



UNLEASH

The Power Of Your Inborn Potential

TOLASE AFOLABI

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All correspondents should be forwarded to

Tolase Afolabi

+2348109579341

thetolaseafolabi@gmail.com

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Dedication

To my loving and sacrificial parents, who invested in me and set in motion my potential, to all the young and old mind across the nations who are in search of their identity and hidden potential, I humbly dedicate this book.

Acknowledgements

The beauty of the dark sky came from the synergy occasioned by the galaxies of stars. In truth, a tree does not make a forest. This masterpiece in your hand is only a dance of many rising stars on our pitch-black globe and packed with ideas from great minds. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to many great men and women who, through their commitment to the passion for unleashing their potential, have made a tremendous contribution to the discovery, development and deployment of my potential.

But where would stars house their beauty without the ancient immovable sky? I acknowledge God; my source and sustainer, the giver of all wisdom and inspiration, maker of all men and source of all potential. He is the author of this book you are holding; he alone could have inspired this timeless work.

I now realize more than ever just what goes into creating a book, and as a result have even more respect than before for those who do this regularly. I am really grateful to everyone who have helped turn my manuscript into this finished product you hold in your hands, especially Elujoke Oloopo, Simon Adebisi, Ayobami Ajakaye, Miss Boluwatife Bankole, Mr. Sijuade Adeyeye and Mr.

Fortune Olayode. This book would have been very different and considerably less good without you.

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Foreword

There is nothing you know how to do that someone is not doing into prominence. Wisdom is recognizing such people and learning from them. *"Unleash The Power Of Your Inborn Potential"* by Tolase Afolabi is not just another motivational book but a life manual that has capacity to coach anyone regardless of their status on the nitty gritty of discovering, developing and deploying their potential.

You were born naked but not empty. Many problems are unsolved in our generation because the people in which the solutions have been embedded are yet to unbridle and release their inherent capacity. Many people that would have become great in life ended up living a shattered and frustrated life because of dormant potential.

There is greatness inherent in everyone but the journey to releasing it is not a straight path; there are potholes, contours, junctions and even ditches on the road. This book is about discovering, developing and deploying your potential. It underscores a seemingly often untold truth that great men are men who unchecked themselves and offer their generation the

best version of themselves – These are men who never gave excuse for living average life, men who refuse to become just an addition to the number of people on earth; men who always rise triumphantly against all odds; men who turn their failure into learning experience, and chose to leave an imprint on the sand of time.

Galileo once wrote, “You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself.” Depending upon your level of knowledge and experience, the ideas in this book may sound familiar, but I’m certain this book will bring you to a higher level of awareness. When you learn and apply the methods and techniques contained in this book, and they become your habits, you will alter the course of your life in a very positive way.

This book is unique in many ways. It is practical and true to life. The author, from biblical, personal and contemporary stories, shows he was not just telling stories but rather an experiential reality. The discourse in this book is biblical and all-time relevant. It presents in simple terms the practical and tested guides to unleash your potential. This book is a must-read for all who desire to make positive impact in life.

Olayode Fortune

CEO, Transfolead Consults.

Introduction

If you were asked to tell the tale of human existence, what would lace the plot of your story? All scenes characterized by the gloomy, unfair, and tragic experiences of men? Or a life full of un-certainties; ups and downs? Perhaps, you've even wondered why some people seem to be living a fulfilled life while some just aimlessly go through life with no compass for living? I bet you often see the frustration, pain, and loss many around you face daily.

Why does these quagmires persist in our society today? The truth is, many think life is just a careless stroll with no vision nor passionate drive towards a certain goal. As a result, we have many degraded and poor people in the world and the number keeps being on a high and alarming rate daily. Any solution to this dilemma? The answer is hidden in the timeless words of King Solomon David that says *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* To solve the dilemma of confusion and uncertainty, you've got to get a vision for your life!

Think about this for a moment. Well over seven hundred and five million people live in extreme poverty in the world today. Over

sixty percent of these population live in Africa, and by 2030, it's projected that ninety percent of the world's poor population could be in Africa. There are over one hundred million Nigerians living in extreme poverty. This is a very critical problem which has crippled many people, and sadly, many people have even given up on good life experience. They have accepted this as the norm. They are stuck in the over-whelming social, economic and political challenges facing the world. Meanwhile, there is enormous potential trapped in them.

Friend, the journey to changing your life and the world doesn't begin by a careful gaze at the globe. It's by looking within to unravel the gold-like treasures hidden there! Potential is an unexposed ability, reserved power, untapped strength, capped capabilities, unused success, dormant gifts, hidden talents, and latent power. Yes! Potential is a powerful reality that transfuses hope, passion, and optimism into an individual if discovered.

So, you see, there's more to whatever you experience as challenges in your now. It all works together as the intense heat that brings out that golden treasure in you! Guess what? You were fashioned for greatness. There's a vast store of abilities within you that can bless the world and even shift the age. You are made up of gifts and talents that can change history but these gifts must be discovered and developed.

You have been endowed by your Creator with treasures and abilities to accomplish everything your vision and purpose

demands. However, the unleashing of your potential is not up to God, but you. We are responsible for tapping the reserved potentials stored within us. If your potential is key to unlocking your desired destiny, you must learn to understand it and effectively deploy it for maximum results. You determine the degree you attain in the pursuit of destiny. I mean, you're a determinant factor in the measure of your success in life.

Hence, this book is to help you discover the potential trapped within, develop and deploy them for the good of humanity. I believe it's our Creator's desire that we decide and determine to commit and dedicate ourselves to unleash our inborn potential. It's essential that we all unleash our potential because it determines our personal fulfillment and contribution to the human family, and to the pleasure of our Creator.

This book is written for people who wish to exceed the norm. It's for the ordinary individual who has resolved to be extraordinary. It's for an individual like you who knows that he is made for more; who knows that the Creator has invested a lot in him that is yet to be exposed.

Never expect much out of life without putting much into it. You must be committed and passionate about giving your best, to unleash every single endowment on your inside, to be satisfied with nothing less than your best. Are you determined to die empty?

PART 1

Discovering Your Potential

1.

UNDERSTANDING POTENTIAL

"There is no heavier burden than an unfulfilled potential."

Charles Schulz

He was threshing wheat in a winepress because of the fear of the oppressors. While he did so, an angel suddenly called out his name, "O Gideon, mighty man of valor, the Lord is with you." He was taken aback and confused because he wasn't sure the angel was referring to him. I mean, nothing around him shows he was a mighty man of valor. So, he questioned the angel, "If I'm a mighty man of valor, why can't I bring transformation to my community?" The angel said to him; "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?!"

Even though Israel was associated with stories of freedom and great deliverance, this time was unfortunate for them. The power of Midianites was so strong that the Israelites had to leave their beautiful abodes and prepare shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. Whenever the people planted crops, their oppressors would invade them, ruin their crops, destroy their livestock and leave them totally spoiled, always leaving the land devastated. This condition paralyzed the strong men in the land such that bravery disappeared from their hearts. Fear and panic set in and the whole nation was in disorder. The people were in great confusion looking for liberation but there was no man of war, no deliverer, no warrior, and no saviour.

These were the situations surrounding this young man. Although he had the physique of a warrior and possessed the inherent abilities to bring deliverance to his people, however, his potential was crippled by the whole turmoil in the land that he was, living like a fugitive in his own country. The angel referred to him as a valiant warrior and deliverer, these words could have been the most confusing words he had ever heard in his whole life because the situations in his life showed otherwise. He never knew his potential and was oblivious about what he was made of.

Inherent in Gideon was a deliverer he never knew; another man was on his inside that he had never discovered. How could a warrior become so timid and cowardly that he had to be threshing wheat in a winepress because of the fear of his oppressor? He kept living in his shadow, running from post to pole whereas lying in

him was a potential big enough to deliver his nation and set his people free. Likewise, many people live in servitude and depravity, though right in them are wells of inexhaustible abilities.

What is Potential?

Potential, as defined by Dr. Myles Munroe, is an 'unexposed ability, reserved power, untapped strength, capped capabilities, unused success, dormant gifts, hidden talents and latent power.' Your potential is who you are that you have not yet revealed, everything you can be that you are not yet, what you can do that you haven't done yet, where you can go that you haven't gone yet, who you can be that you haven't been yet, how far you can reach that you haven't reached yet. Bo Bennett says, "Untapped potential is the difference between where a person is now and where he or she can be."

Your potential is your inborn ability that must be revealed. You are capable of much more than you think, imagine or even do right now. Therefore, don't undermine your capability. Don't write off yourself because you are worth much more than what you are right now. Men and women that changed the world were people that discovered their inborn potentials. Every invention you see today was potential in those that invented them. These people discovered their potentials, developed and released them for the benefit of humanity and so they became icons of history. You also have treasure on your inside, a wealth of wisdom that the world needs, a solution that the world desperately requires. There are

substances that the Creator has placed on your inside. You must let them out.

What do you see when you see a seed? A seed? No! In every seed you see, no matter how tiny it may be, lies forest potential. The power of the potential of an orange seed is a forest of orange trees. Likewise, you are worth much more than the immediate conditions that surround your life right now. Inside of you lies a potential that can bring change to the world and you are charged with the responsibility of developing and nurturing this potential so it can be maximized.

Dr. Myles Munroe once said that “Death of a seed is the burial of a forest.” The cemeteries remain the wealthiest place on earth because many people died with their potential. Right in there, are books that were never written, songs that were never sung, inventions that were never created, artwork that the world never saw. You can’t add to the statistics of this sad truth. There is a whole lot tied to your potential. Albert Schweitzer says, “The tragedy of life is what dies inside a man while he lives.”

Imagine Bell Graham did not invent the telephone or Thomas Edison, the light bulb or Wright brothers, the airplane, imagine where the world would be. Consider Apple by Steve Jobs, Facebook by Mark Zuckerberg, and other great things we enjoy today, these things are products of the unleashed potentials of these people.

