

Ruling YOUR World

A RECIPE FOR IMPACTFUL LIVING



DAVID O. OYEDEPO

RULING YOUR WORLD
(FORMERLY TITLED **TOWARDS EMPOWERMENT
FOR CHANGE**)

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*All Scripture quotations are from the King James
Version of the Bible, except otherwise stated.*

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INTRODUCTION

Someone has said, and I totally agree with him, that, "You are not a failure until you look for who to blame for it."

I believe that developing nations have no one to blame for their state of affairs. In my opinion, we are not backward because we are black; I believe we are backward largely because we are blind! For instance, there are banks of scientific facts that point to the fact that Africa is a land of unlimited opportunities, endowed with vast natural resources. I consider it, therefore, a paradox that multitudes in this same blessed continent still live far below the poverty line.

We are backward, not because we are black,

✓ Blindness is our problem.

but because we have been blind. We live in a land of unlimited opportunities, yet we are too blind to see them. A blind man has no sense of value for the treasures around him. An expatriate was once quoted as saying (referring to one of the African nations), *"This nation is so rich that you can literally pick money on the streets; but the nationals are so blind they cannot see it."*

I believe it is high time we come out of our deplorable state, and positively change our identity by first improving our lot as individuals. It is a developed people that result in a developed nation. That is, getting to know what to do, going ahead to do it, and thereby moving ahead. It is time to take our destinies in our hands, and make the most of it.

In my opinion, when you give a man purpose, he will be committed; get him

committed, and he will be creative; if creative, he becomes productive; when productive, he becomes successful, and when outstandingly successful, he becomes impactful. That is the purpose of this book.

Anyone can make the most of his life. You can make your life count; anyone can enhance his worth. All you need is to acquire the relevant information, coupled with the intelligible application and a sense of mission. This will result in outstanding success and impact. Zig Ziglar said, *"Just any dummy can succeed, if he cares to know what it takes."*

You will agree with me that there cannot be a move without a mover. This is what this book is all about. It's about the re-engineering of our value systems as Africans, which will change our approach, so as to bring about the socio-economic transformation we have long desired.

PONDER POINT

*"Until Something
Changes Within You,
Nothing Changes
Around You. Every
Change Begins From
Within. Without A
Change Within, There
Can Never Be A Change
Without."*

— Dr. David Oyedepo

CHAPTER ONE

THE COST OF CHANGE

Nothing great happens on its own. There is no rise without a price. Without a reaction, there is no motion, and without motion there cannot be a change of position.

Life is not a biological accident; it is a deliberate creation of a great Creator. This is why those who undertake deliberate acts make the most of it. No one succeeds by accident.

Most of the developing world has been

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waiting in futility for a change for the better for centuries, without any result. I believe it is time we accept full responsibility for the change we desire, lest we perish as liabilities.

The biblical story of the ant is a graphical illustration of the situation of men and women in the developing world today.

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

Proverbs 6:6-9

Ants have no overseer or ruler, yet they are able to secure their future. In my view, every blame on bad governance is rooted in a bad citizenry, after all the leaders are chosen

* If leaders are bad, then the citizens are also bad, as they were chosen by them.

THE COST OF CHANGE

from among the people. It is only a responsible citizenry that can produce a responsible leadership.

There is therefore, an urgent need to begin to re-orientate and re-engineer the mentality of the people, in order to change their perspective to life.

Teaching the people "how to fish" is the only way to get them out of begging for fish all their lifetime. It is time to begin to empower the people through the transmission of life-applicable and life-transforming information that will motivate them into action and turn them into world changers. This is the purpose of this book.

In the race of life, only those who are willing to pay the price ever win the prize. Every upward change will always require an applied force (upthrust). Things fall on their own, but a force is required to enforce a rise. Whereas gravity is all it takes for a fall,

* Every upward change requires a force to rise.

upthrust is required for a rise.

* I agree that some things do change with time, but I also know that time itself changes nothing. It's important to note that things will only change for the worse if left only with time. Imagine someone who failed an examination 20 years ago. How long will it take for the result to change for the better if he does nothing about it? It will take more than eternity, which no one has!

The most reasonable approach for changing that result for a better one is to re-register for the exam, review his preparatory approach, seek help through books and people, and resit the exam. These changes can be effected within a year, why therefore wait for all eternity as a failure?

Therefore, waiting for a change without doing anything makes no sense; it is the application of relevant forces that guarantee

a change for the better. That is, knowing what to do and doing it committedly and correctly. Remember, there will never be a rise without a price.

THE CAPITAL PRICE

I believe discipline is the capital price you pay for every desired change. Discipline in my view, can be defined as doing what is required to get at what is desired. It is doing what is demanded, not what is convenient.

George Washington said, "*Discipline is the soul of an army; it makes small number formidable, it procure success to the weak and esteem to all.*"

I believe discipline is the key to success. It is the gateway to distinction, the guarantee for dignity, and the key to relevance.

Discipline, I believe, is all about accepting full responsibility for every outcome in

one's pursuit. Someone has said you are not a failure until you look for who to blame for it. How true!

Have you realised that every time you point an accusing finger at someone, you are pointing three fingers back at yourself, while the fifth one is pointing to God as witness! This implies that every man is the cause of 75% of his problems. If someone else has a share, he can only be responsible for a maximum 25% of the blame. This implies that a failure would have still failed with or without anyone's help! No wonder K. C. Price once said, "If you fail, it is your fault; if you succeed, it is your fault."

Only those who believe in the need for change remain in charge. Someone has said, "If you are through changing, you are through." It is also said that, "stubbornness and an unwillingness to change is the energy of fools." Also that, "you cannot make an

omelette without breaking eggs!" "He that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils", another man said.

But change always carries a cost. If change is about added value, and value we understand is a function of cost, it is, therefore, obvious that there cannot be a change for the better without a cost.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "We must strive to become the change we want to see." Someone else also said, "Example is not the main thing in influencing others; it is the only thing." ✓

Do you really desire a change for the better as an individual? Do we really desire a change as a people? Then, it is time we stopped wishing for a change. Let's start working at it.

This is the purpose of this book in your hand. It is packaged to motivate you towards the change you have always desired.

It's a wake up call.

It was Socrates that said, "Anyone who will move the world, must first move himself." It is only changed men that become world changer.

PONDER POINT

*"Nothing Is More
Valuable Than Insight In
The Journey Of Life. If
You Leave Your Life To
Chance, You Don't Have
A Chance."*

— Dr. David Oyedepo

CHAPTER TWO

THE POWER OF INFORMATION

In my opinion, nothing empowers like knowledge. To be informed is to be transformed; and to be uninformed is to be deformed. Information is both the gateway for man's advancement and the cure for all his frustrations.

