

The background of the book cover features a large, weathered metal gear with a serrated edge, partially obscured by a pile of dry, brown autumn leaves. Two vertical red and orange gradient bars run down the left and right sides of the cover.

MAKING MAXIMUM IMPACT

DAVID O. OYEDEPO



Making Maximum Impact

David Oyedepo

It's Time For Impact

Let me begin this book by stating very emphatically that salvation is not an escape route to heaven, rather, it is a seal of distinction on the earth. In other words, salvation is not just securing a visa to heaven; on the contrary it is your guarantee for a life of impact on the earth.

You are born again to reign again. The first Adam was in charge, he was king of the earth, but sin brought him down. The second Adam, Jesus Christ, came to re-establish your dominion.

Everyone that is saved on the planet earth is saved to shine, not to suffer frustration, humiliation or oppression. As a matter of fact, the believer can be said to be a celebrity, someone the world should celebrate.

The essence of this book is to help you appreciate the fact that God paid a dear price to make somebody out of you. He actually gave up His only begotten son to ensure that you live an outstanding life on the earth.

Without mincing words, you are redeemed to reign, not to be enslaved. That is why to die as a nonentity is an abuse on redemption, a slap on the face of God!

Making Maximum Impact is about affecting your world positively. It is about making the most of your life, standing out among your peers, being unique, a plus not a minus, a contributor not a detractor, a distributor not a beggar. That is why Jesus said,

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

As the light of the world, the lost world should be able to get direction by observing the steps you are taking. You are a pacesetter by destiny! By virtue of redemption, the world should be learning how to go about the affairs of life

by observing you.

Jesus also said, ***“Ye are the salt of the earth”***, because you are to give taste to life and preserve the world system from decadence. That should excite you because just as salt is relevant to the good taste of a meal, you are relevant to your world. In fact without you the world will have no taste and is bound to decay!

Everyone knows that a city set upon a hill cannot be hid because it is outstanding. So when Jesus said you are a city set on a hill, it means that you are destined to live an outstanding life, to stand above your peers.

God is a God of purpose and a God of programmes. He is running an open agenda for this end-time as prophetically revealed in scriptures. Isaiah 2:1-3 says:

The word that Isaiah the son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

This prophetic agenda guarantees that you make a mark in your field of endeavour. We are in the success age of the Church, an age of supernatural manifestations, undeniable results, and best of all, we are a part of it all. The quality of results you have will command the respect of your colleagues. That goes to say that wherever you are located, you will stand out.

For instance, from the above scriptures we see that not only will believers stand out to such an extent that men are amazed at them, but their success will literally be a sickle for the end-time harvest.

I was at the airport sometime ago with my team when a group of reporters stopped me and began asking me some questions. When they were through, one of them said to me, “Excuse me sir, I want to surrender my life to Christ.” And right there on the tarmac, he gave his life to Christ.

These times we live in are such that men who ordinarily would scoff at

God are running after us to surrender their lives to Christ, because they see in us the reality of success. I envisage that before Jesus returns, the Church will be a voice to reckon with in all areas of human endeavour.

Therefore, even if you are at the bottom rung of the ladder now, you must rejoice because there is a glorious future for you in Christ!

Through this book, I believe that you will become a person of value, someone who will matter to your generation, a person of impact.

Chapter 1:

There's What To Be

When we talk about success, the first impression people have is that what you do determines how successful you are. But that is only partially correct. Who you are is just as important as what you do.

Joshua 1:6-9 says,

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good Success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

The word “be” is mentioned precisely four times. “Be strong”, “Be thou strong” and “Be not afraid”.

But look at the number of times “do” appears: “that thou mayest observe to do (verses 7 and 8) only two times. In all, there are four “bes” and two “dos”.

