

20
INSPIRATION
BIBLICAL
FACTS

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DEDICATION

This book, the next after 'Church Security' (A Security Guide for Today's Church) is dedicated to God Almighty, the beginning and the end of our faith and sustenance of life, wisdom and grace. To Him alone be all the glory and adoration in Jesus Name; to my wife, Mercy Umana (Nee Eyeye), our children and the Moses Umana Family Worldwide.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My appreciation goes to our father in the Lord, Archbishop John Praise Daniel, the Metropolitan Archbishop, Dominion Chapel International Churches, the mother in the House, Bishop Dr. Mrs. Hope Praise, Bishop S.J. Wakili Power, Vice President, Dominion Chapel International Churches, for the encouragement and the entire Dominites worldwide, where I have enjoyed rich fellowship for over 25 years.

I want to sincerely thank my wife, Mercy Umana (Imaima) and my children (Favour, Faithful, Fortress, Gideon and Grace) for their moral support and encouragement. I am equally grateful for the encouragement from the Umana family and Attauba's family of Ikot

Obong and Ikpetim villages respectively in Ikpa-Ibekwe Ikot Abasi Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

Finally, special thanks to my in-laws, the Ikpiso Eyeye family of Igbide Isoko South, Delta State, Nigeria and also to Pastor Mrs. Chima Onusiriuka for editing and fine-tuning the book. The Akwa-Cross 'ke 'Dominion, I greet you all.

INTRODUCTION

Some years ago, at the 50th birthday celebration of the wife of a brother from another mother, Mrs Justina Pawa, I was privileged to be amongst those that received the gift of a Life Application Study Bible from the celebrant's husband.

The Bible, a cherished gift, became the catalyst that prompted the writing of this book. As I perused the Bible on a daily basis, I started uncovering some biblical facts that could help to build up the Christian faith of a believer. Some of these facts were then sorted out, harmonised and related bible passages introduced into them to make for a complete package.

'Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth, meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it, then you will be prosperous and successful'

Joshua 1: 8

Among the various facts therein, I chose 20 that concern or could encourage Christian faith in our Lord through Christ Jesus. “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, through the word of Christ,” Romans 10:17. These facts are laid down in summary forms to make for ease of reading, while giving readers the opportunity to exploit the selected facts for further and in-depth understanding. It is advised that

readers first read through the book; thereafter, take the facts one after the other for in-depth study, believing that the Holy Spirit will shine His illuminating light on each fact.

The facts include facts on marriage, Satan's plans against mankind, Theophanies (visible manifestation to Human being by God), consequences of complaining and disobedience of man to God, the people and objects God uses in the Bible, import of making rash vows, rebellion against God and His set men, people called wise, things God hates and God's advice about money, consequences of lazy, foolish persons as against diligent persons. The book ends with facts about the use of the tongue, dangers in plenty, when, why and how God speaks,

success in God's eye as exemplified in the book of Proverbs and finally the Biblical qualities of a good leader.

The book was originally intended to be dedicated on 20th May 2020 being our 20th year marriage anniversary, hence the 20 Biblical facts published and dedicated on 20th May 2020 being our marriage anniversary. I say to God be the glory for a wonderful life and splendid marriage to a wonderful strong and resolute woman. It could not have been any other woman.

However, the above intended date was not possible due to the temporary shutdown of the world system on account of the COVID19 Pandemic. The Bible says in all circumstances, give thanks to the Lord.

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus,” 1 Thessalonians 5:18. I believe that God's purpose for allowing such pandemic in our lives this time is being realised in Jesus Name.

This book is sincerely recommended to all Christians who long for God and for their faith to continually grow stronger till the end of time. “All scripture is God's breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work,” 2 Timothy 3:16-17. “Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding,” Proverbs 23:23.

I believe what Proverbs 23:23 is saying is that we buy the truth and share it with others. Therefore, get your copies and get some copies too and send to the unreached in your villages and local churches. That might be the little seed to bless souls. God bless us all and may His countenance shine on us all in Jesus name.



FACT ONE

FACTS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Marriage is a union between a man and woman that helps them discover a new dimension in themselves. It is a path to fulfilment of happiness and finding true meaning in their lives. It is not only a physical union, but a spiritual union that mirrors the true love of God as exemplified between God and the church. Herein are some biblical facts about marriage.

- i. Marriage is God's idea, Genesis 2:18-24.
- ii. Commitment is essential to a successful marriage, Genesis

24:58-60.

- iii. Romance is important in marriage, Songs of Solomon 4:9-10.
- iv. Marriage beholds times of great joy, Isaiah 61:10.
- v. Marriage creates a better environment for raising children, Malachi 2:14-15.
- vi. Unfaithfulness breaks the bond of trust, the foundation of all relationships, Mathew 5:32.
- vii. Ideally only death should separate marriage, 1 Corinthians 7:39.
- viii. Marriage is based on the practice of love not on feelings, Ephesians 5:21-33.

- ix. Marriage is a living symbol of Christ and the church, Ephesians 5:23.
- x. Marriage is good and honourable, Hebrew 13:4.
- xi. Marriage is a covenant platform that should help couples grow spiritually, Genesis 2:21-24

Note: Please note the three key attributes in marriage:

- Know yourself
- Know trust
- Know forgiveness



FACT TWO

SATAN'S PLAN AGAINST MANKIND

Satan, the fallen one from heaven, (Isaiah 14:12-19), is the enemy of all righteousness and all who seek to follow God. So he sets up various strategies to achieve his aim. Some are:

- i. **DOUBT:** Creating doubt in man's heart leading to man questioning God's words and his goodness.
- ii. **DISCOURAGEMENT:** Makes man focus on his problems and pains rather than looking on to or focusing on God.
- iii. **DIVERSION:** Creates diversion in man's heart by making the wrong things

seem attractive so that man will long for them rather than the right things.

- iv. **DEFEAT:** Makes man look or feel like a failure so that he will not make any effort at succeeding.
- v. **DELAY:** Makes man put off doing something so that it never gets done.

SATAN'S ATTRIBUTES

- ✓ LIES - John 8:44
- ✓ BLINDS THE MIND OF UNBELIEVER - 2 Corinthians 4:4
- ✓ DECEPTION - Matthew 7:15
- ✓ PERFORMS SIGNS AND FALSE WONDERS - 2 Thessalonians 2:9
- ✓ TEMPTS AND CHOKES FAITH - Matthew 4:1-11
- ✓ ACCUSES THE BRETHEN - Revelation 12:10

- ✓ MURDERER - John 8:44
- ✓ SATAN HINDERS THE WORK OF GOD - 1 Thessalonians 2:18

Note: If we foreknow Satan's plans and tricks against mankind, then we are better placed to avoid them. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly," John 10:10.