Information is the key factor to man's success in the race of life. You cannot fail with facts. Every candidate writes things down in the examination hall, but only those who have the facts get the marks. There is no substitute for information in

your quest for a change of position; not even intercession can substitute for information.

Being informed is not just knowing something, it is possessing a working knowledge of that thing. There are many things you know, but you don't have a working knowledge of. Until you know how it is applied, it holds no value.

✓ I consider information as any bit of news that influences your thoughts and actions. It is the force that rules the world. According to the Bible, the Church of the last days will be the custodian of the highest form of information.² Nothing creates a future like the revelation of scripture. Why? Because it has an inherent force within to bring about transformation in all areas (Rom. 12:1-2).

Your speed in life is determined by the quality of information at your disposal, and the level of insight with which you are operating. You will recall how that God said

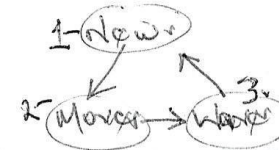
to Abraham, "Lift up now your eyes to the North, the South, the East and the West and all the land that you see, unto you will I give it." How far you can see determines how far you can go.³

You cannot go beyond the information at your disposal. The brighter you see, the faster you go. The more informed you are, the greater the results you command.

I see information as the currency of destiny; it determines your purchasing power in the market of life.

DON'T STOP LEARNING

Everything you are or do today is a result of the information of yesterday. The news you acquire determines the moves you generate, and the moves you generate determines the waves you cause, which determines the news you make. It is a continuous cycle.



You cannot be genuinely informed without making appropriate moves. You cannot make appropriate moves without generating undeniable proofs, and you cannot generate proofs without causing unquestionable waves, and you cannot cause waves without commanding attention, that is, making news.

Unfortunately, learning stops for many as soon as they graduate from college. But as Abraham Lincoln said, "*I don't think much of any man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.*"

We live in a changing world, so you have to keep pace with current knowledge. If the information at your disposal is obsolete, then it cannot produce any current results.

I want to believe that tradition is the worst enemy of civilization, because it has no regards for current knowledge.

I believe the problem of the developing

world today is largely that of undeveloped human resources. There is a dearth of human capital. I'm not just talking of educational qualifications, but purposeful education as well. For instance, all year round, most parts of Africa is climatically conducive for agriculture, yet most parts of Africa live purely on goods imported from nations that paradoxically, for a quarter of the year, have no natural grace to plant anything because they are covered in snow. Why? Undeveloped human resources, because we are uninformed!

Henry Ford said, "*Anyone who stops learning is old, either at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.*" That is, to keep one's mind open to new insight and information that will help in generating solutions to bugging issues.

Information demands discipline, as it

doesn't jump on people. It is only available to explorers. It is a product of an intelligent search.

Nobody is responsible for where you are, but you; not even the devil. The main problem is the lack of appropriate information. Jesus said you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.⁴ But a discovery of the truth always demand discipline.

READERS ARE LEADERS

Some years ago, someone asked me how I get time to read. I replied by asking him how he gets time to eat. Then I said, "*What eating is to you is what reading is to me.*" Everybody gets time to eat.

No matter your calling, profession, or career, without relevant information you don't have a future. You don't become a man of impact by wishing; you only become one

by learning what it takes to do exploits.

It has been proved beyond any doubt that committed readers are those who become great leaders. You cannot lead anyone if you don't see ahead. Dedicated readers and information hunters are the ones that become great leaders. Remember, common sense at its best will only produce common results.

Even the "gift of wisdom" can become stale if you do not learn from others, because an iron cannot sharpen itself; it has to be sharpened by another iron.⁵ If you are not rubbing your mind with others, it will soon become dull. With common sense, therefore, one is only heading for a common future. Every one aiming for an outstanding future must be committed to rubbing his little mind with greater minds, thereby becoming sharper by the day.

To be a man and woman of impact, you

must be committed to an insatiable hunger for ever-increasing insight in your field. A wise man said, *"You will be the same that you are this year in five years time, except for two things – the books you read and the people with whom you walk."*

When Apostle Paul said, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that will not be ashamed"*, he simply meant study, if you don't want to be ashamed.⁶ No matter your field of endeavour in life, if you are not studious, you are heading for shame without knowing. A time will come when the things you are saying will no longer be relevant to the needs of the people around you.

Nothing transforms like information; and it takes meekness to be committed to the art of learning.

THE BOOK OF THE LAW

Without references you don't become a ref-

erence. Without information, no one truly has a future. Information will reduce your religious struggles. In this wild wide world that we live in, we all need a veritable guide to go through safely, and God has designed the channel of information to be the cure for our frustration. He said to Joshua, *"This book of the law contains everything you need to become everything you are created to be."*⁷

The Book of books called the Bible provides a dignified guide for your journey on earth. It is God's recommendation for a colourful destination. You cannot arrive at a colourful destiny without this Book. You also have access to professional materials that can enhance your skills and help in your pursuit of excellence. Therefore, invest your time, resources, and energy.

Nothing is more valuable than insight in the journey of life. If you leave your life to

chance, you don't have a chance. Life becomes like a lottery, and when life becomes a lottery the future becomes a mockery. Don't leave your life to chance, leave it to viable choices, and make your choices based on sound information.

Someone has said that the largest room in the world is the room for improvement. So, go and improve on yourself through a quest for viable, resourceful, and productive information.

Notes

1. Joshua 1:8
2. Isaiah 2:1-3
3. Genesis 13:14-17
4. John 8:32
5. Proverbs 27:17
6. 2 Timothy 2:15
7. Joshua 1:8

PONDER POINT

"You Are Either Running With A Vision, Going On A Mission, Or Burning With A Passion... If You Do Not Belong To Any Of These, Life is reduced to a burden."

— Dr. David Oyedepo

CHAPTER THREE

THE POWER OF PURPOSE

Men of purpose are men of impact. Let me begin by painting the picture of your destiny as contained in scriptures.

We were not formed by our fathers and mothers; they are only channels through which the formation took place.¹ Therefore, you are not a biological accident, you are deliberate creation of God - you are a child of destiny. So, you did not just happen, you were created.² You are, therefore, not a child of circumstances. Rather, you are a child of destiny and cannot afford to live

like a destitute.

But life without a bearing is a burden. Martin Luther King Jnr. said, "*If any man has no purpose for living, he is not fit to live.*" Men of purpose are known to be men of impact.

MANUFACTURED BY GOD

We came into the world by God's deliberate design. He is our manufacturer, we are His products; and no product determines its function. Purpose is determined by the manufacturer. The use of a writing pen, for example, was determined by the manufacturer. It is not for cutlery on your dining table, or cutting things in your kitchen. It may be ten times the cost of your kitchen knife, but it will never offer you the value of a kitchen knife. Why? Because it is not designed for that purpose. Any other thing you use it for will only

make a mockery of it.

