



BOLA AKIN-JOHN

FRANK TALK TO MEN

**Timeless Values That Make
You A Real Man Anywhere**

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By

Dr. Francis Bola Akin-John

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CONTENT

[CONTENT](#)

[DEDICATION](#)

[APPRECIATION](#)

[INTRODUCTION](#)

[CHAPTER 1: WHO A REAL MAN IS NOT](#)

[CHAPTER 2: CHALLENGES FACING MEN EVERYWHERE](#)

[CHAPTER 3: QUALITIES OF A REAL MAN](#)

[CHAPTER 4: PORTRAITS OF A REAL MAN](#)

[CHAPTER 5: THE REAL MAN BEHIND THE MINISTRY](#)

[CHAPTER 6: MEN AND CHURCH](#)

[CHAPTER 7: MEN NEEDS THE CHURCH](#)

[CHAPTER 8: THE CHURCH NEEDS MEN](#)

[CHAPTER 9: WHAT DRIVES MEN AWAY FROM CHURCHES](#)

[CHAPTER 10: PROBLEMS THAT MEN CAUSE](#)

[CHAPTER 11: PROBLEMS THAT CHURCHES CAUSE FOR MEN](#)

[CHAPTER 12: HOW TO MAGNETIZE MEN TO YOUR CHURCH](#)

[CHAPTER 13: THE MAN AND MONEY](#)

[CHAPTER 14: HOW MEN CAN MAKE MONEY WITH PEACE OF MIND](#)

[CHAPTER 15: THE MAN AND DEBT](#)

[CHAPTER 16: THE REAL MAN AND FREEDOM](#)

[CHAPTER 17: THE MAN AND SEX](#)

[CHAPTER 18: SEXUAL PROBLEMS IN MEN](#)

[CHAPTER 19: HOW REAL MEN REMAIN FREE FROM SEXUAL PERVASION](#)

[CHAPTER 20: WHY MEN DIE FASTER THAN WOMEN](#)

[CHAPTER 21: THE MAN AND HIS PARENTS](#)

[CHAPTER 22: THE MAN AND HIS WIFE](#)

[CHAPTER 23: THE MAN AS A FATHER](#)

[CHAPTER 24: THE MAN AND HIS CHILDREN](#)

[CHAPTER 25: THE MAN AND HIS FRIENDS](#)

[CHAPTER 26: THE MAN AS A LEADER](#)

[CHAPTER 27: THE MAN AS A PROMISE KEEPER](#)

[CHAPTER 28: THE MAN AND SUCCESS](#)

[CHAPTER 29: REAL MAN AND TOUGH TIMES](#)

[CHAPTER 30: REAL MAN AND TEMPTATIONS](#)

[CHAPTER 31: THE MAN AND CURSES](#)

[CHAPTER 32: The Man and His Kingdom](#)

[CHAPTER 33: A FATHER'S BLESSING](#)

[ABOUT THE BOOK](#)

[OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR](#)

[ABOUT THE AUTHOR](#)

DEDICATION

To men who are genuine, real, honest, kind and disciplined, I affectionately dedicate this book. You are a man among men. God and society derives benefits from your life. Mighty blessings upon you, now and always.

APPRECIATION

My deepest appreciation goes to the Father of Light and the God of all comfort for His enablement and inspiration by His Holy Spirit to pen this massive work.

I cannot but thank men like late Edwin Luis Cole, the Promise-Keepers Ministry and the host of others who started the Men's Ministry in U.S.A. I have gained from your inspirations. God's blessing upon you.

I equally thank those men that have deemed it fit to attend our Men Matters Ministry seminars over the years, I'm blessed by your inquisitive questions and observations.

I thank my wife of over 21 years whose words of encouragements have greatly helped me to be the real man God has made me today.

My co-workers in the Church Growth Ministry are highly appreciated and my printer, Rev. Biola Longe. God bless you forever.

INTRODUCTION

In 2004, the Lord gave me the mandate of raising, connecting, coaching and empowering men to become real men. Prior to that time, I had little insight on the role of men in the church and society. Yes, I have written some books on the importance of the leader, yet I did not have a full grasp of the qualities of the man behind the ministry. The insights, revelations and illuminations that came to me as I study, research and examine the scriptures and the society concerning who a real man should be, led me to start MEN MATTERS MINISTRY, which holds Men Seminars on quarterly basis, and God has used it to transform many mere men to be the real men that can be used by God to transform the society for good.

The times we live in call for real men. We need more clear-thinking, disciplined, hard-working, straight-talking, spiritually mature and godly men that can lead the society to the right paths.

- i. Give me men to match my mountains.
- ii. Give me men that are true.
- iii. Men with empires in their purpose.
- iv. Men with godly mien and kind.
- v. Men that can shake things for God.

Unfortunately, the church and the society lack such men in great numbers today. The number one reason for that is ignorance. There is little that is taught and written on how to become a real man today. Since I received this mandate, I have bought books on men, but majority of them failed to address issues that are pertinent to the heart of men everywhere. Even the few leaders that are running meetings meant for men are only engaged in extravaganza and whipping up sentiments. They failed to address the core issues that make up a real man.

In essence, many males abound, but the real men are scarce commodities. The church has been criminally silent on who a real man should be. The last Father's Day was not even celebrated in many churches – no wonder we have few committed men in churches.

Secondly, most men are contented to remain as either mere males or boys. Most men hate to grow up. In every man a child is hidden that wants to play and who is satisfied to remain as a child, so that he can continue to

play. When men refuse to grow up to be real men, the society losses in so many ways.

Thirdly, every man must be a real man, not a boy, if things are going to be better in the church and society.

God is pictured as constantly searching for a MAN, not males. The man is much more important to Him than anything else.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.” - John 1:6

It is the real man that makes a mighty ministry. It is the real man that makes a thriving church. It is the real man that makes a godly home. It is the real man that makes a conducive society. It is the real man that builds great places to work. It is the real man that makes a progressive nation. When the real man is not found, societies flounder. When the men are mere males, there will be problems and retardations all around, physically, economically and spiritually in the society.

This book is for every man everywhere. It addresses issues that are at the heart of being a real man. It is my contribution to the making of a real man out of every male out there. Every chapter is a timeless value that should define the life of men and they will help you to live a worthwhile life.

My deep desire is to see real men who are discerning, decisive, determined and strong-hearted for justice, goodness and godliness everywhere. And if this book can help you along this line, then I have not written in vain. I'm writing in a simple, strait and strong way to men. I intend to strike strong and manly blows at men everywhere. And I know you will receive it like a man because men need to talk frankly to each other. Thank you for being manly enough to pick up and read this book! It's a good sign that you are on the way to becoming the real man God created you to be!

Francis Bola Akin-John

President, International Church Growth Ministries

October 2011.

CHAPTER 1: WHO A REAL MAN IS NOT

“Of all that Heaven produces and nourishes, there is none so great as man” – Confucius.

Man is created in the image of God. He is the very image of divinity. He owes his very existence to God. He was created and made the crown of God’s creation. He is to rule the earth on behalf of God. Yes, God reckons with everyone, females, males and children, but the man is number one with Him. Biblically speaking, only men are counted and really, a woman is a man with womb, a she-man.

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” - Psalm 8:3-8.

Man is the head of God’s creation, he is to rule and have dominion over other creatures. Man occupies the position of authority and power, a small god to other creatures. God made man the head of the home, a burden bearer and a banker, provided by nature. The man is to be a steward for God, a mentor, model to others and to be responsible for the state of the world and affairs of the society.

The truth however is that not every male has come to this lofty state that God has placed man. Many are only males and not real men yet. Being a male is a matter of birth, but being a man is a matter of choice and growth. You can be a male without being a man; you can be a man without being a husband; you can be a husband without being a father and you can be a father without being a leader!

Being a real man doesn’t answer to age, class, status, position and experiences, it only answers to growth and maturity. And maturity is a scarce commodity among the majority of men in the world and church today. That is the focus of this book.

SEVEN DECADES OF MAN

It has been noted that there are seven decades in the life of the average male, and it goes something like this:

- a. Spills - New born and infant in the world, spilling things here and there.
- b. Drills - Starts going to schools and being trained up for life – adolescent years.
- c. Thrills – Youthful exuberance and discovering fun, pleasure and libido.
- d. Bills - Growing to adulthood and embracing manly responsibilities. Paying bills and caring for others.
- e. Ills - Growing to middle age and having to nurture the body because of wear and tear. Losing the strength of youth.
- f. Pills - Being sustained and maintained by pills as a result of old age and weakness of the body system.
- g. Wills - When a man writes his will and prepares to return back to his Creator. He is waiting for death, which is the end of every man.

Majority of men will have to pass through these seven decades one way or the other. Some may experience them faster and quicker than others, yet they hold true in the existence of many males in the world. From the third decade, every male must make a choice to become a real man that will make the world a much better place. God will not commit His great work in the world into the hands of children and boys, but a man among men.

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” – Ezek. 22:30.

The life of a man can also be summed up in the following ways:

- 1 - 20 years - Learning
- 20 - 30 years - Ladies
- 30 - 40 years - Living
- 40 - 50 years - Liberty
- 50 - 60 years - Leisure
- 60 - 70 years - Longing
- 70 - 80 years - Lying down

MYTHS ABOUT REAL MAN

The society has postulated many half-truths about who a real man is. Quite sadly, many males have believed and lived by these wrong descriptions of

a true and real man. Many believed that being a real man means the following:

1. Sexual Prowess

A certain governor in the Northern part of Nigeria married four wives as a Muslim and impregnated the four of them the same time. When asked by journalist as to how he was able to do that, he proudly replied, “I’m a real man now”. Well, that is the wrong mindset that many males possessed. Being able to sleep with many women and having high libido doesn’t really mean you are truly a real man. You may be a male, but not a real man yet. Being a real and true man takes much more than sexual prowess and spilling your beans here and there.

2. Ability To Beat Your Wife

A certain man was provoked by his wife and he gave her a sound beating. When asked by his pastor why he beat his wife, he replied, “I had to show her sir that I’m a man”. Well, beating your wife doesn’t make you a real man, rather it reveals the beast in you. Wife battering only shows that you are still a male and you need a lot of growing up to do. The true proof of your manhood is not in dominating and battering your wife or the women in your life. Rather, it is in stooping low to use your strength to undergird, help and assist the women in your life.

3. Lots of Money and Material Success

Many males believed that until you can control millions of money and be hailed as a success by your mates and friends, you are not yet a real man. This wrong believe has therefore led many to cut-corners, steal, rob and involved in occultic practices that drown men in perdition. Many males have joined demonic, satanic and occultic groups, societies and cults in their quest to have loads of money and material success which will prove that they are men. Wickedness, rituals and provoking God are the end result, and fiery judgment from God awaits such men. Truth be told, it is not until you have millions of money that you are a real man. Many who got monies through crooked means are only males, not real men.

4. Possessing Buildings and Mansions

It is commonly believed that if you have not built your own house, you are not yet a real man. And this has made many men to run helter-skelter to build their own house. Some have done ungodly, abominable and wicked things in that process, which in turn have brought heartache and judgment upon them. The fact of the matter is that you can be a true man without

having your own house yet. Buildings and mansions are wrong parameters to measure who a real man is.

5. **Ability to Father Many Children**

In the last Fathers' Day, many women woke up to curse the fathers of their children. Why? Because those men only donated sperms here and there, but were never around to be true husbands to those women and fathers to those children. The fact that a man can or has fathered many kids doesn't make him a real man, if he fails to care and nurture those children. It is easier to father a child than to be a true father. Many males father children here and there, but who are not true fathers to those kids. I counseled a young minister who already had ten (10) children through many women across the world. I had to tell him to do all in his power to be a true father to those children.

A MERE MALE OR REAL MAN?

Having seen the society's warped view of who a real man is, let us now consider the difference between a mere male and a real man.

Mere A Real Man

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is a boy – immature, irresponsible. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A true man – responsible and mature. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A husband that donates a sperm only where there is need to have children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lover, husband and good father. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to be alive to his manly responsibilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible to his family and constituents. |
| | |

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on his parents. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent of his parents. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afraid to risk and take decisions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courageously take risk and stand by his decisions. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweet-tongued, lying and deceitful. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustful and keep to his promises. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boasts of his sexual prowess and libido. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciplines his emotions and faithful to his wife. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lazy, indolent and busy-bodies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard working, agile and focused. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritually blind and careless about God. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real man still seek Jesus and fervent in spiritual things. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always overwhelmed by problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has learned how to rise up and march ahead. |
| | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selfish, self-centered and uncaring. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selfless, loving, caring and helpful. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative, critical and suspicious of others. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive, constructive, being good, kind and assisting others. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer mentality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributor mentality. |

A mere male is a boy while a real man is matured. Boys play around the house, men build homes. Boys make babies, men raise kids. Boys are irresponsible, men shoulder responsibility squarely. It will take a lot for mere males to become a real man.

A real man is matured and free from childish behaviours. He has grown to think and understand, before speaking. He is matured in understanding, but a child in malice. (1 Cor. 13:11; 14:20).

From the foregoing, you can see clearly that becoming a real man and not a mere male takes lots of hard work and growing up. Males that fail to become men will find life tough.

Furthermore, the society's wrong view about who a real man is has contributed significantly to many men failing to grow up to become real men today. In men's magazines, the emphasis is on size, tone and shape of men's bodies, libido, houses, relationships and monies. In a sponsored men's TV in UK, a real man is projected as someone who can drink alcohol, love sex and action films. While that may be part of what a true man is, yet it is not totally correct and it has turned many males to victims of their environments. When men are mere males, they will be struggling in their lives, jobs, relationships and family life. Such males are a minus to the society and the kingdom of God.

I just hope that every male can jettison and purge himself of these wrong notions and start taking steps that will make him to become the true man

he has the potential to be. It has been said in the 'book of elders' that to become a MAN is not a day's job'. Yes, that is very true. It takes a long process to become the real and true man you were created to be. The journey must start today. You can't wait longer.

CHAPTER 2: CHALLENGES FACING MEN EVERYWHERE

“God gave men both a penis and a brain, but unfortunately, not enough blood supply to run both at the same time” – Robin Williams.

It was a screaming headline in the morning newspaper! Everyone rushed to catch a glimpse of it. A man hanged himself and left a suicide note; “I could no longer cope with the burden of my close and extended family since I lost my job, I could not bear to see my family suffer, so I have to end it all. I’m sorry for this.”

It was very sad to see another male go this way. It is another decimal in the face of the daunting challenges facing men everywhere today.

Man is born for challenges and lots of them are daily confronting men everywhere today. Unfortunately, lots of males are finding it very tough facing and handling these challenges. A challenge has been described “as problems, crisis and situations that tries the souls of men”. They do come in financial, social, physical, material, societal and personal levels. Depending on how you view them, they can be stepping stones to achievement or stop signs to your life and work.

HARD FACTS ABOUT MEN

- Ø There are more than 70million men in Nigeria, 18 years old and above.
 - Ø More than 45million men are involved in pornography and adultery is out of control.
- Ø Christian men and leaders are divorcing as non-christians.
 - Ø 50% of children from broken homes have not seen their fathers in over a year.
- Ø One out of every three births is to an unmarried mother.
 - Ø Fatherlessness is the single most important factor in boys’ likelihood to commit a crime.
- Ø Nigeria leads Africa in fatherless families.
- Ø Men are addicted to everything from money to secret cults.
 - Ø The average Nigerian Christian male is in a hurry to make it and have little regard for his family.
 - Ø Most men give the best years of their lives to ideas that never have the possibility of making them happy.

- Ø Most men don't live long, they die faster than women.
 - Ø There are much more fatherless children than motherless ones.
 - Ø Most men have success sickness: the disease of always wanting more and never contented.
 - Ø Most men are tired, restless, confused, lonely and empty.
- The above facts show that every male is facing internal and external challenges that must be daily surmounted if they must not disappoint themselves, the society and their Maker.

CHALLENGES FOR MEN

Permit me to further itemize those challenges that are peculiar to men everywhere.

1. Ignorance About Masculinity

It is not a far-fetched truth that most males are ignorant of their masculinity. There is no training on how to become a real man, and the church is at fault too. Recently, I was teaching our PhD students in the school and I asked how many of them preached on men and fatherhood during the last 'Fathers' Day'? Only one out of about 30 raised his hand. What a tragedy!

As long as men are not taught on how to be real men, the society and church will continue to suffer. When you don't know who you are as a man, then you cannot discover your destiny. You must work to overcome this challenge through reading, learning and discovering yourself. Until you know yourself, you cannot be truly known.

2. Leadership

This is another huge challenge that men are facing everywhere. Most men have no leadership hero to emulate and copy. While some can look up to their fathers, majority have no good father figure to copy from. In some instances, men follow the negative examples of their fathers.

A man was overheard talking to his wife in the heat of an argument, "I will deal with you the way my father used to deal with my mother".

When you don't have a good leader to look up to, chances are very high that you won't be able to become a good leader yourself. The women folks look up to men for leadership in the home, society and in the work place. In handling tough and difficult situations, men are expected to lead. The phrase; 'but you are a man' is very common to women when situations and circumstances call for risk and toughness.

3. Sexual Pressure

Most, if not all men are daily and hourly battling with this deep-seated challenge. The female folks have perfected ways to tempt, flirt, seduce and trap the male folk with their bodies and most men are daily falling flat before this challenge. The television, films, internet, advertisements and daily dressings of women are posing real challenge to men in this area.

Lots of women are moving about scantily dressed and half-nude, knowing fully well that men are seriously affected by what they see. The outcome has been increased incidents of rape, sexual assaults, incest, flings and immoralities everywhere. Unfortunately, many men have picked up curses, failures, jail terms and death by falling before this challenge. Being slave of your sexual feelings will always bring you untold heartache, tears and regret.

4. Provision

Man is regarded as a banker provided by nature. Therefore, a real man is expected to provide for the immediate needs of his family and dependants. The wife, children, nieces, uncles and friends are daily bombarding the man with requests for money, clothings, food and fees for every imaginable needs. And many men are pissed off by this deluge of pressure to provide. Some find it too tough and thereby ran away.

I read the story of a man in the papers whose wife gave birth to a set of triplets after their first two kids. He felt he could not shoulder the multiplied responsibility and thereby decided to vote with his feet! Some males have even resorted to armed robbery, stealing and crooked ways of getting money so as to provide for the needs of their families. What a massive pressure on men every where, especially if you are the first male, the only male or an only child.

5. High Expectations

Many males are labouring under the intense pressure of too high expectations from their families, friends and relations especially, men that have moved to cities. They are expected to succeed, have lots of money and bring good things of this life back to the village. They are challenged to avoid failure at all cost and rise above their fellows.

Therefore, such men dread failure like a plague and will do anything to appear as financial success to their people. Lots of men have crumbled under this challenge and some have died shamefully in their effort to meet up with the unreasonable expectations of their parents, relations and friends.

Well, working under unreasonable expectations from close relations always ruin men. You will have to be realistic and move at God's pace for your life. You can't afford to be a slave of people's expectation of you. Whatever prayers, faith in God and honest work cannot achieve, don't be a party to it, because it ruins men.

6. Fake Friends

Most men are betrayed and ruined by their friends. Peer pressure and wanting to belong has made many males to submit themselves to wrong advises and examples by their friends. Furthermore, most males are lonely as they are only surrounded by those who want from them and not those who truly love them and desire their progress in life. When men are left to their thoughts, the tendency to do stupid and foolish things is very rife. Unfriendly friends that deceive, lead astray and give wrong counsel that results in lives of misery, crime, regret and tears are strong challenges that most men have to grapple with in their daily lives.

7. Spiritually Searching

Most men are spiritually searching. Unfortunately, many have dabbled into occultism, secret societies and fake religions that promised them much in terms of material blessings but have nothing for them in terms of eternal life and peace of mind. Lots of men search for spirituality, power and protection in the wrong ways. Many are involved in religiousity that cannot save them from death and the wrath of God.

Unfortunately, most men have not found the true God and His Son Jesus Christ in their spiritual search. Rather, they have enmershed themselves deeper and deeper into mysticism, freemansory and every other religion that damn men's souls in hell after life. Quite sad that the religiousity of men have not led them to know and serve the only true God through Jesus Christ, but rather it has led them into the deception of the devil and damnation. Most religious sects, cults and societies in the world were founded by men and lots of them are still trapped in these secret cults.

STAND UP TO YOUR CHALLENGES

“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men” - I Cor. 14:20.

The Bible expects every male to become a real man in every area. You must begin to understand like a true man, if you are going to stand up to your challenges. I need to state clearly to you; being a real man is a long process. Nobody is born as a real man. Everybody starts as a baby, then grows to adolescents and becoming boys and young men.

Unfortunately, lots of males remain at that level with the attendant traits of selfishness, immaturity, pettiness, wayward and irresponsible living and receiving mentality. And very many have carved all these into adulthood without making the choice to become a real and full man.

However, you must start making the choice to become a real man today. You must start growing and imbibing the marks of a real man into your life. You must become big inside so that you can handle all those challenges of life in a matured and admirable way. You must jettison all the traits of boyishness and pray for grace to become the real man God created you to be.

CHAPTER 3: QUALITIES OF A REAL MAN

“If a man’s mind becomes pure, his surroundings will also become pure” – Budha.

Many males abound in the world, but a true and real man is a scarce commodity. Not that males do not want to grow up to become real men, but we seem not to agree on who a real man should be. I have had the honour of being invited to speak in many men’s meetings in churches over the years and I could see the confusion of many churches in the way each church labels who their men should be. While one church will call theirs, “successful men”, others labeled them faithful, conquering, overcoming, victorious, prevailing and total men fellowships. While nothing is wrong with these appellations, yet nothing concrete is achieved overall simply because we fail to identify who the real man is in all these meetings. Therefore, we have much more plastic men around today than real men.

THE DESIRE OF GOD

It is God’s desire that every male grows up to become a real man. The scripture recognizes three stages of the males’ life: children, young men and fathers.

“I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name’s sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.” - I John 2:12-14.

While the children only see their needs, young men must be careful of the deeds, and fathers must sow seeds that will benefit humanity. God will not commit His great work to children and boys, but a man among men. Therefore, He always looks for a man to do His work in the world.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.” - John 1:6.

The man is much more important to God than anything else. God commits His creation into the hand of men and when He can find a real man, He will back him up to do great exploits for His kingdom and the world. (I Chro. 16:9). No society can march forward when the men remained as

boys. No church can march forward when the men are not real. No family can move ahead when the man is only a plastic man. The kingdom of God suffers when the males refused to become real men.

In actual fact, men are nothing, the man is everything. In reality, being a man takes much more than being a male. You can be 80 years old and still a boy, and you can be 18 years old and already a man. It is not a function of age, class and status, but that of choice, growing to maturity and being responsible.