FACT THREE

THEOPHANIES IN THE SCRIPTURE

Theophany is the visible manifestation to human kind by God. It is the appearance of God or his angels to man. At the foot of Mount Sinai, God came to Moses in a dense cloud so the people could hear Him speaking to Moses, so as to put the Israelites trust in Moses, Exodus 19:9. Other instances are:

- i. The angel of the Lord appeared to Sarah's maidservant Hagar announcing the birth of Ishmael, Abraham's son, (Genesis 16:7-12).
- ii. The Lord appeared to Abraham, foretelling him of Isaac's birth,

(Genesis 18:1-11).

- iii. The angel of God stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac, (Genesis 22:11-12).
- iv. The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame in the bush, (Exodus 3:2).
- v. The Lord appeared to Israel in pillars of cloud and fire to guide them through the desert. (Ex 13:21-22)
- vi. The Lord spoke to Moses face to face as one speaks to a friend, (Exodus 33:11).
- vii. “one like the Son of God” appeared as the fourth man with Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego in the fiery fire, (Daniel 3:25).

Note: In our today's world, is theophany a myth or possibility?



FACT FOUR

CONSEQUENCES OF COMPLAINING

The Israelites complained against God several times and they received consequences of God's anger. Below are listed some of the complaints and consequences:

- i. **ABOUT HARDSHIP:** They complained about their perceived hardship in the wilderness, instead of praying and bringing into remembrance all the good things God did for them (Numbers 11:1)

Consequence: Thousands of people were destroyed when God sent a

plague of fire to punish them,
(Numbers 11:1).

ii. ABOUT LACK: They complained about things they did not have, not minding their real needs that were available. They were ungrateful for life, victories in battles and divine provisions.
(Numbers 11:4-6)

Consequence: God sent them quail and as they began to eat, God struck them with plague that killed many,
(Numbers 11:33).

iii. STUCK IN THE DESERT: They openly rebelled against God's leader and not trusting in His promises.
(Numbers 14: 1-4):

Consequence: All those that complained, did not enter the promise

land, as they wondered in the wilderness until they died, (Numbers 14:32).

iv. OPPOSING MOSES' LEADERSHIP:

Korah, Dathan and Abiram became insolent, organised over 250 Israelites men and rose up against Moses and Aaron accusing them of being greedy for more power and authority, (Numbers 16:3):

Consequence: Korah, Dathan and Abiram, their families, friends and possession were swallowed up by the earth, other 250 men that rebelled with them were burnt, (Numbers 16:32-35).

v. LACK OF WATER: The Israelites complain about lack of water, refusing

to believe God would provide for them as He promised. Their doubt and lack of faith provoked Moses to strike the rock instead of just speaking to it as instructed by the Lord, (Numbers 20:2-11).

Consequence: Moses sinned along with the people and was banned from entering the promise land, (Numbers 20:12).

vi.THAT GOD BROUGHT THEM TO DIE IN THE WILDERNESS: They complained that God brought them to the wilderness to punish them and for them to die referring to God as wicked not realizing that the sin of disobedience in their lives was what brought plague and punishment on

them, (Numbers 21:5)

Consequence: God sent venomous snakes that killed many people and seriously injured many others.

Note: Complaining and murmuring against God and His set men attracts serious consequences as above. So let us inculcate the habit of gratefulness and thanksgiving and when in doubt, do like the Berean Christians, cross check with the word of God or invite the Holy Spirit to help to intercede, instead of complaining about what we do not know especially things of the spirit.



FACT FIVE

PEOPLE GOD USES

(Romans 12:4-8; 1Corinthians 12:4-12)

- i. JACOB - A deceiver, to be the father of Israel's nation, (Genesis 27:28-29).
- ii. JOSEPH (SLAVE BOY) - To save his family in Egypt from famine and establishing them in Egypt, (Genesis 39-46.)
- iii. MOSES (SHEPHERD/MUDERER) - Moses, in spite of his past, was chosen by God and groomed to lead Israel out of bondage to the promised land, (Exodus 3).
- iv. GIDEON (FARMER): The angel of the

Lord pronounced him “Mighty Warrior” and he was used by God to deliver Israel from the hands of the Midianites, (Judges 6:11-14).

v. JEPHTHAH (SON OF A PROSTITUTE):

Jephthah, though a mighty warrior, was the son of a prostitute, yet he was used by God to deliver Israel from the Ammonites, (Judges 11).

vi. HANNAH (HOUSE WIFE): She would in today's world be referred to as full time house wife. Yet she was the mother to the great prophet of God, Samuel, (1 Samuel 1).

vii. DAVID (SHEPHERD BOY): A shepherd boy, rose to be the greatest king of Israel - a man after God's heart, (1 Samuel 16).

viii. **ESTHER (SLAVE GIRL):** Esther, a slave girl, was used of God to deliver the Jews from being massacred. “Go, gather together all Jews who are in Shushan, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king even though it is against the law: and if I perish, I perish (Esther 4:16).

ix. **MARY (PEASANT GIRL):** Mary a peasant girl from Nazareth engaged to Joseph, a carpenter, was ordained by God to be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah, (Luke 1:26-38.)

x. **MATHEW (TAX COLLECTOR)** Jesus picked Mathew, a tax collector as

one of His disciples, and Matthew in turn invited many of his friends into the Christian fold and compiled the Gospel of Matthew.(Matthew 9:9).

xi.PETER (A FISHERMAN) Matthew a fisherman grew in the Ministry to be an Apostle, leader of the early Church and a writer of two (2) New Testament letters. He became the recognized leader among Jesus disciples and inner group or caucus of three. (Matthew 4:18-20)

Note: God does not use the qualified but qualifies those He chooses to use; all we need do is to be available and diligent at our duty post.



FACT SIX

OBJECT GOD USES

A lot of persons, personalities and objects were used (or reference made to them in the Bible) to either wrought miracles or illustrate points. Here are some objects God used in the Bible:

- i. **A STAFF:** Moses was instructed by God to use a staff to wrought miracles before Pharaoh (Exodus 4:1-5).
- ii. **TRUMPETS:** God directed that Joshua instruct seven priests to carry the trumpets of rams and horns in front of the ark blasting it loud. As they carried out the instruction, the wall

of Jericho was flattened - just by blowing aloud trumpets of rams and not military weapons - as the war was of the Lord, (Joshua 6:3-5).