Many people are frustrated because they have not cared to discover what they were designed for. We are more bothered about what we are created to be than what we are created to do. A discovery of what you are created to do is called purpose. Doing what you are created to do is what makes you become what you are created to be.

Finding what you are created to do and doing it will turn you into a man and woman of value. No matter how anointed, gifted, or enlightened you may be, if you lack purpose, you will not be accomplished. Purpose is what gives meaning to life. You are only guaranteed to get the best of results doing what you are created to do.

Have you ever met a professor in any university who says he is a Professor of engineering, law, medicine, history, and sociology? One man? Never! If everywhere

*
You are not meant
to be a man
(being)
of (being)
to do it with
Quality
You will
not be
a failure

is your destination, you are sure to get nowhere. Life is a journey, and only those who have a definite destination record progress. In my opinion, only those going somewhere ever get anywhere. Anyone going everywhere gets nowhere, for there is no such destination as "everywhere." Unfortunately though, there are many people going everywhere in the world today. They are daily going everywhere, but getting nowhere; yet they have not sat back to ask themselves where they are going. It is important for you to sit up and consciously discover the Creator's purpose for sending you to the world.

Apostle Paul was a very enlightened man, a notable lawyer in his days, who ran wild like a rabid dog, until he found divine purpose. "*Without divine guidance, the people run wild.*" Truly, life without a right bearing is a burden.

DISPOSITION TO SERVE

You are here on a mission, commissioned to serve a purpose. There is an assignment that came down with you when you were born. That assignment has to be discovered before life can become meaningful. Every product is manufactured to serve a specific purpose. It is not what you want to be that matters, but what you are created to do, the reason for your existence, that matters most. Therefore, purpose does not target possession, but is designed essentially for contribution. It is not designed for status, but for service. That is why only service-oriented dreams ever see the light of day.

A discovery of purpose is essentially a discovery of your area of service. It is not a discovery of opportunity for possession or accumulation of material wealth, but a disposition to service. Service is the only way to actualize your purpose and fulfil your

destiny. If you are here just to consume, you may end up being consumed! If you are here for possession, you are sure to end up in frustration. True greatness is a product of genuine service. It is your degree of commitment to service that determines your ultimate height in the race of life. The power of purpose is manifested in service.

Your purpose can be discovered through the following scriptural ways.

Visionary Encounters ✓

Vision in this context implies the spiritual unfolding of divine plan and purpose as it relates to you. Apostle Paul said,

Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

Acts 26:19

In most cases, vision is delivered at God's instance, as was the case with Moses,

Gideon, and Paul the apostle. It is God calling out individuals and delivering assignments to them. Paul defined this as a heavenly vision in the above scriptures. And because God has not changed, He is still delivering visions to mankind till date.

For instance, the mandate of the commission He gave to me was delivered in a similar heavenly version back on May 2, 1981, after an 18-hour visionary encounter, which ended with a divine mandate, *"The hour has come to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil through the preaching of the word of faith, and I am sending you to undertake this task."* That was not a desire, intention, or ambition; it was purely a divine visitation.

However, a heavenly vision can also be delivered through prayers of enquiry.

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to

see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am re-proved.

And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Habakkuk 2:1-3

You can stand upon your watch to hear what He will say to you by asking Him, "Lord, what is my assignment here on earth? What task have You assigned to me?"

God is committed to leading us in the way to go, and teaching us the way to profit (Isa. 48:17). Since we know He has a plan and a purpose for our lives, we can reach out to Him for the delivery of the same.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

Natural Endowments

In case you have not heard any voice from heaven, and there is no agenda delivered in your heart, look inward, there must be something God has put inside you to gainfully engage you on earth.

It is therefore, time to look inwards, because there is something God has put inside of you to gainfully engage you on earth. A discovery of such deposits in most cases is a pointer to the task you are created to undertake in life. Such deposits express themselves in things that turns you on when you do them. They are things you have natural flair for, things that naturally flow from you and gives you delight and fulfilment when you do them. More often

than not, such deposits clearly define purpose the purpose of man.

Passion ✓

Mike Murdock said, "*your passion is a pointer to the problem you are created to solve.*" Your passion can be defined as things that get you emotionally caught up in your actions and reactions to certain things or issues.

The renowned Mother Theresa was not known to have heard any voice from heaven or carry any outstanding gift, but she had a passion for the helpless lepers of India. That passion was what made her. Nehemiah in scriptures had no heavenly vision nor a remarkable gift, but carried an unquenchable passion for the afflicted in Jerusalem and the broken walls of the city. His passion gave him place in history.

In my opinion, therefore, you are either

running with a vision, going on a mission or burning with a passion. Where none of these is the case, frustration becomes the order of the day. Living without a definite assignment is like living in an asylum. Living for self makes a slave, but living for others makes a leader.

Let me conclude this chapter by showing you three vital bearings you need to fulfil your discovered purpose in the journey of life.

Spiritual Bearing

According to scriptures, without God we are helpless.³ Most Christians crash when they allow a little success to disconnect them from God. No matter how strong and beautiful a tree branch may be, it automatically withers once it is disconnected from the root, and will ultimately die.⁴ When you stop seeking God, you start sinking in the sea of life. A spiritual root is

the only guarantee for sustained accomplishment in life. Remember, it is His purpose you are running with, not yours and you sure must require His backing.

Visionary Bearing

You must depend on God's direction for every step in your pursuit.⁵ Not every good idea is God's idea. Whatever lacks divine backing soon becomes a burden.⁶ God is the One who knows the end from the beginning, so following Him guarantees your safety.

Life is a journey, and it is designed in phases. If you keep pace with God you won't lose your peace. Some of the things you are trying to do today are perhaps designed to be done tomorrow in His plan. If you do them today, they may destroy your tomorrow. Every child of God who does not desire mishaps on the journey of life must always crave to be led by the Lord.

When the Lord is your shepherd, you shall not want.

Role-Model Bearing

There is nothing new under the sun, so find out those who have gone ahead of you in the area of your discovered purpose, and link up with them, particularly with the secrets that made them.⁷

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

Jeremiah 6:16

Without a reference you don't become a reference. It takes having role models to play your role well. It was Isaac Newton that said, *"If I have seen any farther, it is by standing on the shoulders of those who have*

gone ahead of me." ✓

DARE TO DREAM

The future you cannot picture you cannot feature. Life without a dream is doomed. Great men always live in the reality of their future ever before they arrive there! It is obviously the dreamers' world.

The turning of every captivity begins with a dream. If you cannot dream it, you may never dare it, and if you will not dare it, you cannot damn it. A dream in this context is defined as the mental picture of the future.