PRINCIPLES OF POTENTIAL

Principle 1 – God is the source of all potential.

God existed before all things and he is the source of all things. Everything we see came from him; he is the mind behind creation. He only has made you and put in you what you could be or become. He created you and me, and even before we were created, he knew us and has appointed potential in us according to his intentions for our lives.

Principle 2 – Everything has potential.

Inherent in every creation of God is the ability to be whatever God intends it to be. A seed naturally grows to a tree when properly cultivated. A lamb to a sheep, an egg to a bird, a fetus to a man. Everything has what it could be.

Principle 3 – Your potential is for the fulfilment of your purpose.

God spoke to a young boy with a purpose and potential to be a prophet saying;

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

The potential of the boy was to become a prophet, which was the reason for his existence. Your purpose is the original intent of God for creating you. It is the reason you are on earth today. God

created everything for a purpose and equipped them with the needed potential and ability to fulfill the purpose.

Principle 4 – It is your uniqueness

It gives you a distinct identity because it is your inborn and uncommon features. A dog is different from a goat; a dog barks while a goat bleat. You are a distinguished personality and should never compare yourself with others because you're unique. Your potential is what creates your uniqueness.

Principle 5 – Your potential is encoded in your inherent abilities, gifts and talents

Birds don't go to flight school to learn flying or fish swimming school, inherent in these creatures are the abilities to naturally do what they were created for. So, your potential is your inborn abilities, gifts and talents.

Principle 6 – It is the source of your fulfilment

It is the source of your personal fulfillment and satisfaction. It also attracts fortune and creates wealth for you. Imagine a fish flying, or a bird swimming, they will never find true fulfilment because they are doing what they are not created to do, they are living outside of their potential.

Tasks

Do you believe that you have unique attributes and qualities?

How do you know?

What are your areas of strength? (What are you naturally good at?)

Write out the things you enjoy and love doing

What do people say makes you stand out?

2.

THE INNER VOICE

"Your inner voice is the voice of divinity. To hear it, we need to be in solitude, even in the crowded places."

A. R Rahman

On that fateful day, Moses rose up and slaughtered his countryman, an Egyptian. The life of Moses was a complicated one even from his birth. He was an Israelite that grew up in a palace of an Egyptian king. For forty years, he was trained in the ways and cultures of the Egyptians. He became a great Egyptian warrior who might end up ruling the mightiest kingdom at that time, Egypt. So why would he kill his countryman? Why would Moses murder the person he was trained to care for?

Although Moses was raised in the palace of Pharaoh, he was an Israelite whose purpose was to bring deliverance to the Israelites

who were in distress and servitude in Egypt. Four hundred years before his birth, a prophecy was said concerning the deliverance of the Israelites from the power of Egypt. But when the time was close, Pharaoh decreed that every male child born by the Israelites should be killed by throwing them into the river Nile. It was amidst this crisis that Moses was born, who his mother hid for three months but when she could no longer hide him, she had to take a risk of laying him in a basket daubed with asphalt and pitch, and then placed the basket in the reed by the river's brink. But fortunately, he was found by the daughter of the Egyptian king who adopted him. This is how Moses got to the palace of the king and grew as a son of the king.

Although he grew as an Egyptian, his identity kept hunting him. He couldn't deny the voice of deliverance he heard on his inside every day. The voice was so loud that he couldn't resist. The passion so consumed him that he ended up murdering his countryman in vengeance for an Israelite.

Likewise, there is an unquenchable voice on the inside of everyone on the earth today. This is the voice of purpose and destiny that calls out for you, it tells you your identity, it speaks to you day and night.

King David Jesse wrote in one of his psalms about this voice, he said, 'I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.'

The Creator placed this voice in your heart and it won't stop unless it is heard. There are many people who have tried to ignore the voice and replace it with different activities. Many try to replace it with education, marriage, religion and so on, but this voice cannot be silenced and keeps hunting them.

I am passionate about nation building, economy, environment and education. There is a cry in my heart anytime I see mental depravity, poverty and bad governance. Bringing change to these things has been the drive of my life. This is why I wrote this book, to put an end to mental depravity and eradicate poverty. The unsilenceable voice has driven me to write materials on politics, economy and nation building. I found my destiny because I paid attention to the voice. What is the cry of your heart? What do you desperately desire to change? What is your heart telling you? You must learn to listen to your inner voice because it points you to your potential.

PRINCIPLES OF THE INNER VOICE

Principle 1 – It is placed in your heart by God. The voice is divine, it tells you your identity and destiny.

Principle 2 – It is not selfish. The inner voice is not about what to get, it's about what to give, and it's about making an impact.

Principle 3 – It is always bigger than you. The inner voice is a commitment to a cause bigger than yourself.

Principle 4 – It is noble. It brings honour to God, you and humanity.

Principle 5 – It is the source of your joy and satisfaction.

EXPRESSIONS OF THE INNER VOICE

The inner voice has five major ways of expressing itself. However, the expressions might vary depending on the individual, you just need to discover yours.

1 – Voice of Passion

Inner voice expresses a natural passion for something. It is a possessive desire to do something or add a value. Passion is the map to your potential. Passion is irresistible. It is stronger than sickness, it is stronger than poverty.

An old prophet, Jeremiah was so much consumed with the desire to prophesy that he said;

‘But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.’

Likewise, there is something that is burning and compelling in your heart. There is an idea, a message, a song, an artwork, there is that thing crying for expression through strong desire and enthusiasm. What do you love to talk about the most? What do you think about the most? What are you passionate about? What keeps you awake all night?

If you are going to be paid \$20 an hour for work, regardless of the type of job, what job would you choose to do? For instance, if you choose to work as a writer, you receive \$20 an hour. If you chose you wanted to be a lawyer, you would still receive \$20. What job would you do? That is your passion.

2 – Voice of Anger

Another way the inner voice expresses, is through anger. It is a natural annoyance you have toward a thing, condition or situation. It grieves you that you would do anything to change it. What annoys you? There is something you hate and wish it were better.

Have you ever wondered why others were not angry about situations that infuriated you? That is the clue to your purpose. If you hate slavery, could it be that you are a deliverer? What do you wish to change? The voice of anger is the voice of hate. You cannot change anything except you hate it. Think about it. Your anger is important, don't ignore it.

3 – Voice of Pain

Pain is another manifestation of the inner voice; it is often a result of your past experiences that have greatly hurt you and you wish to stop it from hurting other persons. What makes you cry? Tears talk, tears are clues to your purpose.

Pain brings compassion. Record has it that many rape or abuse activists were victims of the same. The experience became the reason for their existence. Your purpose lies in your pains. Reflect

in things you have struggled with and consider them, because they are pointers to what you are created to do.

4 – Voice of Ability

This is an unsilenceable voice of your inherent abilities, gifts and talents crying for expression. You contain certain qualities, unique gifts and talents. It is the voice of confidence that tells you “you can do this better.” Discern your gifts and identify your differences and build your daily agenda around it.

5 – Voice of Service

This is instinct; a natural sense of responsibility towards a set of people or a cause. It is a knowing on the inside, a sense to serve a people or a cause. Jesus knew this, he knew that his purpose was to die for the sin of all humans, even at the point of death he did not resist any false allegation concerning him. How about you?

Tasks

What is most important to you?

What are you passionate about? What excites you?

If you are to change one thing in the world, what would it be?

What angers/annoys you that you desire to change?

What do you want to do about it? (each item listed above)

What has caused you pain in the past?

What are your natural abilities, gifts and talents?

What do you feel responsible for?

3.

CAPTURING A VISION

“The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight but no vision.”

Helen Keller

Sincerely, in your adventure through life, you need a correct and accurate perception of what you need and where you’re going to stay inspired until you get to the zenith of your pursuit. A visionless person lacks an unquenchable passion that takes him through every situational bump of challenges on his way to success. To get a vision is like having a picture of tomorrow in your today.

You see, a vision is a foresight—the picture of a future you’ve carefully painted in your heart. Don’t get it twisted right now, vision isn’t a mere human speculation. It’s a divine picture

initiated by the Creator [God] of all things in your mind. Even though a vision is fashioned on the canvass of your mind! Only by engaging the rig of thinking and imagination can you access the depths of that which the creator has kept within you.

Every great invention in the history of humanity came from an inner picture of what could be, there would be no creativity or invention without vision. A vision paints a future before you get there. What vision does is that it helps you transcend your ***now problems*** into your ***tomorrow's*** beauties and victories—vision brings your future to your *now*.

Vision gives you a sense of direction and helps channel your gifts and talents properly. Without vision, life will be aimless and you will accept anything that comes your way, and allow people to control your life. Your vision is your life's target; what you seek to accomplish in your lifetime. World changers are people who are able to anchor their lives around an overriding vision, a dream that supersedes everything else. What is your life's vision? What do you desire to accomplish in your lifetime? Have you got a compass for your life?

WALT DISNEY

Think about Walt Disney for a moment. Shortly after opening Disney World, Walt sat in an open field and gave a cursory look at the field before him for a long time. Still there gazing intently at the field, a worker came by to ask Mr. Disney, "What are you doing,

sir?" Guess what he said to the worker. He said he was looking at his mountain. As you'll suppose, that seemed very strange to the worker that he simply walked away.

Many years later, at the opening of Space Mountain, a young man introduced Mrs. Disney to the platform. He said that it was great to have her there, but a tragedy that Mr. Disney died without ever seeing his Space Mountain. Mrs. Disney took the mic and corrected the young man. She told the crowd that her husband saw what they were just seeing many years before that day. What they saw was only the object of a man's vision.

Vision is seeing beyond what our ordinary eyes can see. Walt Disney saw the mountain long before it was erected, although many around did not see it but there was a real picture in his heart. He was so convinced of what he saw that he went on to develop a plan. That plan gave guidance to those that could not see the vision, so that the vision could become a reality and so that space mountains could be erected.