- iii. **A FLEECE (WOOLY COVERING OF A SHEEP OR GOAT):** Gideon asked God to make the fleece he would place on the ground wet with dew, while the ground be dry, as a sign to know that Israel would be saved by his hand. The Lord honoured his request. (Judges 6:37-40).
- iv. **JAW BONE:** Samson used a fresh jawbone of a donkey to strike down a thousand men, (Judges 15:15).
- v. **SMALL STONE:** The Lord used a stone through David to kill Goliath, who despised the God of Israel (1 Samuel

17:49-50)

vi. **OIL/RIVER JORDAN:** God used Elisha through the vessels of oil to bless a widow and the river Jordan to heal Naaman, the Commander of the King of Syria (2 Kings 4:1-7; 2 Kings 5:9-14).

vii. **FIVE LOAVES:** Jesus took five (5) loaves of bread and two (2) fishes, looked up to heaven and gave thanks to God. The food multiplied and was enough to feed 5000 persons, Mark (6:9-13).

Note: God uses simple ordinary objects to fulfil His purpose for mankind, (1 Corinthians 1:27). What are we using today and to whose glory?



FACT SEVEN

RASH VOWS

“Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let yours words be few, (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

Some hard or rash vows recorded in the Bible are herein highlighted.

- 1) **JEPHTHAH:** He vowed to offer to the Lord, whatever would first come out of his house to welcome him after victory against the Ammonites. On

return from the battle the first person that met him was his daughter, his only child, (Judges 11: 30-34)

Consequences: He lost his daughter, (Judges 11:39).

2) HANNAH: She asked God for a male child and vowed to return the child to God if He would grant her request. God honoured her and she had a son, Samuel, (1 Samuel 1:11).

Consequences: When she got the baby, Samuel, she dedicated him to God through Eli the priest, (1 Samuel 1:24-28).

3) SAUL: HE vowed to kill anyone who ate before evening. His son, Jonathan, did not hear the command and so

broke the command, (1 Samuel 14:24-45)

Consequence: Saul would have killed Jonathan if the soldiers had not intervened.

4) DAVID: David and Jonathan entered into a covenant. And David vowed to be kind to Jonathan's family, whether Jonathan lived or died, (1 Samuel 20:14-17).

Consequence: Mephibosheth Jonathan's son was treated as royalty by David even after the death of Jonathan, (2 Samuel 9:7).

5) MICAIAH: He vowed to say only what God told him to say to the king risking any consequence, (1 Kings 22:14).

Consequence: He was put in prison for speaking the truth, (1 Kings 22: 27).

6) JOB: Vowed not to rebel against God no matter the circumstances, (Job 13:15).

Consequences: His fortunes were restored after a long suffering in faith, (Job 42:10-13).

7) HEROD ANTIPAS: Vowed to Herodias daughter to do anything she asked of him, (Mark 6:22-23).

Consequences: Herod was forced to order for John the Baptist's death, (Mark 6:26-28).

Note: The above brings to fore the need for us to be careful and thoughtfully consider every possible consequence before we make a promise or vow, especially spiritual vows.



FACT EIGHT

REBELLION AGAINST GOD OR MEN OF GOD

It is dangerous to criticize or rebel against God or his chosen leaders in the faith. Let us see some of the biblical examples of rebellion and the consequences (for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry), (1 Samuel 15:23).

i. **ADAM & EVE:** They disobeyed and rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden. They compromised with the evil one, the Satan, (Genesis 3).

Consequence: They lost everything and were expelled from the garden with a

curse placed on them, (Genesis 3:23-24).

ii. ISRAELITES: They continually rebelled against God and Moses at the slightest discomfort on their way to the promised land, (Numbers 14, Judges 2, Deuteronomy 1:26).

Consequence: God's protection was withdrawn from them and they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adults (except Joshua and Caleb) died, (Numbers 14:33).

iii. KORAH: He led the people of Israel to rebel against Moses' leadership, (Numbers 16).

Consequence: He and all his co-conspirators were swallowed by the

earth, (Numbers 16: 31-33).

iv ABSOLOM & ADONIJAH: Both rebelled against David and his leadership. (1 Kings 1:5-9; 2 Samuel 15-18, 2 Samuel 20)

Consequence: They both died in battle.

V. MICHAL: The wife of David despised her husband because of his dance mannerism to God, accusing him of dancing recklessly (without dignity) and exposing himself before the handmaids, (2 Samuel 6).

Consequence: She remained childless till her death, (2 Samuel 6:23).

Vi. SHIMEI: Cursed and threw stones at David, (2 Samuel 16:5-7).

Consequence: Executed at Solomon's

came out of the woods and mauled 42 of them, (2 Kings 2:24).

x. SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH: They spread rumours and lies to stop the building of the wall of Jerusalem, (Nehemiah 2:19).

Consequence: Frightened and humiliated, (Nehemiah 13:8).

Xi. PROPHET HANANIAH: Prophet Hananiah gave a false prophesy to counter that of Prophet Jeremiah, during the reign of Zedekiah, King of Judah. His (Hananiah's) prophesy or preaching was considered rebellious against God, (Jeremiah 28:1-17).

Consequence: The word of the Lord against him came to pass; he died in the seventh month of same year,

order, (1 Kings 2:46).

vii.JOAB: Rebelled against David and Solomon, (1 kings 1:7).

Consequence: Killed for treason, (1 Kings 2:34).

viii.ZIMRI KING OF ISRAEL: Zimri, an official of the king, rebelled against King Elah, killed him and ascended the throne (Elah was in Tirza getting drunk) when he was killed, (1kings 16:10).

Consequence: He committed suicide, (1 Kings 16:18).

ix.CHILDREN AT BETHEL: Some little children at Bethel, mocked Elisha, jeered at him calling him bald head, (2 kings 2:23)

Consequence: Elisha cursed them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears

(Jeremiah 28:17).

xii.BAR-JESUS: A Jewish sorcerer and false prophet and attendant of the pro-consul, tried preventing Barnabas and Paul from preaching Jesus to the pro-consul as that would mean his losing his job, (Acts 13:6-8).

Consequence: Paul declared a curse of blindness on him and he became blind instantly. When the pro-consul saw what happened he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord, (Acts 13:9-12).

Note: Rebellion or undue criticism of anointed men of God, has untold consequences. No matter what position you hold in the body of Christ, rebellion is greatly frowned at. The above commanders, kings, kings' wives etc. are cases in point. It therefore behoves on us to be careful in dealing with the things of God. Where in doubt let the Bible speak, let the Holy Spirit direct or we let go.