Therefore, dream it and dare it.

I believe it is your mental picture that defines your actual future, for as a man thinks in his heart so is he. Show me a dreamer indeed, and I will show you another leader in the making. This is because, more often than not, every great dreamer ends up a world changer.

Notes:

1. Jeremiah 1:5
2. Psalm 139:14; Psalm 100:3
3. 1 Samuel 2:9; Psalm 127:1-2; Romans 9:16
4. John 15:4-6
5. Psalm 23:1
6. Proverbs 14:12; 16:25
7. Isaiah 51:2; Hebrews 6:12

PONDER POINT

*“You Don’t Need A
Century To Effect A
Change; You Only Need
Effective Preparation To
Provoke Unusual
Transformations!”*

— Dr. David Oyedepo

What does preparation entail? What are the key objects of preparation in this context? Preparation entails planning, programming, and seeking for necessary helps.

It is common knowledge that the quality of one's preparation determines the quality of his result in any examination. In the same way, every "great" destiny is a product of "great" preparations. In like manner, every aircraft is technically "prepared" for a successful flight. The engineers carry out all essential checks before a take off. Safety is not guaranteed in the air without adequate and detailed checks on the ground. This, I think, is a graphic illustration of what preparation is all about.

PLANNING

Planning can be defined as a step-by-step design towards the accomplishment of a given task. It is a practical approach

packaged towards the realization of any set objectives.

In my opinion, praying without planning is playing without knowing. And planning without programming is living in the woods, while programming without pursuit is dining with the dead.

WHAT PLANNING ENTAILS

Proverbs 24:3-4 is rendered thus in the Living Bible translation: *"Any enterprise is built by wise planning, it becomes strong through the use of common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts."*

Solomon is reputed to be the wisest man in Bible history, and above is his clear evaluation of the potency of planning.

The planning process begins with fact-finding and intelligible arrangement of such facts is what is called planning. This implies

that we can only plan effectively with facts. That is, identifying the essential issues involved in achieving a given task, and strategically placing such facts in the most appropriate place to achieve the desired goal.

Note that without adequate information, you cannot make quality decisions. The time you spend in planning is not wasted time; it is time invested, because the quality of your planning determines the speed at which you accomplish your goal.

I believe destiny is heading for frustration if adequate preparation is lacking.

PROGRAMMING

Whereas planning defines a process, programming dictates the steps. While planning defines the required action, programming schedules the actions. Programming is essentially about timing the required action towards accomplishing a set goal.

Time is of essence in the successful pursuit of any vision, as there is a time to plant, and a time to reap. God makes all things beautiful in His time.

SEEKING FOR NECESSARY HELPS

The next important factor in preparation is seeking necessary helps. This can be divided into two main areas: first, looking out for resource materials where relevant facts can be gathered that can be integrated into the planning process. Secondly, seeking help from above through prayers.

This is the position: we plan with facts, programme with sense, and pray with faith. In my opinion, effective planning is the most restful approach to securing the best of result. God never plans for anyone; it is every individual's responsibility to plan.

Planning is a non-transferable responsibility. There is no substitute for it.

Think of Christ Himself. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, came down as the Messiah, and knew where He came from. Yet He sat down in the temple with doctors of the law and the Pharisees, asking them questions.

He underwent 40 days of prayer and fasting, and when He came out, He stepped into His mission, and blew the world open in three and a half years! Preparation!

On the other hand, think of someone writing an examination, and all he does is to pray. He would not read, because he believes that with God all things are possible. He does not need to go and check his result, as he already failed before he wrote the examination! Preparation must be comprehensive before you can obtain outstanding results.

No matter what you are getting involved

in, the accomplishment of every goal requires adequate preparation first. For every set-objective, no matter how divinely inspired, preparation is a non-negotiable factor, if it must be actualized.

FINANCIAL PREPARATION

In the story Jesus told about building a tower, He said whosoever desires to build a tower needs to first sit down and determine the cost, whether he has enough, lest he should start building and not be able to finish it, thereby making himself an object of mockery.¹

There is a place for financial planning in the pursuit of any purpose. Everyone needs to be financially literate for a successful adventure in life. This is because you will always have something to do with money as long as you are living here on earth. Even the Messiah, the most anointed of all,

needed money to accomplish His mission. He even had a man in charge of His money. If money were not essential in the fulfilment of your purpose, Jesus would not have had any need for the bag of money Judas carried. His anointing would have solved all the problems. Therefore, no matter how spiritual you are, to pretend that money is not essential is to make a mockery of destiny.

Man's dignity naturally demands financial resources. The Bible says *money answereth all things*.² That does not mean it should be worshipped. This only calls for an understanding of its proper functions. One unique truth about the Bible is that there is no management principle from Harvard, Yale or anywhere else under heaven that compares with the principles contained in it. And I must say, with all authority too, that applied gospel is the

world's last hope.

WHAT IS MONEY?

Recently, someone asked me "What is your greatest secret about money? My response was, "*There is no magic about money. In my opinion, money is simply a medium of exchange for goods and services.*" I added that money acquired through crooked means will always end with regrets.

Therefore, money can be simply defined as a medium of exchange for goods and services. There is nothing mystical about money. It is neither a product of chance or luck; it is simply the end product of goods and services.

If you are not producing anything, and you are not offering any services, you are not entitled to financial transactions. There is no free lunch in life.³ Cheap money erodes human dignity, whereas money properly earned enhances his value. There is no short

cut: money is either earned or should not be expected.

Ayn Rand once said, "*wealth is the product of man's capacity to think.*" Therefore, the first thing to do in your financial preparation is to seek to be adequately financially informed for the pursuit of your goal. This is because if you can think enough, what you have is enough to set out with. That means that every goal and objective in life can start off from where you are.

Most people think money is all they need. I disagree. You do not need money as much as you require financial skills. I am not talking about financial schemes and tricks; I am talking about being in touch with the investment opportunities around you and how to invest wisely.

It is important not only to build resources for the pursuit of your purpose, but to also

develop adequate financial management skill of the same. God will not put in your hand more than you are capable of effectively managing.

We live in a very fast world. Except you constantly update your information bank, you may soon become obsolete. You cannot remain relevant with yesterday's facts. You need to be constantly aware of your economic environment in order to become financially successful. In my opinion, if you can think enough, what you have is enough for a take off.

NOTES:

1. Luke 14:28-30
2. Ecclesiastes 10:19
3. Proverbs 13:11



PONDER POINT

*"Those who think on
paper think better."*

— Dr. David Oyedepo

CHAPTER FIVE

THE POWER OF IDEAS

I consider ideas as compound thoughts that stimulate moves. Ideas are thought products.