QUALITIES OF A REAL MAN

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” – I Cor. 16:13.

Having taught many men in the last seven years, I have come to realize the qualities that a real man must possess. Both in scripture and experience, a real man must have these qualities in his life abundantly. Failure to have them simply means you are still a male. Yes, you will not arrive there in a day or a month, but you must be on the journey always. Allow me to first pin-point a real man in these four ways:

A. **He Is A Man Of Identity**

A real man has taken time to study and know himself. He understands his masculinity and who he is. He knows that he is a creation of God and much is expected from him always. He is aware that he has strengths, weaknesses, faults and failures, but he is also expected to be disciplined and rise above those weaknesses. He knows that others look up to him and therefore must use his manly strength to help and assist them in whatever ways possible.

A real man has a good image of himself. While he avoids boasting and bragging, yet he is not afflicted with inferiority complex. He can step forward in humble acceptance of his manly responsibilities to God, society, family and others. A real man has identified his strengths and weaknesses. While he is capitalizing on his strengths, he is equally making sure that his weaknesses are not allowed to weaken him. He uses his strength to support than to undermine others. Are you a man of identity? Do you know yourself? Are you aware of your position as a man in the scheme of things?

B. **He Is A Man Of Intimacy**

Adam was the first man that was created and for a time, he operated in God's presence and deep intimacy with the LORD, until he fell through sin. Every man cannot survive the world and become a true man until he builds good intimacy with his Creator. To become a true man, you must know the Lord and have intimate fellowship with Him. Depending on your own physical, mental, educational and material strength will fail you woefully. Real men build their strengths on the Lord through worship, prayers and vibrant intimacy.

Furthermore, real men have good intimacy with their families. They love those who are closest to them and make time to be with them. They are not lone-rangers nor allow the quest for material gains to rob them of the time with their loved ones. How intimate are you with your God? Do you truly know Him and have time in His presence? How intimate are you with your immediate family?

C. He Is A Man Of Integrity

A real man is a man of his word. He makes and keeps his promises, no matter what. He lives by Godly values and principles. He lives an open and transparent life. He has no skeleton in his cupboard. He hates and shuns corruption of every kind. He is truthful, honest to the core and sincere to the letter. He is guided by godly principles and character. He loves the truth and will not compromise it for anything. He is a picture of righteousness in all his dealings. He is trustworthy, reliable and dependable. He lives with the fear of God and will never do anything that will hurt others. He hates lying and liars. He speaks the truth and stand in the truth always. He maintains integrity and honesty in every situation.

"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him"
– Prov. 20:7.

How many men have sacrificed their integrity on the platter of gold? Are you a man of integrity? Are you reliable and trustworthy? How truthful are you? Are you free from corruptions of the world?

D. He Is A Man Of Influence

A real man is influential. He influences his family, church, society and nation. A real man wields so much influence, either for good or bad. No real man can live alone to himself, he is influencing someone somewhere, either known or unknown to him. People look up to a real man for

guidance and direction, and he in turn provides good examples for others to follow.

A real man provides resources and platform for others to shine. He empowers, mentors and raises others to fulfill their destiny. In his circle of influence, a real man leads others in the right way and makes them contribute meaningfully to life. A real man exerts positive influence on others and offers hands of help. He uses his influence for positive and not negative ends.

Without doubt, these qualities describe who a real man must be. They must be found in abundance in the life of every male that wants to claim, 'I'm a man now'.

MARKS OF A REAL MAN

Now, I want to enumerate in details real and identifiable traits that every real man must possess. As a male, these traits must be found in your life, if you are truly going to measure up to a true and real man.

1. A Real Man Knows The Lord

The only person that can grace a man to become a real man is the Lord of heaven and earth. And real man has recognized that truth and therefore draws closer to the Lord. Real men repent of their sins, forsake their manly pride and surrender their heart and lives to Jesus and daily follow Him. They become fervent in serving the Lord and will not allow their faith to grow cold. Real men still follow Jesus. Real men are spiritually growing men. They take steps to build up their spiritual life.

A real man will not allow worldly pursuits and attainments to destroy his spiritual life and relationship with God. He is a deeply spiritual being and seeks the only and true God. He receives his strength from Him and Him only.

2. A Real Man Is Independent of His Parents

A real man is free from the apron-strings of his parents. As long as you live and eat in your parents' home, you are yet to be a man! If you marry and stay in your family house with your own wife and kids, you are not yet a real man. If you have to take counsel and advise from your parents on every family issue you have, you are not yet a real man, but a male and a tomboy! A real man will leave his parents' house and raise his own family.

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” - Gen. 2:26.

Until you leave your father, mother and relations, to raise your own family, you are not yet a man.

3. A Real Man Doesn't Joke With His Family

Until you are a responsible family man, you are not yet a real man, but only a male. A real man marries and stays married. He is a committed family man. He takes care of his wife and kids. He loves his wife and he is faithful to her. He does not allow his extended family to control and dominate his immediate family. He defends his home and will not allow African tradition to render his wife and children helpless. A real man stands up to defend his family from the invasion and onslaught of friends, relations and in-laws. He keeps his family from their preying eyes. If you are not raising your own family and being there for them, you are not yet a real man.

4. A Real Man Is A Man Of His Word

A real man's word is sacrosanct. His word is his bound. He stays true to his promises. He lives by what he preaches. His life and his words agree together. He values integrity, truthfulness, sincerity and openness in all things. He detests stealing, falsification and cheating of any kind. He is fair, just, impartial and sincere with all those who come in contact with him. He is not sly, slippery, cunning and crafty with the truth, but open. He lives with an open conscience and shuns injustice of whatever kind. He is a true man among men.

5. A Real Man Is A Man Of Godly Character

A real man has godly character. He has learnt to do what is right, irrespective of pressures. His values are based on godly principles, not on feelings. He makes a choice to be real, genuine and strait in all things. He lays the foundation on inner virtues of sincerity and transparency in his life.

He will not take short cuts, nor cut corners. He believes in being thorough and true in all things. He knows that when everything else fails, it is his character that will sustain him. He has chosen to be truthful, when others are lying; to be patient when others are hurrying; to be loving when others are hateful and to be prayerful when others are playing. A true man of

godly character will survive all other plastic men. Godly character will carry a man further than he can even try to go himself.

6. A Real Man Is Purposeful And Focused

A real man has discovered his purpose in life and is focused on fulfilling it. He is not aimless, purposeless and focusless in life. He is not the lazy, indolent and valueless type, rather, he is committed to the purpose of his existence and has arranged his life around the fulfillment of that divine purpose. Unserious, serio-comic and purposeless men cannot become real men after God's heart. But a real man doesn't joke with his purpose, once he discovered it from God. He will spend and be spent in that life's purpose.

7. A Real Man Is Broadminded And Matured

A true man is not myopic and narrow-minded, rather, he is broad-minded in life. He has learnt to forgive and forbear all those who oppose, torture, punish and behave as his enemies in his life's journey. He has no room in his heart for malice, hatred, bitterness and unforgiving spirit. He always takes the higher road of forgiving heart towards those who hurt, slander and hinder him one way or the other.

He allows God to fight his battles for him and will not fight nor revenge for himself. He has a large heart to forgive and march on in life. He doesn't waste time in nursing hurts and bitterness in his heart. He is broadminded enough to overlook faults, failures and slights of men, knowing fully well that forgiveness opens the door to greater blessings by God.

8. A Real Man Is Selfless And Sacrificial

A true man has grown up from living the selfish life. So many males are selfish and self-conscious in most things. They think only of their benefits and pleasures. They care less about what happens to others. They spend their money alone, work for themselves alone and think only in terms of themselves. They see everything from the point of their own needs alone. Even when they are married they are still very selfish.

I know a man that eats outside and will come back home to sleep, never caring for his wife and kids. He keeps his money under his belt and tells his family to consider him as dead, whenever they ask him for up-keep money! What a selfish man! Real men are selfless and sacrificial. They think in terms of "we", not "I". They sacrifice their time, talent and

treasure for the well-being of their family, friends and associates. How selfless and sacrificial are you as a man?

9. A Real Man Is True, Truthful, Honest and Sincere

Most males are liars, slippery, twisting and speaking from both sides of the mouth. They are never sincere nor true in all their sayings and doings. They lie to their wives, children, leaders, friends and associates. Their handiwork are full of deceits. But a real man holds the value of truthfulness, honesty and sincerity in all things. He lives by the godly value of speaking the truth and being truthful in all his dealings.

One of such men was over-paid to the tune of millions in a bank transaction. When he discovered it, he returned the money to the bank. Even though he was derided by some people, yet he decided to be truthful, sincere and honest. His church later rewarded his honesty. Such must be the lifestyle of a true and honest man. A truly honest man will never take anything that does not belong to him, and if he discovers anyone's property in his belongings, he will quickly return them and retribute. Honesty, sincerity and truthfulness are the hallmarks of the life a real man.

10. A Real Man is Not Abusive, Oppressive and Vindictive

Too many males have abusive tendencies today. They use their personalities, positions, prosperities and privileges to abuse and oppress those who are under them or are not up to them. They shout abusive words, oppress with position and take advantage of others. They practice injustices and force their ways upon the people. Such males usually die unsung.

But a real man is free from abusive tendencies. He is not vindictive. He has learnt to forgive and forbear others. He is careful not to abuse whatever or whoever God has brought under him. In fact, he lives and does things with the fear of God, knowing fully well that no condition is permanent.

11. A Real Man Is A Faithful, Loving And Caring Husband

A real man marries well and he is faithful to his wife. A mere male may love one million girls, but a real man loves one girl in million ways. He has made up his mind to shun every advances and temptations from other women and focus only on his wife. He is determined to be a true, genuine, loving and faithful husband to his wife. He will never cheat on his wife and will comport himself well to earn her trust all the time. He shows care to his wife and looks for ways to demonstrate to her that he really and

truly loves her. He verbalises his love to her and put actions to those words always. He has learnt to study his wife, sacrifice for her, serve her, suffer for her and satisfy her in every way possible as the grace of God empowers him.

12. A Real Man Is A Godly, Exemplary And Great Father

There is a great crisis of fatherhood today, simply because many males have not grown up to become true and genuine fathers to their children. Lots of males only donate sperm and do not know anything about fatherhood. The more reason we have fatherless homes, fatherless children and youthful delinquents everywhere today.

However, a real man must grow to become a good, great and godly father. He show good examples to his kids and stays around to play with and nurture them. He loves their mother, care and provide for their needs. He is always there for them and comports himself in such a way that they are proud of him. He is the true man his sons would want to emulate in adulthood and who is daughters would want to marry in later life.

13. A Real Man Rises Up From The Ashes of Failure And Defeat

A real man is not overwhelmed by the problems and crisis of life. He has learnt how to handle them. He is not afraid of failure and defeat, rather, he uses them as stepping stones to success. A true man has learnt to design his structure of tomorrow upon his wreckage of yesterday. As John Maxwell said; ‘a real man has learnt to fail forward’. He never allows his failure to overwhelm, depress and stop him from trying again. Rather, he analyzes his defeat, learn good lessons and start again and again. To a real man, failure is not final and defeat is not fatal.

14. A Real Man Is A Developer of Others

God has designed that a man must raise up other men. A man must be a true ladder that will allow other men to climb up to their destiny and potentials. A true man realizes this truth and willingly becomes a developer of other men, both far and near. He invests in others and provides platform for them to rise up to their potentials.

A real man is kind, courageous, approachable and personable. He is firm and forgiving. He spends to see others rise up and do all he can to see potentials realized. He mentors others, wittingly or unwittingly. He is a true developer that allows the hidden talents, graces and gifts of others to come to the surface and shine.

15. A Real Man Does Not Abuse The Women in His Life

So many males have found untimely death, poverty and abysmal failure in life simply because they abused the women in their lives sexually. In every man's life are many women, such as; wife, daughter, mother, niece, maid, staff and friends. Lots of males have sexually harassed, raped and molested these women in their lives. Media reports have shown that it is an alarming trend. While some have been reported and resulted in court cases, yet majority are unreported.

In my pastoral ministry, I have come across such cases and in my work as a Church Consultant, I often encounter such alarming cases. My conclusion is that lots of males will continue to fall in life, in ministry and some will continue to die prematurely as a result of these abuses, except they repent and change for good.

The truth is that only a real man will find the grace not to abuse the women in his life, because he is not a slave of his feelings. He has learnt to discipline his appetites and emotions. He sees those women as angels in his life which he must never abuse.

16. A Real Man Is Not Available To The Highest Bidder

Unfortunately, many males are available to the highest bidder today. Even in the church, pastors can be bought at a price. If the price is right, many pastors will sell their soul, calling, anointing and message, and some have sold them already! This is to show that real men are scarce, even in the ministry. A real man cannot be bought at any price. He is principled and steadfast. He holds his godly values very highly. He is not a 'yes man', but can be firm and courageous. He will not sell his birthright for a mess of pottage. He holds fast to his belief and values and he's willing to die for them, if the need arises.

Every male must imbibe these qualities of a real man. It will not come in a day or month, but you must patiently work them into your life. You must pray, adjust, adapt and adopt them into your life as a male, so that you can become the real man that God is looking for.

CHAPTER 4: PORTRAITS OF A REAL MAN

“Man must be disciplined, for he is by nature raw and wild” - Emmanuel Kant.

I usually drive past an art office on my way to work every morning. That art office has various portraits of many famous people painted outside. Those portraits are clear replica of those famous people. The same for this chapter, I want to paint the true portraits of who a real man is. I want to point them with the letter W. It will show who a real man is by his worship, worth, word, weakness, weapon, welfare, warfare, work, and wealth of a real man.”

WORSHIP

“But as for me, I will come into your house in the multitude of your mercy: in fear of you I will worship toward your holy temple”. - Psalms 5:7.

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker” - Psalm 95:6.

“Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy” Psalm 99:9.

The true and sure foundation of every real man is worship. Man was created to worship God (Rev. 4:11). The desire to worship God is in every man. Unfortunately, many men who are not real men have abused this desire by worshipping idols.

“The more a man bows his knee before God, the straighter he stands before men”.

Your real worth as a real man is found in your worship of God. And your real worth is your real value in the presence of God. There are men who feel they are worthy men by virtue of what they have but who are worthless men in the dictionary of God, because they do not worship the Living God. Worthless men are men who worship what should worship them. Worthless men are men who count God as not worthy of their worship.

THINGS THAT MERE MEN WORSHIP

- ☐ Mere men worship their work instead of God.
- ☐ Mere men worship money instead of God.
- ☐ Mere men worship positions instead of God.
- ☐ Mere men worship power instead of God.
- ☐ Mere men worship women instead of God.
- ☐ Mere men worship fellow men instead of God.
- ☐ Mere men worship education instead of God.

Most male devote all their time, life, energy and strength to acquire and attain these ephemeral things. When a man worship all these, he may be a worthy man in the eyes of the world, but a worthless man in the sight of God. An example of such was Belshazzar who was considered a worthy man before men but he was a worthless man in the eyes of God, because he worshipped things, and not the Living God.

“And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain”. - Daniel 5:22-30.

I know lots of men who have sold their souls to the devil and worshipped the devil in their efforts to make money. They are honoured by fellow men but found wanting in the sight of God.

Real men have respect for fellow men, but worship only the Living God. May you not be found wanting when you are weighed in the balance of God (Amen).

WAYS BY WHICH REAL MEN WORSHIP GOD

- ☐ Real men worship God in spirit and truth.
- ☐ Real men still pursue and seek after God with their whole heart.
- ☐ Real men worship God by their prayers.
- ☐ Real men worship God by their services to God.
- ☐ Real men worship God by their services to men.
- ☐ Real men worship God by their continual obedience to the scriptures.
- ☐ Real men worship God by their thanksgiving and praises.
 - ☐ Real men worship God by their regular and punctual attendance of church services.
- ☐ Real men worship God with their substances.
 - ☐ Real men are real because they are genuine enough to worship God in sincerity and truth.

WORTH

It is a common language among the secular men to ask one another boastfully; “what is your worth?”. The fellow may answer with, “I am worth 7.5 Million Naira”. The question is, ‘is the worth of a man based on his financial achievement alone?’ The scripture is there to answer for us. According to Jesus’ teaching, the true worth of a man is not in what he has as much as what he is. *“Building your true worth on “toys” of life is the greatest form of self deception”*. The true worth of a man does not consist in the abundance of things which he possesses.

The real worth of a real man is not in what he lacks, but rather what he has in God. The true worth of a man is that he knows God, and that he is known of God and can fulfill His purpose in the world.

The real worth of a real man is not in accumulation of worldly wealth but in the right application of worldly wealth for the fulfillment of divine assignments.

Mere Men Measure Their Worth By:

1. Wordly Achievement

It is believed that the more you achieve, the more worth you value. Therefore men are ready to spend their whole existence to pile up

achievement upon achievement, which sadly, do not hold any eternal significance.

2. Educational Attainment

Going to the best college and University are used by mere men to measure their true worth in life. To some mere men, if you are not a degree holder or a person with high educational qualification, you don't have a worth.

3. Material Accumulation

The more properties, buildings and cars you acquire the more class you attain in the world.

4. Possition / Title Attainment

Prefixes, titles and appellations are the measuring yardsticks of some. The more reason many Africans acquire titles upon titles, even though the titles lack the real mantle.

5. Physical Apperance

How handsome, good looking and fashion conscious you are also determines your worth in the estimate of mere men. People spend so much to look good, simply because they believe in 'branding' and packaging to satisfy the world.

6. Popularity and Worldly Recognition

Being popular and getting awards from people are also used to measure people's worth. Therefore mere men do all they can, including entering into covenant with the devil so as to become popular and well-known, even if they are not known and recognised in heaven.

7. Financial Power

It is a popular saying that 'without money, you are as good as dead'. Therefore, get rich quick at all cost has increased in the world. Many mere men today are prepared to kill, maim, falsify and rob in order to be financially empowered.

Real Men Measure Their Worth by:

1. The Worship of God:

Who you worship matters a lot. A real man is a true worshipper of God in spirit and truth. A true man is free from idol worship of any kind. He worships the true and Living God only.

2. Ministry Fulfillment

He has discovered his purpose and living his life to fulfill them. He uses his gifts and graces to bless his world.

3. Being a Blessing to Others

He lends a helping hand to uplift and add value to others. The more you are able to bless others, the more worthy you are.

4. Living by Integrity

You are a true man of high worth when you live in and by integrity. Being a man of your word is the true measurement of your worth.

5. A Life of Focus

What you focus and concentrate on matters a lot. You must focus on His focus for your life. Being free from aimless and focus less living is a true yardstick of your worth.

6. A Purpose Driven Life

You must discover why you are here and live in that reality everyday. It is then you can be a worthy person.

7. Godly Value Driven Life

Your values will make you valuable. The values you live by will determine your worth.

8. Heaven at Last

Your desire to make heaven will make you run away from sin and evil tendencies, and that will make you shine as light in the world.

In summary, being a man of wealth and means will not truly determine your worth. To mere males, you might count yourself so, but in God's perspective, those are wrong parameters to measure your worth. Your true worth is measured by your closeness to the Lord and what you are doing to contribute and help others. Jeremiah chapter 9 verses 23 to 24 is a fitting scripture to measure your worth as a man;

“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”

HIS WORD

Real men are men of their words. The words of a real man are his bound. He speaks the truth. He is not exaggerative, neither is he boastful. He does not speak with both sides of the mouth at the same time. He is very careful with words that come from his mouth. He has choice of the use of words.

He knows the power of the word. He knows that when words are pronounced they cannot be retrieved. His words have been transformed by the word of God. He does not talk without proper application of his reasoning. He speaks his mind and mind his speech. At the same time he is not a talkative person because he knows that in the multitude of words there wanteth not sin (Proverbs 10:19).

Grace characterized his words. His words are comfort to the discomfort, solution to the confused and light to those who walk in the dark. He does not engage in the foolish conversation of the people of darkness. He is not abusive and condemnatory with his words. When a real man speaks, the wise has something to learn and the fool is enlightened. He is slow to speak but quick to hear. He keeps his promises even to his own hurt. (Psalm 15:4)

12 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORD OF A REAL MAN

(i). Truthfulness –

A real man's word is truthful. He is a man of integrity and credibility. He speaks what he means and means what he speaks.

(ii). Transformative –

A real man's word is transformative. The word that brings positive changes and transformation.

(iii). Corrective –

A real man speaks to correct the wrong, not to condemn people.

(iv). Seasonal –

A real man's word is seasonal, informative, current and correct.

(v). Comforting –

A real man's word brings comfort to others. His speech is factful and funful.

(vi). Wisdom Impacting –

A real man's speaks the word of wisdom. His speech gives direction and right application to issues of life (Ecclesiastes 12:10).

(vii). Knowledge Impacting –

A real man's speech is filled with knowledge. His speech is informative and educative.

(viii). Life Bringing –

The word of a real man brings life to others.

(ix). Gracious –

The word of a real man is enveloped with grace and bring grace to others – (Ecclesiastes 10:12).

(x). **Faith Reviving** –

The word of a real man is faith reviving. His words drive out fear from people.

(xi). **Illuminating** –

The word of a real man shines as light in the midst of the world of darkness.

(xii). **Inspirational** –

The word of a real man is inspiring and empowering.

WEAKNESS

Every man that has ever lived on the surface of the earth has a weakness; the great, the small, the rich, the poor, the wise, the fool, the educated and uneducated inclusive. But a real man has learnt to overcome his weakness with the strength of the Lord.

A real man does not allow his weakness to rule him, but rather rules his weakness. A real man is not a slave of his weakness but a king over his weakness. His language is ‘I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me’. The weakness of every man is not outside of the man but rather inside.

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” - 1 Cor. 1:25.

“And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.” - 1 Cor. 2:3.

Every man has to battle with the following common weaknesses:

- The weakness of what you see – lust
- The weakness of what you touch
- The weakness of what you taste
- The weakness of what you smell
- The weakness of how you feel

These weaknesses have made some men to give up to adultery, greed, stealing, immoralities, and all forms of wicked activities.

FACTS OF WEAKNESS IN RELATION TO MAN

- .. Every man in life has a weakness.
- .. The weakness of every man breeds from his emotion.
- .. There is no weakness that's too strong to control.
- .. Inability to control your weakness makes you a mere man.
 - .. It is the weakness that's not controlled that will metamorphose to bad habit.
- .. The weakness you fail to address will undress you.
 - .. Acknowledgement of your weakness is the number one key to overcome it.
- .. The place of prayer is one sure place to overcome your weakness.
 - .. The power of the Holy Spirit is the surest power to defeat your weakness.
 - .. Right association of real men will deliver you from your weakness unnoticed.