FACT NINE

NAMES OF GOD (THE NAME OF GOD IS A STRONG TOWER)

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower:
the righteous runs into it and is safe,”
(Proverbs 18:10).

S/N	NAME	MEANING	SIGNIFICANCE
1	Elohim (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1)	God	He is the only super and true God.
2	Yahweh (Gen 2:4)	The Lord	The divine person or divine one.
3	EL, Elyon (Gen 14:17-20; Numbers 24:16; Isa 14:14)	God most high	He is above all gods; nothing in life is mor sacred.

4	EL-ROI (Hebrews 4:13)	God who sees	God oversees all creation and affairs of men.
5	EL-SHADAI (Gen 17:1; Ps 91:1)	God Almighty	God is all powerful
6	YAHWEH JIREH (Gen 22:13-14)	The Lord will provide	God will provide our real needs.
7	YAHWEH NISSI (Ex 17:s15)	The Lord is my banner	We should remember God for helping us.
8	ADONAI Genesis 18:27	Lord	God alone is head over
9	YAHWEH ELOHE YISRAEL (Judges 5:3; Psalm 59:s5)	Lord God of Israel	He is the God of all nations
10	YAHWEH SHALOM Judges 6:24	The Lord is peace	God gives us peace so we need not fear
11	QEDOSH YISRAEL Isaiah 1:4	Holy one of Israel	God is morally perfect

14	YAHWEH TSIDKENU Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16	The Lord our righteousness	The Lord is our standard for right behaviour. He alone can make us righteous
15	YAHWEH SHAMMAH Ezekiel 48:35	The Lord is there	God is always present with us.
16	ATTIQ YAMIN Daniel 7:9	Ancients of days	God is the ultimate authority. He will one day judge all nations

Note: “Blessed be the Lord my strength,
which teaches my hands to war, and my
fingers to fight. My goodness and my
fortress, my high tower, my deliverer, my
shield and he in whom I trust, who subdued
my people under me,” (Psalm 144:1-2)



FACT TEN

BIBILCAL DISOBEDIENCE

When we disobey God, we are simply saying, God, we are independent and on our own, capable of taking care of all our needs and general direction in life. The bible says “children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honour your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise) that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land,” (Eph. 6: 1-3).

Here are some selected cases of disobedience in the bible and the consequences;

i. **ADAM & EVE:** They disobeyed the instruction of God not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan tempted them otherwise and they fell to the antic of the devil, (Genesis 3:1-6).

Consequences: They were banished from the Garden of Eden; pain and death were inflicted on all the earth, (Genesis 3:22-27).

ii. **NADAB AND ABIHU:** They were instructed to use fire from the proper source for sacrifice but they used unauthorized fire to sacrifice, (Leviticus 10:1),

Consequences: They were struck dead by fire from the presence of the Lord, (Leviticus 10:2).

- iii. **MOSES:** Moses was instructed by God to speak to the rock. However, due to anger from pressure from the Israelites, he spoke to the rock and went ahead to strike it, contrary to God's instruction, (Numbers 20:8-11).
Consequences: Since Moses did not trust God enough to honour him before the Israelites, God proclaimed “you will not bring this community into the land I give them, (Numbers 20:12).
- iv. **SAUL:** God instructed Saul to go to the Amalekites and completely destroy them, (1 Samuel 15:3). He disobeyed, spared the king and kept some beautiful plunder, (1 Samuel 15:8-9).
Consequences: God promised to end his reign as king, (1 Samuel 15:16-26).

v. **UZZAH:** Uzzah and Ahio, Sons of Abinadab, were guards guarding the new cart carrying the ark of God. When the cart reached the threshing floor, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah reached out his hand and took hold of the ark of God to support it. Only the priests were authorized to hold, carry or touch the ark of God, (2 Sam 6:6-7).

Consequences: The anger of the Lord was kindled against him and God smote him and he died, (2 Samuel 6:7).

UZZIAH: Uzziah burnt incense upon the altar of incense. That was the exclusive duty of the priests, (2 Chronicles 26:16-18).

Consequences:

He was struck with leprosy till his death, (2 (Chronicles 26:19-21),

Note: The consequences of disobedience to the word of God is grave. Uzzah, Uzziah, Nadab and Abihu lost their lives to disobedience while Saul lost his throne. Moses, in spite of all his labours and pains during the sojourn to the promise land, only saw the land but did not enter due to disobedience prompted by anger induced by the Israelites' lust and lack of faith.



FACT ELEVEN

PEOPLE CALLED WISE

The bible used the description wise for 12 people. To be wise is to be a person of wisdom. Wisdom is said to be the application of knowledge and knowledge comes from information while information is derived from experience, interactions, mentorship and intentional seeking it through study and research. The word wise appears in the bible about 344 times, wiser nine times, wisest two times and wisdom 367 times.

The 12 people called WISE in the bible are here stated to enable a prompting quest for wisdom.

- i. **JOSEPH:** He prepared for a major famine in Egypt and helped by the grace of God, to rule Egypt successfully through the years of famine, (Acts 7:10).
- ii. **MOSES:** He learnt wisdom from Egypt. Through his relationship with God, he went through the lesson of wisdom and led Israel through the wilderness en- route the promised land, (Acts 7:20-22).
- iii. **BEZALEL:**
- iv. He was endued with the spirit of God, wisdom and understanding with knowledge and skills to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze; to cut and set stones to work in wood and engaged

in all kind of crafts. He designed and supervised the construction of the tabernacle and its utensils in the desert, (Exodus 31:1-5).

v. **JOSHUA:** A servant of Moses got wisdom by observing Moses (mentoring) and obeying God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit of wisdom. Moses also laid his hands on him, (Dueteronomy 34:9)

vi. **DAVID:** David, in spite of his short comings, was a wise king and as such was recognized by his people in most of his actions and pertinence. He never deviated from his reverence for God, the source of his wisdom, (2 Samuel 14:20).

- vii. **ABIGAIL:** A wise wife who managed her household sensibly in spite of a surly, bad tempered, unfriendly and mean husband Nabal. She was further described as an intelligent and beautiful woman, (1 Samuel 25:3).
- viii. **SOLOMON:** Solomon, after offering sacrifice to God at Gibeon, was asked by God to request for anything “ask for whatever you want me to give you”. Solomon asked for a discerning heart (wisdom) to rule the people. God was so pleased that He gave him wisdom and other things that he did not ask for including wealth and honour, (1 Kings 3:5-15; 4:29-34).

