

LAYING A SOLID FOUNDATION DISCOVERING YOUR CAREER THROUGH YOUR GOD-GIVEN TALENT(S)

The word career refers to a vocation, a line of business, a profession, or job out of which one makes a living. A career is expected to assist an individual to realize his goal in life and give satisfaction. This satisfaction may not always imply financial returns as many people are tempted to think nowadays, but such that brings self-actualization, inner joy and fulfillment of God-ordained destiny for one's life.



There are times when we have to take decisions that would, in the long run, determine our future. Choosing a career is one of such decision. Nowadays, it is not strange to hear,

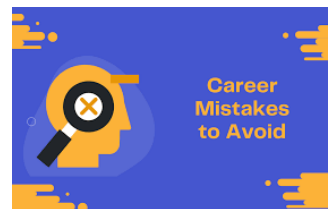


among the youths, statements like, “I want to become an Engineer, a Medical Doctor or a Lawyer”. These statements are many times, made with little or no knowledge of what it takes to practice such professions. Thus, many youths choose and go into certain careers in ignorance only to regret later. However, to forestall such disappointing experiences, there are pitfalls to avoid during career selection.

PITFALLS TO AVOID:

Every career has a course or training programme. It is unfortunate that many youths do not seek correct information before deciding on the courses or training programmes that goes with their desired careers. Therefore, as a youth, you need to avoid selecting your career just because of:

- ❖ Your friends who have chosen it.
- ❖ Your parents’ or other people’s decisions.



- ❖ Either or both of your parents who are engaged in it.

- ❖ Limited information provided by less-informed individuals.



- ❖ Sheer curiosity or temporal appeals.
- ❖ Over-estimation of your ability which may lead to inability to cope with the course that leads to the career.

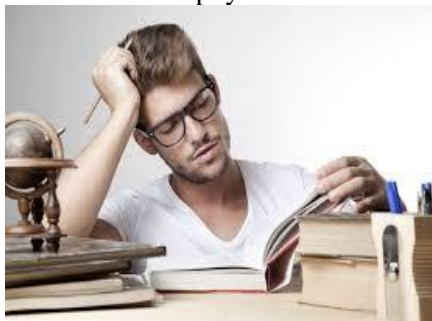


- ❖ Selecting any course at the points of filling admission forms.
- ❖ The desire to succeed at all costs without regard for God's will and plans for your life.

❖ **PATTERNS TO FOLLOW:**

In order to make the right choice, you may have to ask yourself the following simple but realistic and salient questions before selecting a career:

- What natural abilities or talents do I possess?
- What career can I choose in relation to these talents?
- How can I apply these talents in a career without displeasing God?
- What course can I undertake to practice such a career?
- What are the basic academic requirements to study this course?
- Which institutions offer this course?
- What are the physical demands and the financial requirements to complete the course?



- What are the likely challenges and prospects of the course in the labour market after graduation?
- Am I prepared to cope with the challenges and prospects of such a career?
- Can such a career be of benefit to others including my family after marriage.
- Will this course honour and glorify God?

If you can provide honest and positive answers to these questions then, you can be sure of making the right choice.

PURPOSEFUL CHOICE-MAKING

Everyone has a natural God-given potential to become successful. Potential is a natural quality that has not yet come forth but may emerge and develop. For example, some young people are good at figures, calculations, etc. such may end up being Accountants or Mathematicians. Some have the natural skill and love to take care of others' health- such may become Nurses or Medical doctors. Your potential is your skill, talent, your natural ability or inclination- something that you readily cope with. Since you possess the potential which is the key to your success, your duty is to discover this potential, develop and demonstrate it so that you can succeed in life.



Remember, you are a unique creature of God. You can learn from or be challenged by the positive actions of others, but do not compare yourself with anybody. Picture in your mind the able, earnest, useful, successful person you desire to be. Begin by identifying what you are always interested in, what attracts your attention, what holds your interest, what you are excited in doing



with ease and what you do well.

Make your choice, therefore, in consonance with your God-given ability, interest and the fulfillment of His will for you on earth.

PERSEVERANCE AND PRAYERS AFTER CHOICE

Success does not just arrive because of your making the right choice. You need to follow up with hard word, faith in God and prayers. The following practical tips will equally be of help to you as you move on from the point of being a choice-maker to becoming a champion:

- ❖ Dream big dreams-visualize/picture what you want to be in your career and set goals to achieve it



- ❖ Dig out information that will help to nurture your dreams to fulfillment and document them
- ❖ Diligently work towards your set goals
- ❖ Determine to succeed in your career and life, in spite of challenges
- ❖ Discipline yourself through self-control from youthful lusts and distractions
- ❖ Desire to glorify God at all times in all places through your life and achievements
- ❖ Daily commit your ways, plans and ambitions to God in prayers and keep close to Him.

Beloved, be assured that God is truly interested in your overall success in life and He specializes in working wonders. Just be willing to play your parts by following the principles outlined above; He will surely do His own part and surprise you beyond your expectations (Psalm 78:70-72; 113:6-8).