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR WEAKNESS

1. Don't be a slave of your emotions, such as;
how you feel, what you see, what you touch, what you taste and what you smell.
2. Acknowledge your weakness and be willing to work over it.
3. Submit yourself to accountability of your leaders and mentors.
4. Voice out your weakness to people that can help you.
5. Don't assume the position of the all powerful.
6. Run away from an environment that energizes your weakness.
7. Pray against your weakness.
8. Go for deliverance in extreme cases.
9. Be filled with the Holy Spirit at all time.
10. Find out from others what can be done to rule over your weakness.

WEAPON

To be a real man in today's world is a real spiritual battle. And to overcome, every real man must possess spiritual weapon. Real man is not real if he lacks spiritual weapon. The weapon of a real man is not carnal weapon.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down

imagination, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” - II Cor. 10:3-5.

=Elijah was a real man because he had a weapon. Apostle James revealed this weapon in his epistle;

“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit”. - James 5:17-18.

Even though there are many spiritual weapons a real man should possess, the mother of all these weapons is the weapon of prayer. You must learn to pray and praise God in every situation of your life. You must pray in faith and with faith in the Lord. Prayer and praise must be the chief weapon you employ to fight your battles.

WELFARE

“Health is wealth”. Unfortunately today, many men are not really healthy. Despite the fact that God is concerned about the welfare of His people, many men are not enjoying the benefits of well being, due to their ignorance on the subject of health.

“A real man is not really real if he is often on the course of breaking down, because of lack of proper health care”.

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” - 1 Cor. 6:20.

WHAT EVERY REAL MAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HIS WELFARE

1. Without a sound mind and a sound body, you are not a real man.
 2. When you keep breaking health principles, the same will turn around to break you.
3. If you keep health principles, the same will turn around to keep you.
 4. What goes into your body (what you eat) greatly determines what happens to your body.

5. If you don't take time to rest at home you may be forced to rest outside your home.
6. The spirit in you does not have any other house to live in than your body, so take care of it.
7. Work when to work and rest when to rest. If not you may be resting in peace when you are supposed to still be working or forced to be working when you are supposed to be resting.

HEALTHY HABITS OF A REAL MAN IN RELATION TO HIS WELL BEING

1. Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy and wise.
 2. Avoid late night food, it makes your digestive organs to be working when they are supposed to be resting.
 3. Observe what you eat, where you eat and how you eat. Know that contaminated food is dangerous to your health and eating in an open air exposes your food to pollution. Imbalance diet is not only a product of shortage of food, too much of food can also cause ill-health.
4. Vigil is good, but too much of vigil is dangerous to your health.
 5. Observe the rules of neatness and cleanliness. Remember, cleanness is next to godliness. Cleanness of dress (clean and well ironed), shoe, office and home.
 6. Real men brush their teeth regularly. One time may not be enough if you eat three times in a day.
7. Use face towels and handkerchief always.
 8. Take your bath regularly. Mere men only bath once in a day. Real men bath at least twice in a day. One in the morning when going to the office, and at least one in the evening or night before going to bed.
9. Take your bath after sexual celebration with your wife.
10. Use good body and hair cream and good perfume.
11. Smile and laugh when necessary: it serves as nerves healer.
12. Go for body exercise. "Physical exercise profits a little".
13. Watch what you eat, especially as you are advancing in age.
 14. Don't give yourself to anxiety and worry. It is a principal cause of many hypertension and heart attack. Be

careful about being in hurry. Hurry leads to worry and worry leads to sorry.

“It is the part of a Christian man to take care of his own body before in the way purposed by God that by its soundness, and wellbeing, he may be enabled to labour for the aid of those who are in want”. - Martin Luther.

HIS WORK

Every real man is a working man. *“Every real man works hard to earn a living for himself and family”*. Man is a banker provided by nature. A lazy man can never be a real man. Every real man values work as a gift from God, but must not value it so much that it becomes an idol. Jesus Christ displayed the attribute of a real man because He was a hard working man. Before it is dawn, Jesus would be at a mountain of prayer. He emphatically declared;

“I must do the work of him who sent me by the day for the time comes when no man is able to work again” - John 9:4.

Even before He was twelve, the kingdom business mind was displayed when his parents were looking for him. He said to them;

“Why are you looking for me don’t you know I must be at my father’s business?” - Luke 2:49.

Jesus was a busy man, yet He maintained the balance between His relationship with His ministry and God. Every real man must learn to maintain a balance between his work and God.

FACTS OF MAN IN RELATION TO HIS WORK

1. Every real man views his work as a vocation (calling) and knows that he is accountable to God.
2. Every real man knows that the fundamental purpose of his work is to serve God by serving men.
3. Every real man is a busy man. Busy men are not lazy men. Busy men are not dissy men. *“Hands that are empty are plenty instruments for the devil”*.

4. Every real man is a servant to men through his work and not a serpent to them. (Real men work as servants while mere men work as serpents).
5. Every real man finds out a place of calling in choosing career.
“The place God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world deep hunger meet” - Frederick Buechner.
6. “Honesty is the best policy” is the slogan that guides the working ethics of a real man.
7. A real man maintains balance between relationship with his work and relationship with God. And he learns to rest when necessary.

Your choice of work as a man must fulfill the following characteristics:

- .. It must be a calling (vocation).
- .. It must be need meeting.
- .. It must be satisfaction given.
- .. It must be future providing (Jeremiah 29:11).
- .. It must be God’s pleasing.
- .. It must be seasonal.
- .. It must be the work that one is proud doing (follow the path of integrity).

5 Ps VALUE OF A REAL MAN IN RELATION TO HIS WORK

1. **PRIORITY:-** You must give God the number one priority in your work. Don’t make your work another god. Make God number one; your family relationship number two and then your work number three.
2. **PURPOSE:-** The number one purpose must be to glorify God with your work. The number two purpose must be to provide for your needs and your family needs. The number three purpose must be to be able to meet the needs of others. The number four purpose must be to leave an inheritance for your children.
3. **PLAN:-** Let your plan be God guided. Set reasonable goals and work at achieving your goals.
4. **PRINCIPLE:** Let Godly principles guide your working ethics and let it be in your practices.
5. **PRAYER:-** Include constant and consistent prayer in your programme. *“Except the Lord builds the city watchmen are doing but in vain”*.

HIS WEALTH

The wealth of a real man is centralized on these two important factors:

1. **The people around him** (friends, associates and family members). My book of elders says, 'people are my true wealth'.

2. **The money he is able to make.**

You must make money in a clean, clear, godly and legitimate ways and use that money to make the world a better place. It is then and only then you are wealthy. Mere males abandon the people in their lives in determination to be wealthy by all means.

I have seen men neglect their wives, kids and families simply because they want to make lots of money in life. Well, some actually make some money, but there is no family to share it with and they were miserable in life. A real man must be able to combine his people and efforts to be wealthy together.

You must keep your most vital relationships in your effort to be wealthy. Also, pursue wealth in godly ways with peace of mind. Don't sell your body and soul in exchange for the vain riches of this life. Remember that whatever riches you make in life will remain here when you die. You will leave them here.

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed" - Mahatma Gandhi.

WARFARE OF MAN

So many males cannot grow to become real men because they have to contend with many warfare in their lives. These warfares have reduced their potentials and progress in life. And they have rendered many males impotent in very many areas of their lives. Lots of males have had to fight warfares of their Families, Friends, Relations, Communities, Work place, Dreams and Jealousy of people.

Warfare do come to men in these dimensions. Warfare are meant to incapacitate you and hold you down. Warfare struggles with you and wrestles you to the ground. Many men are crawling when they should be flying due to warfare in these areas I have mentioned. The severity of these warfares have made many men to run from pillar to post and made themselves slaves of sin, evil, wickedness and satan.

Unless you know the Lord and you draw really near unto Him, you will find it difficult to be free from these warfares that confront all men, one

way or the other. If you really want to be a real man, then you must have victory over these warfares, in the name and strength of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 5: THE REAL MAN BEHIND THE MINISTRY

“A man may conquer a million men in battle, but one who conquers himself is, indeed, the greatest of conquerors” – Budha.

For too long a time, our focus has been on the ministry and church. Little or no attention has been given to the MAN behind the ministry. And this has resulted in many of the problems bedeviling the ministry today. The man comes before the ministry. The man is more than the ministry. The ministry does not make the man, rather it is the man that makes the ministry. The preacher is much more important than the message. If the preacher is not okay in all respects, the message will be polluted. It takes 20 years to make the preacher so that he can deliver the message as a real man.

The man must first be a real man before he can be a good minister in the ministry. Churches have suffered and the society have taken a turn for the worse simply because we have not given the needed attention to this very profound issue.

One of the name given to ministers is ‘*man of God*’ or ‘*woman of God*’. However, many are functioning as boys and girls of God today because we have not taken time to become men before entering the ministry. Today, many males abound, but the real man is a scarce commodity. In this chapter we want to look at the man who can make a good minister and thereby make the ministry thick.

Biblical Foundation:

“This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him” - Genesis 5:1.

“Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?” - II Cor. 11:7.

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a

little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas“ - Ps. 8: 3-8.

Man is created in the image of God, He is the very image of God. God reckons with everyone - male, female or children, but the man is number one with Him. Biblically, only male are counted, no female is really recognized. And really, a woman is a man with a womb - she man. It is vitally important that the man of God must be a real man before entering the ministry.

Ministry is for matured and manly man. Ministry calls for matured mindset, if things will not go upside down. Building a successful and sustainable ministry calls for matured man, not boys or girls. One of the chief reasons why many ministries are collapsing like pack of cards today is immaturity on the part of ministry leaders. So many males are not manly enough in decision making and they have allowed personality traits, prejudices and carnalities to ruin the great work God has committed into their hands.

The Man God Uses

Even though the population of women and children are always more than men, yet God depends on men so much whenever He is searching for someone to use for a great work. Today, God is still searching for men that will stand in the gap. He is looking for a man among men.

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. - Ezekiel 22:30.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John” - John 1:6.

God will not commit His great work to children and boys, but a man among men.

The times we are living in calls for a man, not only men. In war, men are nothing, the man is everything. One man can bring change, turn-around

and positive lasting impact to the church, society and the world at large.

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.” - II Chro. 16:9.

God is looking for a man of vision, integrity, prayer, power, wisdom, untainted by women, lust, fame, avarice, pride and the corruption of this life. Men that are on fire, dynamic, zealous, holy and anointed. Whenever God has found such a man, His cause has always prosper. Today, God needs VIP men:

A. **Vision**: *Isaiah 6:1-8*

- Upward Vision - God's holiness
- Inward Vision - Man's sinfulness
- Outward Vision - Perishing sinners

God is looking for men that will see the vision of missionary call from heaven (*Isa. 6:1-8*); from hell (*Luke 16:23-28*) and from the heathen (*Acts 16:9*) and will forcefully, passionately and continuously communicate that vision and live by it.

B. **Integrity**: *Acts 24:16, Heb. 7:26*

Truthfulness, honesty, holiness and transparent life-style. God wants men that are true, pure and sincere, both by precept and personal. Men that stands for the truth, in the truth and by the truth.

C. **Prayer**: *Acts 13:1-4*

Personal, persistent, fervent and importunate praying. Men that can hold to the horns of the altar until the blessing will come down. Men that can bring down the power of God by the strength and persistency of their praying. Men that are popular in the courts of heaven and which heaven will listen to whenever they call.

The course of God have always prospered in the world whenever such men are found. It is because such men are scarce, the more reason the church is floundering today. God, give us true men that will move the ministry to higher dimension in our day. The answer to that prayer will result in revivals here and there. Will you be an answer to that prayer?

Pressure On Men in Ministry

Today, so many pressures are facing the man in the ministry. So many 'men of God' have crumbled and are still crumbling under these intense pressures coming from the society, church, ministry, home, parents, friends, colleagues, and the host of darkness.

Of all the pressures facing men in the ministry, sexual pressure is the most dominant. And more and more 'men of God' are succumbing and breaking up under this intense, sustained and corrupting pressure. The alarming rate of divorce, promiscuity, fornication, adultery, flings, inordinate affairs and sexual harassment being reported in the ministry today are clear indication of this evil pressure.

"Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand" - I Cor. 10:8.

And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab - Numbers 25:1.

Ministry terrain today is strewn with many landmines which has inadvertently blown many people off and incapacitated them from fulfilling the call of God upon their lives. These landmines have always been there, but failure to be seasoned and toughened as a real man by so many ministers have allowed them to do more damage than ever before. The pressures of ministry will always be there, but it is only a toughened and matured man that can handle them well and survive them.

The Matured Man In Ministry

Ministry calls for maturity in the man. Maturity is the ability to do what is right, irrespective of how you feel; it is the ability to be disciplined and take the hard decisions that leads to justice, fair play and progress. It is only a manly man that can take such actions. How then do you become a matured man in ministry?

1. Personal Development

You must work on yourself and improve yourself. You must grow and develop. You must not take yourself for granted. If you don't work on yourself, nobody will work on you. You must be free from carnality, immaturity, envy and jealousies. You must work on those areas people complain about you.

2. Continuous Learning

You must possess a learning spirit. You must embark on the journey of learning to become better. The more you know, the better you become. You must seek to know so that you can become better. Your learning includes reading, taking courses, listening to others and rising from the ashes of your mistakes.

3. Spiritual Walk With God

You must grow and be consistent in your walk with the Lord. You must nurture your prayer life and studying of the Bible. You must spend time in His presence and let his fire burn every vestige of sin, self and satan inside you. You must grow and be consistent in the things of the Lord.

4. Surrender To Him Absolutely

Let Him have the whole of you. Let Him have unfettered access to your life. Allow Him to purge and purify you and make you the man He wants you to be. Stop struggling your life with Him. He alone can make you the man He wants you to become. He alone can purify and strengthen you to be a matured man in ministry. Therefore, lay your life at His feet in total submission. Be pliable and tender in His hand so that He can turn you to the best you can be.

5. Develop Your Character

Determine to live by godly character. Embrace godly values and inculcate godly characters to be truthful, sincere and honest in all your dealings. Don't allow the spirit of the world to control you, rather what should guard and guide your heart is His word and Spirit. Live with eternity in view. Let the ultimate always take precedent over the immediate in your decisions.

6. Be Accountable

You can become a matured man if you choose to be accountable in your life and ministry. You must choose a good friend and mentor that will hold you accountable for your actions and words. You must submit yourself to the discipline of God and that of man.

7. Be Broadminded

A matured man cannot be a myopic, narrow-minded and prejudiced person. You must seek to understand people and things. You must broaden your mind and be free from carnal prejudices. Your broad mind will help you to take worthwhile decisions that will enhance your life and ministry. Discipline must also be your watchword. You must practice self-discipline as a true soldier of the cross.

Conclusively, it is only a matured man that can make a true success of the ministry today. Will you be one? It is when you are a true, real and matured man that you can attract and raise other men in the ministry. One of the major minus why there are much more women in ministry today than men is because ministers in ministry are not real men themselves. Since you cannot give what you don't have, the more reason lots of males run away from the church. For the church to attract and retain men in large numbers today, ministers must display the traits of real men in ministry, always.

CHAPTER 6: MEN AND CHURCH

“Modern churches are women’s club with few male officers”

I strongly believe that one of the areas the church has lost her transformational edge in the society is our utter neglect of men. The average church has developed a culture of driving men away. The gospel today is gospel of the women. Men are bored with church and see the average church as a women and children place. Therefore, in the average church, women are much more than men.

There are much more ministries to women in the church than to men. It is always ratio 10 to 2. Whenever large numbers of Christians gather, men are never in majority. During the week, more women come to church than men. Sometimes in the leadership, only the pastor is a male and majority of the church leaders are women. Women are the devoted ones who build their lives around their commitments to Christ and His church. While some men still don’t attend church, yet, majority of them are born in the church. How can the church transform the society without manly men?

Today, Women’s Day, Mothers’ Day, Women Conventions, Seminars, Ministries, Bible Study, Prayer Meetings, Children Days and Women Bibles are much more pronounced in the church than that of men. Even books on women are much easy to come by in the market than that of men. In some societies, women have more rights than men, e.g. America, Britain, Europe, Australia and Canada, small wonder that lots of things have turned upside down in such societies, especially in the home front.

Biblical Foundation

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.” - John 1:6.

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” - I Cor. 16:13.

“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men” - I Cor. 14:20.

Jesus ministered to women and children. He loved them, but He was careful enough to choose strong men as His disciples. Jesus' strong leadership, blunt honesty and bold actions mesmerized the men. The 1st century church was a magnet for men too. They came in thousands.

Jesus built His church on the twelve male disciples. He was careful not to choose women among them because He knew that only true men can carry out the assignment to a logical conclusion.

The disciples magnetized men in thousands. Down the ages, men have carried the banner of faith. Revivals of the past centuries transformed large numbers of men. Men are the pillars and sustainers of the church. Men fought, risked and broke barriers for the gospel. Men are the soul of any church.

The church that neglects men is a church on the way down. The church that fails to disciple men and woo them in considerable numbers will eventually close down. That is why churches founded and led by women always have big problem attracting and retaining men in large numbers. They only have fellow women in majority and solidarity!

While women are the beauty of the church, children the future, manly men are the pillars. Without men, the church is dead! If the men are dead, the church is dead. You cannot have a thriving church without a core of men who are true disciples of Christ.

Today's church doesn't mesmerize men, rather it repels them. Check out these hard facts:

- .. Only 35% of men attends church weekly in the U.S.
- .. Only 5% of men attends church weekly in Europe.
- .. Only 37% of men attends church in Africa.
- .. Women comprised more than 60% of every congregation.
- .. 1 out of 5 women come to church without their husbands.
- .. There are more single women in the church than single men.
- .. Two-third of the church work-force are women.

While the church is having problem attracting men, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism attract much more men. In fact they are male dominated religions, while Christianity is female dominated. While it is good to focus on women and children, however the danger is that the children will grow up and abandon the church because they don't see their fathers in church. I'm afraid our grandchildren will worship in mosques if

we don't reverse the trend! Men are to lead their family to church, not children bringing their fathers!

The Church And Men Today

The excuse that men are difficult is not justified in the light of the fact that Islam and other religions attract more men than Christianity. In the average mosque, you see more men than women. Islam believes strongly in the man and works by the principle that if you can get the man, you have gotten his household. And that is true! Most muslims lead their families into mosque. But what do we have in the church? Wives and children are the ones expected to lead their husband and fathers to church. While this may work in some situations, the idea is that fathers must lead their wives and children to church. And that will only happen when the church intentionally, purposefully and deliberately target, focus, woo and do things in a way to bring men back to the church in large numbers. Until then, I'm truly afraid for our grandchildren!

CHAPTER 7: MEN NEEDS THE CHURCH

It is an incontrovertible fact that the church is good for men. It needs to be emphasized over and over again that man will benefit immeasurably if he goes to church heartily.

Recently, on a Sunday morning, I took a break from my writing and took a walk to go and buy the morning Newspapers. On my way back, I saw lots of men sitting around, drinking in pubs and chatting away without the consciousness of going to church. Even though there are lots of churches in service around our Estate, yet, lots of men refused to attend due to one reason or the other. And that is the story everywhere.

The church is good for men and when they avoid it, they suffer for it. Men are more likely to be arrested than women, die violently, commit and be victims of crimes, go to jail, be addicted and depressed. They also die more often on the job, have more heart attacks, commit suicide in greater numbers, and live shorter and poorer than women. If men want to avoid these, they must go to the church.

1. Men That Go To Church Are More Satisfied With Life

Yes, research and experience have confirmed that. Going to church regularly have a way of bringing satisfaction to your life as a man, because you see things from a realistic and scriptural point of view which has the tendency to save you from the rat-race of human existence. The world is designed not to satisfy the human heart. You can only get true satisfaction when you go to church and meet your Creator there, one on one.

2. Men That Go To Church Have More Marriage Stability

While lots of marriages are crashing at alarming rates today, it has been discovered that men that go to living churches have much more marriage stability. Why? Because they allow the word of God to guide their conduct and marital situations. They have made the Lord the head of their homes and do everything in their families to honour the Lord of lords and King of kings. Constant exposure to the word of God and fellowship with others in the church always have a statutory effect on the marriage of men.

3. Men That Go To Church Gets Out Of Poverty And Penury

Yes, I can testify to this truth. I have been going to church since I was two. I have changed church several times since then, but one fact remains, I have been blessed by God in the church. I was a nobody, and lost my father

when I was six, but today at 47 years, I can look back and thank my mother who took me to church early and also thank the Lord who used His church to take me out of suffering, poverty and squalor.

In my pastoral ministry in the past 23 years, I have seen countless men taken out of poverty and penury when they attend church sincerely. The church has been used by the Lord to pick men out of problems, wash them, minister to them until they are totally set free physically, spiritually and materially. Truly, it pays to go to church as men!

4. Men That Go To Church Have Greater Happiness

Lots of men have tried to find happiness in money, getting drunk, drugs, women and properties, but they have sadly come to realize that there is no true happiness in these things. If they derive any joy therein, it is only fleeting and temporary. But true happiness can only be found when you know the Lord and He fills the vacuum in your heart by His Spirit and power through the avenue of His church. When you are present in His presence every week, you cannot remain empty. He will fill you with His joy and happiness, which the world knows nothing about. The joy of the Lord will then be your strength in whatever condition you find yourself. That has been the personal experiences of men that attend living churches regularly.

5. Men That Go To Church Become Husbands And Fathers

It was the church that taught me how to be a good husband and father, because I have no one to look up to in this regard since I lost my father quite early in life. I'm still learning, but what I've learnt so far in Christ has helped my marriage to successfully pass the 20 years mark, and my kids are doing well under His grace and power, morally and academically. I know many men that credited their ability to be better husbands and fathers to what they learnt through the instrumentality of the church. In a nutshell, the church has turned more men to responsible fathers and husbands than any other institution on earth.

6. Men That Go To Church Are Better Citizens Of Their Country

Quite true that the church inculcates the values of honesty, truthfulness, responsibility, patriotism, peace and love in those that attend regularly, thereby making them better citizens of their nations. Christians are citizens of two countries, earthly and heavenly. The church encourages them to pray and seek the peace and progress of their earthly country and comport themselves in such a way as to be counted worthy of entering

their heavenly home. Men that go to church genuinely will always work for the peace and progress of their countries.