JO – THE PRIME MINISTER

Joseph was the eleventh of the twelve sons of Jacob Isaac. At age seventeen, Joseph had a dream about his future, a dream to become a great leader. Night after night, he kept seeing the pictures that made him leap. He would get up in the morning excited about the pictures in his heart. He believed what he saw, that he went to his father and his brothers explaining the pictures

he saw. His father couldn't believe the young boy, because what he saw was too big to be believed by mere mind, it takes the mind of vision to believe it. He was hated by his brothers who were envious of his vision but their actions did not stop him from believing the vision he saw. Although he was despised, sold to slavery, lied against, jailed and forgotten, yet he did not waver at what he saw about himself and at the end of the day, his vision came through.

What Joseph saw was too real that nothing could make him deny its reality, his father couldn't, neither could his brothers. This is the power of vision. It is the drive of life; it propels you to act and gives you a sense of purpose. What do you see about yourself and your future? What inner picture of yourself excites and inspires you? Don't be limited by what is going around you, pay attention to the positive image you see on your inside every day. Think big and refuse to be confined.

PRINCIPLES OF VISION

Dr. Myles Munroe says, "The primary value of purpose is the translation of vision derived from purpose into a plan of action. Purpose maximizes energy and gives time meaning. Purpose protects you from being busy, but not effective... Purpose that is translated into a vision causes things to happen and people to act. This is true because purpose creates vision, vision produces goals, goals permit the development of a plan and a plan allows for an orderly journey."

Principle 1 – It is divine

God has said, in his book of his sent man Joel, to humanity that he would pour out visions to all creation. This simply means that God is the giver of vision.

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”

Principle 2 – It is your purpose in pictures

You have a purpose, the reason for your existence. It is a predestination God has in his mind while he was forming you and the purpose is painted in your imagination as a picture. This is called vision.

Principle 3 – It is for an appointed time

There is a time for everything and for every vision. The fulfilment of your vision is not instant, it is for an appointed time.

Principle 4 – It is the source of your provision

Vision and provision go together. “Pro-Vision” means for vision. Your vision attracts your rewards and benefits.

WHY VISION?

- It fuels your actions.
- It gives you clarity.
- It gives a sense of direction.

- It coordinates energy.
- It helps to remain focused on pursuit.
- It makes others believe in you.

WRITING YOUR VISION

Writing is a basic requirement in achieving any worthy task. It is said that a written goal has an eighty percent chance of becoming true when backed with corresponding actions regardless of the impossibilities that surround it. Your desire is just a wish when it is not written down. The first expression of your purpose in reality is on paper. After discovering your potential and finding your voice, then you need to write your life's vision statement.

MAKE IT PLAIN

Habakkuk was an inquisitive man that demanded answers from God about the situation of his country. Thereafter, God spoke and revealed his mind and gave him an instruction to write down everything he had seen. He also told him to make the vision plain, clear and concise. He said to him;

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”

God was also talking to another prophet, Isaiah and said to him;

“Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever”

These undoubtedly revealed how important writing is, that even God of all creation had to command everyone he spoke with to write all they have seen and heard. To make it plain means to structure your vision and to clearly state out everything it requires.

PRINCIPLES OF A VISION STATEMENT

While writing a vision is important, you also need to know that there are principles that guide effective vision statements that can motivate you to action.

- *Personalize it.*

When writing your vision statement, you need to personalize it. This means you have owned it; it has become your dream and have made a commitment to pursue it as a lifetime assignment. Use terms that integrate you into the vision. For example; “I seek to help...” “*I seek...*” is a personal term. It activates your consciousness to pursue whatever your vision is.

- *Use present tense.*

Your vision statement should be in present tense. This infuses in you the ability to act immediately. When you read it, it gives you a sense of urgency in its pursuit.

- *It should be concise.*

Your vision statement should be brief. This makes it easy to read, understood and remembered. Don't make it unnecessary long, at most two sentences but integrated in one. For instance, "I seek to promote child education by building basic education schools..." This is easy to remember.

- *It should be articulate.*

Your vision statement should be definite, plainly and clearly written. Avoid ambiguous terms when writing it.

- *It should be audacious.*

Your vision statement should inspire you to dare, it should be big and bold.

Tasks

What do you see yourself becoming in 10 years' time? Write

What do you desire to accomplish in your lifetime?

What do you desire to accomplish in your lifetime?

Write your vision statement

PART 2

Developing Your Potential

4.

CULTIVATING YOUR POTENTIAL

"Potential is a priceless treasure, like gold. All of us have gold hidden within, but we have to dig to get it out"

Joyce Meyer

Jesus is the greatest teacher that has lived on earth, his teachings are simple, practical, informing and trans-forming. He is a model teacher. He taught with stories and gave practical life lessons.

One day he taught his disciples about the kingdom of God in this illustration;

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it

grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests
in its branches."

This illustration showed the process of the formation of the most powerful kingdom in creation, God's kingdom. It showed that the kingdom was a seed but when it was intentionally cultivated and nurtured, it grew to be the most powerful tree and commanded the greatest influence, it simply manifested its potential. On the journey to releasing your inborn potential, growth is a key requirement. Like a seed requires intentional cultivation and nurturing to produce its full potential so is your potential. Cultivate your gifts and talents. What-ever you do, even if it is singing, you must cultivate and grow the gifts.

DISCOVERY IS NOT ENOUGH

Discovering your potential doesn't guarantee productivity or fruitfulness, it requires careful attention and diligent efforts to produce winning results. You may have the potential to be a world-class musician, but your ability does not guarantee that you will reach this level of success. An important key to producing what you are capable of, is spending necessary time and effort to promote the development of your talent. Just like the word of King Solomon David that says "The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out."

REFINING GOLD

Gold is one of the most valuable products in the world, but raw extracted gold is unattractive, it doesn't look good at all, it is not more than a common stone. For the gold to be a product that is highly desirable, it must go through a process called refining. This same fact is applicable to other precious stones and valuable resources in the world like crude oil. No one takes pride in crude oil.

There are many nations on earth today with crude oil but are still plagued with poverty. The fact that they have crude oil doesn't mean they will become rich, that unattractive resource must go through a process called refining to bring out all the products hidden in it. Right in that unattractive oil lies products that sustain the earth today like petrol, diesel, engine oil, and so on. Likewise, for you to unleash your full potential, you must go through a process called growth.

Furthermore, the extent of the cultivation of a seed determines the extent of the manifestation of its potential. The potential of a seed is a tree but the fullness of its manifestation is a forest, the difference here is the effort put in its cultivation. And if you must release your inborn potential, you must be ready to put enormous and intentional effort into your growth, and continue growing. The difference between the great and small is the fact that the great have mastered growth, they take responsibility for their potential and do everything in their power to unleash their inborn potential.

GROWTH IS NOT ACCIDENTAL

Growth is not accidental, it is an intentional effort made to develop oneself and overcome one's weaknesses. You must take responsibility for your abilities. It's a mirage to think that you will automatically grow and become who you are created to be. This is the reason for many frustrations in the world today. Several people know what they could be but haven't learned how to go about becoming it.

John Maxwell, in his book, "How successful people grow", gave eight misconceptions about growth that hold people back from being as intentional as they need to be;

1. I assume that I will automatically grow
2. I don't know how to grow
3. It's not the right time to begin
4. I'm afraid of making mistakes
5. I have to find the best way before I start
6. I don't feel like doing it
7. Others are better than I am
8. I thought it would be easier than this

You need to quit making excuses and give your potential the chance to grow, you have to get started.

THE PLACE OF KNOWLEDGE

Lack of knowledge is destructive for potential. God said to his prophet that his people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Knowledge is the foundation for success, you need to learn to do well. Lack of knowledge is seen in a crippled and inactive potential. It is revealed in aimless living without purpose. Just like the words of King Solomon David that says;

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength; for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers.”

As you seek to unleash your potential, you need to tread the path of learning. Learning is your ability to acquire relevant, needful and applicable information. Suppose you want to build a house, without knowing how to go about it. The first step to take is to visit a builder or at least get books and materials, to learn all you can about building a house. It is unwise to start the building without first acquiring the information on how to go about. You will need to learn how to dig the foundation of the house, lay the blocks, and mix the concrete and so on. This is not unlike the process you will undertake to unleash your potential.

You need to know that knowledge and effort co-exist. Dr. Myles Munroe says “Knowledge must always precede action or much time and effort will be wasted through misguided efforts and dead-end directions.” Knowledge coordinates effort, it ensures that you put the right effort into a thing.

Research your dream before you start working to achieve it. Learn everything you can about the business you want to start or the people you want to reach. You need good information to make right decisions. Spend time in serious study or research on a useful topic that will help you develop your potential. Attend lectures and seminars, concerts or take classes online or physical, do both formal and informal learning. Going to school isn’t enough, you also have to self-educate yourself and develop your mind. There are numerous resources that you can easily access, use them to activate your dreams and develop your abilities.

FIND THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT

Environment is paramount to the development of your inborn potential. There are specific conditions a seed requires to grow. Fishes can’t survive on land, neither can birds in water, everything has its ideal environment to grow. Beware of a wrong environment because being in the wrong environment can kill a potential. Violation of the environment always produces death. A vegetable that is planted in parched ground will eventually wither and decay.

Environment consists of conditions, circumstances and influences in your immediate surroundings. It shapes your imaginations and decisions, because your inner life is dictated by the external factors in your surroundings, hence, it must be critically evaluated to see if it is helping or hindering your potential to grow.

Take a few moments now to examine your environment. Is it uplifting or degrading? Who are your friends? Where do you spend your time? These factors determine the result of your life. King Solomon advised and said “He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.” If you keep company with failures, you will end up failing. If your company is immoral, it will rub on you. If you want to grow, keep company with growing people. In words of King Solomon David “Iron is sharpened by iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” This should be the essence of friendship, to help each other grow.

Beware of your associations and find the right company. Friendship is not compulsory; it is an intentional decision you make to be committed to someone. So, if you don't like your company, change it. Nobody is responsible for your growth but you.