Ideas are mental virtues accessible mainly by thinkers. They do not drop on your laps from the sky; they are captured thoughts aimed at specific solutions. And they come only to people who are given to the art of reasoning, people that engage their capacity for logical, rational and analytical thinking. Ideas are, therefore, the exclusive reserve of addictive thinkers.

There is this story told of Bill Gates that fascinates me. It was reported that one day his mother kept calling for him around the house, "Bill, Bill, where are you?" He was up in the basement, doing what he knew best to do. The story went on to say that when his mother finally opened the door to where he was, he responded, reacting by reflex as it were, "I'm thinking! Don't you think?"

Today Bill Gates can be classified as one of the greatest revolutionists of our days. His input in technology has changed the face of education globally. This again is a proof of what I have often postulated, that every star is a thinker, and every committed thinker is a potential star.

I believe it is the tasking of the senses that command success. At the root of every gain is the use of the brain. It is brainwork that make things work. I agree that wealth is

indeed a product of man's capacity to think.

The good news here is that everyone has a "pound" of brain as gleaned from Christ's parable in Luke 19:11-27. However, whereas some trade theirs, others trash it. Some task it, most bury it. Yes! You have a pound of brain:

It is same colour

It is same size

It is same number of cells

It is same kind of lubricant

It is same for all men and women

It is same for all races and colour.

It was E. W. Kenyon that said, "Make your brain work. It will sweat, but make it work. It will improve, it will develop, until you become the envy of those around you." I believe the more you task your brain, the greater the ideas you generate, and the greater the results you command. When

you stop thinking, you start stinking, because it is the thinkers' world.

A startling study revealed that *"only 5% of the human race think. Fifteen percent think they are thinking, and the remaining 80% will rather die than think."*

It was Richard Nixon that said, *"A true idealist is one who pursues what his heart says is right, the way his head says it will work."*

Thinking is the only way to generate viable ideas, as ideas are communicated through thoughts - just a flash across the mind. Thoughts are mental treasures, but are highly volatile. If they are not quickly engraved on paper as they come, they go to the grave unhindered. They fast become dissipated, if not promptly documented.

So, don't go to bed without some paper near you. I believe those who think on paper think better, as paper is the most secure store

cattle. This made them fatter than the others, because they were not being moved about in search of drinking water. As a result, Abraham became the biggest animal farmer in his time. The Bible records that he became very rich in cattle, silver, and gold.²

Isaac also became wealthy through divine ideas. He probably said to himself, "My father dug wells to water his cattle, I can also dig more wells to water my crops, instead of waiting forever for rain to fall." And Isaac became the first irrigation farmer. While other Philistines were waiting for rain to fall, Isaac was busy watering his crops from the wells he dug. This made him the biggest farmer of his time, causing the Philistines to envy him. The Bible says the man waxed great, went forward and grew...and the Philistines envied him.³

An inspired idea can turn any man to the envy of his world. Think of Jacob also. It

✓ don't go to bed without some paper near you
Cattle fatter
Isaac
dig more wells
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took an inspired idea to free him from the oppressive hold of Laban. He was able to dictate the colour and shade of his cattle by making the strong ones mate before the rods of polar he placed in front of them in the watering troughs.⁴ Through an inspired idea he was able to subdue his enemy. Nothing in the world compares with the potency of inspired ideas.

HOW TO ACCESS INSPIRED IDEA

The question then is, "How do we tap into inspired ideas?"

And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.

Genesis 24:63

Meditation is one of the vital breeding grounds for inspiration. That's why we see Isaac go out to the field to meditate.

Understanding does not just drop on people. It comes through a conscious process of meditation, that is, staying mentally focused on an issue, until the nitty gritty of it are unfolded to you.

It is time for us in the developing nations to become the toast of the world. But this can only happen when we trigger the potential in us by insight communicated through the Spirit of God. Insight about facts of life relevant to our individual and collective pursuit is what makes all the difference.

It is time to change our orientation, as this is the only way to enhance the beauty of our destination. We cannot stay with tradition, else we will become victims of stagnation. It is time to move and take steps in the right direction. We have been clapping and clapping. The Church will soon lose relevance except we become contributors to

the society we live in. Your clapping will soon become a nuisance, except you are adding value to your community.

Remember, we are not the light of the Church, we are the light of the world! We are not the salt of the Church, we are the salt of the earth. We are to get back there and influence those places through inspired ideas.

INVEST TIME

Time is the principal raw material needed in the factory of ideas. Ideas answer to only those who have time for it. Without setting time apart to reason, your rising is not in view. Jesus, during His time on earth, went to a mountain top and just sat down there. He was not praying, but reasoning.⁵

If you don't have time to reason, it is not your turn for a change, as time is where it all begins. Ideas are the products or art of reasoning, with evidence of added value.

Time, therefore, is of utmost essence in the school of ideas.

There is a separation required for illumination. Having separated himself, a wise man begins to seek and reason out a solution. "There must be a way out here," he tells himself.

Everyone is equally allotted 24 hours daily. Time is, therefore, an asset of universal equality. No matter how busy you are, you are not entitled to more than 24 hours in a single day, no matter who you are.

Therefore, no one person has more time than the other. The difference is that while some are spending their time, others are investing theirs. You don't know true investment until you learn time investment.

The more time you have for reasoning, the more insight you gain, and the greater results you command. The mobile phones you carry about most of the time are

working against you. When an idea is coming, it rings; and by the time you finish answering the call, the idea has flown away.

Time is an invaluable asset. Unfortunately, most people are abusers of time. The West has no more time than the East, neither has the South more time than the North; but one is wiser in his investment of time than the other. We must begin to redeem our time from traditional pollution, cultural bastardization, and from unrelated issues scrambling for our time during business hours. That is the only way to get moving. When you go out for eight hours, you must be accountable for at least six of those hours. So stop spending time, start investing it! Every time investor invariably ends up an inventor.

The top is open and free, but you have to make your way there. If you want to be a partaker of this outpouring of inspired ideas,

you need to set time apart to calmly sit down and calculate your options, and chart a course towards a destination. Organise ways of getting to where you are going, and programme for results. Re-organise your office hours to include a reasoning time. Call it, "Planning time" or whatever you may wish to call it.