7. Youngsters With Religious Fathers Grow Up More Balanced And Responsible

Men must go to church, not only for themselves but also for their children. Vagabond and delinquent children have always been the outcome of wayward and ungodly fathers. Yes, I will be the first to agree that not all the children of religious fathers turn out right. Some do rebel against the faith of their fathers, but 8 out of 10 of them will always find their way back to their fathers' faith, sooner or later. The daily examples that a father sets for his household will stick and stay in the memory of the children and they will find themselves drawn back to it in later life. As a father, you must go to church regularly, and wisely, patiently and prayerfully draw your children to church, it pays immediate and life long dividends.

8. Men That Go To Church Are More Physically Healthy

When men go to church to truly serve the Lord, they get to encounter the supernatural power of God to save, heal and make them healthy. Church has a way of affecting the physical and spiritual health of men in a positive way. So, going to church helps men to get better and live a more healthy lifestyle.

CHAPTER 8: THE CHURCH NEEDS MEN

Yes, men need the church, but does the church needs men? Absolutely yes! If the church is to reach its maximum potential, men must find their places in God's economy. If we want to change the world, we must focus on men. The church must go back to winning men in significant numbers.

1. **Men's Orientation Towards Risk Promotes Church Health**

The man is wired to take risk and risk things. When safety and security are more prevalent in the church, then the church will lose the real men that want to see things moving forward. It is when our church takes calculated risks that we can move forward. A care-taking and undertaking church will lose or can never attract men in real numbers.

2. **Men Wants Growth, Progress And Expansion In The Church**

When the male energy is absent, creation does not happen, either in the human soul or in the world. If the church lacks the idea or ambition to expand, then men will feel uncomfortable and will stop coming. In many cases they will seek greener pastures. Leaders that are afraid to grow or expand always lose active and all-action men to other churches. Man is restless and when a church fails to harness that expansionist spirit of the man, then stagnation will be the outcome.

3. **Men's Focus On The Outside World Promotes Church Health**

Men are always building things, creating things and subduing the earth. Without the masculine spirit the church will turn inward.

4. **Men's Pragmatism Brings Innovation To The Church**

Men are realistic and wants to improve things. They are thinkers. In churches where realistic views are detested, the men will move away. The church needs the clear thinking and realistic view of men in the area of improvement to move things forward.

5. **Men Brings Strength to the Church**

"You can derive spirituality from women in the church, but you get strength from the men" – Edwin Louis Cole.

Men have physical, material, financial and mental strength that the average church needs to move forward. Until each local church begins to harness the strength of men, things will always remain in average levels.

6. Men Bring Money To The Church

Any church could triple her contributions by engaging men. Women contributes money to buy materials for celebration, while men gives money to grow the church. I have seen situations where women contribute millions to buy clothings and headgears for their anniversary celebrations and only give pittance to the church purse, while the men gave large sums of money for church planting and building expansions!

7. Godly Men Attract Women

Without dynamic, life-giving men, a church will eventually lose its women as well, especially the younger ones. When real young men are in a church, they also attract young women they would marry, thereby bringing numerical growth to the church. It is only in few occasions that ladies will draw men away from their church. In most cases, it is the men that will bring the women to church as their wives or wives to be.

8. Men Bring Their Families To The Church

In the Bible, fathers led their children to the church, not the other way round. Kids that are taken to the church by mothers but not fathers are harder to keep in church. Children that are led to the church by their fathers will almost always stay in church themselves and later bring their own families to the church.

In the light of the foregoing, the church must revive and revitalize her men ministry like never before. ‘The Light of the World Society’ – a Men’s Ministry in Christ Apostolic Church was once the soul of that church. It was the militant arm of the church for prayer evangelism, church planting and men’s mentoring arm of the church.

To be very candid, any man or boy that went through that society cannot but become a real man in every ramification. In actual fact, I am a product of ‘Light of the World’. The church went forward and was strong in all respects due to the physical and spiritual activeness of this men’s arm. But since it has been abrogated by the leadership of the church due to whatever reasons, that church has continued to flounder and reel to and fro from crisis.

I sincerely pray that a new leadership will emerge that will restore this much needed men’s arm, with proper check and balances. Surely, that church will recover her lost glory then. The same is true for every local or denominational church.

Men's ministry must be revived, restored and done with intentionality so as to bring back the glory of the church. No church can truly survive without godly and true men. Every church needs to march forward. When the gifts, graces and ministry of men are trampled upon in the church, then it is bye bye to growth, progress and health, and welcome to crisis, stagnation and retrogression.

CHAPTER 9: WHAT DRIVES MEN AWAY FROM CHURCHES

Nine out of ten churches have women in majority. One of the greatest challenges I have come across in my Church Growth and Consultant efforts is proffering solutions to backdoor losses in churches. Churches lose people with reckless abandon, especially men. Men move away from churches in droves.

What is it about modern Christianity that is driving men away? What are the barriers that discourage and demoralize men from coming to church? Allow me to answer these questions in this chapter.

1. Culture of Feminism In Churches

Everything is built around relationships, cooperation and women prominence. Sad to report that most pastors lead church with feminine spirit, and not masculine spirit. That means that things are done only with women in mind. The church becomes a caretaking church that focuses on the present and have no vision of the future. So long close-knit fellowship and cooperation is achieved, things are okay. Men will always run away from such churches.

2. Comfortability And Contentment

No risk, just safety and security oriented. When a church is contented, backward oriented and satisfied to coast along in ministry, young, mobile and forward looking men will make for the door. A church that detests risk of any kind will only be full of elderly women.

3. No Place And Task For The Men

Only two tasks - ushers or elders / preachers. Any church that only have these two tasks for men will breed lots of unfaithful and rebellious men. When majority of men sit down and are doing nothing in the church, then the exit door will beckon to them in an inviting way. When men are not trained and engaged profitably in the life of the church, they will move elsewhere to be involved. Most church tasks are women in nature and this repels men.

4. No Adventure, Change And Outreach

Sweet, sentimental and nice approach repels men. Churches that are sentimental, emotional and sweetly nice in their way of doing things will never hold action men for too long. When there is no more adventure and

vision pursuance, men that want to do something tangible with their lives will move away.

5. No Challenge To Dare

No risk of new things, no world to conquer. Challenge is men's love language and when that language is not being spoken in the church, they withdraw their attendance. Most churches lose their young and dynamic men when the building is completed and they now settle to routine church life.

6. No Competitive Environment

To be the best they can be for the Lord, projects, assignments and goals that can spur men into action must be out in place. Challenges and opportunities to be the best you can be magnetizes men to a worthy vision. But when that is absent, they will look for it elsewhere. When no new vision and idea is being pursued, then men will walk away.

7. No Discipleship

No effort to disciple men in small group settings. When men are just kept in the church, only to contribute money in Men's fellowship and no true discipleship process is taking place, they will vote with their feet. When issues that are pertinent to the heart of men are not being addressed in Men's fellowship in the church, they will stop coming.

8. No Programme For Men

Churches that don't train, equip and engage their men spiritually and objectively will surely lose them. When there is lack of ideas and effort to reach and empower men in a purposeful way in the church, we will surely lose them enmass. For instance, the only programme some churches have for men is Breakfast Seminar or Building Committee contribution.

9. No High Standard To Aim At

Success, excellence, heroism and reward attract men, but when they are lacking in the church, real men will move away. Stagnant and downward moving churches don't keep nor attract men. Nobody wants to join a sinking ship, but a winning team.

10. No Room For Expression

Subjugation of gifts, ministries and callings. When the church has a policy of not giving room to the expression of gifts, ministries and personal visions of her men, they will move out. Lots of churches have lost her valuable men because of this singular reason. Men are dreamers and visioners and once these are not welcome or given permission to thrive in

the church context, the men who loves to realize their dreams and visions will move out of the church.

When a church is built around the women that showed up and the culture values safety over risk, stability over change, preservation over expansion, predictability over adventure, sweetness over strength, inreach over outreach, then the men will stay away for good. God made men for adventure, achievement and challenge, and if they can't find those things in your church, they are going to find them somewhere else. Until each church finds a way to address each of these reasons, men will always move out of the church. Lots of churches continue to lose her few men because they are rigid and would not adjust or change to the realities of these reasons. What a shame!

CHAPTER 10: PROBLEMS THAT MEN CAUSE IN THE CHURCH

It is true that some churches have come to realize the role of men in the church and therefore try to create Men's fellowship. But unfortunately, all they do is to use position to bribe the men and tie them down in the church with various titles. Also, the financial and building burden of the church are placed squarely on the shoulders of men. Therefore, the few men that go to church have this mindset that the church of today is only after their monies. And to a large extent that mindset is correct.

Pastors have not helped matters in the sense that discipling men and working on their spiritual, family and financial lives are almost zero in their scheme of things. The church is only after their monies and support, not after making them the true and real men that Christ intends. As a result of this untoward practice in many churches, the few men therein have become more carnal, sinful and bad influence to the church. They therefore have left the church and take the back seat in spiritual matters. But when it comes to positions, titles and crisis in the church, you find men in the forefront.

☐ It is men that lead most rebellion in churches

Breakaway and crisis in the church usually have men as the arrow head.

☐ It is men that oppose pastors mostly

I know of many churches where the men rise up against the pastor and sent him out of the church.

☐ It is men that are mostly not committed

Yes, most men in the church don't come to mid-week services, they only show up on Sundays and with lots of excuses.

☐ It is men that mostly steal money in church

Yes, majority of financial scandals in the church are perpetrated by men in position and power.

☐ It is men that mostly become power brokers

Most titled men in the church usually grow wings and try to dominate the pastor. In some cases, they form cliques and corner the money and position of the church and render the pastor powerless.

☐ It is men that are mostly sinful and bad influence

It is true that men sleep around and maltreat their wives in the church. They serve as bad examples with their ungodly living in the church.

Furthermore, there are cases of men that defraud their church in project execution. They quote exorbitant prices and do shoddy job. It is an open secret that church projects should rather be given to non-members and sometimes, non-Christians because they will do better jobs than members! I know of many churches that the quotations for job by members are 10 times higher than that of outsiders and the quality of jobs are much lower than that of outsiders. Most men milked their church dry financially when it comes to supply and projects, even starting from Generators and buying of diesel or gasoline! What a big shame on us all.

The truth is that once we don't disciple and ground men in the truth before giving them positions and titles in the church, and placing financial demand on them, then these will be the outcome. Until each local pastor and church goes back to the basic fundamental of discipling, nurturing and grounding men in the Lord, there can be no change to these shameful scenarios.

Yes, men that cause these problems in the church are usually cursed by the Lord if they fail to repent quickly, but the truth is that some churches mismanaged their men and brought them to such conditions. Every man must seek to be a blessing and not a curse to the church. As a man, you must stop being a problem but a blessing to your church.

Men in the church must imbibe and demonstrate the following traits:

- ☐ Total acceptance of the senior pastor's vision.
- ☐ Help and assist the senior pastor - Exo.4:1; Acts.6:1-7.
- ☐ Use their gifts and talents to support - Exo.18:19-22.
 - ☐ Moral and financial backup for the church; Serve as shield and security for the leader.
- ☐ Influence the church in positive ways.
- ☐ Have good report among the brethren - Act.6:3.
- ☐ Care and Concern for the pastor.
- ☐ Spiritual and prayer commitment to the church.
- ☐ Deciding for growth, expansion and enlargement.
 - ☐ Doing physical and supervisory work that will help the material growth of the church.

- Serve in whatever capacity that will enhance the peace and progress of the church.

If men in the church can live up to these above-mentioned responsibilities, then the church cannot but move forward. But when men in the church are lazy, indolent; spiritual babies, position conscious, political gang up and no time for God because of the mad rush for money, prayerless, powerless and bad example then the church will flounder and suffer.

7 TYPES OF MEN IN THE CHURCH IN RELATION TO PROBLEMS

1. Men who create problems for the church (*Problematic*). They try to dominate and rule the pastor. They form cliques and arrogate positions to themselves. They cause stagnation.
2. Men who make themselves problems to the church (*Liability*). These are men that depend on the church for livelihood and sustenance. They expect the church to always cater for their needs.
3. Men who sense problems in the church. (*Sensitive*). They hold meetings in their houses and know those who peddle rumor about the church and her pastor.
4. Men who magnify problems in the church (*Evil broadcasters*). They are tale bearers who spread evil reports and rumors in the church.
5. Men who dodge or run away from problems in the church (*Run away*). They vote with their feet whenever a crisis arose. They become unstable in attendance.
6. Men who identify problems in the church (*Trouble shooters*). They could pinpoint problems but will not wait to proffer solutions.
7. Men who solves problems in the church (*Solution*). They are very few. It is usually ratio 2 to 10 in the church.

HOW TO BE A PROBLEM SOLVER AS A MAN

1. Choose to be a problem solver.
2. Be interested in the problems of others.
3. Take your own problem to God.
4. Be a disciplined man.
5. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
6. Be a man of the Bible.
7. Be a praying man.
8. Be a disciplined man.
9. Work on your problem solving ability.

10. Have strong faith in the all possibilities power of God.

CHAPTER 11: PROBLEMS THAT CHURCHES CAUSE FOR MEN

He was a young and educated man when he got saved and joined the fellowship of the church. He had a good job and was living comfortably. He was regular in the church and took his new found faith very seriously. The Pastor took notice of him due to his regularity and punctuality. So, in order to tie him down in the church, he was promptly made a deacon and promoted to the executive committee of the local church. In the committee meetings, he heard things that were too high for his spiritual maturity and after the meetings, he had questions in his heart concerning his faith. Eventually, he had to leave the church after it was discovered that the Pastor was involved in immorality, which totally devastated him and made him to backslide.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case, it is rather prevalent in many churches. Pastors and church leaders have rather used the church to injure and wound the faith and spiritual life of men. Of course, lots of churches have men's fellowship and some celebrate. Men's Day or Week in the church. But all that are meant to collect their monies and not to develop them in spiritual things of God.

Permit me to pinpoint some of the ways churches cause problems for men:

1. **Lack of Genuine Salvation**

It appears that most churches are content to just let men come to the church, without making effort to see that they are truly and genuinely saved. By this truth, you can see that majority of men in churches are carnal, sinful and ungodly because the hard truth of salvation in Christ is not preached or taught to them on regular basis. Most churches would rather speak on secular and business subjects to men than on true salvation and knowing the Lord in a personal and intimate way. By that, we unconsciously destroy the men.

2. **Lack of Discipleship**

Churches generally don't disciple men. Once they come regularly to church, the believe is that they are okay, which in most cases is wrong. Having one on one discipleship, teaching and grounding in the word of God for men in the church is a reality in church today. Yet, when men are not truly discipled, we leave them to remain mere religious people who

will continue to do evil things while coming to church. Without intentional discipleship, most men in the church will remain thieves, adulterers, fornicators, cheats and ungodly people in the pews.

3. Position Bribing

Most churches bribe men with positions in order to make them to be committed to the church. Churches create lots of positions for men, even though there is no corresponding spirituality in those men to handle such positions. I have seen cases where a man was made the chairman of the church, even though he is as carnal, crooked and ungodly as ever! Of course, he destroyed himself, the pastor and the church with that position. Using positions, titles and awards to cajole men in the church would rather ruin them spiritually. Positions are albatross in the neck that sink most occupants of them. And many men have buried their spirituality in the positions that were given to them in the church. Positions don't make men; rather, it is men that make positions. When we give titles and positions to babes in Christ, it will rather help their unspirituality, carnal tendencies and ruin them and the church.

4. Money Emphasis

Most men have the mindset that the church is only after their monies and they are not totally wrong. Most churches will do everything to collect as much money as possible from men. They use the men to fund building projects, expansions and sundry needs in the church without caring about as to how the men made those monies.

A church was reported to have collected 49 Million Naira from a male member, gave him appreciation letter without asking where the man got the money. It was later revealed that he stole the money from his employers! In some Charismatic church circles, the excessive money emphasis have made many men to dabble into occult, armed robbery, fraud and corruption so that they can come and boast with their ill-gotten wealth in the church on Sundays! More than any other point, this is the most prevalent in churches and it has brought lots of ruin, apathy and bad image to the church.

5. No Nurturing

One more way churches cause problems for men is the almost total lack of spiritual nurturing. Men are not taught and nurtured in the church on how to be real men. Men's meetings are rare and only used to cajole, deceive and demand things from them. Teachings that will help men to be alive

spiritually, to their families and the society are few and far between. The more reason men are withdrawing from churches in large numbers.

Generally speaking, the church have tilted more towards women than men. The few men in the church are cast as unserious, trouble-makers and position-conscious. Yet, the truth is that we made them who they are through the above-mentioned points and ways.

It's time that churches and church leaders will arise anew to disciple, nurture and build men to be strong men, spiritually, physically, mentally, socially and maritally. It is then and only then the church will become truly strong again.

CHAPTER 12: HOW TO MAGNETIZE MEN TO YOUR CHURCH

Not quite long ago, I visited a friend's church and discovered that there are large numbers of men in his church. The women were there in large numbers too but the men were many.

Sincerely, I am not advocating for a male-dominated church, nor a situation where men are kings and women are pawns in the chessboard of life. That is unbiblical and doesn't create spiritually matured men. The answer is balanced approach: teachings, practices and opportunities that allow for both masculine and feminine spirit to thrive in the church.

What must you do if this is going to be your experience in the church?

1. Repent of your neglect of men in the church.

Sincerely, each pastor needs to repent genuinely about our criminal neglect of men in our churches. We must repent for handling the issue of men with levity because we don't want to be seen as 'male jingoist'

2. Study, research and learn all you could about men.

You must know what makes men stick and you must understand the difference between masculinity and femininity. You must read books and understand how men have been wired by God.

3. Improve your leadership to welcome and appreciate the masculine spirit in the church.

You must do things in ways that will inspire the confidence of men. You must be honest, sincere, relevant, pragmatic, decisive and forthright. You must be action oriented and purpose driven. These are what men love and appreciate in the church.

4. Teach and emphasise the need for men in the church.

Stop building a women's church. Start attracting men with intentionality. Tell the women to bring their husbands and emphasise the need for men in the church regularly.

5. Specialized meetings to attract and celebrate men.

Men seminars, prayer meetings for men and banquet for men can be done monthly, quarterly or half-yearly where issues that confront men will be properly addressed.

6. Welcome the ideas, suggestions and creative approach of men.

Involve your men in the scheme of things in the church. Seek their contributions and input in the direction and programmes of the church. Give them sense of belonging and appreciate their contributions.

7. Create more roles and tasks for men in the church.

Creatively find roles, jobs and tasks that men should do in the church. Create groups and ministries that men can get involved in and give them freedom to operate after you might have trained them for it.

8. Begin to disciple men in groups in your church.

Embark on personal discipleship and mentoring of men in your church. Be involved personally with men. Model true discipleship and godliness before men.

9. Pursue vision, growth, excellence, outreach and expansion in the church.

Stop celebrating stagnation and non-growth of the church. Cast a vision of growth and progress. Take steps for progress and expansion. Don't be contented with average. Take growth action steps.

10. Dream big, stick out your neck and seek to challenge everyone to great things.

Let your church be one that has her feet strong in the locality, but has her eyes firmly in the world. Talk of better tomorrow and seek to do great things for the Lord. It is then you can win the hearts of most men and attract them to your church.

Men want reality, not mere ritual. How realistic you are in every area of your church will determine whether you will keep on attracting men or repelling them. You can target an outreach to the Motorcyclists and Truck drivers because these are men's work. You can call them to special vigils and prayer sessions. The future of your church belongs to the men being raised. The future of Christianity in our nation will be determined by the men being discipled today.

THE ROLE OF MEN IN TODAY'S CHURCH

It is a fact in today's church that many men are inactive because they don't even know their roles in the church. Apart from the usual conventional services that many men are used to, we need to use the eyes of God to look into this subject so as to be men who are busy for God. We should never neglect our Lord Jesus Christ's injunction that says "Occupy till I come".

In our attempt to discover our God's expected roles, as men in the church we must consider the following key factors:

1. Your Calling

As a man you must discover your calling from God in the church. Every Christian man is called to do a particular assignment for God in the church. Giving roles in the church to men without discovering their calling is like placing a round peg in a square role. You will not function maximally in the church if the role you are given contradicts your calling. You may lack divine backing if you are backing your divine assignment. Take lessons from these two men; Stephen and Philip. These were Christian men in the early church called by God to be evangelists, but given the roles of administration in the church (Deacons). The question is "where would they perform their administrative duties?" In the field or inside the church? You can see that they succeeded more on the field than within the church (Acts 6:1-12).

2. Your Talent

Talents are natural endowment of God to individuals which help one to fulfill destinies. Even as a Christian brother, your talent is still very relevant to the fulfillment of your ministry in the church and in the world. The parable of talents in Matthew chapter 25 verse 14 so clearly established the fact that one of those things that every man will be held accountable for is the use of talent. For you to be successful in fulfilling your role in the church you must consider your talent. If your talent is not relevant to the role or ministry you are given in the church, you have a very slim tendency for success.

3. Your Spiritual Gifts – I Cor. 12:1-8; Rom. 12:6- 14.

Spiritual gifts are spiritual endowment upon every child of God who has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit comes upon an individual, He often comes with His gifts. The gift to every individual will be in accordance to the assignment God is expecting the individual to perform for Him. Your role, ministry or responsibility in the church will definitely correspond with your spiritual gifts.

4. The Needs (in the church and around the church)

Every divine assignment is meant to meet a need or some needs either within the church or around the church. You can be sure that your role, assignment and ministry is divine if it is meeting the needs of the people within and around the church.

5. Your Jurisdiction

While few men in the church have discovered their ministries, roles, and assignments within the church, only fewer men have discovered their assignments around or without the church. This is one of the reasons many men in the church are inactive. Pray and let God show you your assignment or ministry jurisdiction. The bird will only thrive in the air, while the fish will only thrive in the water.

THE ROLES OF MEN IN TODAY'S CHURCH

1. SOUL WINNING:

The larger percentage of Jesus' disciples were men. Their primary duty was soul winning. They went everywhere seeking for souls. They engaged themselves in soul winning. Jesus' primary call to them is "follow me and I will make you fishers of men." This must be the primary role of every man in today's church. Any ministry or assignment done by men in the church that neglects soul winning or exalt any other activities above soul winning is definitely an omission. Unfortunately, there are so many men ministries in today's church that have missed the main thing. All other roles of men in today's church must make soul winning their primary goal.

2. BUSINESS MEN FELLOWSHIP:

This is a men ministry in the church that has the primary focus of:

- i. Reaching business men both within and outside the four wall of the church for Christ.
- ii. Teaches Godly principles of business transaction.
- iii. Establishes godliness and integrity as value for Christian business men.
- iv. Empowers men with business ideas that is completely divine.
 - v. Organizes business men prayer breakthrough for business breakthrough.
- vi. Supports mission and missionaries
- vii. Helps to establish Christian business standards.