Solomon put in place a well-organized structure with officials assigned specific responsibilities. He entered into alliances with nations and built the first temple in Jerusalem. The nation of Israel, under his reign, had unprecedented prosperity. He was referred to as a man of great wisdom, wealth and power - the wisest man that ever lived. However, though Solomon was wise in running the government, he did not do well in ruining his household. Wisdom is both the ability to discern what is best and the strength of character to act upon that knowledge. He left a legacy of written wisdom in 3

volumes: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Songs of Solomon.

ix. DANIEL: Daniel was described by the king as a man of intelligence, insight and outstanding wisdom; a man capable of interpreting and solving difficult problems. He was further described as a man who had the “spirit of the holy God”, (Daniel 5:11).

x. MAGI (WISE MEN): They were the wise men from the East, who travelled thousands of miles to see the born King of the Jews. Herod asked them to report the location of the child to him when they must have found Him. However, when they found him (Christ) they worshipped him and

presented gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh and having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route, (Mathew 2:1-12).

xi. STEPHEN: Stephen was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. When the opposition seized him and argued with him about his ministration, they could not stand his power of defence “But they could not stand against the wisdom the spirit gave him as he spoke, (Acts 6:8).

xii. PAUL: Paul, the apostle, also known as Saul of Tarsus, on the encounter with God, went all out on fire for Christ. He spent the rest of

his life communicating God's love to all who would listen. He expanded the church far and wide opening the doors to Gentiles, fighting for his conviction that the gospel was for all people and that no barrier should be put in the way of Gentiles, (2 Peter 3:15).

xiii. **JESUS CHRIST:** “And the child Jesus grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was with him,” (Luke 2:40). At the age of 12, Jesus had the word of God by interacting with teachers in the temple listening to them and asking questions, (Luke 2:46-47). Jesus was the wisdom of God in practice. He went about

preaching, healing the sick and freeing men from bondage for the Lord was with Him. Jesus, a perfect example for mankind, lived in dependence of the Holy Spirit.

SOURCE OF WISDOM

- i. **ASK OF THE LORD:** "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to you," (James 1:5).
- ii. **FEAR GOD:** "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding," (Proverbs 9:10).
- iii. **HEAR/LISTEN TO GOD:** "Listen for I have trustworthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right," (Proverb 8:6).

iv. KEEP THE LAWS: “He who keeps the law is a discerning (wise) son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father,” (Proverbs 28:7).

Note: Wisdom could be in-born in persons, could be acquired through asking from God, fearing and listening to God through the Holy Spirit, mentorship and reading inspirational books. “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom: and in all your getting get understanding,” (Proverb 4:7).



FACT TWELVE

THINGS GOD HATES

In the book of Proverbs, one of the THEMES is on how man can successfully relate with God; this counts for man's eternity. In order to relate well with God, we need to know what God hates to enable us avoid them and live in league with his instructions and purpose for our lives. What God hates:

- i. **VIOLENT/HEARTLESS PEOPLE:** Do not envy the violent or choose any of their ways, (Proverbs 3:31; Genesis 4:1-15; Exodus 20:13).
- ii. **HAUGHTY EYES (ARROGANT, SUPERIOR AND DISDAINED LYING)**

**TONGUE AND HANDS THAT SHED
INNOCENT BLOOD) (Proverb 6:17).**

**iii. HEART THAT DEVISES WICKED
SCHEMES AND FEET THAT ARE
QUICK TO RUSH INTO EVIL,
(Proverb 6:18).**

**iv. A FALSE WITNESS WHO POURS OUT
LIES AND A PERSON WHO STIRS UP
CONFLICT IN THE COMMUNITY
(Proverb 6:19).**

v. LYING LIPS: The Lord detests lying lips,
(Proverb 12:22).

vi. SACRIFICE OF THE WICKED: The Lord
detests the sacrifice of the wicked,
(Proverbs 15:8).

vii. THE WAY OF THE WICKED: The Lord
detests the way of the wicked,
(Proverbs 15:9).

viii. THOUGHTS OF THE WICKED:

The Lord detests the thoughts of the wicked, (Proverbs 15:26).

ix. THOSE WHO ARE PROUD: The Lord detests all the proud of heart; be sure of this, they will not go unpunished (Proverb 16:5).

x. THOSE WHO JUDGE UNJUSTLY:

Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent. The Lord detests them both, (Proverbs 17:15).

Note: To be in league or same standing with God, we must hate what He hates and love what He loves. God of righteousness detests iniquities.



THIRTEEN

GOD'S ADVICE ABOUT MONEY

“Money is anything that solves a problem,” Mike Murdock. “Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is thus, wisdom preserves those who have it” “Money is money because of what it can buy,” (unknown). List of God's advice on how to use money is herein stated:

- i. **Be generous in giving:** “One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty,” (Proverbs 11:24). “Those who give to the poor will lack nothing but those who

close their eyes to them receive curses, (Proverb 28:27).

ii. Place people's need ahead of profit:

“People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell, (Proverbs 11:26).

iii. Be cautious of countersigning for another: “One who has no sense shakes hands in pledge and puts up security for a neighbour,” (Proverbs 17:18).

iv. Do not accept bribe: “The wicked accepts bribes in secret to pervert the course of Justice,” (Proverb 17:23).

v. Help the poor: “Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also

cry out and not be answered,” (Proverbs 21:13); “Whoever lends to the poor lends to the Lord and he will reward them for what they have done,” (Proverbs 19:17).

vi. Store up for the future: “The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down,” (Proverb 21:20).

vii. Be careful about borrowing: “The rich rule over the poor and the borrower is the slave to the lender,” (Proverbs 22:7).

viii. Seek financial advice: “Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe,” (Proverbs 28:26).

ix. Be realistic: “Those who work their

land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty,” (Proverbs 28:19).

- x. **Do not cheat government:** “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's,” (pay your tax as at when due) (Mathew 22:21).

Note: Money cannot buy happiness (though it could help achieve some level of happiness) but if we abide by God's advice on the use of money we will be happy and fulfilled.



FACT FOURTEEN

WISDOM & FOOLISHNESS

A wise person is somebody who is experienced and has deep understanding, capable of making decisions based on careful thoughts and good judgement. A foolish person is the complete opposite of a wise person, and herein is the biblical differentiation Proverb.