Thinkers invent things that bring improvement. So, every time you are committed to thinking, what you are actually doing is programming for improvement. For instance, it used to be that the only way you could get a glass of soda was from a soda fountain. Then someone came up with the idea of bottling it. He told the Coca-Cola company that they could use his idea if they would give him a fraction of their increased sales. That minute percentage made him a millionaire.⁶

Also, the elevator at the El Cortez Hotel

in San Diego couldn't handle the traffic. The experts, engineers and architects, were called in. They concluded that they could put another elevator in the basement. The plans were drawn up. As the architect and the engineer were discussing it, the janitor heard them and said, "Do you know what I would do if I were you?" The architect asked, "What?" "I'll build the elevator on the outside," he replied. The architect and engineer just looked at each other. They built the elevator on the outside, and this became the first time in the history of architecture that an elevator was built outside a building.⁷

We can and should allow ourselves to be instruments in the hand of God for improving the lot of the black race, for God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation, everyone that fears Him will get to wherever He is taking people to.⁸

Welcome to the world of inspired ideas!

NOTES:

1. Habakkuk 2:2
2. Genesis 13:2
3. Genesis 26:12-14
4. Genesis 30:37-43
5. Matthew 15:29
6. *"Tough Times Never Last But Tough People Do"* by Robert H. Schuller, Page 94.
7. *"Tough Times Never Last But Tough People Do"* by Robert H. Schuller, Pages 96 - 97.
8. Acts 10:34-35

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PONDER POINT

*"Knowledge Is Not Marketable;
It Is Skill That You Market...
Skill Is Not A Function Of The
Papers You Carry; It Is A
Function Of The Tactics... The
Strategies You Engage in
Handling Your Assignment!"*

— Dr. David Oyedepo

CHAPTER SIX

THE POWER OF SKILL

No purpose has a future without skill.
Many of us have discovered our purpose, but we are not equipped to deliver it.

No matter how great your calling, no matter how genuine your pursuit; your purpose will never be accomplished without skill. To every trade there is a required skill.¹
The quality of your skill is what determines the quality of your output.²

Unfortunately, skill is one of the most neglected aspect of Christian teachings today. This has pushed so many backward

and many are constantly looking around for a devil to blame for their failure, instead of looking inward to find out where they are lacking in experience. A person that is not skilled in his job, no matter how hard he prays, cannot expect to enjoy promotions. Only experts excel, and expertise is a product of training and personal development.

Skill is not a function of the papers you carry; it is a function of the tactics you employ, the strategies you engage in handling your assignment. Mere certificates hold little or no value in the market today, it is what you can do that sells.

✓ Knowledge is not marketable; it is skill that we market. A Bachelor's degree in Computer Science does not give you a job; it is your expertise on the system that does.

Oprah Winfrey said, "Excellence is the greatest deterrent against racism and sexism." Man or woman, black or white, just have the

quality, and people will be there to buy your product. Have what they need, and they will be there running after you.

Training, whether formal or informal, is a device through which skill is acquired.

If what you are using is tricks, you may soon be trapped, but if you are engaging skills you will remain in command. No matter where you are, skill will announce you. This was how David the shepherd boy got to the palace.³

Later on, a crop of battered and beaten people gathered themselves unto David, and he became a captain over them. Later on, when God began to list the mighty men of valour around David, the same worthless people had become the mighty men of David.⁴

There are five biblical illustrations that help us see the need for skill in the pursuit

Who you associate with for mine's
what you become in life.

of our purpose. The Bible likens our destiny in life to that of a builder, a farmer, a soldier, a sportsman, and a trader.

AS A BUILDER

Paul said, *"As a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."*⁵ Every pursuit in destiny is like putting up a structure; and we all know that the beauty of your building is a function of your expertise.

Jesus again said, *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him."*⁶

The building of every tower demands high level skills, else it will end up as an object of mockery. So is it with the journey

of life.

AS A FARMER

God speaking again through Paul said the husbandman that labours must be the first partaker of the fruits.⁷ Those pursuing divine purpose can be likened to farmers, and a lot of skill is required in farming. There is a time to sow and a time to apply your fertilizer and so on and so forth. It is your expertise that determines the quality of harvest you get. Every "common sense" farmer would only get "common sense" results. It takes special sense to get a special harvest.

AS A SOLDIER

The pursuit of divine purpose is also likened to a career in the army on the battlefield: *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who*

hath chosen him to be a soldier."⁸

In the military, skill is the thing. The world is no more threatened by the size of your army but by its skill. Therefore, if we are soldiers, we need skills, so we don't get killed in the war front.

AS A SPORTSMAN

We are also called sportsmen – athletes, boxers, wrestlers and so on and so forth. Paul said, "*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize! So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air.*"⁹

You don't go to the wrestling ring just because you are called a wrestler in your

village. For instance, you may be a good footballer in your neighbourhood, but you will need a coach to refine your gift before playing in the World Cup league.

Every professional sportsman has a coach, who is heavily paid to enhance his training for expertise in his chosen sport.

AS A TRADER

Finally, people pursuing purpose are also likened to traders multiplying their capital for profit. Matthew 25:14-16 says, "*For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other*

five talents."

If we are traders, then we don't only look for capital, but must first of all acquire the necessary skill for the trade we want to get into, otherwise the capital will be gone in no time. Money without financial literacy, someone says, is money soon gone. So, it is not just capital you need to become a successful trader, you also need necessary skills in the specific area of trade you intend going into.

Skills have to be consciously acquired, either formally or informally. When you leave your life to chance, you don't have a chance. When you start praying, "Oh God, bless this business," God says to you, "Oh boy, do you have the necessary skill?"

Time spent in acquiring skill is not time wasted; it is time profitably invested. Nothing happens by chance. You cannot accomplish your purpose without first

engaging in the travail of training.

Jesus called the twelve disciples, and they were under His tutelage for three and a half years. Discipleship implies apprenticeship. He was training them to take over.

Their calling was not enough. They were also supernaturally equipped through the channel of training. When Jairus' daughter died, Jesus took Peter, James and John inside to watch Him raise her from the dead. Peter did exactly what he had seen Jesus do in Acts 9, when Dorcas died, and she was brought back to life.

DON'T MAKE NOISE, MAKE MOVES

Everyone needs training to enhance his worth in his field. It is not a function of strength, as many mighty men don't make a mark. You need to acquire up-to-date skills in order to maintain a leading position. The race of life is not a function of strength

but of skill.

Build on your expertise, and the world will respect you for it. You don't have to make noise to make news. As a matter of fact, the more noise you make, the more of a nuisance you are likely to become.

"You don't need to make noise to make news, you make moves to make news. The moves you make determines the waves you cause and the waves you cause determines the news you make." So, it's time to make moves for needed skill acquisition so you can begin to cause waves in your field and begin to make news in the ultimate.

