your options;

Select the most workable option;

Allocate a deadline;

Go to work;

Whatever has a deadline makes the headlines!

CHAPTER TWENTY NINE

ASSOCIATE CORRECTLY

“Association affects acceleration, and can also cause stagnation.”

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20

He that walks with the wealthy must necessarily be wealthy, if he is interested in the secret of their wealth. Eagles move with eagles. Lions move with lions. Dogs move with dogs, and ducks move with ducks. Vultures collaborate with vultures to destroy dead flesh. Pigs celebrate together in the mud.

Who you associate with is a confirmation of who you are. If a thief is your friend, it is either you are a thief, or you are interested in ‘thievery’. It could also be that you have a sympathy for thieves. And I bet you, when they look for that thief and they cannot find him, they will quickly trace you. It is simple. They just say, “We know one of his friends.” Many have ended up in prison because of their kind of association.

Association brings assimilation - that is, absorption. It is much the same way a metal kept close to a magnet acquires magnetic property. In the same manner, you begin to absorb the character of anyone you hang around. You begin to talk, act, behave or dress like that person.

Association affects acceleration, and can also cause stagnation. Now, imagine a three-year old insisting on walking ahead of adults. What do you think will be the speed of everyone else behind him? They will walk at his speed, of course. No matter how much of a hurry they are in, they will all be forced to slow down to his speed, by the power of association. Their acceleration has been converted into slow motion. If they want to go at a faster speed, someone will have to yank that child off the ground and put him on his shoulder.

Imagine again, a caterpillar towing a Lexus. What will be the speed of the Lexus? Caterpillar speed, of course. Why? It is connected to the caterpillar. When an eagle becomes friends with the chicken, the eagle loses its speed for that of a chicken.

When an antelope gets into a race with a pig, it cannot go farther than the speed of the pig.

These analogies explain why many are where they are today in life. They are accommodating excess of unprofitable human relationships - people headed in no definite direction in life.

It is not wise to drive behind a man who is not going as far as you are going. He will keep slowing you down, because he is not going far. There are many people in this life who are not going far; so their vision is so myopic - just here. What they want in life are just some little, little fantasies. If you are a man going far in life, you will discharge such people in a hurry.

The sons of the prophets kept seeking to distract Elisha from his adventure into the double portion anointing from Elijah. And he steadfastly discharged them with: "I know, hold your peace." That is, "If you people are satisfied with remaining at Jericho, stay there. As for me, I am going on a far journey."

You see, friendship is not by force, it is by choice. We have been commanded to love one another, but not to be friends with everyone. "Love is a command, but relationship is a choice"(Bishop David Abioye).

Association brings distinction; but it can also cause distraction. When Daniel was promoted, he requested of the king that his friends - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be promoted also.

Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king. Daniel 2:49

May God, by the right association, connect you with people that will take you along to the top. Much more, may you be someone that will take others along too.

Association - right association - brings motivation. Wrong association can also bring 'demotivation.' The right association brings inspiration. A real friend will challenge you to step out of the boat and walk on water. He tells you: "You can do it." But the wrong association brings 'demotivation'.

There are friends who do not see any possibilities in any venture. You tell them that God has called you into Ministry, and they tell you not to try it, because pastors are beggars. You tell them about a girl you want to get married to, and they tell you that rather than marry that girl, they prefer to remain single. You come up with a great vision for a business you see taking you round the world, and they say, "Ah, it will not work in this country."

I am sure you have encountered such people in your life. By the time you finished talking with them, your vision almost died. That is why you must connect with the right people, who will take you up.

Association affects conviction - your beliefs, your attitude. Someone can provoke your faith, because he or she is the right person. The ten spies Moses

sent to spy Canaan brought fear into the hearts of the people, but Caleb and Joshua stilled their fears.

And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Numbers 14:6-8

You need the right association to maintain the right conviction. Samson discarded his conviction, because he got into a relationship with a Delilah that encouraged him to fall into sin. Right association will reinforce your conviction. Wrong association will destroy your conviction.

Imagine your so-called friend saying to you, “What? As big as you are, you have never tasted alcohol before? Taste it; it will not do you any harm. In fact, I had to take some shots before I left the house this morning.” What is he doing? He is encouraging you to do what you vowed never to do, with all kinds of mockery. That friend is the Amnonic-Jonadab, or Absalom association - very destructive.

And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do anything to her. But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man. And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister. And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand. 2Samuel 13:2-5

Please keep company with someone who will encourage you to uphold your convictions; someone who will say to you, “Even if you are the only one who is not taking bribe in this office, stay so. God will reward you,” not someone like Jonadab who will teach you to do what will kill you prematurely.