“Go to the ant, you sluggard, consider its ways and be wise

It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,
Yet it stores its provisions in summer and
gathers its food at harvest.” (proverb 6:6-8)

S/N	WISE	FOOLISH	BIBLE PASSAGE
1	Helps others with advice	Lacks judgement	Proverbs 10:21
2	Enjoys wisdom	Enjoys foolishness	Proverbs 10:23
3	Cautious with reasons	Gullible	Proverbs 14:15
4	Seeks knowledge	Feeds on foolishness	Proverbs 15:14
5	Values wisdom above riches	Does not value wisdom in riches	Proverbs 16:16
6	Receives life	Receives punishment	Proverbs 16:22
7	Responds to correction	Does not respond to correction	Proverbs 17:10
8	Profits from correction	Proud, arrogant scorns wise advice, makes truth useless	Proverbs 21:24 Proverbs 23:9 Proverbs 26:7
9	Pursues wisdom	Pursues illusive dreams	Proverbs 17:24
10	Trusted in wisdom	Trusted in himself	Proverbs 28:26
11	Controls his anger	Unleashes his anger	Proverbs 29:11
12	Keeps peace	Stirs up anger	Proverbs 29:8

13	Stays on straight path	Goes on the wrong path	Proverbs 15:21
14	Avoids wicked paths	Walks in troublesome paths	Proverbs 22:5

Note: Please let us note that to be wise we must be astute, careful, educated, enlightened, informed, judicious, knowledgeable, calculating and clever. We do not need to possess all these attributes, but we can work on getting much of them to be called or act wise.



FACT FIFTEEN

DILIGENCE VERSUS LAZINESS

Diligence is careful and persistent work or effort. It is paying needed attention and aiming for excellence and perfection, while fulfilling duties, paying attention to details.

The words diligent, diligence or diligently appear about 62 times in 61 verses of the King James Version. “Lazy hands make for poverty but diligent hands bring wealth,” (Proverbs 10:4). Diligent hands will rule but lazy hands end in forced labour, (Proverbs 12:24).

i	Becomes Rich	Soon becomes poor	Proverbs10:4
ii	Gathers crops early	Sleeps during harvest	Proverbs10:5
iii	Has abundant food	Chases fantasies	Proverbs 12:11
iv	Becomes a ruler	Becomes a slave	Proverbs12:24
v	Prizes his possessions	Wastes good resources	Proverbs 12:27
vi	Is fully satisfied	Wants much but gets little	Proverbs 13:4
vii	Brings in profit	Experiences poverty	Proverbs 14:23
viii	Has an easy path	Has trouble all through life	Proverbs 15:19
ix	Stays awake and has food to spare	Loves sleep; grows poor	Proverbs 20:13

x	Makes careful plans	Makes hasty speculations	Proverbs 21:5
xi	Gives without sparing	Desires things but refuses to work	Proverbs 21:25
xii	Will stand before kings	Sleeps too much, which leads to poverty	Proverbs 24:30-34

Note: The warning against laziness is aptly captured in Proverbs 6:1-11, where we are directed to take lesson from the ant, that though it has no commander, or leader or boss to push it around, is busy all day, even planning and preparing ahead for days of famine.

How to acquire diligence: (a learned skill)?

- Rise early, put God first, have set goals, routine physical exercise, good planning, inspire self, overcome procrastination, discipline sleep.
- Finish task ahead on time, be focused.
- No to excessive pleasure, no to gambling.



FACT SIXTEEN

THE TONGUES

“Human Tongue can be tamed by no man, it is restless (undisciplined, irreconcilable) evil, full of deadly poison.” James 3:8
(Amplified)

“Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongue, (Proverbs 10:19). The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of a little value, (Proverbs 10:20)

“The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of a little value.” Proverbs 10:20

There are over Twenty-four (24)

characteristics or classification of Tongues in the Bible, however they can conveniently group into four (4):

i. **THE CONTROLLED TONGUE** (Proverbs 10:19 and Proverbs 11:12)

Those with this speech pattern think before speaking. They know when silence is best and are capable of giving wise advice.

ii. **THE CARING TONGUE** (Proverbs 10:13 and Proverbs 12:18)

Those with this speech pattern speak truthfully while seeking to encourage.

iii. **THE CONNIVING TONGUE** (Proverbs 6:12-14 and Proverbs 26:20-28)

Those with this speech pattern are

filled with wrong motives, gossip, slandering and a desire to twist the truth.

iv. CARELESS/CAREFREE TONGUE

Proverbs 10:18

Those with this speech pattern are filled with lies, curses quick tempered words which can lead to rebellion and destruction.

Sub classification

The other sub classification of Tongues in the Bible are:

- a. Viper Tongue - Job 20:16
- b. Flattery Tongue - Psalms 5:9
- c. Proud/Boastful Tongues - Psalms 12:3
- d. Lying Tongue - Psalms 109:2, Proverbs 6:17
- e. Deceitful/False/Soothe/Gentle

Tongue - Psalms 120:2-3, Proverbs

15:4, Proverbs 25:15

- f. Perverted/Perverse/Foward Tongue - Proverbs 10:31, Proverbs 17:20
- g. Healthy Tongue - Proverbs 12:18
- h. Stammering Tongue - Isaiah 28:11
- i. Backbiting Tongue - Proverbs 25:23
- j. Poisonous Tongue - James 3:8

Note: Critically examine the above tongues and see where you fit in. The tongue classification could be controlled by the temperament or anger level of a person. So there is need to reappraise and ask the Holy Spirit of God to help in this regard.



FACT SEVENTEEN

DANGER IN PLENTY

“And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildest not,”
(Dueteronomy 6:10)

“And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggest not, vineyards and olive trees which though plantedst not; when thou shall have eaten and be full,” (Dueteronomy 6:11)

“Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage,” (Deuteronomy 6:12).

There is danger in plenty. When we eat and are satisfied, we need to be careful that we do not forget God. It is often very difficult to serve God when we are comfortable or at the peak of our luxury.

Here are some examples of persons or nations in the bible that we could draw lessons from on how they acted or behaved towards God and His laws in times of plenty:

ADAM / EVE (Genesis 3): Adam and Eve, our first parents, lived in a perfect natural paradise; had a perfect relationship with

God; had all their needs met and had everything at their pleasure. However, they fell to the influence and deception of Serpent the Satan resulting in the fall of man.

NOAH (Genesis 9): Noah and his family had survived the flood, and had the whole world in their hands. They were prosperous and life was easy for them. However, the pleasure was taken afar by the family getting into lust and vices of the world. The climax was when Noah got drunk from the wine in his vineyard and laid uncovered in the tent for Ham his youngest son to mock him, resulting in Noah cursing Ham (the father of Canaan). “Cursed be Canaan; the lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers, (Genesis 9:25).