CHALLENGE YOUR ABILITY

Theodore Roosevelt once said that “Your ability needs responsibility to expose its possibilities. Do what you can with what you

have where you are.” People who are blessing humanity are men and women who challenge their abilities to accomplish something that has never been done. They didn’t not know what they were capable of until they tried. Henry Ford said that, “There is no man living who isn’t capable of doing more than he thinks he can do.” You need to challenge your abilities so you can unleash your potential for the benefit of humanity. I seek to bring you to a point where you start taking responsibility for your potential. Life doesn’t happen to waiters. I don’t believe in impossibilities and I don’t think you should too. You need to make demands on your potential and say to yourself “I can become the best of myself,” and give your potential some responsibilities to grow.

NO EXCUSE

The story of Zion Clark is an inspiring story. He was born without legs due to a rare condition that affected his spine but that did not stop him from becoming a college wrestler. Zion was born with a health condition called caudal regression syndrome. His mother was diabetic and a drug addict who actually got pregnant to him while she was in jail, and as a result, she was deemed unfit to take care of him. So, Zion became a foster child to a few couples till he finally got adopted by his foster mother, Kimberly.

When Zion was seven years old, his art teacher who was a wrestling coach at the time saw that he could be a wrestler, took interest in him and he began to challenge his potential. Not too long did Zion become a good wrestler and ended up going to his

season with the first eighteen matches undefeated and ended the season with thirty-three wins and fifteen loses. He was shortlisted for the 2020 Olympics wrestling content in Tokyo. In a show of Ellen, Zion said:

“Life is going to be hard. You got to keep working for it. And in the end, hard work is going to outwork anything.”

Nothing can stop you from unleashing your potential except you. Even though Zion had no legs, he became one of the world’s most recognized college wrestlers because he knew what he could do and proceeded to challenge his potential. Likewise, let nothing prevent you from being who you are meant to be. You need to challenge your abilities; you have no excuse.

Many world changers in history are people who had no or little advantages. They were not flawless; they had their struggles. Thomas Edison, the inventor of the incandescent light bulb was deaf, the great Plato was a hunchback. But these people refused to be stopped from reaching where their hearts desire. Sonya Parker advised saying, “Stop limiting your potential. Realize that there’s an unlimited number of things that you can do with your life.”

NEPO’S POEM

A poem by Mark Nepo, from his book ‘The Way Under the Way: The Place of True Meeting,’ says;

Let no one keep you from your journey,
no rabbi or priest, no mother
who wants you to dig for treasure
she misplaced, no father
who won't let one life be enough,
no lover who measures
their worth by what you might give up,
no voice that tells you in the night
it can't be done.

Let nothing dissuade you
from seeing what you see
or feel the winds that makes you
want to dance alone
or go where no one
has yet to go.

You are the only explorer.
Your heart, the unreadable
compass.

Your soul, the shore of a promise
too great to be ignored.

Let no one keep you from your journey.

DEVELOP DAILY HABITS

Maurice Greene said, "If you do not train hard you will never fulfill your potential." The chances of a novice athlete to succeed his first half marathon are low no matter how much desire, willpower or

determination he has. The fact is that it takes months to train for an event like a marathon. But what if he goes for a short jog just in about ten minutes and he goes again the following day and again in the following days. And in a few months, having developed a daily habit of jogging, he may be ready for a marathon.

Effective growth is a thorough process that makes you become who you are meant to be and the best way to grow is to develop habits. Habits are developed when you do something repeatedly and once a habit is formed, it's hard to break. As Aristotle said "We are what we repeatedly do..." You need to itemize the activities or things you need to do continuously for you to reach your full potential, and stick to them. Doing those things gives you mastery and enlarges your competences. This is what determines your success in any endeavor.

PLAN YOUR GROWTH

After you have discovered your potential, you need to make a list of things or activities that will help you develop it. For me, it is writing and creative thinking, I have made them daily practices for a couple of years. Set goals and stick to them. The next chapter addresses goal setting and planning.

Tasks

According to John Maxwell, what are the misconceptions you have that hold from growing?

What will you do differently now, having recognized the misconceptions?

Do you take time to read material besides your formal learning?
Yes/No

Rate from 1-5, how much value do you have for knowledge?

(1-Very low, 2-Low, 3-Can't say, 4-High, 5-Very High)

1	2	3	4	5

How will you rate your environment? Is it ideal for growth?

Make commitments on knowledge acquisition

How will you rate your environment? Is it ideal for growth?

(1-Very Ideal, 2- Ideal, 3-Can't say, 4- Ideal, 5-Very Ideal)

1	2	3	4	5

What are the distractions in your environment?

How will you overcome them?

Itemize things you need to do to develop your gifts and talents.

What commitments will you make on your personal growth?

5.

SETTING GOALS

“Our goal can only be reached through the vehicle of plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success.”

Pablo Picasso

You might have wondered why some people seem to be accomplishing much while others literally get stagnated and scarcely make something out of life. The reason for this is not far-fetched—high achievers are people whose destination is defined. Hence, they set measurable targets in reaching their goals. Effective goal setting is one of the keys to releasing your potential. Imagine a football game without goal posts, it will be a mere waste of energy with no tangible results. Hard work will prove meaningless without effective goal setting to guide your actions.

A goal is a desired result that one wants to achieve over a period of time. It is an aspiration, an objective or an object of desire. Vision is the mother of goals; goals are generated from your vision. (We have critically examined vision in chapter 3).

Goal setting is the process of planning your aspiration to make it an object of pursuit by stating clearly all it entails to ensure the right use of energy, resources and time.

POWER OF GOAL SETTING

Failure is a result of lack of goals and concrete plans about your life. You might not reach all your goals but setting goals and sticking to them affect you tremendously. As Benjamin Mays said, "The tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goals. The tragedy lies in having no goals to reach." The following highlights the power of having goals for your life.

POWER OF DIRECTION

Goals give you a direction and destination. This is the first thing that happens to you when you begin to set goals. They give you something to aim for and direct your effort towards. Setting life goals projects you to a place of certainty, instead of wandering through life. Instead of just existing from day to day, your goals give you reasons to get up in the morning, it gives you a reason to live.

POWER OF FOCUS

Your goals give you a clear focus on what you believe to be important in life. When your aspirations and goals are well defined, your attention will be consciously tuned towards achieving them. Great achievers are focused people, they know what they want and what they don't want. They are never derailed from their life's aspirations.

POWER OF DECISION MAKING

Just as I previously mentioned, setting goals helps you focus on what is important, what you want to accomplish, and where you are going. This moreover strengthens your decision making. You are able to make better decisions. You will know which opportunity to take and which one to reject. Not every good offer is best for you. It helps you to choose the best options out of multiple choices. Les Brown once said that "Your goals are the road maps that guide you and show you what is possible for your life."

POWER OF CONTROL

When you set goals for your life, it helps you take control of your life and future. Without goals, you tend to drift aimlessly. Pursuing your life's goals puts you in charge and prevents others from taking over your life.

POWER OF MOTIVATION

Goals are motivating. They give you hope and something to aspire to. It infuses the inner strength to carry on in the face of oppositions and challenges. Goals give you mental capacity, faith and confidence to live out your potential. Motivation is needed to accomplish any worthy task.

POWER OF GROWTH

Goals give you an idea of your capabilities and potential. It is the principal tool that helps you reach your full potential. As you seek to achieve your goals, there will be a need for learning and change. This therefore gives your potential the ability to nurture and grow.

POWER OF SATISFACTION

Achieving your goals make your life more challenging and at the same time, gives you a sense of satisfaction. It gives you confidence to aim for more in life. It pushes you to dare more impossible tasks. Every successful goal builds confidence and gives you a sense of personal pride. The more you accomplish, the better you feel about yourself.

Setting Effective Goals

There are principles that guide goal setting. You don't set goals anyhow; they have to be effective. The following are principles that guide goals setting.

Effective goals are written

A daydream is a fantasy that remains only in the mind, but when a goal is written, it becomes concrete. You need to write down your goals because it's the first step to achieving them. When your goals are written, it increases the chances of achieving them. Writing down goals means that you can visually see them. As humans, visualization is important because it affects our productivity. What we see is processed faster than what we imagine. When you write things down, you are activating both parts of your brain, the imaginative right hemisphere and the logic based left hemisphere.

Effective goals are specific

Your goals need to be clear and direct; it needs to state what you intend to achieve. For instance, saying "I want to be a millionaire" is not a goal, it's a dream. You would rather say "I want to make 2 million." To set a specific goal you must answer the five "W" questions:

1. What do i want to achieve?
2. Why do I want to achieve this goal?
3. Who is involved in this goal?
4. Where is this goal to be achieved?
5. When do I want to achieve this goal?

Effective goals are measurable

Your goal needs to have criteria of achievement so you can evaluate your progress. You need to identify what it is you will see, hear and feel when you reach your goal. You'll need concrete evidence. Example of a measurable goal is "I want to earn ₦2 000 000 within 6 months by making ₦340 000 monthly." This goal is measurable. It means you know you have achieved the goal, when you make two million. You must answer the questions of:

1. How much/many?
2. How do i know if i have reached my goal?
3. What is my indicator of progress?

Effective goals are achievable

An effective goal is not a goal from the moon, it is not alien to your abilities. Although an effective goal should challenge your skills and abilities but not discourage your effort and performance. In other words, it should stretch your abilities but still remain possible. To set achievable goals, you need to answer the following questions;

1. How can I accomplish this goal?
2. How realistic is the goal, based on other constraints, such as financial factor, time, commitments and so on?
3. Do I have the resources and capabilities to achieve this goal? If not, what am I missing?
4. Have others done it successfully before?