Twenty years ago, when my wife and I were in courtship, a brother (who was also in courtship at the time) asked me, “Do you sometimes hug each other? I do it myself.” As at today, that brother is not really established in life, and that courtship did not end in marriage eventually.

I need to let you know that there are people the devil sends your way to break your neck; but you must be the one to break that devil's neck. And if that person

he sent does not take time, his or her neck will be broken too.

Your association affects your destination. It affects where you will end in life.

Your association affects your position in life.

At this point, I will like you to make a list of the three most important people in your life, whose voices you respect, whose counsel you listen to, whose lifestyles you are consciously or unconsciously trying to adopt. That list will give you an idea of what your future will look like.

Whoever your friends are, they are the summary of your future. The influences around you are a summary of your future. If what you see on the list is not a picture of the future you want to see, let go the wrong ones and wait for the right ones. Do not be afraid to disconnect from the wrong company. Do not over-respect anyone so much as to allow them remain in your life when they should not; when they are meant to expire from your life. Receive the gift of saying, "Bye bye!"

On the other hand, anytime you see the right association (the right mentor or pastor), pursue it. Many of us, our "bigmanism" excuses us from opportunities. We are simply too big and "peacockish": "Is it not impartation? I too can receive it directly from God." But I tell you, there is a difference between a staircase and a lift. Going by yourself is like using a staircase to go up a storey building, but a mentor or positive association, is like a lift.

It is never a sign of weakness to pursue - like Elisha pursued Elijah. It is actually one of the greatest signs of strength. To recognize in someone else, grace that you need in your life, and you pursue after it, is a sign of strength, not weakness.

One day, I sat in a meeting where a certain man talked so ruggedly. Referring to spectacles, he said, "All of you putting on windscreens over your eyes, remove them now! Do not block your eyes with unbelief!" Then he began to lay hands (ruggedly) on people, anointing them with oil and commanding their healing.

When he was done, he asked for a handkerchief to wipe his hands.

"Handkerchief?" I asked myself. "What is my suit waiting for?" I quickly rushed forward and handed him my suit to wipe his hands. He took the suit from me, and said, "I know what you are looking for..."

May God, in this season of His move, send the right people your way. May He link you up with the right business, marital, career and financial contacts and connections, in Jesus' Name!

CHAPTER THIRTY

OPERATE WITH LIGHT

“You cannot move from where you are until you see beyond where you are.”

– Martin Luther King Jr

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
Isaiah 60:1

In order to go up in life, you must operate with light. That light is called revelational light.

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory. Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Isaiah 60:2-8

In verse one, they got light, and in verse eight, they began to fly. So, light is a secret of flight. Light is a key to flight. Do you want to fly higher in life? Go for greater light. It is the key to flight.

Illumination facilitates distinction. On a drama stage, for instance, when the curtains are drawn, the stage is dark. Then suddenly, the lights come on, and then the actors and actresses are illuminated. And they stand out, distinctly for all to see. Illumination facilitates distinction. If your life is in obscurity, you need light to bring you out.

Revelation is the secret of elevation.

And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain. Galatians 2:2

If you are down, it is because you lack revelation. To go up, you need revelation.

“I went up by revelation,” Paul said. To go up spiritually, maritally, financially, and career-wise, you need a revelation.

Knowledge brings a new edge. Where there is knowledge, there must be something to show “Arise, shine, for your light is come.”

Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15,

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Truth is key to triumph.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

And what is made cannot be unmade. For instance, you cannot remove the brand marks of a Zebra. It was created with the marks.

If you ever get to know the truth about Divine healing, for instance, it becomes a “fixed deposit” for you. All you need to do is keep fueling the light; and for 30 years you are still in Divine health. The truth manufactured you into Divine health.

If you ever get to know the truth about financial prosperity, your whole lineage can never be poor. If you ever get to know the truth about marital harmony and dignity, and the secret of the anointing, there are people who may fast more than you, but you will still have more results than them; because the truth shall make you free.

Do you know the type of revelation I mean here? It is the type that enters your spirit, and you begin to dance. You begin to look for devils to cast out, because the truth has intoxicated you like someone who took strong, concentrated alcohol.

John Alexander Dowie was a frustrated and miserable missionary in Australia who had buried many members of his church who died from a terrible plague that hit the city. Then he went before God, and cried out, “Oh God, what is the answer?” Immediately, God responded to his desperate cry with Acts 10:38:

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Then it hit him. “So, this thing is an operation of the devil?” And he came out with a revolutionizing light: “Satan is the defiler. Jesus is the Healer! Now, let us go deal with this issue.”