3. PRAYER WARRIOR OR CHAMPION:

This is a men ministry for Christian men that are:-

- i. Called to pray.
- ii. Called to fight against the kingdom of darkness.
- iii. Loved to pray.
- iv. Trained to engage in spiritual warfare.
- v. Commissioned by God and men to pray.

vi. Anointed to engage in spiritual warfare.

vii. Equipped to defend the church against satanic attacks and activities.

It is true that women can be very good at praying, but practically speaking, women are better off at intercessory ministry. The nature of prayer warrior assignment call for more of men than women, just as men are more in the military forces of every nation in the world today.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:

The early church showed a great understanding in this when all the seven deacons appointed to take administrative responsibilities were all men. This does not negate the fact that some women can be good administrators in the church, rather, men have more administrative abilities than women.

5. PROTOCOL MINISTRY:

Due to the nature of this assignment, men are better off. This includes all ushering assignments.

6. ENGINEERING MINISTRY:

Those who look into generating sets in the church, electrical engineering – construction engineering etc.

7. MEDIA SERVICES:

Video coverage, slants recordings etc.

8. PUBLICATION MINISTRY:

Advertisement, publication (both indoor and outdoor).

9. TAPE AND TESTIMONY MINISTRY:

Recording of tapes, duplication, testimonies recording, testimony publication etc.

10. MISSION TEAM (ACTS 1:8)

This includes

- a. Jerusalem Team - Those who minister around the church.
- b. Samaria Team - Those who minister outside the State.
- c. Judea Team - Those who embark on National mission.
- d. Uttermost part of the world team - Those who go for cross cultural mission.

11. MINISTRY TO MEN:

Those who engage themselves at winning other men to the Christian faith through different strategies and prayers.

12. MINISTRY TO PRISONERS:

Those men who go from prison to prison to preach the gospel to inmates.

13. MINISTRY TO AREA BOYS:

Those men who go out to minister to the area boys.

**14. MINISTRY TO COMMERCIAL CYCLE RIDERS
(OKADA) AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES DRIVERS.**

Those men who engage in preaching at motor parks and garages/terminus.

15. MINISTRY TO PROFESSIONAL MEN:

Lawyers, bankers, teachers, lecturers etc. Reaching men of the same profession.

CHAPTER 13: THE MAN AND MONEY

Before the fall of man, God was responsible for his upkeep – what to eat, where to live, how to live, what to wear etc. (see Gen. 2:7-15). But after man fell into sin, God reversed the plan and placed the responsibilities on the man to work, provide for himself and be sufficient enough to take care of his immediate family.

“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:” - Gen. 3:17, 18, 23.

Today’s man is still under the heavy burden of work and to till the ground in order to have something to exchange for money.

Although, man is not made for money, but money is made for man. Ironically, most men still find it difficult to break the dichotomy between them and money to meet their personal and family needs.

TRUTH ABOUT TODAY’S MEN

- * 8 out of 10 men work very hard but have no commensurate wages or money to show for it.
- * 6 out of 10 are constant borrowers and have become slaves of the lenders.
- * 5 out of 10 men are really struggling to survive talk less of providing for their homes.
- * 7 out of 10 men have no form of savings at all.
- * 4 out of 10 men depend on their wives for their needs and survival.
 - * 6 out of 10 men have either completely neglected or abandoned their responsibilities to government, parent-in-laws, friends and relations.
 - * 8 out of 10 men spend their money heavily on frivolous and ephemeral things that have no eternal values.

- * 7 out of 10 men are controlled by competition and therefore use the little money they have in pursuance of what their friends, relations, colleagues and associates have in order to feel belong.
- * 8 out of 10 men have only one source of income.
 - * 5 out of 10 men believe and are comfortable with government jobs that give them immediate satisfaction, reward, security and financial gains, rather than looking at the future.
- * 9 out of 10 are in serious debt and are looking for way out of it.
 - * Only 2 out of 10 men have real savings that are fruitful, rewarding and secured.

DIMENSION OF FINANCIAL SATISFACTION

1. Very Poor:

At this level, you barely have anything to eat and be comfortable talkless of having to keep something for the following day.

2. Rich:

Here, you can eat what you want moderately. You can afford what an average person could afford and still go to bed knowing there is something to eat the following day. At this level, you buy what you want without necessarily incurring debt.

3. Comfortable:

At this stage, you do not only eat, but you also have left-over to give or distribute to people in needs. You can eat and even get anything you want with minimal efforts.

4. Wealthy:

To be wealthy is to have wealth in your kitty. Being wealthy is not only having money, it is the totality of your possession – assets, building, money, investment, different properties, resources etc. Here, your name and material possession work for you more than your physical cash.

5. Flourishing:

Attaining this dimension is somewhat scarce and difficult. But once you are there, your leaves will ever remain green and fresh (Ps. 1:3). Here, you will become a lender to nations from every divide of the world.

IDENTIFIED SOURCES OF FINANCIAL PROBLEM:

1. Unfaithfulness to God in tithe and offering.
2. Staying on the wrong job.

3. Being driven by competition to please people and to show you have arrived when you have not.
4. Lack of creativity and thinking ability.
5. Comfortable with one source of income, no matter how small.
6. No positive confession in the area of finance.
7. Stinginess and inability to give.
8. Lack of vision and foresight.
9. Struggling under unbroken curses.
 10. Hastiness in buying every advertised shares that turn out to be unprofitable, without seeking expert opinion before purchase.
11. Laziness and indecision to take calculated risks where necessary.
 12. Engaging in fraud, mismanagement of funds and other sharp practices at the place of work.
 13. Living beyond your means and income and spending more than you earn.
14. Indiscipline in the area of personal savings.
15. Inability to honour vows and pledges.
16. Satanic manipulation and oppression.
17. Blatant disobedience to God and His word.
 18. Involvement in questionable and shady deals or business that will guarantee sorrow.
 19. Making unnecessary financial promises and commitment to relations, in-laws and friends.
20. Building on wrong foundation.
21. Operating under spell, curses or strange covenants.
22. Compromises and sinfulness.

DAMAGING EFFECTS OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

1. It makes nonsense of you and ensure you are confused about the next step to take.
2. It makes your voice not to be heard and view disrespected (Eccl. 9:13-16).
3. Your vision, dream and prospectful ideas will suffer.
4. It takes your concentration and attention away from God.
5. It could threaten your faith and resolve in God.

WRONG WAYS TO SOLVING FINANCIAL PROBLEM

1. Taking loan from bank or borrowing money with a view to tackle the problem headlong.
2. Resigning to fate through prayerlessness.
3. Becoming angry and judgmental on yourself and everything around you.
4. Cheating and stealing in order to really meet up.
 5. Blaming almost everybody you know for your predicament; except yourself.
6. Despising fresh ideas or proposal that sound new and unrealisable.
 7. Disengaging your commitment to God by not going to church anymore or paying your tithes and dues.
8. Discontinue giving, generosity and goodwill.
 9. Seeking metaphysical power and consulting herbalists for money making rituals.

HOW TO SOLVE FINANCIAL PROBLEM

1. Identify the remote or immediate causes of the problem.
2. If you have no job now, get one immediately and stay patiently with it.
 3. Embark on prayers and do serious spiritual warfare against satanic attacks on your finances.
4. Research and check the foundation of your business, its site and staff.
5. Control your spending and buy only what you need.

CHAPTER 14: HOW MEN CAN MAKE MONEY WITH PEACE OF MIND

A horse is a majestic animal with unequalled ability for speed. As beautiful and elegant as a horse is, it still has enormous power and might to carry load without feeling the weight of the load to its detriment. Like many other animal, a horse lives and survives for a long time. The more a horse grows old the stronger and more useful it becomes. The best way to enjoy and maximize the strength and ruggedness of a horse is to constantly put it to use.

Like the horse, money too is an instrument of strength with amazing ability to work for you and help you achieve your purpose. It is a horse you can ride for the rest of your life. If well channeled in a godly, productive and fruitful way. You can task and make it to work for you while you are sleeping. To understand how to put your money to work for you is not to become a horse yourself for money to ride on.

THE REALITY ABOUT MONEY

- Ø With money you can achieve your dream and vision much faster and easier.
- Ø In today's world, money is needed and useful for our daily survival.
 - Ø Money is needed by everyone but not everybody has the capacity to make money work for them.
- Ø Your greatest idea cannot succeed without money.
- Ø Two-third of our entire lifetime is spent searching for money.

WHY MONEY MUST WORK FOR YOU:

1. To help you live a debt-free life.
2. To secure your financial future and that of your family.
3. To bring in more harvest.
4. To glorify God and help you serve Him better.
5. To prove that you are not a servant to the horse.
6. To help in spreading the gospel.
7. To take care of your numerous responsibilities.
8. To help others and interpret their dreams.
9. To help you carry out your God-given vision.
10. To buy what you want at the time you want and live a comfortable life.

HOW TO MAKE THE HORSE WORK YOU:

☐ **Savings Habit:**

Every great wealth starts from the ability to save something from whatever income that comes to you at a particular time. It is often useful in building other investment opportunities.

☐ **Buy Shares:**

The dynamics of the stock market is so amazing. It is the only market you go to buy, sell and make good money without exchanging physical goods. Buying shares will empower you, multiply money for you, gives you entitlement of dividend and bonus shares, and secure your future.

☐ **Acquire Landed Property:**

Buying of lands is still one of the lucrative ways of multiplying money through wise calculation. Land appreciates always rather than depreciating. Buy land, not necessarily in the city, give it to developers and you will be amazed what they will turn it to for you.

☐ **Mutual Fund:**

Here your money is pooled together with other people's resources and invested in trust for you by the managers of the fund. It is better because it minimizes the risk of singular investment. It's a surest way of securing long term investment that will ensure multiplication of your money.

☐ **Own Your House:**

To really be a real man is to have your own roof over your head. At least, by 45 years of age, you should have successfully completed your own house and stop feeding landlords or property owners. A real man must have total freedom in this area. It is the safest investment and the best on the long run, not only for you but for your children's children.

☐ **Assurance Policy:**

Ultimately, it is God that protects and gives us long life. But as humans, we must ensure we still make plans for the future. Taking up insurance policy with an Insurance Company is a solid investment for you. It only puts a demand on you now to make regular (monthly, half or yearly) payment to your policy manager (the insurance company). At the end of your agreed maturity date, you will be given a lump sum income block or segmented.

☐ **Treasury Bill:**

This is an investment bill often sold by government in order to mop up excess liquidity in the market. It is a constant instrument and one of the safest methods of investment. The returns and rates on it are determined purely by government thereby making it low but very lucrative and secured since government does not default.

The bill is usually issued and revolves around 30, 90 and 180 days trading period. Even though returns on the bill is often low, it is however the best form of investment that guarantees short term benefits.

□ **Fixed Deposit:**

As a real man, to carefully utilize some free-flow money coming into your hands is to lodge them in a credible and reliable bank for fixed deposit. Based on your agreed terms, including maturity date and interest, the bank holds the money in trust and manages it for you until your agreed period – then, you can draw it. The interest however paid on your investment is usually encouraging and could be sufficient to put you on good footing for a long time financial security, provided it is done regularly with discipline.

□ **Bond Instrument:**

This is a credible channel of investment. It is a high interest bearing debenture through a debt certificate issued to you by government or reputable companies. One good aspect of this instrument is that it tells you the interest payable on your investment and when it can be drawn. It is a long term investment with a long term benefit.

CHAPTER 15: THE MAN AND DEBT

Everybody wants money, but not too many people have it. Everybody wants to keep money, but majority don't know how to. While majority have fallen into the trapping of money which more often than not comes through debt, only few have carefully mastered the art of escaping from debt.

Debt is now a mentality that has assumed a demonic proportion that afflict every soul that passionately desire financial freedom without understanding the demand, pressure, sacrifice and intricacies that come with it. I know of many men that are under the yokes of debt and don't care about getting free. They even boast about it to others.

Today, majority of men are under the yoke of debt, groaning and searching for a pragmatic way out of it. Whereas to some, debt has become a usual lifestyle, making it possible for them to live in and by debt almost all the time. To be financially free as a man is to first be free from debt. Debt is the enemy of everyone. It captures people with impunity and holds them in its nets for a long time, if not a lifetime. There was a time Nigeria was under the yoke of heavy debt, until it was paid. Now, it is also being built up again! Mike Tyson wasted his money and had to be declared bankrupt. An armed robber confessed that it is debt that led him into the abhorred and shameful act.

Biblical Foundation (II Kings 4:1-7; 6:1-5)

“Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.” - II Kings 4:1.

What is Debt?

It is defined as what one owes to another as an agreed obligation, arising from borrowing in whatever term. It usually comes into force as a result of accumulated unpaid, or unsettled remittance to the lender.

God does not want His people involved and tied down by debts that often time become a threat to their lives, family and ministry. Although debt does not spare anyone, not even servants of God, God will however be

happy to see us not getting into it because to get into debt is much easier than getting out of it. The Bible wants us to be free from debt, that is why it commands, “owe no man anything” (Rom. 13:8).

SOURCES OF DEBT

Debt comes in various forms. They can come through;

- ☐ Laziness and joblessness.
- ☐ Disobedience to God on what He wanted done.
- ☐ Financial and moral indiscipline.
- ☐ Unwise investment in unprofitable venture.
- ☐ Depending on people without making efforts to break the jinxs.
- ☐ Buying everything that catches your fancy.
- ☐ Extravagant and ostentatious living.
- ☐ Wastages and improper use of resources.
- ☐ Demonic operation and oppression.
- ☐ Carefree spending without budgeting.
- ☐ Inability to save money.
- ☐ Ignorance and lack of knowledge.
- ☐ Purposeless living with no vision for the future.
- ☐ Lack of contentment with what one has.
- ☐ Envy and being driven by the lifestyle of others.
- ☐ Failure to be faithful to God in tithe and offering.
- ☐ Living with curses.
- ☐ Bearing too much responsibility than your capacity allows.
- ☐ Greed and desire for quick gain.
- ☐ Craziess about fashions, shoes, jewelries.
- ☐ Involvement in bad business deal.
- ☐ Prayerlessness and lack of solid relationship with God.
- ☐ Lack of financial planning.
- ☐ Unquenchable passion for borrowing and living on credit.

More and more men are in debt because of these reasons. Some men are married to debts since they were born. They were born in debt, went to school in debt and married in debt.

STRANGULATING EFFECTS OF DEBT

It is very easy to enter into debt, but very difficult to get out of. Debt has a way of devastating your person.

- ☐ It leads to bondage and servitude.
 - ☐ It has capacity to take your peace away.
 - ☐ It causes you much worry, complaint and anxiety.
 - ☐ It could give you high blood pressure.
 - ☐ It brings you untold shame, suffering and embarrassment.
 - ☐ It will erode trust and confidence in you.
 - ☐ Misunderstanding in your family as a result of the harrowing effects of the debt.
 - ☐ It will take away your liberty and ability to express yourself openly and boldly.
 - ☐ It will cripple your vision and make a mess of your desire.
 - ☐ It can conveniently consign your brain to perpetual redundancy, thinking of nothing positive except how to get out of debt.
 - ☐ Put your properties at the mercy of your creditor – Prov. 6:1-5.
- By all means, you must be free from debt. You must shun debt as a man.

HOW TO ESCAPE FROM DEBT

Escaping from the chains of debt will take deliberate steps and a careful process from you. It will not happen at once, but a consistent process.

☐ **Get God Involved:**

Genuinely commit the debt problem into God's hands. It is a problem you can't solve on your own. Through prayer and fasting, entreat God to save you from debt and its power. Divine intervention is still possible anyway. God intervened to settle the debt of the wife of the Prophet in II Kings chapter 4 verses 1 to 7, He will intervene in yours too if you pray.

☐ **Acknowledge The Condition:**

Pretending over your debt and wishing it was never there will not help you to get over it. Accept the reality and make effort to tackle it. Don't wish it away by faith because you never had it by faith.

☐ **Have Passion To Be Debt-Free:**

Freedom really starts from the mind. The mind powered by unequalled passion will achieve a lasting and better freedom. Renew your mind about debt (Rom. 12:2). You can live without it and still become who or what you hope to be. Think, dream and work towards this.

☐ **List Out The Debt in Order:**

You can't get out of debt if you don't know how much you owe. Make your records straight and accurate. Identify the small, medium and large debts and tackle them in order of arrangement. Put them on your table, based on your income and diligently choose the one to pay first starting with the smallest.

□ **Negotiate With Your Creditor:**

Most credible and sincere creditors appreciate solid and unbroken communication with their borrowers during the process of debt procurement, reschedule or repayment. They only get annoyed, physical and out of hands when they know you are keeping them in the dark. Stop avoiding your creditor – believing that the more you avoid him/her the more he will try to forget. Discuss and negotiate with him/her how you will be paying off your debt. No good creditor will discard such arrangement, knowing fully well that no matter the amount of money you want to be paying, at least you are making efforts and something is coming into his/her pocket.

□ **Check Your Home For Sellable Items:**

Look through your house and identify what you can do without for now and sell them off in order to have money to pay your debt (II Kings 4:1-7). Everything in your house or office, except books, that have monetary value on them can be sold and bought back whenever you are financially well-off. Don't keep assets you don't need now all in a bid to maintain status. Bail yourself out of debt with what you have.

□ **Practice Genuine Giving:**

Giving is a form of living. Even in debt, still find avenue to give and be a blessing to people. Giving is not only a biblical injunction but also a principle that lifts you out of the net of debt (Luke 6:38). The more you give to God, His work, His servants and people around you, the more you will keep having financial resources to meet your needs. So, bless the church, your family, neighbours, co-workers and relatives.

□ **Aggressively Pursue A Saving Plan:**

If you don't save money you are not safe. Money saved now is the money you will make use of in future. Save money, no matter how small, overtime and you will become free from debt and meet your other obligations as a real man.

□ **Live Within Your Means:**

A life of fulfillment is a life of contentment. Be satisfied with your level today and comfortable with the little resources you have now. Be yourself, buy only what you can afford and paid for.

□ **Stop Credit Purchase:**

You can live without buying on credit if only you determine to do so. No doubt, it will be a challenging experience for you, but you can survive it. Don't be carried away by the adverts on "latest" products. More often than not, every new advert is an attempt to condemn the product you already have in your hand and push you to buy the new one.

□ **Let Your Prayer Be Ceaseless:**

The place of prayer in your quest to overcome debt should never be ignored. Be prayerful and ask God to help you overcome debt. Sometimes, it could be a manifestation of a family or generational curse and to break its stronghold will demand spiritual fervency that only comes through constant prayer.

□ **Pay Your Tithe Regularly:**

You can't be robbing God of His due and expect to live a debt-free life. The more you steal from God, the more the devil will siphon your resources and push you into debt. To steal from God is a sure way of gradually walking into debt.

In conclusion, it needs to be stated that there are bad debts and good debts. Bad debt is when you borrow the money to perform naming ceremony, to eat, for clothing, conduct a burial or buy a car. If you borrow to fund these activities, it is usually money down the drain because the possibility of payback or recouping for investment is very slim.

However, good debt is when you borrow to finance a worthwhile project, investment, building, LPO and God's kingdom work. They will surely pay you back with dividends sooner or later. Overall, you must make sure you borrow for good debts rather than bad debts.

CHAPTER 16: THE REAL MAN AND FREEDOM

Every male that desires to become a real man must pray and work to be free from these three giants that has held so many men in bondage for centuries. You cannot become a true man and remain so until you are free indeed from the grip of these three giants; Fear, Feelings and Failure. Most men are slaves of these terrible giants. Now let us look them one by one.

FEAR

This is one of the most common spirit that afflicts, torments, oppresses, controls and vexes many men today. In actual fact 80% of men are slaves to fear.

There is a story of a young man who stood by the highway weeping one day. When asked why he was weeping, he said he was afraid and weeping because when he gets married and have children, vehicles might knock them down while trying to cross the expressway.

There are various kinds of fears that have kept many in bondage. Among them are fear of man; what people will say, future, the night, being alone, being rejected, failure, poverty, calamity, accidents, sickness, backsliding and losing all they have. (Prov. 29:25; I Sam. 15:24; I Sam. 17:24; I Sam. 16:1-2; John 7:13; Matt 26:56; Job 3:25).

1. **Fear is a spirit**

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” - I Tim. 1:7

Fear torments, dominates, paralysis and kills people. Fear as a spirit does not come from God, but from Satan, the arch-enemy of man.

2. **Fear will hinder you from God’s blessing**

- * Fear killed the Israelites in the wilderness - Num. 13:24-33

- * Fear made people to deny Jesus - John 9:19-22

- * Fear made Saul to lose his kingdom.

“And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.” - I Sam. 15:24.

- * Fear made Peter to start sinking.

“But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.” - Matt. 14:30.

* Fear brought calamity to Job.

“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.” - Job 3:25.

There is the story of a particular town where chicken pox said it was coming to kill 30 people by the end of the month, but out of fear, 300 people died before the month ended. So also many have died prematurely because of fear.

3. Fear is a creative force

Fear in the mind is a powerful force that can actually create or call into being the very thing that is feared.

“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.” - Job 3:25.

Spiritual have dominion over the physical, and power of the mind have dominion over the physical realm.

* Fear makes people to lie and deceive.

* Fear makes men to run and hide.

* Fear makes men to cut corners.

* Fear makes people to live a lie.

* Fear drives faith away from your heart - Mark 4:35-41.

* Fear makes men to deny and become selfish.

* Fear makes men to kill, destroy and ruin others.

* Fear makes men to quit, give up and run away.

* Fear makes men offend God and humanity.

* Fear leads to bondage and servitude.

“And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” - Heb. 2:15.

When you are under the torment of fear, you will do stupid and foolish things that you will regret later.

4. Deliverance from Fear - Luke 1:73-75; Job 5:19-26

God wants us to serve Him without fear. He has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love and power.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” - II Tim. 1:7.

To be delivered from the bondage of fear, a real man must:

- ☐ Draw closer to the Lord - *Psalm 127:3, 118:6.*
- ☐ Give your fear to the Lord - *Prov. 3:24; Ps. 3:6.*
- ☐ Stand on His word - *Isaiah 42:10; II King 6:13-17.*
- ☐ Don't let fearful thoughts fill your heart - reject them.
- ☐ Don't use your words to create fear around yourself.
- ☐ Mask your fear and share your faith - *Isaiah 34:1.*
- ☐ Fill your mind with His word. Replace fear with faith.
- ☐ Stop looking around, start looking up - *Gen. 26:24.*

FEELINGS

Prov. 6:25; II Tim. 2:22; II Pet. 2:14

It is a fact that nine out of ten men are slaves of their feelings. They are being ruled and dominated by their passions and libido. As a result of this they give room to lust, adultery, fornication, premarital sex and extramarital affairs.