Effective goals have realistic deadlines

For your goals to be effective, they need a schedule. Giving a realistic time frame for accomplishing your goals fuels your actions and helps you prioritize. Schedule enough and challenging times to reach your goal. A goal must have a start and finish date. If the goal is not time constrained, there will be no sense of urgency, and therefore less motivation to achieve the goal. Ask yourself:

1. Does my goal have a deadline?
2. When do I want to achieve my goal?

Effective goals are reviewed

Review your goal from time to time, to ensure that you are still on the track to achieving it. Examine your progress, know the surfacing challenges and attack them headlong. There are times you will have to revise your goals and make the necessary adjustment. Continuous review will help you achieve that.

HEART OF GOAL SETTING

There are components you must pay attention to if you must achieve your goals. These components are the heart of any goal. They are needed if you must achieve your goals.

PLANNING

Effective goal setting requires a good plan. You need to learn to make a list of what you intend accomplishing on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. There is a rule that every minute spent in planning saves ten minutes in execution. You need to create a list of activities in chronological order, from the first step to the final step of a goal. You fail when you act without planning. John Maxwell once said that “you won’t need to repair, if you prepare,” hence you need to avoid the temptation to act before thorough planning.

"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!' Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away."

In these illustrations, Jesus teaches about planning before acting. He stresses the power of preparation and admonishes us to count the cost before taking an action. Look critically at the things you need to reach your goals. What resources do you need to reach your goals? Who do you need along the way? Where must you go

to reach your goals? Planning is the heart of success. The popular adage says, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."

SETTING PRIORITIES

The reality of life demands that one set several goals, from personal life to work to relationships and other areas of life within the same time frame. There are many responsibilities and activities demanding your attention, hence you need a way to determine which goals receive the investment of your time and energy, this is the importance of prioritizing your goals. For you to set your priorities rightly, you need to learn to do first things first.

TIME MANAGEMENT

When you wake up every morning, there is a constant resource you have, a brief case containing twenty-four hours is delivered to you and how you use it would determine the quality of your life. Sometimes ago, I was making prayers to God to give me extra two hours, although I knew it wasn't possible. The responsibilities I had then demanded a lot of time of which I also had a need for personal time. This reality was draining my effectiveness and productivity until I learnt how to manage time.

Time is the most important resource humans have, however, it's also the most abused. Just as I did, many people complain about insufficiency of time but the fact remains that we all have twenty-four hours and our effectiveness is tied to how we use the hours. You need time to grow and develop your full potential but time is

a limited resource. Like other constant reality on earth, every day has twenty-four hours which cannot be subtracted or added to; hence you are vested with the responsibility of bringing the best out of it.

Time management requires desire; a burning desire to get your time under control, decisiveness; a clear decision to habitually practice time management, and discipline; a willingness to force yourself to pay the price and to do what you know you should do, when you should do it, regardless of your feeling. Making a to-do list will help you take control of your time

Tasks

How will you overcome the challenges?

What are the likely challenges you might face while trying to achieve your goals?

Itemize things you need to do to achieve your vision

Using this goal setting templates, set goals on those things you itemized.

Goals

Steps in achieving them

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Resources needed

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

When do you want to achieve them?

Template Corner

Priorities Table Template

(Rate your daily activities on their level of importance and urgency)

S/N	To Do	Criteria	
		Importance	Urgency
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Life Areas that need goal setting. (Place a check mark by those areas in which you want to write goal)

- ☐ Spiritual
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Personal development
- ☐ Health/Physical Well-being
- ☐ Career/Professional
- ☐ Educational
- ☐ Relaxation/Recreation
- ☐ Civic/Community
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Financial
- ☐ Others_____

6.

MASTERING IMAGINATION

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

Albert Einstein

Imagination is the wings that carry your mind beyond the shores of what is seen into the realms of all-impossibilities. Without effective use of imagination, to soar into a deeper dimension of your existence becomes a dream turned nightmare. No wonder William Blake said, *"What is now proved was once only imagined."* Hence, Albert's statement above remains infallible and the first ground to measure out the borders of your impact on the universe.

As humans, we are creatures of images. This is the distinguishing element between humans and other creatures; the ability to imagine. Imagination is the creative part of humans. It is the

bedrock of idea and innovation. No one ever does anything without first conceiving its pictures in his heart. If you can imagine something, you can do it. Many people have de-emphasized this truth but nothing works without imagination. Imagination is so powerful that even the Creator recognizes its potency.

In the record of Genesis, as the ancient population began to grow and spread out on the earth, the whole earth gathered in the plains of Babylon and planned to erect a tower which would reach the heavens and make name for themselves. But when God saw the city and the tower which the people were building, He said, "Behold, the people are one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." Even God recognizes the power of imagination.

THE FACTORY OF LIFE

The mind is a powerful factor you must consider if you will unleash your inborn potential. You are whatever you think you are. Just like a proverb of King Solomon David says "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." This means that the external life of a man is a product of his internal composition. Your success or failure is determined in your mind. There are no poor people, poverty is only a reflection of the inner life of the poor, likewise failure. Nothing happens in your life that doesn't come from the mind. Your mind is a factory, its product is the current state of your life. If you must unleash your potential, you must be conscious and

deliberate about the information you conceive in your heart. King Solomon David also advised us saying “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.”

THE WHITE STREAK’S TRICK

It was time for Jacob to leave his Uncle Laban’s house; who was also his master and father in law, and had lived with for over fourteen years, to settle his own country. Thus, his Uncle and he agreed on a reward system, which was to give Jacob all speckled or spotted sheep and goat, along with all the black sheep while Laban takes all white and plain ones. But his master, who wasn’t ready to free him, went and remove all male goats that were streaked and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted or had white patches, and all the black sheep, and placed them in the care of his own sons, who took them on a three-days’ journey from where Jacob was, leaving only white ones. “Let’s see he would get speckled and spotted sheep,” Laban thought. And therefore, Jacob was left in an impossible situation because there was no way white sheep and goats would bring forth speckled, spotted or black young ones, at least not at that time.

However, Jacob had a higher knowledge which we all need to learn from. He went on and made white streaks using fresh branches from poplar, almond, and plane trees and peeled off strips. Then he placed these peeled branches in the watering troughs where the flocks used to drink, which was also the place they mated. And whenever the animals were ready to mate, Jacob would place the

peeled branches in the watering troughs in front of them and then they would mate in front of the white-streaked branches and so gave birth to offspring that were streaked, speckled, and spotted.

It is amazing how Jacob used images to determine what the animals' reproduced. The action Jacob took demonstrates the power of images. He knew that what a man beholds continuously will eventually play out in his life so he only changed the images the animals beheld.

Analogically to Jacob's story, our lives are reproduction of whatever we see and hear continuously. What we see and hear frame the quality and state of our mind, hence you need to be careful of the things you see and hear. If you often hear words of discouragement, failure, hatred and so on, it will affect your outlook about life. You will not see possibilities nor will you believe in your abilities. Your belief comes from the information that is predominant in your heart which is a result of the information we see and hear.

WE CAN'T DO IT, WE ARE GRASSHOPPERS

Some Israelites had just returned from Canaan; the promised land where they had gone for inventory and sitting. The impossible conditions of the land they observed paralyzed their ability to imagine victory and rather they see themselves as defeated. Although they had the promises and evidence of God's presence which he had shown and proved to them in diverse ways, they couldn't possess the land which was meant for them because they

had poor images about themselves and their abilities. They said to themselves;

"We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are. The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Let me give a little background on the Israelites:

God had just delivered the Israelites from Egypt; the land of their four hundred- and thirty-years' captivity, and instructed them to go and possess Canaan. The Israelites are God's chosen, they are descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who God has promised to give the land of Canaan as possession. At the inception of their Journey, God gave them many promises and showed them great and numerous miracles, signs and wonders. He also warned them to beware their thoughts and told them the only way they could limit his plans for them is through their imagination. He told them to ensure that they maintain the right attitude of victory. Nonetheless, they didn't heed to his warnings, and at the end most of them couldn't make it to the promised land because they couldn't imagine themselves in it. They limited God in their mind, their imagination framed their doom.

There are no impossibilities, the impossibilities you face are what you see as impossible. Success is for believers; people who believe they can achieve anything they put their mind on. Unleashing the power of your inborn potential is predicated on what you believe

is possible. If you must win in life you need to have a strong image of yourself. See yourself as a champion. Always believe that you can achieve anything if you can imagine it. Believe in your infinite potential. Your only limitations are those you set upon yourself.

The images we see about ourselves make us; our imagination creates our fortune. What image do you see about yourself? Do you often allow evil thoughts, negativity and rejections? If you must unleash your potential, you need to control your inner image and focus on positive image, reject the “you can’t and impossible” imagination.

ADVICE FROM PAUL

Paul, my favourite writer in God’s Book wrote in his letters to the Christians in Philippi, instructing them to take heed of their thought life, saying;

“For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things; fix your minds on them.”

GOD'S BOOK

We live in a sick world that seriously needs healing. Delinquency rate rises every day. Nations, including the so-called developed world are being submerged into poverty, sickness is rampaging the world, physical environment is decaying, terrorism and other vices rate goes up daily, the world desperately needs salvation. Every day, there is news that instigates fears, depression and negativity. We hear of economic depression, earthquakes, disease outbreak, murder and suicide cases, terrorism, robbery, rape and other atrocities.

All these have infiltrated and corrupted our minds by creating a world of impossibilities in us. So many people live in fear and panic. Many people have lost the courage to face the future or even dare to take steps. Many have accepted a defeated and limited image of their future and take no step to understand and unleash their inborn potential.

However, God has a huge interest in our humanity, and he has provided in his book, every positive information humans need to shape their imagination so they can rightly unleash the power of their inborn potential. In the God's Book, from the words of prophet Jeremiah, God said "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out — plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." He was reassuring the prophet about his intention towards him and all humanity.

The Bible is not a religious book, but a practical one. It conceptualizes the Creator's ideas about creation. I strongly believe that when the bible is read, understood and practiced, it has the power to transform any life regardless of its current states. God's big idea about the Bible is to shape our imagination about life and give instructions, direction, inspiration, motivation, encouragement and salvation.