He later went to the United States of America and established Zion City (in

Chicago, Illinois); where over one hundred thousand healings were recorded in a few years - all because he caught a light. He caught a revelation.

God's servant, the Bishop David Oyedepo caught the light for financial prosperity reading Genesis 8:22 and Jeremiah 33:20-22:

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Genesis 8:22

Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me. Jeremiah 33:20-22

As the revelation exploded in his spirit, he screamed, "I can never be poor!" That light, that revelation, changed his life forever.

I see you begin now to live above every trace of a curse in your life, in Jesus' Name!

Take a close look at Psalms 105:16-20.

Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread. He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him. The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free.

When 'your word' comes from God, your feet must be loosed. When your word comes your captivity ends. The Bible says, "Until his word (his light, his revelation) came..." Only then did he see the reason why he should not remain in the prison. And only then did the king send for him.

Beloved, when your word comes, your world changes. You must know how to open the Bible, and ask, "Where is the Word that will bring me out of where I am now? Where is the Word?" And when the Word comes, your story must change. The battles must be won.

When you go to an anointed servant of God, for instance, go with your faith all fired-up and ask him to join his faith with yours for the miracle you desire. Do not go with an empty heart asking him to lay hands on you and pray.

Get this right: All the going up and down, looking for who will pray for you, is not the best for you. When your word comes, that yoke of barrenness in your life

will be broken, only if you can see that light from the Bible that tells you that you are not permitted to be barren.

And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.

Exodus 23:25-26

One day, a doctor gave me a diagnosis concerning one of the babies born in my house. That child was born with a congenital malformation that was going to affect his destiny for life. As a medical doctor, I knew the full implications of that Consultant Pediatrician's diagnosis. Nevertheless, speaking from a deep conviction, I said to my wife, "The Word of God says, "Every good gift, and every perfect gift cometh from above, from the father of light in whom there is no variableness, neither any shadow of turning?"(James 1:17). Speaking also from Psalm 127:3, I said, "Children are an heritage of the Lord..."

Then I said, "God is the giver of children; and if that is so, He does not give what is not perfect. So, everything about this child and his body system, is perfect!" That was the end of that diagnosis till eternity. But where there is no light, you begin to shake.

Please understand that whatever the devil suggests to you is subject to acceptance or rejection. If you accept it, it is established. If you reject it, it is ejected.

That nightmare you had, is a mere suggestion. You dreamt and saw yourself in a coffin. Rise up and tell the devil, "There is no knowledge or wisdom in the grave. So, I cannot be in the coffin and be seeing myself. You are the one in that coffin, Satan."

When my wife was pregnant for the first time and began to manifest the initial morning sickness typical of the early stage of pregnancy, I watched her once or twice throwing up. And I said, "Wait a minute, what is going on here?" She said, "It is the symptoms of pregnancy..." Then I said to her, "Now, open the Bible and show me where it says, "When thou art pregnant, thou shalt vomit?" I may have appeared like a wicked husband.

When she confirmed that there is nowhere in the Bible that such a thing is written, I said to her, "All right then, may I never catch you vomiting again. If it is not written, it must not be practiced."

I see your life changing! I see the Bible becoming a different book to you, from today, in the Name of Jesus.

I have read through the Bible a lot of times. And each time, I see things that I never saw before. Some time ago, I read the Bible and I saw things that I had never seen since I dedicated my life to Jesus Christ twenty-five years ago, yet I have been reading that passage. Then I lifted up my hands to heaven and began to pray what I saw into my life.

Many people are not interested in the Bible because they do not see anything in it. But because you have encountered God in the pages of this book, I prophesy to you that, from today, you will begin to see from the Bible what you have never seen before. Your eyes will be opened to light, insight and revelation.

I would like you to lift up your voice now and begin to speak to God. Thank Him for all that you have received from this book.

Now, you are on your way to the top. You will never be found in the low places of life forever, in the Name of Jesus.

VERY VERY IMPORTANT

Beloved, before you drop this book, I intend to address the most important issue both in time and eternity. It is the matter of the soul. It is the matter of life. It is the matter of life after death.

Please note the following:

A: LIFE IS TERMINAL.

*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: –
Hebrews 9:27*

*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto
God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7*

B: DEATH IS NOT THE END OF LIFE.

Beyond death, life continues either in heaven with God or in hell with satan.

*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to
everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2*

*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. Psalm
9:17*

*And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever
worketh abomination, nor maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's
book of life.*

Revelation 21:27

C: HOW YOU LIVE ON EARTH DETERMINES WHERE YOU WILL END IN ETERNITY.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

*Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For
God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be
good, or whether it be evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Romans 14:12

D: WHO YOU LIVE FOR DETERMINES WHO YOU LIVE WITH IN ETERNITY.