1. Feeling is not entirely evil

God creates feelings in the human body. Every male has feelings, urge, passion, libido and inward desire for the opposite sex from age 13 upward. It's a sign of complete body. It is not a crime for the fire to be in the fire place, but it's a crime to allow it to burn down the house.

2. It usually starts in the heart

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" - I Pet. 2:11.

The inward fire in the body connects to the heart. Thoughts arise at the sight of the opposite sex. It results in lust, pornography, blue film, masturbation, dolls, insatiable appetite for sex and sleeping with anything in skirt.

3. Outcome of lust - Prov. 5:7-14

Rueben is a classic example of this (Gen. 49:1-4). Lust comes from within. Once it holds you within, you cannot be free without. Then you engage in indiscriminate sex, which results in:

- * Sexual perversion.
- * Trading of your destiny, glory and future - *Prov. 6:23-33.*
- * It is a means of covenant and transference.
- * Polygamy, poverty and destitution.
- * Destroyed marriage and testimony.

- * Premature death and retardation.
- * God's wrath and judgement - *Num. 25:1-9.*
- * Many strong men have been ruined - *I Kings 11:1- 4; Prov. 7:24-27*

4. **How To Be Free From Feelings** - *I Cor. 9:27*

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

Wrong feelings and mishandling have led to the ruin of many men. However to be free, you must take note of the following:

- ☐ Know that your body is the temple of the Lord - *I Cor. 6:19-20.*
- ☐ Stop watching ungodly and immoral pictures.
- ☐ Seek for deliverance from ungodly bondages.
- ☐ Fill your heart with the word of God.
- ☐ Discipline and self denial are required.
- ☐ Marry, stay married and pray for grace.
- ☐ Stop undue closeness to the opposite sex.
 - ☐ Stop hanging around with friends in clubs, parties, cinemas and restaurants.
- ☐ Stop drinking stimulants that arouse your feelings.
- ☐ Develop strong character and godliness.

Your feelings will always be there, but you must bring it under control.

FAILURE

"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief." - Prov. 24:16.

"Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me." - Micah 7:8.

So many men want approval, adulation and good comments from friends and relations, the more reason they loath and detest failure. They want to appear successful in the eyes of others and therefore are ready to cut-corners and do anything possible to achieve success and avoid failure.

The fear of failure has turned many men into slaves. Failure to men means many things, such as financial crisis, unstable job, inability to provide for

one's family, not measuring up to the societal expectation, inability to be alive to one's responsibility in the home, family, society and nation.

The fear of these failures has led many men into corruption, cheating, ritualism, occultism, stealing, robbery, pact with the Devil, ungodliness, wickedness and being angry against everyone

Reality of Failure

The terrible truth of life is that all roads to achievement passes through the land of failure. Failure doesn't mean you will not succeed, it only means you have to work smarter.

- * To fail means first attempt in learning.
- * Failure is the price we pay for success.
- * Failure is the backdoor to success.
- * Failure is unavoidable.
- * Failure is not a monument.
- * Failure is not an enemy.
- * Failure is not irreversible.
- * Failure is not fatal nor final.
 - * Failure doesn't mean you will not succeed, it only means you have to work smarter.
 - * Failure doesn't mean you have failed, it means you have to try again and again.
- * Failure doesn't mean it is finished, it means there is a better way to it.

Abraham Lincoln said; "My greatest concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure"

Why People Truly Fail - *Phil. 3:12-14*

These are some of the reasons that make people to truly fail in life:

- Wrong foundation.
- Acquired or generational curses.
- Disobedience to God.
- Trusting in your strength alone.
- Lack of clear-cut vision and purpose.
- Self-indulgence and laziness.
- Inability to take risk and being tied down by the past.
- Negative confession and fear.
- Giving up too soon.
- Moving with wrong people.

Men Who Turned Their Failure Around

Abraham Lincoln failed 14 times in business, lost his wife and son, but persevered to become the President of the United States of America.

- Albert Einstein failed mathematics at school.
- Thomas Edison failed 49,999 before he invented light.

At 67 years his workshop got burnt down, but he rose up to rebuilt again.

The result of a football match at half-time is the most unreliable result in the whole world.

History is made up of men who failed the first time but rose again and again to achieve success.

How To Turn Your Failure To Success

Failure is an inside job. If you don't fail within, you will not fail without.

1. Find out the reasons for your failure and address them squarely.
2. Don't treat your failure as a foe but as a friend.
3. Make failure a learning experience.
4. Don't take your failure too personal or as a monument.
5. Don't be tied down by your past failure - rise up again.
6. Be committed to His purpose and vision for you.
7. Always see the big picture and avoid distractions.
8. Pray, obey and trust God.
9. Change, grow, improve, learn and update yourself.

CHAPTER 17: THE MAN AND SEX

So many men have done evil with their bodies and manhood in life. The repercussions of such practices are what has sent many to their untimely grave, and poverty and judgement are hanging on so many men who have failed to handle their bodies in a God-edifying way. Men who practice sexual pervasion will always be under God's terrible judgement (Lev. 18:15-25). God hates sexual perversion.

A. **Sex, Passion and Libido in Men**

Sex is the conjugal relationship between a man and a woman involving the body that is meant for reproduction. It is the penetration of the male organ into the female organ. It is a divine invention designed to be experienced, practiced within the boundary of marriage only. The Scripture calls it several names such as; 'knowing her' (Gen.4:1) 'went in unto her' (Gen. 16:4); 'uncover her nakedness' etc.

1. Sex was created by God for procreation and enjoyment.
2. Every living thing has sexuality - animals, flowers, and insects.
 3. There is natural hunger in human beings for it from age 13 years upward.
4. It is only good and pure WITHIN MARRIAGE.
5. Premarital and extramarital sex are ungodly and immoral
6. It is a medium of transfer of blessing or curse.
7. It can draw God's Spirit to you or draw demons into your life.

Whoever you are, except you are a eunuch, you'll have to be rightly informed and handle your sexuality very well.

B. **Sexual Pervasion By Men Today** - Jam. 1:13-15; *Judges 16:19-20; Rom. 1:26-28; Gen. 19:20-22.*

God rained fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorah because of sexual pervasion. So also today, men have corrupted this beautiful creation of God with various perversions such as;

- a. **Sodomy** – men sleeping with men - gay lifestyle - even in church today.
- b. **Lesbianism** – Women sleeping with women especially in girls' Hostels.
- c. **Masturbation** – seeking for sexual release through artificial means.

- d. **Gigolos** – young men going round to satisfy the sexual urge of older women. Male prostitution in display.
- e. **Sexual molestation** - Sleeping with girls or women and children by force without their consent.
- f. **Incest** - Fathers having carnal knowledge of their biological daughters.
- g. **Sex – Maniac** – Insatiable appetite for sex that leads to having sex with multiple partners in a night or going several rounds.
- h. **Adultery** – Messing around with women other than your wife.
- i. **Fornication** – Sleeping with unmarried ladies as a single man.
- j. **Anal or oral sex** – Having sex through other means other than God created routes.

These sexual pervasions are common place in the society today. Unfortunately they are also found in the church. Male church elders and leaders are also found in this mess.

Men that drink substances such as Cocaine, heroine, spirits, stout, beer, Dubonnet and such stimulants cannot but be slaves of sex and practice sexual pervasion. These substances give unusual ‘urge’ and ‘passion’ to the body of men. The demonic spirit of sex also enters men through pornography, petting, romancing, necking and kissing.

C. **Sexual Purity in Men** - *I Cor. 6:9; Num. 25:1-8; I Cor. 9.*

God is against adultery, fornication, premarital or extramarital sex. Lust in the heart, romance, petting, kissing up to oral sex will receive grave judgement from the Lord. God will especially judge leaders in this respect.

1. **Celebrate Your Manhood**

Know and be aware of your sexuality and use it to glorify the Lord. It is not a sin to be fully complete in body and be a full blooded man.

2. **Seek Freedom From Past Entanglements**

Sincere repentance and renunciation for past sexual escapades. If you need to seek for deliverance from sexual addiction, please do. This spirit of lust must be renounced and demonic bondage must be broken.

3. **Have A Good Marriage** – Prov. 5:15-21

Devote time to your spouse and seek for sexual fulfillment from her. Be properly married and stay married. It is better to marry than to burn. Normally, marriage should be able to give you sexual fulfillment -
I Cor. 7:9

4. Self - Discipline Is The key - *I Cor. 9:27*

You must not allow your flesh to ruin and destroy you. Learn to keep your body under by saying NO to the desire of the flesh. Each victory will strengthen you for another victory. Say NO to lust, immoral thoughts and burning sensation in your system. You will not die but become strong by it, by and by.

5. Draw a line of boundary which must never be crossed, from the first day of your relationship with the opposite sex in the office, church and at home.

Don't play on anyone's emotion. Let your motive be clear from the on set.

6. Don't touch, hug, pat, embrace and play with the opposite sex as a habit.

Some 'innocent' touch can spark a fire that will consume you.

7. Run away and stop chatting with a woman that arouses you sexually. He that runs away today lives to fight another day.

8. Beware of daughters, members, maids, relations, single mothers, divorcees and widows who visits you alone.

Your house is not a mission house or a hospital. Don't allow them to sleep over in your house when your wife is not around.

9. Soak your body, soul and spirit in prayer and the word of God.

Pray out any strange and immoral thought or feeling. Cry out also for help.

10. Keep your relationship with the Lord – *Heb. 12:15*

Become so spiritually strong and alive in the Lord that no satanic strategy will work. Become spiritually sensitive to the wiles and tricks of the devil along this area. Don't sell your birthright for a mess of pottage.

CHAPTER 18: SEXUAL PROBLEMS IN MEN

Everything about sex is not evil and ungodly. Sex is God's idea. He created it for good and pleasure within the boundries of married life. Sex is only ugly, dirty and cheap when it is selfish, shallow and uncommitted. It is dirty when a guy is on the prowl for a cheap thrill. It is ugly when a man fathers a child and refuses to be a dad. It is deeply sad when a woman allows herself to be used simply to escape loneliness, and to pretend she is loved, when deep down, she knows she does not have the real thing.

Premarital and extra marital sex is an unkind sex. It is sinful because it deeply violates the very nature of what God intended sex to be. God has reasons for everything He commands. His rules are not arbitrary. They are intended for our good.

But sex within marriage is sublime. It weaves a man and woman together – body, soul and spirit. It is a wonderful way to begin a family. It makes us happy and contented and it even burns up extra calories! Unfortunately, so many men don't have successful sexual life due to some problems which I will highlight here.

SEXUAL PROBLEMS IN MAN

While sharing with men and women in the last couple of years on how to be sexually successful, I have come to discover five major barriers that keep men from having the best sex of their lives. Some of them have led to broken homes and infidelity. It is good you identify yours and work to rectify them.

Sexual Addiction

This comes as a result of pornography, masturbation, drugs and chemicals that heighten unreal sexual fantasies. Addiction in these areas cheapen men, turns them into sexual maniac and predators. They rape and abuse their wives, daughters, maids and nieces. They get involved in sexual debasement.

Sexual Abuse

One out of every six men have been a victim of sexual abuse. They have been abused by either a male or female in their teenage years. Depression, fear or hatred for sex or hypersexual have been the outcome.

Sexual Impotence – Matt. 19:12

Some men are physically impotent. They can't perform; some others are clinically impotent with low sperm count or inability to impregnate a woman. While impotence can be physical, others are spiritual in nature. Sleeping with demonized women cause sexual impotence in men because these women use men semens for empowerment.

Sexual Anorexia

The sexual anorexia man will actively withhold spiritually, emotionally and sexually from his wife. He is often disconnected from his wife, because his mind is somewhere else, even when he is having sex with his wife. Sexual anorexia means:

- a. Staying so busy that you make no time for your wife.
 - b. Blaming your wife for problems that come up without accepting responsibility.
 - c. Withholding affection from your wife. Withholding sex from your wife or withholding your heart from sex.
- d. Being too tired to have sex with your wife.
- e. Using anger and silence as way to control your wife.

Sexual Shame

Sexual shame can be a big factor in the diminishing of sexual success. Your sexual past can be a source of shame, such as:

- ☐ Sleeping with many women.
- ☐ Contracting infectious diseases.
- ☐ Premarital or extra marital sex.
- ☐ Weak or small organ.
- ☐ Premature ejaculation.

You will only be healed when you confess to God and repent. Then you need to speak to a leader, mentor or trusted friend about them. Don't keep them to yourself alone. You must seek professional and spiritual counselling for your sexual problems. Don't die in silence. A real man must be able to perform his sexual responsibility to his wife creditably.

CHAPTER 19: HOW REAL MEN REMAIN FREE FROM SEXUAL PERVASION

Since sexual desire is God-given, you can't cast it out, just as you can't cast out the desire food, the desire of wanting to sleep every night, or the desire to use the bathroom very so often. If you pray to God to take away your sexual desire, you are wasting your time. The only way to be completely free of sexual desire is to CASTRATE yourself, but not many men can do that. Therefore, you'll have to know how to control it so as to remain free from pervasion that is prevalent today. The temptation will always be there, but you can always overcome it by adhering to these principles.

1. **Handle your body as the temple of God** – 1 Cor. 6:18-19.

Pray over and hold your manhood and let God sanctify it for you.

2. **Watch your thoughts and your heart** – Prov. 4:23.

Don't give room to any ungodly and immoral suggestions. Stop taking the second look at women.

3. **Maintain self – discipline over your body** – 1 Cor. 9:27.

Don't let your body rule you. Deliberately deny your body of some legitimate gratification to train it up.

4. **Real men don't joke with this sin nor do they look at how far they can go.**

Many who are deceived that they can't fall have fallen and ruin the faith of others. Unfortunately, many who have fallen have refused to stand up.

5. **Real men work on their characters and integrity.**

Godly characters and life of integrity are the watchword.

6. **Real men don't play on any woman's emotions**

They always draw a line with any woman they are going to work with.

7. **Real men run away from stimulants and appearances of evil**

Stimulants arouse evil passion in men and they usually misbehave before knowing it.

8. **Real men don't hang around with the 'boys' carelessly in clubs, bars, restaurants, cinemas, parties and shows**

Those are veritable avenues for pervasion.

9. Real men are true family men

They guard and guide their marriage and home jealously. They don't give room to any intruder.

10. Real men are honest with their friends, mentors and fathers about their struggles

They seek for help, assistance and answers to probing questions from them. They are not ashamed to be honest.

In the book of elders, it is written, "since birds have learnt to fly without perching, hunters have also learnt to shoot without missing". Real men must be true example of that.

CHAPTER 20: WHY MEN DIE FASTER THAN WOMEN

I Sam. 25:4-13, 25, 26, 36-39

A careful observer will see that Nabal was a selfish, ungrateful and contemptuous man to David. He was wicked and repaid the good of David with evil. But his wife was his opposite. She was nice, respectful, kind, appreciative and godly. Well, God killed Nabal for his wickedness and provided a better husband for Abigail in the person of David.

Today, many men are dying young and faster than women. The United Nations put the average life span of a Nigerian man at 46years and that of a woman at 56years. Moreover, if you look at our society, there are much more widows than widowers. It is almost ratio 1 to 10. Meaning that men are dying faster than women in our nation, continent and world. Most of these deaths are premature. They come through sicknesses, accidents, calamities, attacks and nasty incidents.

In my earnest prayers and researches, God has graciously given me some salient factors that have contributed greatly to this malaise.

1. **Generational Curses**

“What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?” – Ezek. 18:2.

Many men die before or at their prime as a result of family or generational curses. They simply reap what their fathers, mothers, grand-parents and generations have sowed. There are families where the death of the head of the home is a normal occurrence.

2. **Curses of Women**

Men also die young because they are cursed by women. Some men have sexually abused their wives, daughters, nieces, relations or small girls and they are then placed under curses. Breaking the hearts of girls/girl-friends and denying their pregnancy have also played a great role here.

3. **Demonic Covenants**

Many men die fast because they have chosen to take shortcut in order to get rich. They have covenanted their souls to Satan in cults, shrines and

temples for fleeting pleasures of life. They use occultic powers to get money, power and position in life.

4. Traitors and Backstabbing – Prov. 17:13

Men also die fast simply because they are traitors. They plan against friends, leaders and benefactors. They backstab and reward good with evils, therefore they die before enjoying the fruit of their labour.

5. Selfishness and Self Centeredness

Many men don't live to enjoy their children and wives simply because they are too selfish and self-centered. They refuse to care for their families and behave irresponsibly toward their children. They spend their lives eating and drinking and forget to care for those they are responsible to.

6. Wife Battering

Many men have died and continue to die because they are unfaithful to their wives and also batter them. Men who beat their wives, cheat, defraud and maltreat them don't usually live long. They die quickly and their wives enjoy the fruit of the children.

7. Influence of Bad Friends

Many men have lost their lives simply because they copy the bad attitudes, manners and behaviours of their friends. They smoke, drink, womanise and swear due to peer pressures. They live their lives for others and they die fast too.

8. Stealing and Taking Advantage of Others

Countless men have lost their lives and will continue to lose them because they are thieves and robbers. They steal time, resources, monies and treasures that do not belong to them. They make what is not rightfully theirs and use them. How can such men continue to live long?

9. Out of God's Cover of Protection – Ps. 91

Some men simply die because they are not under the cover of God's protection. They live without God and the devil killed them prematurely. Some backslide from God and live their lives in sinful tendencies, and that gave an inroad to the enemy to destroy and ruin them.

10. Demonic Wives

So many men have lost their lives because they got married to demonic wives. Their wives used demonic powers to kill and render them useless in life.

11. Stress, Pressure and Lack of Adequate Rest

So many men die prematurely simply because they cannot handle the pressure of life. They stress themselves so much that they never had time to rest until they were laid to rest, all in their bid to provide and cater for their dependants.

Every male that wants to live long must run away from these factors. If you are in anyone of them, you should repent and forsake them quickly, else, your days are numbered.

CHAPTER 21: THE MAN AND HIS PARENTS

Every genuine and sincere man must be aware of the vital role of his parents in his daily existence. Unfortunately, many men have not given this issue the prime importance it requires in their lives. Either out of ignorance, wickedness or gross disobedience, many men have incurred God's wrath due to negligence, mishandling and punishment of their parents. I sincerely hope that this chapter will help so many men to adjust and reconstitute their attitude toward their parents.

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." – Exod. 20:12.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." - Eph. 6:1-3.

"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." - Prov. 30:17.

"Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old." - Prov. 23:22.

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:" - Prov. 1:8.

The scripture commands that we give honour, respect and be obedience to our parents. The Bible frowns at disobedience to parents and maltreating them for whatever reason. Parents consist of biological father, mother,

step father and mother, spiritual fathers and mothers, foster parents, guidance and benefactors. It also includes spiritual parents. When you honour and make your parents happy, then:

- ☐ It shall be well with you on earth.
- ☐ You will live long and not die young.
- ☐ You will experience God's open heaven.
- ☐ Your children will honour and obey you also.

Many of the attitudes of our children to us are simply the fruit of what we did to our parents.

Many men have good testimonies along this line due to their obedience to God's word by taking care of their parents.

HOW MEN TREAT THEIR PARENTS

Prov. 30:17, 11

Of course, there are naturally various types and kinds of children. Among which are; wayward, stubborn, delinquent, troublesome and obedient children. Many of these children have brought so much tears, heartache and shame to their parents.

On the other hand, there are parents that have failed woefully in their parental responsibilities by abusing their children, failure to provide for them, disowning them and neglecting them.

However, none of these justifies the maltreatment of our parents. Maltreatment of parents comes in various ways, such as; bringing shame and dishonour to the parents; flagrant disobedience to their godly instructions; taking sides with the mother to punish the father; neglecting the mother because you are now married; failure to care, nurture and provide for them regularly; stealing from them and fighting them; literal quarrel and animosity against them; holding their sins against them and unforgiveness; failure to receive their blessings upon your life and marriage; abandoning them to suffer deprivation in old age; cursing, abusive and character assassinating them; driving them away from your home and environment.

These are some of the ways that many men have maltreated their parents and some are still neck-deep in these practise, justifying themselves for one reason or the other.

CONSEQUENCES OF MALTREATING OUR PARENTS

Here are grave consequences that have befallen men due to maltreatment of their parents:

- Curses or retardation upon their life and work.
- Backwardness in life, ministry and business.
- Closed heaven and struggling.
- Premature death and sicknesses.
- Poverty, penury and squalor.
- Calamity, evil happenings and problems.
- Wayward, disobedient and delinquent children.

As a result of neglect and maltreatment, many parents have cursed their children and those children are the worse for it. Many men are struggling with many of these things as a result of maltreating and disrespecting their parents.

HOW TO BE A TRUE MAN TO YOUR PARENTS

Most times, we think our parents are wrong. Well, by the time we know they are right, we ourselves have become parents.

1. Honour and respect your parents at all times.
2. Obey your parents in the things and ways of the Lord.
3. Stop being a problematic child to your parents.
4. Build a good relationship and rapport with them.
5. Don't love one and hate the other. Honour their memories.
6. Care for them and nurture them regularly.
7. They must never go hungry while you are alive.
8. Receive their blessings until they go to their graves.

CHAPTER 22: THE MAN AND HIS WIFE

“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” - I Pet. 3:7.

Every male that wants to be real man must know and understand how to really relate with his wife. Too many males are not true husbands and lovers to their wives.

The African societies have not really helped in this matter. Many cultural views that see women as property, slaves, baby-factory and sex-machines have not helped either.

WHY MAN NEED A WIFE

Gen. 2:18-25

According to creation, every man needs a wife. Every right thinking man must marry and have a wife. But why?

- ☐ It is God's creation and will.
- ☐ Man is incomplete without a wife.
- ☐ To remove loneliness.
- ☐ To help, assist and provide comfort.
- ☐ For sexual fulfilment and satisfaction.

Beside every man must be a good, loving, kind and understanding wife. It is difficult for a man to really make it in life without the support of a good wife.

DANGERS OF MARRYING THE WRONG WIFE

So many men who did not realise the utmost importance of wives have gone ahead to marry anyhow. Many chose their wives through friends, neighbours, family arrangement, physical attractions, money, education, sexual prowess and numerous other reasons and ways.

While some are lucky to have some good ones, majority have turned out to be albatross on their neck. Wrong wives have brought some of these into many men's lives:

- * Tears, heartache and painful memory.
- * Backwardness and retrogression.
- * Curses and barrenness.

- * Failure, closed doors and ill-luck.
- * Poverty and penury.
- * Shame, regret and struggling.

These and many more are the daily portion of men who have married wrongly or married the wrong wives. For your life to be right, your marriage must be right. You must be the right person and marry the right person.