Without doubt, how much impact you will make in your generation is a function of the kind of person you are, over and above the kind of things you do. When I read that passage of scripture, I said, “Lord, what must I be in order to become what I am created to be? What must I be?” Then I saw:

Be Strong

“Be strong and of a good courage...Only be thou strong and very courageous...Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed...” — Joshua 1:6-7, 9

God kept reiterating to Joshua the need to be strong. The strength referred to in this context is not physical strength. It means to be wise, as we see in Proverbs 24:5: ***“A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”***

The essence of this wisdom in the school of divine promotion is to offer divine direction. The Teacher tells us that wisdom is profitable to direct (Eccl. 10:10). When you are wise and divinely directed, a sense of purpose comes upon you, which induces inner strength and makes you unstoppable in your journey to the top.

The latter part of Proverbs 24:5 says, *“man of knowledge increaseth strength”*. Knowledge here means to be informed; to be adequately enlightened about your mission. God was telling Joshua to check out everything He told Moses, because such information would help him on his journey to success. Daniel also attests to this truth that strength comes from knowledge; He said,

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall be corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. Daniel 11:32

Be Courageous!

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. Joshua 1:6-7

Courage is crucial for a life of impact. It is the backbone of all commanders. That is why if you are not courageous, you never become a commander. For sure, in every area of human endeavour there are challenges, but courage is what you need to deal with them. It is the answer to every challenge, no matter its size or duration.

With courage, no matter how tough the opposition gets, you can always subdue it.

Look at this great ministry God committed into our hands for instance. Today it has grown like the cedar of Lebanon described in the book of Ezekiel chapter 31, but for the first two years we were less than 400 members as a congregation. Yet I stayed on strong.

Why? Because I realized that it takes courage to command progress. Courage is what moves you from phase to phase.

Anyone who is very easily discouraged never becomes a man or woman of impact. That is why David constantly encouraged himself in the Lord. Even when his men thought of stoning him, David chose to encourage himself. (1 Samuel 30:6)

There will definitely be times when nobody would encourage you. At such times you must encourage yourself. If you are not a self-encouraged person, you may die in discouragement.

Jesus, for example, chose to focus on the joy that was set before Him instead of the cross He was nailed to. He saw a brighter tomorrow, so He was able to despise the present challenges.

Friend, don't cast away your confidence or courage, your reward is coming soon. When a man operates in confidence, he soon becomes a commander of rewards.

Be Meek!

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5

Meekness is not what you do, it is who you are. It has nothing to do with your actions but your attitude.

By divine arrangement you are to inherit the earth. You can increase the portion you inherit by meekness.

Over the years, I have observed certain great men of God and come to conclude that their greatness is a function of their meekness, not necessarily their prayer or fasting. Proud men never rise in this kingdom, because each time they attempt to, God resists them:

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. James 4:6

That was the case with Lucifer. He was excellent in his ways until iniquity was found in him. He wanted to take the position of the most High, his Creator. So God cast him down from heaven, (Ezekiel 28:12-15; Ish.14:12-14).

Pride brought Satan down to the pit. He lost his beauty, and was stripped of all glory. Pride is a destroyer of destinies. It is time to replace pride with meekness, if you desire to be great.

During the construction of the Faith Tabernacle, our ministry's 50,000-seat sanctuary in Canaan Land, church members were encouraged to put in volunteer labour on the site. And as I looked, I saw well-established businessmen and women carrying blocks on their heads and clearing debris with their bare hands. The Lord told me to tell His people that He had instructed them to work there to prove their meekness in order to determine their greatness.

Anyone who desires to make impact must embrace meekness. The Bible says about Jesus,

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus' Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death even the

death of the cross. Wherefore God also hat highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: Philippians 2:5-9

If Jesus, the Son of God rose by meekness, it follows that anyone who desires to rise can do so by meekness.

Friend, you need that type of mind which was in Christ Jesus, to make yourself of no reputation, take upon yourself the form of a servant; to humble yourself to a point where you can do whatever He tells you to do. When that is true of you, then nothing can stop your lifting to the level of making impact.

The Word says “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (1 Peter 5:6).