*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under
heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. – Acts 4:12*

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto
the Father, but by me. – John 14:6*

Beloved, in order not to end in a regrettable eternity in everlasting flames and torment, you must answer the following questions with all sincerity and accuracy:

1. Who are you living for? Who controls your life? Who directs your actions and lifestyle? Is it self, the world or Christ?

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. – Philippians 1:21

2. What are the controlling desires of your life? What do you desire above every other thing in life? What drives you? Is it God, worldly pleasure or self?

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. – Psalm 27:4

3. What is your public testimony? Do you represent Christ to your world? Are you living an exemplary Christian life to the world around you? Who do they think you are?

And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. – Acts 11:26

... be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. – 1 Timothy 4:12

4. Does God know you as His Own? Is He proud of you as His child? Can you say that He is pleased with the way you are living your life?

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. – 2 Timothy 2:19

And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? – Job 1:8

5. What are you looking forward to in eternity? Are you sure that a pleasant welcome awaits you? If you had died before this time, where do you think you deserve to be, considering your action, lifestyle and life's priorities?

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. – 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Beloved, are your answers in the affirmative to all of the above questions? If not, it means you either need to surrender your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ by accepting His sacrificial death on Calvary for you or you need to re-dedicate your life to Jesus Christ.

IF SO, PRAY THIS PRAYER WITH ME:

Lord Jesus, I come before You today to surrender my life completely to You. I have lived a self-centered life that is far separated from God. I have had priorities that are not eternity-centered. I have always lived in rebellion, disobedience and sin up till now.

Lord, I am sorry for the way that I have lived and I ask for Your forgiveness and mercy. Lord, please cleanse my sins by Your Blood and take Your place of leadership and rulership in my life. Fill my heart Lord with the right desires and priorities. Deliver me from the vanity and fantasies of this world. Give me the grace to say no to sin and compromise. Give me the grace to live in righteousness and represent You well to my world.

Help me escape the tragedy of eternity in hell. Help me Lord to make Heaven at the end of my journey on earth. Help me Lord to live both in the consciousness of Your Presence and of eternity. Continuously reveal to me everything that would make me unworthy of Heaven.

Thank You Lord for hearing and answering me in Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, please do the following:

- i. Send to us, your name, phone number and contact address by email: <mailto:info@dunamisgospel.org> or by phone: +234 803 3200 320.
- ii. Become serious with God by identifying with a righteousness and eternity-conscious church.
- iii. Study your Bible daily to receive the Word from God.
- iv. Speak to God daily in prayer and let Him know your feelings and challenges.
- v. Disconnect from every wrong association. Don't follow them to hell if they won't follow you to Heaven.
- vi. Speak to others about God. Share your testimony of transformed life. Be instrumental in assisting someone to escape hell.
- vii. Repent promptly. Do not sleep over unconfessed sins. Apply the Blood over your soul for cleansing continuously. Live eternity-ready.

The Lord bless you.

**IF YOU HAVE BEEN INSPIRED AND BLESSED BY THIS BOOK WE
WILL LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

Connect with Dr. Paul and his ministry via:

Website: <http://www.Dunamispospel.org>

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Pastor Paul Enenche is a trained Medical Doctor, called of God into full time ministry, with a heavy Apostolic and Prophetic mantle for the restoration of human lives and dignities. His ministrations are characterized by deep undiluted insights from the Word of God, accurate Word of Knowledge and the demonstration of the power of God in Supernatural healings, miracles, signs and wonders. His ministry is geared towards causing our generation to:

1. Experience God's Person and Presence in our lives,
2. Realize our true purpose for existence,
3. Comprehend our full potential in life,
4. Discover God's life-changing and life-lifting principles,
5. Connect with God's power to overcome the negative forces of life and above all, to
6. End our journey with God in eternity in Heaven and to escape the torments of hell.

He is the Senior Pastor of Dunamis International Gospel Centre, with the headquarters situated beside the Old Federal Secretariat, Area 1, Abuja— the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. They currently run five services every Sunday and two over-flooded services every Wednesday evening, among other services. His passion is to see that the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. As a result, his ministry is involved in aggressive spread of the Gospel via every possible media— the Commission's Television Station— Dunamis TV, their 24/7 Web-TV and Web-Radio broadcast as well as campus revival meetings, crusades and aggressive church plantings.

He is married to Dr Becky, a beautiful, intelligent, submissive, supportive and hardworking Medical Doctor, also called of God into full time ministry. And together, they have four blessed children.

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