THE NATION OF ISRAEL (Judges 2: In Judges 2:1-4), God admonished the Israelites for disobedience, having brought them out of Egypt and led them to the Promised Land. After the death of Joshua, the Israelites forgot the true God of Israel and in the midst of plenty and peace resorted to idolatrous practices of the Canaanites in worshipping various gods of the people around them, including the worship of Baal. Therefore, the Lord handed them over to the raiders who plundered them.

DAVID (2 Samuel 11): David ruled well and the nation of Israel became a dominating and prosperous nation in all spheres of endeavour. He was referred to as a man after God's heart. However, in the midst of

success, he allowed his mind to commit the sin of adultery leading to murder in the attempt to cover up. The consequence, being grave, resulted in several negative multiplying effects on the family including generational curses.

SOLOMON(1 Kings 11) : Solomon was a man of wisdom and great understanding. He had powers, wealth, fame and was referred to as the wisest man to have lived on earth. However, in the midst of all the success, he fell into paganism, marrying idolatrous wives and ending into bringing Israel into idolatry and other detestable religious rites that were against the living God.

Note: “But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability (power) to produce (make) wealth.....,” (Duet 8:18). The parable of the rich fool is also relevant here, (Luke 12:16-21). He, the rich fool, was so content with life that he forgot his source, the Lord. But God said to him, “You fool, this very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself, (Luke 12:20-21).” This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.



FACT EIGHTEEN

WHEN GOD SPEAKS

God spoke and still speaks to man, His creature. Here are few examples of people God spoke to and the purpose of such:

i. **ADAM & EVE (Genesis 3:8-13):** But the Lord called to the man where are you? (Genesis 3:9). And he said, who told you, you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from? (Genesis 3:11).

The above was when God confronted Adam about his sin of

disobedience. The Lord had to go into dialogue with Adam to show how he frowned at the sin of disobedience. God therefore speaks to us when he is confronting us with sin (the Holy Spirit prompts us in all things). Note: God had in Genesis 2:16-17 instructed man on what to do and what not to do.

ii. NOAH (Genesis 6:14-22): “So make yourself an ark of cypress wood, make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out..... (Genesis 6:14-16). God spoke to Noah with a clear instruction on what to do. God was going to destroy the earth, so He gave Noah clear instructions on how to build an ark and the persons

or animals to be kept safe in the ark. God speaks to us when He wants to give us clear instructions.

iii. ABRAHAM (Genesis 12:1-9): Here was a matter of instruction “Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you, (Genesis 12:1). “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you, I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you, I will curse and all the people in the earth will be blessed through you,” (Genesis 12:2-3). Thereafter came the promise to follow the obedience to God's

instruction. Here, spoke to give instruction/test Abraham's obedience and declare His God blessing on Abraham based on Abraham's loyalty.

iv. JACOB (*Genesis 46:1-4*): “And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said Jacob, Jacob,” (*Genesis 46:2*) “I am God, the God of your father, he said Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt for I will make you into a great nation,” (*Genesis 46:3*). Here we see Jacob entreating God. He sacrificed to God to seek for permission to go to Egypt. Even though he was invited by his son, Joseph, he still needed God's approval and presence before going

on the journey. Here God spoke to Jacob to reassure him of His presence during the trip to Egypt.
What an assurance!

v. MOSES (Exodus 3:1-10, Exodus 19:1-20): “When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses Moses...,” (Exodus 3:4). God spoke to Moses to reveal Himself to him, as the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, (vs6). God further instructed Moses to be prepared as He was sending him to Egypt to rescue His people from bondage. Equally in Exodus 19:1-20, God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai giving

instructions to the Israelites on the code of behaviour to follow and thereafter gave him the 10 commandments.

vi. MIRIAM AND AARON OPPOSE MOSES

(Numbers 12:1-15): Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he married a Cushite (Ethiopian) woman. “Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? they asked hasn’t he also spoken through us. And the Lord heard,” (Numbers 12:2). Then the Lord ordered the three of them out of the camp. The Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and said, “Listen to my words, when a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to

him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. But this is not true of my servant, Moses, he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak face to face clearly and not in riddles, he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses,” (Numbers 12:6-8). The Lord speaks when He wants to showcase His servant and put His fear on His subjects.

- vii. **JOSHUA** (Joshua 1:1-9): After the death of Moses, the servant of God, the Lord spoke to Joshua giving him words of assurance as he leads the Israelites to the promised land. “I will give you every place where you set your foot as I promised

Moses,” (Joshua 1:3). Equally God gave him word of encouragement “Be strong and courageous because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them,” (Joshua 1:6). God gave him word of instruction and condition for success. “Keep this book of the law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it,” (Joshua 1:8).

- viii. **SAMUEL** (1 Sam 3:1-18): “Then he called Samuel: Samuel answered, Here I am,” (1 Sam 3:4). The Lord came and stood there calling as at other times, Samuel! Samuel! Then Samuel said, Speak

Lord for your servant is listening,” (1Samuel 3:10). Here the Lord spoke to Samuel to reveal what He was about to do to the family of Eli the priest for the wickedness of his children. Eli the priest knew that his sons were evil, but he did little to correct or stop them, (1 Samuel 2:12-34).

ix.ISAIAH (Isaiah 6:1-13): “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying whom shall I send and who will go for us? He said go and tell this people,” (Isaiah 6:8-9). Here Isaiah's commission was to go as God's messenger to His people. He was to tell the people that though they were blessed of God, He, God, was

going to destroy them because of their disobedience.

x. **JEREMIAH** (*Jeremiah 1:4-10*): “The word of the Lord came to me saying, Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart, I appointed you as a prophet to the nations,” (vs5) “Alas, Sovereign Lord I said I do not know how to speak I am too young,” (vs 6) “But the Lord said to me, do not say I am too young, you must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them. For I am with you and will rescue you,” (vs 7-8). Here God called to Jeremiah to declare His purpose to him about the

Israelites, that before he was born, his assignment and provision had already been made. We should not allow the feeling of inadequacy to keep us from obeying God's call. He will always be with us and provide all our need to do any assignment He gives us to do.

xi. EZEKIEL 2:1-8: He said “Son of Man, I am sending you to the Israelites to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me, they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day,” (Ezekiel 2:3) “The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn, say to them that is what the Sovereign Lord says,” (vs 4).

Here God spoke to Ezekiel giving him instructions and messages to the Israelites. God equally prepared his mind on the type of people the Israelites were and the opposition he was likely to encounter and words of encouragement and warning. “But you, Son of Man, listen to what I say to you, do not rebel like that rebellious people, open your mouth and eat what I give you,” (Ezekiel 2:8).