HOW MEN TREAT THEIR WIVES

Either good or bad, I've seen many disappointing ways that many African men treat their wives. Check these:-

- ☐ Seeing her as an object of sex.
- ☐ Being bitter, touchy and detesting her.
- ☐ Unloving, uncaring and non-challant attitude towards her.
- ☐ Keeping secrets and plans away from her.
- ☐ Failure to show tangible prove of love and care.
- ☐ Failure to build her and help her to succeed.
- ☐ Living and walking in ways that make her suspicious.
- ☐ Seeing her as the reason for failure and problems.
- ☐ Failure to pray for her.
- ☐ Abandoning her and running away.
- ☐ Beating, maltreating and battering her.
- ☐ Divorcing and separating from her.
- ☐ Being unfaithful, promiscuous and adulterous.
- ☐ Grudge, malice, troublesome and problematic.

Unfortunately, these wrong ways of treating the wife has resulted in many of them becoming stubborn, adamant, disobedient, injured, demonised and pain in the neck.

Many evil treatment have turned many wives into demons and their marriage a living hell on earth.

HOW TO BE A TRUE MAN TO YOUR WIFE

Irrespective of who you marry, you must become a real man to your wife. Many women want to marry real men, not boys or plastic men. Women want the man they can be proud of. Here are some of the ways to be a real man to your wife:

1. **Be sure of God's leading to your wife**

Don't just marry anyhow. Look before you leap. And if you've married, stay with her. Divorce is never a good solution.

2. **Determine to be a real man and a good husband**

You always get what you sow. If you become the right partner, your wife will eventually reciprocate.

3. **Be alive and responsible to your responsibilities**

Stop being selfish and irresponsible to your wife.

4. **Be loving, caring and matured**

Show tangible prove of love to her in every way possible.

5. **Endure her idiocycraziness and grow her**

No woman is without blemish, no matter how educated and beautiful she is.

6. **Pray fervently for her always**

You can only change her through your prayers, so pray for her always.

7. **Be a godly man and a good model**

Strive by God's grace to be the priest and leader of your home. Not by dictatorship but by godly lifestyle and good influence.

8. **Honour and respect her**

Give her due respect and honour, both publicly and privately.

9. **Defend her and stand by her**

Don't allow her to be ridiculed by your relations and family.

10. **Let her know what you stand for**

Be clear, firm and principled on issues. Make your stand known and stand by it.

CHAPTER 23: THE MAN AS A FATHER

To be very candid and sincere, one of the areas that most men are failing woefully today is this area of fatherhood. Most men don't know how to be fathers. There are many men who are husbands but are not good fathers. The more reason many children love their mothers passionately than their fathers. Mothers' Days are elaborately celebrated but not much thought is given to Fathers' Days.

Even the society has conspired to elevate mothers above fathers in their songs and folklore. Mothers are referred to as gold, while fathers are silver. Promises are made never to forget mothers, but fathers are cast as unremembered specie. However, we need to examine this issue practically so as to find proper balance, because it is easier to father a child than to become a real father.

*"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment;
that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."* – Gen. 18:19.

"And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed:" - Gen. 27:26-27.

"And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;" - Luke 1:67-69.

"A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway." - Acts 10:2.

The place of the father is at the foundation of human relationships. From the scripture, a man is to set up a home, provides leadership, care and be

good examples to his household. A father is the head of the home. A father is the provider. A father is a defense and rock of Gibraltar in the home. A father sets the tone, mood and direction for his household.

A father must provide leadership, guidance, direction and good models to follow. A good father must be the person the sons want to be like and who the daughters want to have as husband later in life. Someone rightly said, “my father did not teach me how to live, he simply lived and I followed his examples” And that is very true in every sense with fatherhood.

FACTORS MILITATING AGAINST FATHERHOOD TODAY

It is true that so many men are finding fatherhood very difficult today. Most men are at a loss on how to be good fathers to their children. Well, here are factors that have really helped this dilemma today.

1. **Ignorance** – Many were not taught how to be fathers, they just got into the business of being fathers without any preparation. They are totally ignorant about fatherhood.
2. **Wrong Model** – Most men have the pictures of their old fathers in their hearts. They practice fatherhood just like their old fathers did it long time ago, which mostly are wrong ways and models.
3. **Culture** – Cultural expectations that place so much emphasis on mothers to the detriment of fathers. Cultural inhibition that makes many men to shrink their fatherly responsibilities and create gap or distance between children and their fathers in the name of respect have not really helm many men to be real fathers.
4. **Nature of Work** – Most men work away from home for long periods of time. Many work in another city, town and nation, coming home only intermittently. This has inadvertently hindered many men from becoming real and genuine fathers.
5. **Time Constrains** – Many men are always unavailable due to pressure of time. In a fast paced city life and world, the fatherly role of men has taken a sound beating. The time to perform the fatherly role and duty is not just there, thereby leaving the mothers to take up the duty.
6. **Shrinking Responsibilities** – Some men simply refuse to take up their fatherly responsibilities, though they have children here and there. They are just irresponsible.

VARIOUS KINDS OF FATHERS

From observation and little research, we have come to discover these kinds of fathers today:

a. **Absentee Father**

He exists as distant figure who have donated sperm, a name and a town/state of origin. He is just not there for anybody. He is not really available, even though he is around. Inaccessible fathers are great problem today in the world.

b. **12 Midnight Father**

He is constantly on the move. He comes in late and leave early. He is so consumed with his work and business. He has no time for himself or family. He spends his time at club, party meetings and counseling sessions. He comes back home tired only to rest and go back again. A boy was heard speaking to another child about his father. He says, 'my father sleeps here but doesn't live here'.

c. **Cash Father**

He believes all that the family needs is cash. He has a file for every child and once the cash is supplied, he doesn't want to be bothered. He takes his children to boarding house from infancy or sends them abroad. They grow up not knowing im. The only person they know is their mother, even though he spends all the money.

d. **Father-Wife**

He is the real wife at home. He has no job and therefore depends on the wife for money and running of the home. Sometimes he is good but things don't seem to work his way. So, the wife plays the role of the husband, mother and wife all rolled into one. At other times, he is a wife beater who takes out his frustration on the poor woman. Today, more men are around the house during the day than ever before.

e. **Alpha-Father**

He is an alpha, a male who has so many wives and concubines. He is a multiple polygamist. Sometimes, he is a concurrent polygamist who marries one woman after the other. He has so many children and he leaves most of them to fend for themselves. These children usually stay with their unfortunate mothers. They have no feelings for their father because he is an abstract figure in their lives.

As long as fathers behave and practice fatherhood in these five wrong ways, then fatherhood and society will always suffer.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WRONG OR WEAK FATHERHOOD

“For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.” – I Sam. 3:13.

“And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.” - I Sam. 8:3

Check out these negative outcome of wrong practices of fatherhood:

- ☐ Wayward and ungodly children.
- ☐ Society decadence and corruption.
- ☐ Lack of respect for fathers and fatherhood.
- ☐ Endangered posterity.
- ☐ Single mothers and lopsided adults.
- ☐ Destroyed homes and problematic marriages.
- ☐ Hated fathers and cursed children.
- ☐ God’s curse and unfulfilled promises.

Too many lives, generations and nations have been ruined due to wrong or weak fatherhood. In a society where the fathers are found wanting, God’s wrath will be poured out in full.

A GOOD FATHER

A father went out of the house in the morning while the snow was falling. A few meters away from the house, he looked back and saw his son placing his tiny feet where he had placed his steps. He called to the son; “John what are you doing?” He replied; Daddy I am placing my feet in your footsteps because I want to follow your footsteps”.

- ☐ A good father loves the mother of his children - Eph. 5:25
- ☐ A good father provides for his own family - I Tim. 5:8
 - ☐ A good father gives birth only to those children he can adequately cater for.
- ☐ A good father spends time with his wife and children.
 - ☐ A good father is around to train, discipline and guide his children - Prov. 22:6.
 - ☐ A good father provides good example for his children - I Kings 9:4, II Chro. 17:8.
- ☐ A good father plays and converses with his children - Deut. 6:7.
- ☐ A good father prays and talks to God for his children - Isa. 54:13.

- A good father provides for the future of his family - II Cor. 12:14.
 - A good father is not partial with his children, nor does he compare them - Gen. 25:28.
- A good father is firm but kind and approachable - Prov. 13:24; 19:18.
 - A good father will not cause shame, nor bring his family name into disrepute.

HOW TO BE A GOOD DAD TO YOUR CHILDREN

“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.” - Col. 3:21.

Our children are looking up to us for love, support, guidance and mentoring so that they will grow in the right way. Don't underestimate the power of fatherhood. To be a good father to your children you must take note of the following:

1. Respect Your Children's Mother

The best family education a child can get is having parents who respect and love each other.

2. Spend Time With Your Children

There is no greater love than a father giving himself sacrificially to his children. Your children need more than money, toys and travels, they need YOU.

3. Communicate With Your Children

You can't correct a child you don't play with. Be their friends while they are small and share together when they grow up it won't be difficult.

4. Discipline And Correct With A Gentle Spirit

Don't correct out of anger, annoyance and frustration. Be calm, kind and be firm.

5. Be A Communicator – Eph. 6:4, Duet. 6:7

Don't leave the teaching to mum alone. Be alert everyday for examples to use to teach them the lessons of life.

6. Play With Your Children – Prov. 22:6

Take time to play, recreate, have fun, smile and laugh with your children. In old age, the best memories children have of their father is the playing time.

7. Pray With And For Your Children

Don't be ashamed to let them see you praying. Let them know you depend on God for strength. Pray also for them and show your God to your children.

8. Be A Provider

You must provide for the physical, material, mental and financial needs of your children. Fathers are made in heaven to supply all the needs of their household.

9. Create A Good Atmosphere At Home

The atmosphere you create at home with their mother will readily determine their all round growth and development. Stop bringing office or work problem back home, it pollutes the atmosphere.

CHAPTER 24: THE MAN AND HIS CHILDREN

One of the areas that most men have failed is the area of their children. Historically, the African male have not really been taught on how to relate with his children. The legend is that men are to bear the children and the women are to take care of them. Generally speaking, men have not been responsible for the upbringing of their children. In actual fact, there are many men who do not know their children! God punished Eli because he failed to nurture his children in the way of the Lord (I Sam. 2:22-34).

“And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon

Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” - Gen. 18:17-19.

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” - Eph. 6:4.

“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.” - Col. 3:21.

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” - I Tim. 5:8.

The Scripture is clear that a man must marry, raise a family and instruct his children in the right and godly way. The man is not only to spill his seeds everywhere, bearing children indiscriminately, but must have a good home and bear the children he can take care of and bring up well. Abraham even played with his grandchild.

“By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise” - Heb. 11:9.

“A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children’s children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just” – Pro. 13:22.

WRONG WAYS THAT MEN HAVE HANDLED THEIR CHILDREN

- * Over pampering and indulging them.
- * Failure to discipline and be firm.
- * Wrong examples and model before them.
- * Selfish, uncaring and irresponsible to them.
- * Terror, wicked, abusive and unfriendly.
- * Hatred, detestation and abandonment.
- * Blaming, cursing and injuring them.
- * Failure to provide and equip them for life.
- * Dominating, dictatorial and disowning them.
- * Sexual and economic abuse.
- * Failure to relate, listen and understand them.
- * Unavailable to share and nurture them.
- * Abandoning and maltreating their mother.

These are some of the wrong ways that men have handled their children. Unfortunately, many men are still neck-deep in these wrong ways of handling children today.

ADVERSE EFFECTS OF WRONG HANDLING

The negative effects of wrong handling of our children by the menfolk are too numerous and glaring today. Here are some of them:

- * Bitterness and unforgiving spirit by the children.
- * Societal misfits and miscreants.
- * Abandonment in old age.
- * Generational curses and problems.
- * Enstrangement and wrong fatherhood.
- * Repercussion and retribution.
- * Destroyed legacy and quarrelling over property.

BECOMING A REAL MAN TO YOUR CHILDREN

Being a man is more than just giving birth to children. It takes much more. You must know how to nurture and give your best shot to your children.

1. Be a good model and an example to them

You are their hero, they look up to you, therefore be a good example as a real role model for them.

2. Be a real man to them

A real man is no longer selfish and self-centred. He works, plans and thinks for his children.

3. Respect their mother

The best gift you can give to your children is to love and respect their mother.

4. Spend time with your children

Money, toys and education are good, but TIME with them is the best investment. So spend quality time with your children.

5. Communicate and share

Speak wisely, forthrightly and consistently to your children. Be clear, open and answer their questions patiently.

6. Discipline and correct with a gentle spirit

Anger, annoyance and merciless beating only aggravate the problem. Correct and discipline your children in love.

7. Pray with and pray for them

Some will want to prove stubborn and wayward. They might rebel against your efforts, but they are powerless against your prayers. So pray for them and with them regularly.

CHAPTER 25: THE MAN AND HIS FRIENDS

Being a male is a matter of birth, but being a man is a matter of choice. It is a process to become a true and real man in today's world. And a crucial part of that process is having good friends to take the journey of life with. Man is a societal being, it is impossible to live in isolation. The world consist of the other person and you. To really become a man, you'll have to know how to choose good friends and how to become one yourself. Living alone or living by yourself and keeping to yourself alone is not part of healthy living.

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." - Eccl. 4:9-10.

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." - Prov. 17:17.

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." - Prov. 27:17.

Every man must have friends and be friendly in life. Friends are mutual acquaintances and those you have common interest with. Friends are those who love us despite our failures. True friends are those who are willing to stand by us in any situation and circumstances of life. Your friends can come in form of a neighbour, colleague, wife, relation, associates and mentors. True friendship is for mutual benefit, not self benefit. A true friend is someone who walks in when others have walked out. Someone who inspires and add more to your life.

It is a terrible thing not have true friends in life.

"I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me." - Ps. 31:11.

“Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.” - Ps. 88:18.

“I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.” - Ps. 142:4.

“At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.” - II Tim. 4:16.

“My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.” - Ps. 38:11.

POWER OF FRIENDS

Good men know the power of friends and friendship. They therefore seek to harness the positive side of it and run away from the negative side because they know that;

- Ø Friends can make or mar you – Eccl. 4:9-10.
- Ø True friends will stand by you to succeed - Prov. 17:17.
- Ø True friends will uplift and empower you – Prov. 27:17
- Ø True friends will connect you to your destiny – I Sam. 18:1.
- Ø True friends will constantly be by your side – Ruth 1:16, II Tim. 1:16.

Ø True friends will not be jealous or envious of your progress – Prov. 18:24.

Many men, just like David, had benefited much from having true friends that did all these and much more for them. Jonathan was a true friend to David and he made sure that he got to the throne of Israel (I Sam. 15:21; 20:17). King David also reciprocated to the house of Jonathan.

SIGNS OF BAD FRIENDS AND FRIENDSHIP TODAY

“Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.” - Micah 7:5.

“My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out tears unto God.” - Job 16:20.

“All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.” - Job 19:19.

Quite unfortunate that many men have also been ruined by evil friends. How can you know bad friendship? It is not possible to live in isolation, you will need a good friend by your side. As a man, you need a true friend to share with. But bad friends can negatively influence you to do evil. Therefore, beware of friends that have the following characteristics:

- ☐ A friends that backbite and character assassinate you.
- ☐ Friends that betray your trust and confidence - Luke 22:22, 48.
- ☐ Friends that are treacherous, lying and deceptive – I Sam. 3:26-27.
- ☐ A friend that leads you to sin and away from God – Prov. 1:10.
- ☐ A friend that doesn't share your values and vision.
- ☐ A friend that is ready to take advantage of you.
- ☐ A friend that sees nothing wrong in conniving with your adversary.
 - ☐ A friend that only shows up when the going is good and disappears when the going is tough.
- ☐ A friend that steals from you and sets you to fail.

If your friends don't increase and multiply you, they will surely demote and destroy you. Too many negative friends destroy.

“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” - Prov. 18:24.

You don't have to have many friends. Only few true and faithful friends are okay. And be true to your friend. More importantly, Jesus is the only friend that sticks closer than a brother.

HOW TO CHOOSE AND MAINTAIN GOOD FRIENDS

It has been said that friendship is not by force but by choice. You should be able to choose your friends if you really want to make a headway in life. 'Show me your friends, and I can tell who you are' so says the Book of Elders.

1. Make Jesus your life-long friend (John 15:13-14).
2. Be friendly and show interest in people.
3. Evaluate your friends and friendship so far.
4. Cut off false friends who are not increasing but demoting you.

5. Choose friends that shares the same value with you.
(Psalms 119:63, Mal. 3:16).

6. Be friendly to those who loves and appreciate you.
7. Don't betray a friend for any reason in this world.
8. Seek to be a lifter and not a limiter of friends.

Watch your friends carefully, because you can be guilty by association. If you are friendly with robbers, crooks, those with curses and wrath of God over their lives, their judgment will surely get to you.

CHAPTER 26: THE MAN AS A LEADER

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” - Ezek. 22:30.

One of the most foundational roles of man, both in the scripture and society is leadership. The man is looked upon to take the lead in the home, society and the church. The responsibility to lead always falls on man, eight out of ten times. The man must therefore provide the kind of leadership that will help and not hinder the society, family and church.

Leadership must be developed. Even born leaders must be developed. But the reality today is that while some are good leaders, others are bad leaders; while some are strong leaders, others are weak leaders; while some are ineffective leaders, others are effective leaders; while some are powerful leaders, others are powerless leaders; while some are influential leaders, others are mere positional leaders.

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

“Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.” - Isa. 55:4.

“For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.” - Isa. 9:16.

Leadership is influence; the capacity to rally people to a common vision and objective. True leadership is not position, title, age or experience. It is the ability to influence people towards a common goal. It is the aura that makes people to follow you sincerely without force and coercion.

Your leadership skill will affect everything you do. Your home, relationship, church and business will be affected by your leadership. People follow others that are stronger than themselves.

QUALITIES OF TRUE LEADERS OF TODAY

The days of authoritarian leadership are gone. People today detest dictatorship and authoritarian rule. Being a true leader today demands for these salient qualities in your life:

1. **Vision** – Nobody will follow you if you don't know where you are going.
2. **Credibility** – If you are not credible enough to be trusted, nobody will follow you.
3. **Character** – Who you are inside will determine who you are outside.
 4. **Influence** – Without influence, people will not follow you, and if people don't follow you, you are not a leader.
 5. **Communication** – People will not follow you if they don't know what you want.
 6. **Charisma** – When you set yourself on fire, people will love to see you burn. Something must attract people to you.
 7. **Problem** – Solving – Your ability to solve problems will attract people to you.
 8. **Relationship** – If your relational skills are weak, your leadership will always suffer.
 9. **Positive** – Attitude – No matter what happened to you yesterday, your attitude today is your choice.
 10. **Teachability** – To continue leading, you must continue to learn. What gets you there will not keep you there.
 11. **Competence** – You can't climb to the next rung in the ladder until you are excellent at what you do now.
 12. **Constrains** – 80% of all obstacles to success comes from within. Find out what is constraining you and deal with it.
13. **Creativity** – The creator has created you to be creative.
 14. **Courage** – 'Most in demand and least in supply' – It is the willingness to do the things you know are right.
 15. **Change (Growth)** – Nothing will change if you don't change as a leader. To see mighty change in life, the leader must change first. If you don't change, change will change you.

MUST FOR THE MAN AS LEADERS

- A. Have a Leader's Head – Understand people.
- Ø People like to feel special, compliment them.

Ø People want a better tomorrow, give them hope.

Ø They desire direction, navigate for them.

Ø They are selfish, speak to their needs.

Ø They get low emotionally, encourage them.

Ø They want success, so help them to win.

B. Have a Leader's Heart – Love people.

Man is here for the sake of other men.

C. Have a Leader's Hand – Help people.

People respect a leader who keeps their interest in mind.

CHAPTER 27: THE MAN AS A PROMISE KEEPER

Matt. 5:37

Every real man must be a promise keeper. Keeping of promises and integrity mark out a real man. Today, many men are covenant breakers. In actual fact, most men don't count it as anything when they break their promises. Even in the church, many so called 'born again' men don't care a hoot about keeping their promises. The crisis of broken marriages, wayward children, business failures and crisis – ridden society can largely be traced to men that fail to keep their promises. It's time that real men rise to the surface and start keeping their promises.

“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. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. 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. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.” - Ps. 15:1-5.

Being a promise keeper means integrity, credibility and truthfulness in all things. It means your words are your bond. Your promises are sacrosanct. You are as good as your word. Your words and your life and actions agree together.

By so doing, you become trustworthy, dependable, responsible, reliable and credible. As a promise keeper,

- v Your wife trusts and relies on you.
- v Your children see you as a good model.
- v Your colleagues depend on your integrity.
- v Your friends can vouch for you anywhere.
- v Your people trust and follow your leadership.
- v Your workers can sleep with their eyes closed.

Integrity and credibility make people to trust you. Trust is the emotional glue that binds leaders and followers together. Trust makes leadership possible. Nobody will follow someone he cannot trust for too long.

PROMISE KEEPERS OR LIARS?

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” - Rev. 21:8.

“A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.” - Prov. 19:9.

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” - John 8:44.

Unfortunately, many men are liars. While some are chronic and habitual liars, others are occasional liars. They lie about their age, status, education, finances and cover up things. It was Napoleon Bonaparte who said “Lies circle the earth while the truth is still trying to put on its shoes”. Many men lie to God, their wife, children, church and the society to the extent that nobody believes anybody again. Men that break their promises have raised up ungodly children, unstable business, unhappy marriage and untruthful associates.

The church, society, marriage and the future of our children are in grave danger when men don't keep their promises.

BECOMING A PROMISE KEEPER

“Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.” – Eccl. 5:1-2. Judges 11:30, 31, 35, 36.

Every real man must determine to be a promise keeper. To change our nation, we must keep our promises. As a man, you must;

- ü Keep your promises to your wife.
- ü Keep your promises to your children.
- ü Keep your promises to your friends.
- ü Keep your promises to your workers.
- ü Keep your promises to your leaders.
- ü Keep your promises to God.

No matter how painful it is, keep your promises. It might be costly, but once you make a promise, keep it to the letter. It is better not to make a promise than to make it and not keep it. Remain truthful and faithful despite lies all around you.

HOW TO BECOME A PROMISE KEEPER:

a. Repent of all lies and deceptions

The Lord hates lying tongue – Prov. 6:16-17.

b. Decide to be truthful and honest in all things

Honesty is still the best policy for life and ministry.

c. Make only the promises you can keep

If at all, you find it difficult to keep your promises, apologise to those concerned.

d. Be open, honest and transparent in your dealings

Have no skeleton in your cupboard. Be open, transparent and sincere.

e. Make every effort to be a man of your word

Build a legacy of being truthful to your word, pledges and promises.

f. Ask for grace and God's enablement to be a promise keeper

It is only by God's grace that we can remain truthful in a world full of lies, deceit and untruthfulness.