Furthermore, the Bible contains truths that can liberate the world, give hope of a safer and better world, eradicate poverty on a global scale, solve education challenges, reduce crime rate, promote equality, cure physical environment and ensure eternal life. The world has however neglected this great gift and we are in pursuit of fickle beliefs and knowledge that do not have the power to transform lives. But if we must unleash the power of our inborn potential, we all must value the Bible and read through so we can see God's idea about humanity and also shape our imagination with the truth in it.

Task

Mention negative mental pictures that often fill your mind

Mention positive mental pictures that will replace the negative ones you itemized above

PART 3

Deploying Your Potential

7.

TAKING ACTIONS

"The path to success is to take massive, determined actions."

-Tony Robbins

A good plan and idea without matching actions is like a deep well without water. Nobody makes an impact by dreaming big! Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying you shouldn't dream big. I simply mean with the beauty of your dream, you must also be ready to let out the sweat of actions. The reason is because people don't really care about what your dreams are but what you're ready to do with your dream. Your potential means nothing if you don't do anything with it.

Many people have great plans and ideas, but ideas are not enough, execution is the most important. Action is the differentiator. A lot

has been said on potential since the beginning of this book, but you need to understand that the end of this book is to bring you to a place of taking actions with the potential on your inside, where you make noticeable impact and your life blesses lives.

There are millions of people with invaluable wealth of potential that can bring the world to a new phase of civilization and transform lives. Many with concepts for new drug discoveries, models for new businesses, songs, creative books, pieces of art, but this potential hadn't found expressions because they are not taking actions. The greatest tragedy and frustration is to understand your potential but not be able to unleash it in your lifetime. The world is not waiting for your ideas, what we want to see are your actions. World changers don't wait for the future to come; they create it. They don't wait for others to do what they know they should or could do. This is the distinction of all world changers.

CONSIDER IF...

Consider if all we see is the idea-book of Thomas Edison about the incandescent light bulb. Consider if the motor car, aircraft, internet, Google, Apple, Microsoft, were only ideas in the heart of the creators, how would that benefit humanity. Consider if Da Vinci had died without painting the Mona Lisa or Michelangelo the Sistine Chapel. Your potential doesn't benefit humanity, your actions do. We don't know what is in you until we see it on the

physical, and therefore your potential is of no benefit without actions.

MOSES – THE GREAT EXODUS

Moses was a man with great potential to deliver his people from oppression in Egypt. He had conceived the vision since he was forty years but didn't execute it until he was eighty. One day after an encounter with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, which gave him a clear-cut direction about his potential, he took actions, went down to Egypt and caused the greatest exodus in history. His impact remains noticeable even till recent times. The result of this is also the coming of Jesus Christ, the saviour of the world. Imagine if Moses didn't rise and act on the understanding of his abilities, think about what would have been the end of Israel.

TAKE THE RISK

Without doubt, the future holds many uncertainties, and because of our limitations as humans, we cannot see the future neither do we know what to expect. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean we should sit down at our current state doing nothing or waiting for the perfect time. The truth about life is that no time is perfect for anything, there is only the right time. One of the main reasons people fail to reach their full potential is because they are unwilling to risk anything.

People that change the world with their potentials are risk takers. They were willing to take actions even though the future seemed

uncertain, but they refused to see impossibility and drove the vision they saw in their heart.

The fact is no one will drive what you see for you. You are saddled with the responsibility to act on your vision and dream regardless of what people think. If you must unleash your potential to the praise of your creator and the benefit of humanity, then you must be ready to take risks. Don't wait for people's approval, drive what you see and take the giant step.

Moreover, taking risk requires faith. Faith is the powerful force that changes everything. It is your ability to believe the unseen and act accordingly.

PETER – THE WATER WALKER

Peter and his colleagues who were Jesus' disciples, left a crusade, trying to cross over to Gennesaret so they could rest there. While they journeyed in their boat, the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. The wind was so much that the boat began to sink because of the inflow of water. And in that confused state, they suddenly saw a man walking on the water as he came towards them. "It's a ghost!" they screamed out in terror. But the man on the water, seeing that they were frightened, said to them "relax guys, it is I, Jesus." When Peter heard this, he said to him "if you are really Jesus, tell me to come to you on the water," and the man replied "come." Then Peter took the risk, he stepped on the water and began to walk.

Could it be that Peter's story is related to what you are facing? Maybe you are in a messy condition, a state where nothing works, and yet you do not want to take a new step or do something new. No doubt, doing something new requires taking risk because it's an unknown destination that requires faith to journey there. But you can't remain in a messy condition doing nothing worthwhile with your life, you must be determined to act, because that's the only thing your potential needs to be unleashed. If Peter had remained in the sinking boat, he could have sunk anyways, but he decided to take a risk and walk on the water. Taking risk will require that you leave your comfort zone and step into the unknown.

As Jim Collins remarked, "The real path to greatness, it turns out, requires simplicity and diligence. It requires clarity, not instant illumination." Don't be afraid of failing, don't be afraid of being wrong. Things will get clearer as you move. What if the step is the only thing it takes? Just take the step. You need to be courageous to take giant steps to unleash your potential. This doesn't mean that you fully know what lies ahead, No! But you must know that God is committed to taking you wherever he has proposed for you, and it takes faith to get there. Be committed to walking by faith, looking beyond the present and seeing into the unknown. Faith is a pertinent factor you need to unleash your potential.

THE HARD WORK FACTOR

Furthermore, if you must unleash your inborn potential, you must be ready to work hard. You can't live on wishes; wishes are just mere desires but when backed up it intensive and corresponding works they become true. Don't believe anyone that says life happens regardless whether it is worked or not, nothing works until it is worked.

There is nothing like "think it and have it," it is "think it, work it and have it." Don't ever think labour is a sign of frustration, there is dignity in labour. King Solomon David once said that "In all labour there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." So, if you must unleash your inborn potential, you must resolve in your heart to put energy, both mentally and physically, into whatever you do, and do it well.

You need to love work because when you refuse to work, you deny yourself the opportunity to unleash your potential and purpose, and deprive yourself of the opportunity to glorify your God, bless yourself and serve others, and you also steal from the world. Your productivity and fruitfulness are tied to your work. It is the platform to exhibit your creativity.

DON'T DESPISE SMALL BEGINNINGS

Moreover, taking action is likely to be the principle of a seed, it requires growth. A seed has a small beginning. It is planted tiny but grows in the process of time. If you don't understand small

beginnings, you can easily get discouraged at the foundation stages of whatever you are trying to do. You should never despise your small start. Treat it like a passing phase which will usher you to an end that will be dreamland. There are no shortcuts to anywhere worth going. The road to success is difficult but not an impossible one, which makes it rare. Success is a result of much sacrifice, hard work and purposefulness. Maintain an agricultural mindset not an industrial one. Industrial mindset thinks in a fast process of things but the agricultural mindset believes in the process of time.

There will be rough times as you take actions, but to attain your big vision, you must consider that whatever challenging phase you are going through in your life now is temporary. You will have to look beyond the rough moments and fix your gaze on the vision. Don't be hindered or discouraged by the seeming lack of progress. Be optimistic and hope for the best. Every great tower you see, starts from the foundation; with a block. The only thing that we start building from the top is a grave. When you seek to rush life, you might end up in a crash, you must learn to apply brakes when due.

You also need to learn to use what you have with dignity as you work towards your vision. Do not try to impress others. If you don't have something and cannot afford it, do not put yourself under pressure. Rejoice every day, give thanks to God. You must believe that God is committed to taking you to your dreamland, you can hold on to him and take corresponding actions. Though

your beginning was small, yet your latter end would increase abundantly.

Tasks

What are the actions you need to take?

8.

FINISHING STRONG

"Starting strong is good. Finishing strong is epic."

-Robin Sharma

In the school of exploit, how you start is not what defines you worth. What makes you heroic is how you finish. Focus is single-mindedness, it's your ability to center your attention on something. No doubt, there will be distractions, trials, failures and disappointments on your path to unleashing your potential, but you need to learn how to remain focused on your actions. It is not enough to start a thing, sustaining such a thing is paramount. King Solomon David said "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning of it." As you take the giant steps, you must realize it is essential that you maintain focus. You need to set your face like flint, and resist every thought of quitting.

BEWARE OF DESTROYERS OF POTENTIAL

If you must maintain focus on your actions, you will need to avoid certain factors which are called enemies of potential. These are the factors that pose threat on your focus. They can cripple your potential if you allow them. There are many people with dead abilities because of their refusal to identify these factors. Let's identify some of these enemies;

1 – Fear

Fear is a negative emotion that comes from an impossibility mentality. Fear cripples your ability to take actions and unleash your potential. There are many people with big potential that can transform the world, but have been trapped in the emotion “what if I fail.” Their minds are being tormented by the fear of failure, opposition, and so on. But if you must unleash your inborn potential, you need to overcome your fears because if you don't, it can paralyze you. What if the step you are about to take is what your potential need to find expression?

2 – People's Opinions

Most of us live on what others say about us, and so we have lost touch of our abilities. Taking actions will attract criticisms but you must be determined to live above the opinions of others. You need to realize that the only person that can be trusted with your vision and dreams is God. No human being can be trusted with the way you feel about yourself and your abilities. You need to take

responsibility and act regardless. What matters is what God and you think; not what people say. Humans are fickle so their respect and honour should be appreciated but never required. So, get your encouragement and promotion from God. You will meet people as you seek to act on your potential. Some will seek to encourage you while some might be your opposition. But as Eleanor Roosevelt observed, "No one can hurt you without your consent," don't put your trust in people but God.

3 – Distractions

Focus is not just paying attention to the important things, you must also be blind to some things. Distractions are subtle, which makes them a pertinent enemy of potential you must avoid. They are unnecessary and irrelevant things that take your time or drift you away from your goals. Sometimes, we are tempted to do things that would not really help us unleash our potential. These things are a distraction and they affect our focus. You need to identify them and avoid them by keeping your mind on things that matter. Maintain discipline by practicing your priorities. Do first things first, and by doing so you will minimize distractions.