There is a due time in God’s agenda for every believer’s rising, but that time will never come until your humility has been proved. Jesus could boldly say of Himself,

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matthew 11:28-29.

You may be unsure, wondering, “How do I know if I am meek?” But I am persuaded that no one can be haughty or proud without knowing it, and similarly, no one can be meek without being aware.

So, examine the fruits you produce. Every tree is identified by its fruits. There are fruits or evidences of pride and fruits of meekness you know yourself.

Be Faithful

A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. Proverbs 28:20

The degree of impact a believer makes is, in addition to the attributes mentioned above, a result of his faithfulness. Nothing hinders fruitfulness like unfaithfulness. As a matter of fact, your faithfulness has a very great effect on the quality of impact you make.

Abraham, Moses and Jesus are clear examples of men who greatly impacted their world: Abraham became the father of nations; Moses was the greatest prophet and lawgiver Israel had ever had; Jesus the Messiah, was so outstanding that His impact continues until now. Without any doubt, these three were men of exploits and each of them had a remarkable record of faithfulness.

The Bible says of Abraham, ***“So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.” (Galatians 3:9).***

And of Moses and Jesus it says:

Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. Hebrews 3:2-3

Friend, faithfulness is a requirement for fruitfulness in life. It is time to stand up for integrity and probity; it's time to live a transparent life - your yea being yea and your nay, nay. In your place of work, be known as a faithful man. Don't mix up facts, change figures, or cover things up.

To be unfaithful and dishonest is to consciously destroy ones destiny. That is why many people, although hardworking, do not get high results. Their negative nature resists impact-making results.

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus shows the place of faithfulness in determining fruitfulness. The servant with ten talents was declared good and faithful and granted the opportunity to enter the rest of his Lord. The one with five talents had also been faithful over a few, so his master elevated him. This is a clear

indication that faithfulness enhances promotion.

Our ministry is not where it is today by luck. We have not succeeded by accident. We are blessed today because we maintain a testimony of faithfulness.

I have said, both publicly and privately, that not once has any part of the ministry's money found its way into my pocket. Even when we had our second son and did not have enough to throw a big party, I refused to dip my hands into church funds. Rather, my wife and I used the little money we had to purchase a few snacks.

True, I was the Bishop of the church, but the child was mine not the church's. So I did not see any reason why it should bear the cost of such a celebration.

I have been a faithful steward. That's part of why God is blessing me. I keep strongly to Paul's word to the Corinthians: ***"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).***

I said humorously sometime ago, that when God is checking our ministry records in heaven, I will say "Excuse me Lord, any question you have about anything in those records, just ask me and I will show you who was in charge at the time," because I have never been in charge of accounts.

Paul said of himself ***"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;" 1 Timothy 1:12***

He realized that the gateway to fruitfulness is faithfulness. To take it for granted is to ground your destiny. May you not be grounded!

Be Merciful!

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Life is a process of seedtime and harvest. Man always reaps what he sows. Everyone of us desires mercy at some time or the other, from God or from man.

However, to reap mercy, we ourselves must be merciful. Jesus said ***“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”*** (Matthew. 5:7).

The mercy of God is a defence against whatever challenges our great destiny.

Whenever anyone cried out for mercy in Scripture, Jesus never asked what offence led to the person's predicament. Rather, He immediately stood still and delivered the oppressed.

Take advantage of God's mercy to keep your heavens open and take delivery of all you need to maximally affect your world.

Be Grateful!

And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart. Malachi 2:1-2

To be grateful means to be thankful or appreciative. It is your depth of gratitude that determines your altitude. That means the more grateful you are, the higher you rise.

Never take anything God has done for granted or else you will become grounded. Rather, celebrate every blessing in your life.

For instance, consider the fact that you slept and woke up. You were able to do so because the Lord sustained you. The sustenance of God is a very basic reason for thanksgiving. How much more when you care to look closely at your life, you will find that there is always a reason to be grateful to God.