CHAPTER 28: THE MAN AND SUCCESS

Quite dishearteningly today that many preachers have misled people as to true meaning of success. The parameter of measuring success has been physical, material and transient. Success has been defined as standard of living, mansions, class, cars, wining and dining with the big shots of the society.

Many men who have been hoodwinked by these errors are therefore ready to cut corners, maim, rob, kill and get involved in shady deals so as to have these worldly goods and appear successful in the eyes of the world. Many men have covenanted their souls to the god of money, pleasure and idol because they want to make it by all means. Many have entered into cults, groups and societies that promised wealth and fame in exchange for their souls. Because of wrong concept of success being taught, even by the church, many men are in these secret bondages today.

WHAT IS TRUE SUCCESS IN LIFE?

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to

all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” - Joshua 1:8.

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” - Ps. 1:1-3.

Everybody identifies with success, but not everybody understands success. Success in the world means power, position, prestige and MONEY. But in Biblical sense, it means pleasing God through: -

- v Knowing God's purpose for your life.
- v Growing to your full potential.
- v Sowing seeds that benefit others.

Success is not a future thing, it is what you experience everyday as long as you live with these definitions.

True success is a journey, it is not an event. Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain or accomplish for yourself. It is what you do for others.

Success is not measured by the position you reach in life; rather it's measured by the obstacles you overcome.

FACTS OF SUCCESS

- ☐ True success does not consist in what you acquire, attain and achieve, but in who you are.
- ☐ Success is who you are within. If you don't win within, you cannot win without.
- ☐ You can inherit money and wealth, but not success. You must work for it.
- ☐ Success has a price. You must pay the price to move up.
- ☐ Success must be updated, else it becomes a current failure.
- ☐ Success does not start and end in a day. It is a life long process.
 - ☐ You are the best material for your success. You are either your greatest asset or liability.

TURNING YOUR FAILURE TO SUCCESS

Today, many are muddled up in their perception of success and failure that we need to look at it more critically. The increase in depression, mental disorder, suicide rates, many turning their back on God and some continual crisis in life are sure evidences that many people, particularly Christian men are training for success, when they should be training for failure in life.

The more we learn about failure, the better for us. Because failure is more common than success, stagnancy is more prevalent than growth and disappointments more than achievements. The question in life is not whether you will experience failure, but how you are going to deal with your failures. Life is not a straight line, but up and down.

FAILURE – A DEFINITION

“For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.” - Prov. 24:16.

“Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.” - Micah 7:8.

Failure is part and parcel of life. All fail often and all will continue to fail. Most people who succeed fail seven times before they made it. Temporary failures are the mistakes, setback, errors, bad decisions, bitter disappointment, lack of growth, joblessness, misfortune, failure in marriage, moral lapses, unwanted pregnancy, business and financial loss, defeat and recurrent problems, loss of loved one, late marriage, bad luck, poverty and scandals. They can be personal or corporate in nature.

The problem in life is that people take these failures too personal and too seriously and never think of ways of rising above them. They allow failure to limit them:

- § Hinder them from marching forward.
- § Accepting failure as their destiny.
- § Fear of starting again.
- § Regret and discouragement.
- § Moody and despondent.
- § Guilt and condemnation.
- § Shameful and being negative.
- § Failure to forgive and move ahead.
- § Blaming others for their situation.
- § Surrendering to opposition.
- § Quitting and giving up.

The difference between the average men and men of achievement is their perception and response to failure. They realize that once you mind the opposition you will definitely lose your position.

Failure should be stepping stones rather than stop signs. What happens to you doesn't matter, but what happens in you.

“If silly things were not done, intelligent things would never happen”.

Little minds are subdued by misfortunes, but great minds rise above them.

“Upon they wreckage of yesterday, construct the structure of tomorrow”.

The terrible truth is that all roads to achievement pass through the land of failure.

BENEFITS OF FAILURE

It's okay to fall down as long as you learn some thing as you get up. These are some of the benefits of failure:

- v It keeps you humble.
- v It helps you to learn lessons.
- v It helps you to change.
- v It will arrest your attention.
- v It helps you to discover yourself.
- v It helps you to try a better idea.
- v It helps you to try harder.
- v It helps you to pray.

Failure doesn't mean you will not succeed, it only means you have to work smarter. "Many of life's true failure are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they give up". True failure is giving up when you should continue.

WHY PEOPLE TRULY FAIL

- ü Lack of vision and purpose.
- ü Disobedience to God.
- ü Negative confession.
- ü Wrong foundation.
- ü Self-indulgence and laziness.
- ü Generational curse.
- ü Lack of purpose and plan.
- ü Inability to take risk.
- ü Giving up too soon.
- ü Content with past success.
- ü Moving with wrong people.
- ü Lack of personal growth.

TURNING YOUR FAILURE TO SUCCESS

The following are ways to use your failure to turn you to a better person. Failure is an inside job. If you don't fail within, you will not fail without.

- ☐ Don't concentrate on failure but success.
- ☐ Don't treat your failure as a foe but as a friend.
- ☐ Make failure a learning experience.
- ☐ Don't view your failure as a monument but as a moment.
- ☐ Don't take your failure too personal.
- ☐ Don't be tied down by past failure.
- ☐ Use failure as a gauge for growth.
- ☐ Be committed to His purpose for you.

- ☐ Always see the big picture and avoid distractions.
- ☐ Don't surrender your success to excuses.
- ☐ Change, grow, improve, learn and update yourself.
- ☐ Trust, obey and pray fervently.
- ☐ Be focused, dedicated and diligent.

CHAPTER 29: REAL MAN AND TOUGH TIMES

“A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks life has thrown at him” - David Brinkley.

It was the legendary Robert Schuller who said; “Tough times never last, but tough people do”. Yes indeed, there are and will be tough times in the life of everyman, but the big question is, are you tough enough to handle the tough time? Will you be manly enough to handle your tough times?

Recently, Steve Jobs, the Apple Computer co-founder died. He was a man that knows tough times from birth. He was abandoned by his biological parents, adopted by others, dropped out of college, suffered hunger, but rose to become successful. He overcame his tough times. Will you be able to overcome yours?

TOUGH TIMES AND MEN

“The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.” - Psalm 34:17, 19.

A real man must be a man of steenly character, godly attitude, unwavering faith, clear conscience and forthright dispositions. Of course, that in itself will bring tough times.

Tough times are difficult times, stormy seasons, problematic situations, financial losses, test and trials of faith, unlimited sufferings, joblessness, ill-luck, disappointments, business crash, struggling with little or nothing, unstable work, loss of loved ones, being forsaken by friends, scandals and confusing situations; battling with a particular curse, nightmare or oppressive bondage. These tough times might come due to your mistakes, sins, demonic activities or through no fault of yours.

They may be short or long and they may be severe or mild.

But usually, they are dark days and times that try men’s souls. Unfortunately, most men are not prepared to handle such times today. Preachers have glossed over such subjects, therefore most men quit and give up when tough times come calling.

MEN'S REACTION TO TOUGH TIMES

“Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.” - Psalm 16:4.

Various men have reacted to tough times in varied ways.

Among which are:

- Being downcast, discouraged and overwhelmed.
- Forsaking God and angry with their Creator.
- Worry, anxiety, hypertension and grumbling.
- Running from pillar to post for help.
- Resorting to occultic solution and juju.
- Resorting to stealing, robbery and harming others.
- Becoming touchy, vengeful and unhappy at others.
- Looking for quick escape and get-rich quick syndrome.
- Giving up on life and drinking, womanising and surviving by trick.

Quite sadly that many men have wrongly reacted and handled their tough times through these aforementioned ways. The truth is that they have moved into deeper and tougher times. When men are small within, they cannot handle tough times without.

PECULIARITY OF TOUGH TIMES TO A MAN

The way God wired a man is quite different to that of a woman.

- * Man is a banker provided by nature.
- * A man is motivated by his work.
- * A real man feels and act responsible.

Therefore, when a man faces tough times, he is deeply touched and troubled. For a real man, tough times should be:-

- * Time for reappraisal and rethinking.
- * Time to draw closer to God like never before.
- * Time to stand for what is right.
- * Time to display manly strength of character.
- * Time to display the stuff you are made of.
- * Time to prepare for God's greater blessing.

Indeed and in truth, tough times don't last, only tough people do.

HOW TO HANDLE YOUR TOUGH TIMES ADMIRABLY

“I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.” - Psalm 118:5, 6.

The truth of the matter is that tough times will always come. If you don't handle them, they will surely handle you. One of the signs of a real man is the ability to handle tough times in admirable ways, because it is then you will have good stories to tell.

1. Be sure of your stand with God

Let there be no barrier between you and God. Stand firm in Him and with Him.

2. Possess a dream and a vision

Focus on your dream despite all the storms around you.

3. Grow to true maturity

Your inner strength is what matters during tough times. If you don't snap within, you will overcome without. If you are crumbled up within, you will fail without. Develop and work on your inner strength and growth.

4. Encourage yourself to rise up

No outside motivation and encouragement will work if you don't do it for yourself. Motivate yourself to start all over again. Rise up again and again.

5. Work and pray

Work as if everything depend on you and pray as if everything depend on God. Be ready to do everything and anything, except stealing and defrauding others to succeed.

6. Be informed

Get informed, get educated. Update and upgrade yourself. Learn how to move up, become better and live better from books, seminars, trainings and self-improvement courses.

7. Be consistent

Consistency with God in the right way and with the truth will pay off at the end. No matter the situation, don't change the truth. Keep on keeping on in the right track.

8. Be wise

Be wise enough to save, invest and manage your little resources in a prudent way. Opportunity comes but once, be wise enough to recognise it, even if dressed in overalls. Seize it and go for it.

CHAPTER 30: REAL MAN AND TEMPTATIONS

“The man who fights too long against a dragon becomes a dragon himself” - Friedrich Nietzsche.

Living in the world of today, too much pressure is facing men from every quarter. Unbearable pressure is coming to men from all angles because men are expected to perform wonders in everything. One of the most formidable pressures on men is the temptation to cut corners, take short cuts and get-rich-quick syndrome. Unfortunately, these short cuts have cut short the lives of many men.

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 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.” - I Cor.10:12-13.

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” - James 1:12-15.

Temptation is normal and natural to men. Temptation is the urge, tendency and option to cut-corners, take shortcut, compromise, digress, disobey and to leave what is right and find an easy way out. Temptations do come from;

- Ø Our flesh - It can push you to do unimaginable evil.
- Ø Satan and demons - They can instigate you to practice wickedness.
- Ø Our depraved minds - deceive you to do what is wrong.
- Ø Our wife and friends - ginger you to follow the wrong way.
- Ø Society and church - support you in evil and ungodly ways.

Ø Test of God in our lives - trying to know what is in your heart and how sincere you are.

God allows temptation to come to us, not to destroy us, but to test our faith, genuineness and commitment to what is right. Unfortunately, many men are succumbing to temptations now and then. The more reason they are backward. Temptation is part and parcel of life. I have faced and continue to face many and varied temptations in my life. I have flunked some of them, only to rise up again, and God has strengthened me to overcome many.

KINDS OF TEMPTATIONS

Temptation comes in various ways to men and in different shapes. You can surely identify with anyone of these:

1. **Financial Temptation** – Opportunity to steal, cheat, falsify account and get money through crooked means. Get-rich-quick syndrome.
2. **Sexual Temptation** - Free sex from girls, women, daughters, relations, members, counselees, colleagues and women folks.
3. **Lying** - Being economical with the truth and speaking from both sides of the mouth; to cover your face and buy time for yourself.
4. **Unfaithfulness** – Opportunity to cheat on your wife, deny your faith and rubbish the word of God.
5. **Power** – The urge to show off, oppress others and subjugate the potentials of those under you.
6. **Unforgiveness** – The tendency to revenge, avenge yourselves, bitter towards others and hold unto hurts and wrongdoings.
7. **Faith** – The tendency to be casual about your faith, draw away from God and throw your faith overboard as a result of worldly pressure.

Many men have given in to these temptations because of fear, feelings and failure. Many men have lost their soul, health, family and favour of God because they have repeatedly been overcome by these temptations.

HOW TO OVERCOME DAILY TEMPTATIONS

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” - I John 4:4.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands,

ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” - James 4:7-8.

Temptation is not a sin, only yielding to it is a sin before God. You can say NO to these temptations and live a victorious life.

- ☐ Put your faith and trust in Jesus
- ☐ Seek the strength and power of the Lord in prayer.
- ☐ Stop walking at the brink of sin and evil.
- ☐ Discipline yourself to say no to devilish suggestions.
- ☐ Fill your heart and mind with the word of God.
- ☐ Seek to please and glorify the Lord in everything.
- ☐ Determine not to be a slave of self, sin and Satan.

CHAPTER 31: THE MAN AND CURSES

I'm appalled at the number of men living and labouring under curses today. Majority of the untimely death, poverty, sickness, failures, bad-luck, penury, marital failures and financial crash-landing of many men's businesses can be traced directly to curses.

Yes, Jesus has freed us from the curse of the law, (Gal. 3:13-14) yet, we must renounce all curses we might consciously and unconsciously through our misdeeds and sinfulness.

DEFINITION

"Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee." – Gen. 12:12-13.

"Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife." - II Sam 12:10.

Abraham passed his curse to his children, so also is David. Curses can be described as a reoccurring problem in one's lives. It can also mean the long arm of justice from the past to the present or a spoken word against one's life. It can therefore be acquired, transferred or generational in nature.

"As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come." - Proverbs 26:2.

So many men are living under one spiritual curse or the other, among which are:

1. Curse of Father and Mother
-

"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." –

Prov. 30:17.

So many men have died because they are cursed by their parents.

2. Curse of Pastors and Leaders

Many men have incurred the wrath of their pastors due to insubordination.

3. Curse of Cheated Friends

Many men have been cursed by their friends because they betrayed them.

4. Curse of Workers and Associates

Shortchanging your staff and workers leads to curse that will spell doom for your business.

5. Curse of Wives and Women

Maltreating your wife and women will lead to curses that will ruin your life.

6. Curse of Your Boss

When you steal from your boss, you will be cursed and your life will be ruined.

7. Curse of God

Many men are cursed by the Lord because they steal from Him and maltreat His servants.

HOW TO BE FREE FROM CURSE

“And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob’s thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh.

And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.” - Gen. 32:24-29.

1. Repent and renounce your past misdeeds.
2. Pray fervently to be free.
3. Restitute in whatever way you can.
4. Run away from things that can bring curse to your life.

Until you are truly free from every form of curse, you cannot make headway as a man. Every man must live a curse-free life.

CHAPTER 32: The Man and His Kingdom

More than any other time in history, the kingdom of God is looking for real men today. The man is much more important than men. Whenever God has found such men, His work has taken giant leap forward.

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” - Isaiah 6:8.

WHAT IS HIS KINGDOM?

“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you” - Luke. 17:20-21.

“For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power” - I Cor. 4:20

The kingdom of God is the rule and reign of God in the heart of men. It is not a geographical kingdom, but the rule and reign of God in the heart of men.

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” - Matt. 4:17.

It is more than salvation or the church; it is God pressing Himself with power in all His works.

The kingdom of Satan is manifested through sin, evil, sickness, poverty, disease and all sorts of evil too numerous to mention. Demonic activities and deception are integral parts of Satan's kingdom.

“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.

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” - I Thess. 5:9.

“And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” - Matt. 8:28.

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:” - Acts 16:16.

“Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies” - Gal. 5:20.

When Jesus announced that the kingdom of God had come through Him, He claimed for Himself the position of a divine invader, coming to set everything straight (Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:15; I John 3:8; Acts 10:38). Jesus went beyond merely claiming to be the presence of the kingdom, He demonstrated it by:-

- ☐ Spiritual victory over the devil in the wilderness.
- ☐ Spiritual power over Satan's rule and dominion (Matt. 12:28).

The coming of the kingdom is the beginning of the destruction of Satan's rule and the deliverance of mankind from demonic oppression (Mark 1:34; 39; 3; 14-15; Acts 26:18).

* Salvation and sanctification of those who believe the gospel. (John 3:3; 17:17; Acts 2:38-40; II Cor. 6:14-18).

* The death and resurrection of Christ completed and consummated the victory of Christ over Satan and restored the power of the kingdom of God (John 12:23-32).

It is the believers responsibility to seek unceasingly the kingdom of God in all its manifestation, hungering and thirsting for God's presence and power, both in his life and in the midst of the Christian community.

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” - Luke 10:19.

GOD'S KINGDOM IN OUR LIVES

Our purpose here on earth is to expand His kingdom. Everyone of us must imbibe the lifestyle of the kingdom. The moment we are born-again, we are translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,” - Col. 1:13.

- .. Godly living (Matt. 6:33; 5:6; 8)
- .. Purity, faith and obedience, walking in the Spirit
- .. Powerful living (Acts 1:8)
- .. Offensive living (Eph. 6:10; Matt 11:12)

THE LORD COMMITS THE EXPANSION OF HIS KINGDOM INTO THE HANDS OF REAL MEN

“It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” - Acts 15:26.

God expects men to use their wealth to build His kingdom. He wants men to invest their time, talents and treasures in the expansion of His kingdom. Quite sad today that lots of men are rather building their own kingdom, than the kingdom of God. Most men withhold their wealth from kingdom purposes.

Real men must be in the forefront of supporting God's kingdom today. God commits the expansion of His kingdom in the world into the hands of real men.

Therefore, pray for the manifestation of His kingdom; live the kingdom lifestyle; support, morally and financially those expanding the kingdom; give to kingdom work; encourage those who are extending His kingdom; and pursue His kingdom in all that you do.

Real men must seek out servants of the Lord who are building His kingdom, not their personal empire and support them with their time, talent and treasure, just like Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57-60).

CHAPTER 33: A FATHER'S BLESSING

Fathers have power and authority over their sons. They can make and unmake through their blessings or curse. Many have no physical or spiritual father to bless them and their work and that's the reason for their struggling and failure.

“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. And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.” - Gen. 27:4,33.

“And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,” - Gen. 48:15.

Father's blessing brings promotion, exaltation, fruitfulness, victory, favour, breakthrough, release from curse, breaks old law and brings new one into operation.

An unspoken blessing over a child means the child will inherit all the negative points of the father. Abraham blessed Isaac but never removed the curse of barrenness (Gen. 25:5). He therefore inherited delayed childbirth, backsliding, lying to the father and about his physical wealth. Leaders and fathers must intentionally and deliberately bless their children. Sons must berately seek the blessings of their fathers.

8 CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE THAT MUST BLESS YOU BUT NEVER CURSE YOU

1. Your father must bless you, he must never curse you.
2. Your mother must not curse you
3. Your boss - don't steal from him
4. Your husband
5. Your wife
6. Your friend
7. Your pastor
8. Your God

You can only prosper in life if these eight people blessed you and not curse you.

WHAT FATHER'S BLESSING WILL DO FOR YOU

1. It will make you a real father.
2. It will serve as a feather for you.
3. It will open your closed heaven.
4. It will make you to struggle less.
5. It will make you to go ahead of your colleagues in life.
6. It will give you undeserved promotion.
7. It will prolong your life.

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Has held hundreds of conferences across Nigeria, Africa and Europe with combined attendance of over 30, 000 church leaders.

Has written over 35 books that has sold thousands of copies such as ‘Grow the Pastor, Grow the Church’, ‘The Impact-driven Church’, ‘22 Laws of Church Growth’.

Founded International Institute of Church Growth that has trained over 5, 000 pastors and leaders with attendant growth testimonies.

Has written and produced hundreds of materials on various aspects of church growth, leadership and health that are being used by thousands of church leaders.

Has mobilized and equip men to become real men through seminars, resources and tapes.

Has sold thousands of tapes-audio, DVD, CDs that continue to bless and edify thousands of ministers and church leaders.

Has consulted and helped many denominational and independent churches to overcome stagnation, crisis and breakaways.

Has been used by God to raise and grow thousands of ministers, churches and ministries across the nations.

He is trying to live his major passion of “Empowering Leaders to grow Healthier Churches and Ministries” across the world.

Table of Contents

CONTENT

DEDICATION

APPRECIATION

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1: WHO A REAL MAN IS NOT

CHAPTER 2: CHALLENGES FACING MEN EVERYWHERE

CHAPTER 3: QUALITIES OF A REAL MAN

CHAPTER 4: PORTRAITS OF A REAL MAN

CHAPTER 5: THE REAL MAN BEHIND THE MINISTRY

CHAPTER 6: MEN AND CHURCH

CHAPTER 7: MEN NEEDS THE CHURCH

CHAPTER 8: THE CHURCH NEEDS MEN

CHAPTER 9: WHAT DRIVES MEN AWAY FROM CHURCHES

CHAPTER 10: PROBLEMS THAT MEN CAUSE

CHAPTER 11: PROBLEMS THAT CHURCHES CAUSE FOR MEN

CHAPTER 12: HOW TO MAGNETIZE MEN TO YOUR CHURCH

CHAPTER 13: THE MAN AND MONEY

CHAPTER 14: HOW MEN CAN MAKE MONEY WITH PEACE OF MIND

CHAPTER 15: THE MAN AND DEBT

CHAPTER 16: THE REAL MAN AND FREEDOM

CHAPTER 17: THE MAN AND SEX

CHAPTER 18: SEXUAL PROBLEMS IN MEN

CHAPTER 19: HOW REAL MEN REMAIN FREE FROM SEXUAL PERVASION

CHAPTER 20: WHY MEN DIE FASTER THAN WOMEN

CHAPTER 21: THE MAN AND HIS PARENTS

CHAPTER 22: THE MAN AND HIS WIFE

CHAPTER 23: THE MAN AS A FATHER

CHAPTER 24: THE MAN AND HIS CHILDREN

CHAPTER 25: THE MAN AND HIS FRIENDS

CHAPTER 26: THE MAN AS A LEADER

CHAPTER 27: THE MAN AS A PROMISE KEEPER

CHAPTER 28: THE MAN AND SUCCESS

[CHAPTER 29: REAL MAN AND TOUGH TIMES](#)

[CHAPTER 30: REAL MAN AND TEMPTATIONS](#)

[CHAPTER 31: THE MAN AND CURSES](#)

[CHAPTER 32: The Man and His Kingdom](#)

[CHAPTER 33: A FATHER'S BLESSING](#)

[OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR](#)

[ABOUT THE AUTHOR](#)