Notes:

1. Psalm 78:70-72
2. Proverbs 22:29
3. 1 Samuel 16:16-22
4. 1 Samuel 22:1-2; 2 Samuel 23:8

5. 1 Corinthians 3:10
6. Luke 14:28-29
7. 2 Timothy 2:6
8. 2 Timothy 2:3-4
9. 1 Corinthians 9:24-26

PONDER POINT

*"You Cannot Be ¹Committed
And Not Be Creative, You
Cannot Be ²Creative And Not
Be Productive And You
Cannot Be ³Productive And
Not Be ⁴Successful And You
Cannot Be Outstandingly
Successful And Not Be
⁵Impactful."*

— Dr. David Oyedepo

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE POWER OF COMMITMENT

Information, purpose, preparation, ideas,
and skills notwithstanding, without
commitment there can never be
accomplishment. Another word for
commitment in this context is hard-work
or diligence.

In the beginning, God planted a garden,
where He put the man He had made. Then
He said to him, "*Keep it and dress it.*" After
that, God said, "*As you keep and dress the
garden you are permitted to eat of every
tree of the garden, except the one at the*

centre."¹

God first gave man a job before He showed him what to eat. God does not talk about food until He has talked about work. God will never keep or dress the garden; it is man's duty to keep and dress his garden. The garden you don't keep and dress is not permitted to offer food to you.

You will never have a developed nation without a productive citizenry. It is the input of individuals within a nation that results in the overall development of that nation. Where I come from, it is said that when you have one rich man in the midst of six poor people what you have are seven poor people.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

There is no political means to developing a nation; every development rests on the productivity of the nation's citizens. A nation where only one million of its five million

people are working cannot prosper. This number would represent only 20% of that nation's population, God said to Abraham, I am going to bless you, and you shall be a blessing." But Abraham did not go to sleep with the promise; instead he started rearing cattle, until he became very rich.³ No matter the promise of God on your life, if you don't work, it will never come to pass.

Abraham's son, Isaac, was also a tireless worker. He kept on digging the wells of water despite opposition, and went ahead, sowed his seed in famine and became so prosperous that the Philistines envied him. Isaac didn't prosper on the platform of his father's wealth, he prospered through the work of his hands.⁴

Jacob, Isaac's son, was also a worker. He was a creative worker. He raised stripped cattle by making them mate before poplar trees upon which he had made stripes. Jacob

What you
see you get
posters.

RULING YOUR WORLD

was the first veterinary scientist: he knew what to do to get the exact breed of cattle he desired. ⁵ Abraham was a hard worker; Isaac, a tireless worker; and Jacob, a creative worker.

If you study the work ethics of South Koreans, you won't be surprised that they came from far behind to become the thirteenth industrialised nation in the world. They were among the poorest nations in 1948, and then the people suddenly became responsible.

We as a people cannot afford to be begging around the world! We have enough, but we lack the required commitment. King Solomon said, "*The sluggard desires and has nothing, but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.*"⁶ True, your desires are communicated in prayer. Jesus said, "Whatsoever thing you desire when you pray, believe that you have it, and you shall

THE POWER OF COMMITMENT

receive it."⁷ But the same Bible also says, "A lazy man desires and has nothing." His prayers alone cannot change his story.

There is a time for everything: there is a time to pray and a time to work. There is a time to even watch Christian television, and a time to read your Bible. There is a time for everything. Work is not a curse; it is designed by God as a channel of blessing, and for our livelihood.

There is dignity in labour. As a job seeker, don't keep waiting for a particular job. Whatever your hands find to do while looking for what you want, begin to do it with all your might, and what you are looking for will meet you in the process.

* Idleness is an enemy of destiny; don't give it room. Have you ever wondered why many givers have not experienced a change of position? It is because God does not throw money down to people from heaven. He

only prospers the work of their hands.
Therefore, if you are doing nothing, there is
no channel through which God can bless
you.

BENEFITS OF WORK

Work is God's antidote against all manner of weakness and sickness. The physical body can be likened to a building, and like any unused or unoccupied building, it soon begins to fall apart. As the Preacher puts it, *"Through slothfulness a building decays and through idleness of hand a house drops through."*⁸ Work is God's device for healthy and strong living.

Another benefit of commitment is **creativity**. You Cannot Be Committed And Not Be Creative, You Cannot Be Creative And Not Be Productive And You Cannot Be Productive And Not Be Successful And You Cannot Be Outstandingly Successful And Not Be Impactful. When you are commit-

ted, you are naturally creative. It is practise that makes perfect. When you are committed, ideas starts flowing to enhance your approach on the job.

I don't see work as punishment, but as "polishment." I see it as God polishing my life, causing it to shine by the privilege of work. The President of one of the world's largest corporation once said, *"You cannot pour yourself into your work and not be successful. Not pouring yourself into your work and expecting success is like attempting to pluck a star out of the sky."*⁹

You are either a worker or a beggar. It is a clear choice that we need to make.

It is time to recover your human dignity of the black man. It is time to rebuild your life. It is time to rebuild our nations. It is time to rebuild this great continent.

We cannot rebuild by praying and fasting alone, neither can we rebuild our lives by

*Commitment affects the flow of Ideas.

only reading the Bible every hour of the day; we can only rebuild it by working it out. Nothing is more impactful than your examples. When you start working, your children will follow suit, their own children will plug into it as well, and before you know what is happening, you have a responsible lineage.

Notes:

1. Genesis 2:8-17
2. Proverbs 13:11
3. Genesis 12:2-3; 13:2
4. Genesis 26:12-22
5. Genesis 30:29-43
6. Proverbs 13:4
7. Mark 11:24
8. Ecclesiastes 10:18

PONDER POINT

*"The Nature Of A Tree
Determines The Fruits It
Bears... Your Nature Is
What Makes Way For
Your Future... It Takes
More Than Strength,
Grace, Or Skill To Scale
Through In Life...
Cultivate The Right
Attitude!"*

— Dr. David Oyedepo

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE POWER OF ATTITUDE

Nothing devalues skill and commitment like wrong attitude. For instance, some people are good on their jobs, but they are so proud that they are side-lined when a choice for promotion is being made.

The greatest men in the Bible were not made by strength or might, but by their attitude. Abraham was made by his attitude of obedience.¹ Moses was not made a leader because of his strength, but because of his meekness.² David's courageous attitude gave him victory over Goliath, in spite of his

stature.³ The exalted throne of Christ was built by right attitude. Obedience led Jesus to the cross, which in turn led Him to the throne.⁴ Power didn't make Him, attitude did. That means you can be anointed and still die a failure.

The nature of a tree determines the fruit it bears. A mango tree cannot bear orange fruits. Your nature is what makes way for your future. Every great altitude stems out of a right attitude. Therefore, every negative nature will lead to a negative future.

It takes more than strength or skill to scale through in life, so you must cultivate the right attitude.

There are four aspects of human life where we need to cultivate a right attitude, if you must be productive and fulfil destiny. They are: attitude to life, attitude to God, attitude to work, and attitude to money. An

understanding of these four will give anyone a great adventure in life.