The ungrateful Christian remains a struggler all his days. Instead of his business appreciating it depreciates. Rather than going up, he finds himself plunging headlong! He tries hard to succeed but because God curses the blessings of the ungrateful, he keeps failing.

David said it is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord because burdens are lifted, yokes are destroyed, liberty is established, fruitfulness is guaranteed and lots more, just by being grateful (Psalm 92:1-15). This is one of the secrets of his lifting.

In Psalm 116 verse 17, the Psalmist said he would render unto God the “*sacrifice of thanksgiving*.” Why call it a sacrifice? It is because there are times you have to give thanks for what you have not yet received.

Note that nothing shatters destiny like grumbling. It breaks down your defenses and exposes you to the oppression of the wicked one.

God’s will for every member of the body of Christ is to be thankful in everything (1Thessalonians 5:18). If you have lost anything at all, God is the reason why you have not lost everything. Therefore, follow prophet Habakkuk’s advice and rejoice:

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments. Habakkuk 3:17-19

You can't go down praising God, neither can you remain empty.

These fundamental things are what you deliberately and consciously choose to BE. The choice for your lifting by God is in your hands. Take grace today to make the right choice, and your divine lifting shall not be denied you.

Chapter 2:

Vision For Impact

There is a vital secret for impact, which once contacted will set an individual up for a life of perpetual impact. That vital secret is vision. Vision is to impact what air is to man. Without it man would perish. That's why Proverbs 29:18 says,

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

The word perish here does not mean to die or expire. It means to be stripped of honour and dignity; it means to lose worth or value. To live without vision is to die in frustration. That is why no matter the looks, social background or academic qualification of a man, if he does not know his purpose for living, he has no place to occupy on this earth.

Martin Luther King once said, "If a man has no purpose for living he is not fit to live".

A life of impact begins with a sense of mission; it begins with a discovery of your purpose. It will be foolish for a man to arrive at the airport with his luggage and when the porters carrying his bags ask, "Sir, where are you going?", he says, "I don't know but I want to get a boarding pass!" That's absurd! Such a man is setting himself up for embarrassment and frustration; he could even be arrested as a criminal!

Unfortunately there are too many people in the body of Christ, eating and drinking, yet going nowhere. But the end-time Church to which we belong is made up of visionaries. Joel chapter 2 heralds the arrival of the endtime army:

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before

them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Joel 2:1-7

You will observe that one characteristic of this glorious group of people is vision. They are men who have discovered the course of their lives and are marching on their ways. Each one knows where he belongs and excels there. No wonder they move like mighty men.

Called For A Purpose

Every believer has a God-ordained purpose, an assignment or a task which he must fulfil on earth. The mystery is that even before you were born, God by an act of predestination, already chose you and prepared a divine assignment for you. The Word says:

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Romans 8:29-30

If you are born-again, you are a child of destiny. You have been redeemed to be glorified, therefore, you can expect a colourful future. Think about it, what did Jacob do to qualify to be God's choice? Absolutely nothing! Ever before their birth, God said, ***"Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" (Romans 9:13).***

The good news is that as Jacob was God's choice, so are we! Not of our own making, but by the privilege of divine election! You are called, and beyond that, you are called for a purpose. God told Jeremiah of his pre-selection before conception, ***"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."*** (Jeremiah 1:5).

Apostle Paul also confirms his divine selection:

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, Galatians 1:15

Looking at Paul's life, it is evident that God separated him from his mother's womb or else being the rascal that he was, he would never have been saved at all! However, you will observe that not only was he separated unto salvation before he was born, he was also sanctified and ordained a prophet unto the nations.

In the same way, every believer is separated for a purpose, and that purpose is what we call vision. It is the discovery and pursuit of this vision that enables you to make impact. Only men of purpose and precision become distinguished in life. They know where they are going and why they are on

the earth. Until you too locate where you belong and run with the vision, you cannot make impact on earth.

What Vision Does

The earlier you discover God's purpose for your life and abide in it with all excitement, the sooner you will begin to enjoy your pre-ordained glorification. So what more does vision offer?