4 – Past Success

Success can be deceptive, it can even lead you on a wrong path. The temptation of accomplishment is that it can give you a sense of arrival as so you never fully unleash your potential. You need to realize that there is so much more than what you have seen now. The potential on your inside is too weighty to be caged by an

arrival mentality. You can celebrate your success, but don't make it an idol. Don't settle for what you have. Don't be satisfied with your last accomplishment because there are many more accomplishments to have. Never accept success as a lifestyle, see it as a phase. Don't accept an accomplishment as the end, see it as a mark in the process.

5 – Procrastination

Another enemy of potential is the delay to make courageous decisions or take steps. This is a major challenge with many young people. It roots out of the notion of time perfection. Be informed that there is no perfect time for actions, there is only right time. There are no perfect conditions to do anything. You need to stop procrastinating. King Solomon David advised in his book saying;

“If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.”

My first book project was in 2018 with the title “Nation and the Nation Builders.” When the idea of the book came, I was burning with the desire to write, and I began after much consultations and counsels. But after sometimes discouragement set in and I began to procrastinate, and later lost the reason to do what I once knew I could do well.

Procrastination can cripple your vision and dream and at the end you will discover that you've lost much because you refused to act when God required it. During my undergraduate days, there were

a number of things I knew I was supposed to do and I had the ability to do, however, I didn't do most of them. Those are the things I regret not doing because I discover that I'd robbed God of the glory he would have received if I'd done them, I stole from humanity that would have been blessed, and I also deprived myself of the benefit and confidence that follow accomplishment. You need to stop procrastinating and get started.

YOU NEED COMMITMENT

It is crucial for you to know that you need to be committed to whatsoever you do. Commitment doesn't say "it feels good and so I do it," it is a regular and regardless action that you take. You can't base your actions on emotions, emotions don't sustain. You must be committed to your goals and aspirations. The primary law of success in any noble task is the law of regular and regardless. This is the law that determines whether you will finish strong or not. Greatness is not a destination, it's a continuous process, hence you must be committed to regular living and regardless thinking. You should do things because you must do them, because they have become a commitment. This is the mindset of every great person.

YOU NEED PERSISTENCE

Moreover, as I have mentioned in the previous chapter, success is a difficult endeavor. It doesn't come easy; it requires persistence to achieve it. James Whitcomb Riley says "The most essential factor is persistence – the determination never to allow your

energy or enthusiasm to be dampened by the discouragement that must inevitably come.”

According to Dr. Myles Munroe, “Persistence is the ability to hold on, in the face of challenges, the power to endure, ability to face defeat and not give up, ability to push on in the face of difficulties.” It is the supreme effort of a man to believe that his hero is going to be conquered. It is an ending energy, a keep moving voice, quality of holding fast or unwillingness to quit, resign or let go.

To achieve success in any endeavor, you need to be able to overcome challenges and setbacks and stay committed and continue in the face of difficulty. Perseverance separates winners from losers. No doubt, the road would be rough, but only the people that can persevere will arrive at the destination. You cannot quit. No matter how difficult things get, you must be willing to persevere if you want to unleash your potential. Remember that when you quit, your potential dies. Quitters don’t win, nor do winners quit. Be determined to push through and never give up. Have faith, and at the end, success will be your reward.

AVOID MOCKERS

There are some people called mockers. Mockers are “faith breakers,” they are the people that will discourage you at every inch of the way, you must avoid such people because they will never help you achieve anything. These people don’t dare to do anything themselves and when they see you trying, they would always caution you about the challenges ahead or even try to

belittle your effort. They will criticize and frustrate every idea you come up with.

As you seek to do whatever you do, you will need to avoid some companies. You will need to befriend and move with people who will encourage you, stand by you, believe with you and help you to accomplish your vision. Beware of flatterers. Keeping the wrong company is hazardous to your plans. When you set out to do something, team up with people who are pursuing the same goals as you are. Stay with people that will preserve your confidence. Your association affects you, therefore choose your associates wisely. Choose those who will add value to you and benefit from you.

DO IT RIGHT

Moreover, as you seek to unleash your potential, never forget the law of righteousness. The law of righteousness states that "righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach." It is the foundation of sustainable accomplishment in any endeavour. You must stay true to the basic values of justice, honesty and integrity. Lack of these values will terminate your potential and bury your impact and significance.

True success is not in affluence, it is found in dignity and credibility. There are many influential people with no credibility because of their character. These are people that would do anything for money, their only goal is to put something in their belly. King Solomon David addressed them as people whose belly

is their god. These are people who would kill, fraud and do all sorts of unlawful and immoral things to get wealth. But as an ancient proverb says, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches,” your dignity and credibility are the most important factors to account when making a decision.

If you want to finish strong and have sustainable impact, you need to obey the law of righteousness. King Solomon David said, “Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; but wealth from hard work grows over time.” There is no sustainability in immorality, seek to always do the right regardless of who is doing the wrong thing. Stay true to the value of justice, honesty and integrity, and your accomplishment will live beyond you.

TASK

Write out your personal values

Identify the potential destroyers around you.

Write out steps to deal with them.

A Message To The Nations

Have you ever wondered why there are different nations, languages, tribes and communities? Have you asked why do nations exist? Are nations born by accident? To answer these questions, let's examine a testimony of Paul, an Apostle of Jesus.

From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose was for the nations to seek after him and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and exist. We are his offspring.

This testimony implies that nations have identity. It implies that every nation is an intentional work of God. God made every language, tribe and community of men. He appointed their rise and fall, and determined their boundaries. He decided the potential, resources, endowments, and the people living in each

nation. Nations are not mistake. In fact, he decided their purpose before they were founded, and the purpose is to seek him.

Offspring of God

Furthermore, nations are offspring of God. This implies that God fathers all nations. It means God cares for all men, he loves everyone and provides for them. The identity God want all men to have about himself, is his fatherhood. A father loves, cares, teaches, provides and protects.

Moreover, this identity of God is clearly seen in the creation around us. Because of the love He has for us, he provided everything we need for existence. He provided air, water, herbs and trees for food, sun for day, moon for night, stars for serenity, land to live on, and other numerous things that are beneficial in our surroundings. He created everything beautiful and good for the use of humans. Isn't that a good God? Imagine you have to pay for the air you breathe daily, how much would that cost for your lifetime? It is his lovingkindness for humanity that led him into providing everything we need for existence. Moreover, the crux of God's love is revealed in the death of his one and only Son, Jesus.

This, however, is contrary to the popular beliefs about the identity of God. Many believe that God is cruel, evil and insensitive. They believe that God causes all the evil and atrocities in the world. Some even strongly proclaim that God is not good. But as we have clearly seen in the testimony above, God desires a father and children relationship with humanity. He wants all men to know

him and come to relate with him as father. This is the primary purpose of nations. The questions that may be asked is, 'Have nations come to know this purpose?' 'Do nations follow and seek God?'

Man-made

When purpose is not lived, frustration is inevitable. You will agree with me that our world is in shambles today, there are countless problems facing humanity. War and conflict, racism, economic depression, environmental and climatic problems, health and medical issues, and I believe we can keep numbering. All these problems sourced from the inability of humans to understand the primary purpose of their existence. Every problem facing humans are man-made, you can number them. The solution to this dilemma is that men should understand their primary purpose of their existence which is to seek and know God.

The Neglected Book

Moreover, we can't understand this purpose without asking the Creator, just like the purpose of a product cannot be understood without the inventor. And so, God has given a compendium that contains his mind and thoughts to humanity, the Bible. The Bible is God's manual, provided to guide us in understanding his will and heart of humanity. No nation can really full this purpose without the bible. Nations without they Bible flounder and self-destruct. The Bible contains the principles on which God want humans to

live on. It contains the ideal lifestyle God purposed for humans. Ancient nations were built on these principles and ideals. Men and women in history have proven the flawlessness of the principles that are contained in it. However, the Bible has been neglected. It has been neutralized even though it has the power the transform nations.

Bible in the Society

The principles of the Bible are timeless and flawless as I said. Many nations have risen on the strength of the principles. Most American founders regarded the Bible as a great handbook for nurturing morality and ethics. They leveraged thousands of years of history to draw on when establishing their government. They could see what had failed in the past. They developed a system that stood the test of time from the bible. The Bible influenced their constitution and legal culture. But many people today reject the notion that the Bible should be used as a basis for law. "Narrow minded and outdated" they say, and the implications of their actions is seen in the problems in their society today.