ATTITUDE TO LIFE

To make a difference to your world, you must realise that life is a gift, not a grief, it is a privilege, not a right. After all, what role did you play in coming into this world? You played no role whatsoever in your existence. If you don't embrace the gift of life, you stand to be disgraced. Every murmuring against God paves way for destruction. He made you, so you must maintain an attitude of gratitude to your Maker, for the privilege of existence, so He does not withdraw the breath He gave you. That is why the Psalmist said let everything that has breath praise the Lord.⁵

Apart from appreciating God for your life, an understanding of what life means will help you make your life count.

What is life? Life can be defined as the art of living, and its' evidence is in contributions. In basic sense, only plants and animals are classified as living things, and their life is evidenced in their contributions. Plants generate the oxygen which animals take in, and animals in turn generate the carbon dioxide which plants utilize for their food. When a plant stops generating oxygen for the animals to consume, it means the plant is dead. Similarly, when an animal stops generating the carbon dioxide for the plants to consume, the animal is dead.

When you stop making contributions to your world, you are no longer living; you are merely existing. Stones exist, but have no life, because they do not make any contributions of their own. Life is about contribution, not consumption; it is about relevance, not significance.

Life is not about getting from people, but

it is about giving out to people - reaching out to them. Life is about service, not status; it is about sacrifice not surplus. It is about giving, not just receiving. It is your giving that provokes your receiving.

God is out to bless us, but we are blessed primarily to be a blessing to our world.⁶ Can you imagine yourself eating and drinking for weeks, but never visiting the toilet for weeks? The food is soon converted to poison. Likewise when you are not being a blessing to your world, life soon becomes miserable.

Life is about responsibility. The right attitude to life is a responsibility that we owe our destiny.

ATTITUDE TO GOD

Many people, even faithfully serving Christians, have a lopsided view of God, and this eventually crashes their destiny.

God is a loving Father, not a collector, and He proves His love by meeting our needs. Don't ever think you are giving to help God, as He will never need your help.⁸ God is not a user of mankind, He is the moulder of man's destiny. He is not a deceiver; His name is called, The Faithful.

God is our only dependable rescue. He is too big to require human support, so when you assume a supporters attitude, He may turn His back on you. You need to appreciate that the totality of your existence is a product of God's grace. God is not the source of your problem; He is your only dependable solution. Nobody ever contended with God and won, so don't try it.⁹

With a right attitude to God, you easily get Him committed to your cause; and if God be for you, nobody can be against you.

Remember, divine presence is your greatest asset in the race of life.

ATTITUDE TO WORK

Work is not a curse; it existed before the curse. It is a channel of blessing designed by God for our destiny.¹⁰

Behind every move, there is a mover. Behind every event in history, there is a human face. Nothing happens until you make it happen. Your attitude to work will determine your ultimate worth in life. When work becomes your hobby you soon become a high flier.

In most cases, our negative attitude to work is what has been the undoing of most of us. We have a slavery mentality to work – slaves wait to be forced to work or be supervised to perform.

You must realize that any skill you acquire on your job is an investment into your

future. If your attitude is that of just working for somebody else, it is negative and will not enhance your worth. You must work to learn, and not just work to earn. Working to learn makes a leader, whereas working to earn makes a slave. Cheap money is a bait for destruction. There is dignity in labour, it is the Creator's design to enhance our worth in the journey of life.

ATTITUDE TO MONEY

Once again, I assert there is no magic about money; it is essentially a medium of exchange for goods and services. So if you are not providing goods or services, you are not qualified to enjoy financial fortune.¹¹

Money is only a blessing if you have it. It becomes a curse if it has you. Money in the hand is a blessing, but if it gets into the heart, it becomes a curse, because the love of money opens you up to all kinds of evil.¹² It

is a form of cancer to destiny. Money is placed in your hands to enhance your stewardship to your world, not just to enlarge your possessions like the biblical rich fool.

If you don't have a working knowledge of financial blessing, it has power to destroy you. Money is essentially for doing good, being rich in good works, not just for accumulation. There is one thing you cannot over do, it is called "good!"¹³

You are required to be a blessing to the world according to the level of your financial fortune. The bigger your capacity to bless, the greater the level to which you will be blessed. That means you are the one who determines the extent to which you are blessed. As you keep dreaming genuine financial stewardship dreams, God is committed to continually build you up. But if you don't have a right perspective to money, you are likely going to end up a

victim.

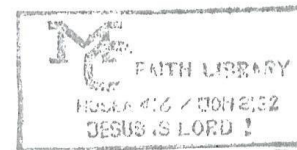
Remember, money without adequate financial light is money soon gone; so get informed on its uses.

Faithfully employing the principles outlined in this book on the seven power channels of purpose, information, preparation, ideas, skill, commitment, and attitude is enough to secure a turnaround for anyone and indeed the world around us.

Notes:

1. Genesis 17
2. Numbers 12:3
3. 1 Samuel 17
4. Philippians 2:5-11
5. Psalm 100:3; 150:6
6. Genesis 12:2
7. Proverbs 13:20
8. Psalm 50:12

9. Job 9:4
10. Proverbs 13:23
11. Matthew 20:3-10
12. 1 Timothy 6:10
13. 1 Timothy 6:17-18



Conclusion

Change is a possibility at any point in time, but it all begins first with a desire, a choice and a passion for change. Destiny is essentially a race of responsibilities. A change does not just occur, a change is effected.

In my opinion, every positive change of position is a product of the application of relevant forces.

For instance, for a book to change position from the floor to the top of your table, the following forces become relevant:

First, a desire to have the book on the table.

Second, a bending force, that is, the book will not jump from the floor to the table. You will have to bend down to pick it up.

Third, a picking force, that is, grabbing the book from the floor with your hand.

Fourth, a lifting force, that is, taking up the book and placing it exactly where you want it on the table.

This is what this book is all about; to identify all relevant forces for your much desired change of position.

This book has been written so that the rich treasure you carry will be unlocked.

Get set...it is your time to positively impact your world, because you have truly been empowered to effect a change.

Some other relevant titles from the author:

- * Towards Excellence in Life and Ministry
- * Success Strategies
- * Walking In Wisdom

Ruling YOUR World

Until something changes within you, nothing changes around you. Every change begins from within. Without a change within there can never be a change without.

This book unequivocally asserts that you must accept responsibility for change before you can experience a change. Emphasizing that nobody will build developing nations but the Nationals because places don't make people; it is people that makes places. It is a wake-up call particularly for the believers in developing nations to rise up and build their nations.

All through history, the move of God has always resulted in the advancement of mankind. By the time you are through reading this book, you will not just be challenged but you shall emerge as an agent of change.



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