- xii. **JOB (Job 38:1-41):** “Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm,” (vs1). Job was unable to get answers or explanation for all that had befallen him irrespective of the fact that he lived a righteous life. God

spoke though he did not answer Job's question; rather God used Job's ignorance of the earth's natural order to reveal his ignorance of God's moral order. If Job could not understand the natural orders, how could he understand God's mind? God is our standard and all we need do is to submit to His authority and rest in His care.

NOTE; Drawing from the above examples, God speaks to us for the following reasons:

- i. To rebuke us and put us in check always.
- ii. To give us specific instructions, directions and commissions.
- iii. To test our obedience and love for Him.
- iv. To reassure us of His love and His presence with us always.
- v. To answer our request or give approval for our endeavours.
- vi. To reveal His displeasure about our activities or sin and His intending wrath.
- vii. To reveal Himself to us, answer our fears and frustrations.



FACT NINETEEN

QUALITIES THAT PROMOTE SUCCESS

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed,” (Proverbs 16:3).

Success is the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. It does not come easy. It is not a matter of wishful thinking. It takes some amount of hard work, perseverance, and divine favour. However, there are some biblical qualities that can help in achieving success, herein are some seven of such qualities:

- i. **RIGHTEOUSNESS:** “The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot,” (Proverbs 10:7; 12:3; 28:12).
- ii. **HATING WHAT IS FALSE:** “The righteous hates what is false but the wicked brings shame and disgrace, (Proverbs 13:5).
- iii. **COMMIT ALL WORKS TO GOD:** “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed, (Proverbs 16:3).
- iv. **RESTRAINING YOUR WORDS:** “A man of knowledge uses words with restraint and a man of understanding is even tempered,” (Proverbs 17:27).

v. LOVE WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING:

“He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers,” (Proverbs 19:8).

vi.CONFESS AND RENOUNCE SIN: “He who conceals his sins, does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them find mercy,” (Proverbs 28:13).

vii. HUMILITY AND FEAR OF GOD:

Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honour and life,” (Proverbs 22:4).

TRAITS THAT PREVENT SUCCESS

Aside the above, some traits are bound to prevent success such as:

- Wickedness: Proverbs 10:7;
Proverbs 12:3, Proverbs 28:12
- Seeking Honour: Proverb 25:27
- Hatred: Proverbs 26:24-26
- Praising Self: Proverbs 27:2
- Concealing Sin: Proverbs 28:13

Note: Delight thyself also in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart, Psalm 37:4. “Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers,”
3 John 1:8.



FACT TWENTY

QUALITIES OF A GOOD LEADER

“When the wicked rises to power, people go into hiding, but when the wicked perish, the righteous thrive.

Proverbs 28:28.

John C. Maxwell sees a leader as one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way. He could also be seen as a person who shows direction, and that subordinates are willing to follow without complain.

King Solomon in Proverbs showed interest in leadership and so wrote much on leadership. Here are some of the qualities of a leader described in the book of Proverbs:

- i. **DILIGENCE:** “Diligent hands will rule but laziness ends in forced labour,” Proverbs 12:24.
- ii. **KEEP TRUSTWORTHY MESSENGERS:** “A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy brings healing,” Proverbs 13:17.
- iii. **DOES NOT PENALIZE PEOPLE FOR INTEGRITY:** “If imposing a fine on the innocent is not good, surely to flog honest officials is not right,” Proverb17:26.
- iv. **LISTEN BEFORE ANSWERING:** “To answer before listening that is folly and shame,” (Proverbs 18:13).
- v. **ABILITY TO DISCERN:** “The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it

out,” (Proverbs 18:15).

vi. LISTEN TO BOTH SIDES: “In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross examines,” Proverbs 18:17.

vii. STAND STRONG UNDER ADVERSITY:
“If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength,”
Proverbs 24:10.

viii. STANDS UP UNDER PRAISE: “The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but people are tested by praise,” (Proverbs 17:3)

Note: Under bad leadership the following occur:

- Honouring wrong people backfires, Proverbs 26:8.
- A wicked ruler is dangerous,

Proverb 28:15.

- People despair, Proverbs 29:2.
- A wicked ruler has wicked officials, Proverbs 29:12.

Sarmad Hasan (2019) listed 15 leadership qualities that make good leaders; they are:

- Honesty and Integrity
- Confidence
- Inspiring others
- Commitment and Passion
- Good communication
- Decision making capabilities
- Accountability
- Delegation and Component
- Creativity and Innovation
- Empathy
- Resilience

- Emotional Intelligence
- Humility
- Transparency
- Vision and Purpose



WORDS ON GOLD

Marriage is not a noun, it is a verb; it is not something you get, it is something you do. It is the way you love your partner every day.

-Barbara De. Angelis

It is not lack of love, but a lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriage.

- Fredrich Nietzsche

A good marriage is the union of two good forgivers

- Ruth - Bell Graham

It is wonderful how much time good people spend in fighting the devil. If they would only expend the same amount of energy loving their fellow men, the devil would die in his own track of ennui.

- Helen Keller - “Story of my life”

Reputation is what men and women think of us, character is what God and angels know of us.

- Thomas Paine

An angel can illuminate the thought and mind of man by strengthening the power and vision and by bringing within his reach same truth, which the angel himself contemplates

- Thomas Aquinas

If you do not like something, change it. If you cannot change it, change your attitude; do not complain.

- **Maya Angelou**

Do not listen to those who weep and complain, for their disease is contagious.

- **Og Mandino**

Be happy for what you have, while working for what you want.

- **Hellen Keller**

“I tell you, he replied, if they keep quiet the stones will cry out,”
Jesus Christ(luke 19:40)

Broken vows are like broken mirrors, they leave those who held to them bleeding and staring at fractured images of themselves.

- Richard Paul Evans

You see rebellion and disobedience. They cause and keep us from having the power of God that is available to us as Christians.

- Joyce Meyer

Wisdom, compassion, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men.

- Confucius

If money is the god people worship, I would rather go worship the devil instead.

- Jess.C. Scott

What we ever hope to do with ease, we must first learn to do with diligence.

- **Johnsons Quotes**

Never trust your tongue when your heart is bitter.

- **Samuel Johnson**

Half of a person's beauty comes from the tongue

- **Anonymous**

The tongue, like a sharp knife, kills without drawing blood

- **Buddleia**

Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value

- **Albert Einstein**

The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest thing.

- Ronald Reagan