A founding father and educator, Noah Webster (1758-1843) said, "The moral principles and precepts contained in the scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

The following are examples of biblical principles that have influenced the American constitutions and a few other nations;

Principle	Legal Document	Bible Verse
Sovereign authority of God, not sovereignty of the state, or sovereignty of man	Mayflower Compact, Declaration, Constitution, currency, oaths, mention of God in all 50-state constitutions, Pledge of Allegiance	Ex. 18:16, 20:3, Dt. 10:20, 2 Chron. 7:14, Ps. 83:18, 91:2, Isa. 9:6-7, Dan. 4:32, Jn. 19:11, Acts 5:29, Rom. 13:1, Col 1:15-20, 1 Tim.6:15
Existence of objective moral values, Fixed standards, Absolute truth, Sanctity of life	Declaration ("unalienable" rights—life, etc., "self-evident" truths)	Ex. 20:1-17, Dt. 30:19, Ps. 119:142-152, Pr.14:34, Isa. 5:20-21, Jn. 10:10, Rom. 2:15, Heb. 13:8
Rule of law rather than authority of man	Declaration, Constitution	Ex. 18:24-27, Dt. 17:20, Isa. 8:19-20, Mat.5:17-18
All men are sinners	Constitutional checks and balances	Gen 8:21, Jer. 17:9, Mk. 7:20-23, Rom. 3:23, 1 Jn. 1:8
All men created equal	Declaration	Gen. 1:26, Acts 10:34, 17:26, Gal. 3:28, 1 Peter 2:17
Judicial, legislative, and executive branches	Constitution	Isa. 33:22
Religious freedom	First Amendment	1 Timothy2:1-2
Church protected from state control (& taxation), but church to influence the state	First Amendment	Dt. 17:18-20, 1 Kgs. 3:28, Ezra 7:24, Neh.8:2, 1 Sam. 7:15-10:27, 15:10-31, Mat. 14:3-4, Lk. 3:7-14, 11:52, Acts4:26-29
Republican form of government and warnings against kings but in favor of Godly rulers	Constitution	Ex. 18:21, Dt. 1:13, Jud. 8:22-23, 1 Samuel 8, Pr. 11:14, 24:6

Importance of governing self and family as first level of governance	First, Second, Ninth, and Tenth Amendments	Mat. 18:15-18, Gal. 5:16-26, 1 Cor. 6:1-11, 1Tim. 3:1-5, Tit. 2:1-8
Establish justice	Declaration	Ex. 23:1-9, Lev. 19:15, Dt. 1:17, 16:19-20, 24:17-19, 1 Sam. 8:3, 2 Sam. 8:15, 1 Kings 3:28, 10:9, Mic. 6:8, Rom. 13:4
Fair trial with witnesses	Sixth Amendment	Ex. 20:16, Dt. 19:15, Pr.24:28, 25:18, Mat.18:16
Private property rights	Fifth Amendment	Ex. 20:15-17
Biblical liberty, Free enterprise	Declaration	Lev. 25:10, Jn. 8:36, 2 Cor. 3:17, Gal. 5:1, 1 Peter 2:16
Creation not evolution	Declaration	Gen. 1:1
Biblical capitalism not Darwinian capitalism (service and fair play over strict survival of the fittest)	Anti-trust laws	Ex. 20:17, Mat. 20:26, 25:14-30, 2 Thes. 3:6-15, 1 Pet. 2:16
Importance of the traditional family	State sodomy laws, few reasons for divorce	Ex. 20:12-14, Mat. 19:1-12, Mk. 10:2-12, Rom. 1:18-2:16, 1 Cor. 7:1-40,
Religious education encouraged	Northwest Ordinance	Dt. 6:4-7, Pr. 22:6, Mat. 18:6, Eph. 6:4,
Servanthood not political power	Concept of public servant	Ex. 18:21, Rom. 13:4, Php. 2:7
Sabbath day holy	"Blue laws"	Ex. 20:8
Restitution	Restitution laws	Lev. 6:1-5, Num. 5:5-7, Mat. 5:23-26

Why Is the Bible Important?

Senator Shola Adeyeye once said; “Society is guided by the philosophy it embraces, and because theology is the mother of philosophy, every society will ultimately become what it theologizes.” The belief system of the critical mass of a nation’s population can bring either curse or blessing.

A nation is like a tree. It has root, trunk, branches and fruits. The root of a nation is the worldview and belief system of its critical mass, the trunk is the nation’s value or morality, the branches are the laws, policies and practices and the fruit are freedom and prosperity or bondage and poverty. This implies that the root, which is the belief system of the nation, is very paramount. Every other part of the tree comes from the root and sustained by the root.

There are two areas of belief that shape the greatness and fortune of a nation, which are;

1. Belief on who God is
2. Belief on who we are

We have several beliefs on the identity of God and man that are lies, and sadly, those beliefs have crept into the world in a very subtle way and are responsible for the pain and poverty in the world today.

For instance, in India, the Hindu population are plagued with a very destructive belief about God and man. I was amazed to learn

that some people would not kill rats because of their superstitious beliefs. Even though rats spread disease, destroy crops needed to feed starving people, and increase suffering. They seem to regard rats as more important than humans. In fact, Karni Mata Temple in Deshok is dedicated to the worship of rats. The people lay out sugar and coconut in bowls on the floor for them while millions go to bed hungry every night.

Some Hindus are afraid to kill any animal because of their belief in incarnation. They see animals as creatures on the same plane of interrelated life as themselves. They believe if they kill the animals, they might be killing one of their own dead relatives now in animal form. Yet human suffering goes unrelieved because people don't know the value of themselves. This kind of belief system kills potential and it is against God's ideal about man that is created in his image. I want to believe this is why India is the second capital of poverty in the world. It matters what people believe. A biblical worldview would release the great potential of the Indian people. Justice, prosperity and well-being come or are lost because of beliefs.

Finally, I believe that when we change our belief system, our entire life takes a turn for the upward trail. The liberation of the mind from wrong beliefs is the greatest deliverance you can give a people, society, and a nation. You haven't changed a nation really, if you haven't succeeded in changing every wrong ideal to right. Abhijit Naskar, a world acclaimed neuroscientist and author once said, *"The rise and fall of a nation are both predicated not on the*

actions of its government, but those of its citizens. So, if I can raise even five such godly beings in each nation, I'll consider my mission accomplished."

NOTES

Chapter One

1. Judges 6: 11-14
2. Dr. Myles Munroe, *Understanding Your Potential* (Nassau, Bahamas Destiny Image Publishers Inc 1991)
3. Jeremiah 1:5
4. Dr. Myles Munroe, *Uncover Your Potential* (Nassau, Bahamas Destiny Image Publishers Inc 2012)

Chapter Two

1. Exodus 2:11-12
2. Exodus 2:1-10
3. Psalms 16:7
4. Jeremiah 20:9

Chapter Three

1. Genesis 37
2. Joel 2:28
3. Habakkuk 2:2
4. Isaiah 30:8

Chapter Four

1. Matthew 13:31-32
2. Proverbs 20:5
3. John Maxwell, *How Successful People Grow* (Centre Street Hachette Book Group New York. 2014)
4. Proverbs 24:3-6
5. Mark Nepo, *The Way Under the Way: The Place of True Meeting*

Chapter Five

1. Luke 14:28-32

Chapter Six

2. Genesis 11:6
3. Proverbs 23:7
4. Proverbs 4:23
5. Genesis 30:25-43
6. Numbers 13:31-32
7. Exodus 5-14
8. Philippians 4:8

Chapter Seven

1. Matthew 14:22-29
2. Dr. Myles Munroe, *Understanding Your Potential* (Nassau, Bahamas Destiny Image Publishers Inc 1991)
3. Ecclesiastes 11:4

ABOUT AUTHOR

Tolase Afolabi is a nation builder, human developer, conference speaker and environmentalist with competency in waste management and urban sustainability. He is the Lead Director of Ariseroom International, an organization with the mandate to build a world of possibilities, opportunities and excellence. He is also the convener of Strategic Room Summit; an economic and political summit.

As an experienced trainer, he has facilitated many conferences and summits on politics, business, leadership, spirituality and personal development. He has also written many works on national engagement and development which include; Brief on SDG, Planet at Risk, Politicalizing Nigerians, Rules of Engagement and lot more.

He studied Urban and Regional Planning at the Federal University of Technology, Akure. His passion for eradicating poverty led him to write on Economic Planning and Rural development as his final project in the university. He is also the Principal at the Integral-

Globe Services Group; an African indigenous environmental management and business development firm.

In his words, "I seek to mold the minds of every person in Nigeria, Africa, and other developing nations, help them achieve personal fulfillment and become builders of their nations."

He is an addicted follower of Jesus Christ.

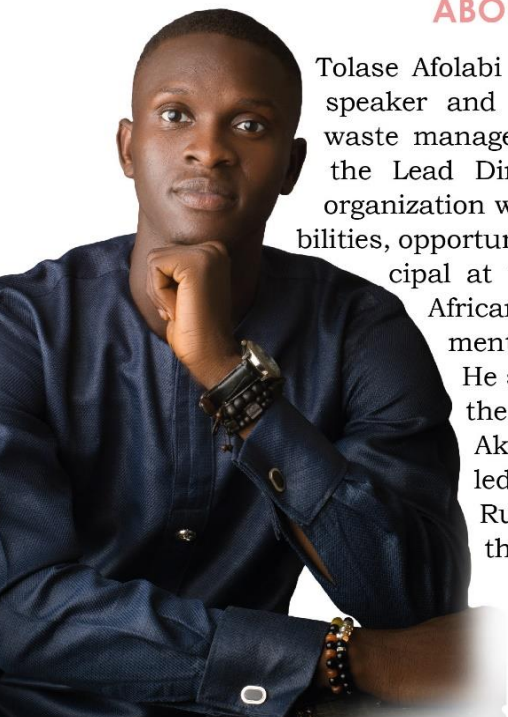
YOU ARE MADE FOR MORE!

Stuck within the muffled chase after the figment of our imagination in the world today, several persons walk through life with no direction, sanguinity, purpose, and a sense of responsibility or duty. They walk through life without ever discovering the dynamite-potentials trapped within them to be unleashed to change the world.

What's the hope of the generation of trees without the unleashing of the potential trapped within a seed? I mean, in that little thing called seed is the glory, beauty, and grandeur of every tree. Within the little mind of Thomas Edison was the great potential to invent the light bulb. What if Alexander Graham Bell never invented Telephone?

Unleashing the power of your inborn potential is a timely masterpiece that will cure you of living in the shadow of your identity. Tolase Afolabi has carefully penned this integrated and principle-centered book to help you discover, develop, and deploy the awesome potentials trapped within you. The book contains penetrating insight and seriatim pathway to achieve personal fulfillment. This book will activate your dormant abilities and ignite your productivity power, and bring you to the permanent point of self-actualization.

ABOUT AUTHOR



Tolase Afolabi is a nation builder, human developer, speaker and environmentalist with competency in waste management and urban sustainability. He is the Lead Director of Ariseroom International, an organization with the vision to build a world of possibilities, opportunities and excellence. He is also the Principal at the Integral-Globe Services Group; an African indigenous environmental management and business development firm.

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