It Enhances Focus

Any man who knows where he is going is automatically focused. He will do anything to fight distractions. He sets his face as a flint until he arrives at his expected end. Men of vision are men of focus!

It Infuses Energy

When a man is easily tired of an assignment, it is a sure sign that he is not pursuing a vision. When you are driving at accomplishing a task, you always have the energy to keep at it.

Without a bearing, life is bound to be boring. So when you're a man of vision, you enjoy a continuous supply of energy.

It Eradicates Waste

Vision is the cure for waste. Once a man has located God's plan for his life and is pursuing it, he does not want anybody to waste his time. He is focused. If you are hurrying to catch a flight and someone comes to visit you, you don't hesitate to quickly excuse yourself and bid him farewell.

Men of vision live waste-free lives, because they are committed to the pursuit of definite goals.

Discovering Vision

I have said that making impact in life begins with vision, having a sense of mission. How then do you take delivery of vision?

Go Direct To The Father

Your vision is a secret in the heart of God. That is why I Corinthians 2:9 says,

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

And Deuteronomy 29:29 says,

The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

If you want the secrets of where you belong unfolded to you, you must go to Him. Habakkuk 2:1 says:

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 reproved.

So, go to God in prayer, asking, “Lord, where do I belong? What is your plan for my life? I know that I am a child of destiny. What is my destination? I know that before you formed me in the womb you knew me and separated me for something. What did you separate me for?”

The truth of the matter is, God is eager to show you where you belong, if you will only ask Him.

I took delivery of where I belong directly from the Father, at the end of an eighteen hour encounter with Him: “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 is precisely why I am where I am today! Life without a vision will be clad with frustration.

Discover Your Divine Endowment!

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. Matthew 25:15

There is an endowment inside every one, called a gift or a talent, God has given something to everyone to occupy his place on the earth. Some have five, two, or just one, but every one has something.

A discovery of divine endowment is a very great avenue for locating your purpose.

Very many Christians are yet to fulfil their destinies because they have not discovered their divine endowment. In case you have waited to hear from God and have not, then know that you can make a discovery of your gift from within, by yourself.

Some of the questions to ask that will help you uncover your potentials are: “What do I do effortlessly? What do I do with great excitement? What do I do that gives me fulfillment? What am I productive at?” The answers to these questions are pointers to the gift of God on your inside.

It is lamentable that many people are doing what they are neither gifted at, nor graced for.

Please note that the underlying factor in a call from God into ministry is grace. You may not be originally gifted in the area of ministry He has called you to, but He will always back you up with grace to perform.

For instance, it was grace that enabled Moses to fulfil his life assignment. He was a stammerer yet God gave him the job of an orator. How was he going to carry out his assignment? Grace.

This is the major difference between the first and second avenues of obtaining a vision — that is, hearing from God and self discovery. To succeed at the former you need grace; to succeed at the latter you need your gift.

Make A Choice!

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: Deuteronomy 30:19

A third way to discover where you belong is by an act of your will, you choose what to do.

For instance by training, I am an architect. That was my choice, and I had a very nice time in it. In fact when you enter our premises, you see a touch of that discipline reflected. That was my choice.

God respects your choice. Whatever you choose becomes your lot in life. You can choose a particular career and by following the principles of God, prosper there.

Note however, that although God reckons with your choice per time, if He has called you to do something, your choice becomes irrelevant. Outside of this, the discovery of His endowments in you and your choice count before the Lord.

Have A Dream!

When we were children in school, our teachers would ask us, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Every one of us said something, but very few actually believed in what they said. Those who did and kept driving towards their goals arrived at their destinations.

Many people have left their future blank, they are not expecting anything, so they get there to find nothing.

Your expectation will always set the pace for your experience. Someone said, “Aim nothing, hit nothing”. It is time to have an expectation for your tomorrow. What you see, the mental picture you paint concerning your future, will set the pace for what you experience.

That is why God said to Abraham:

And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. Genesis 13:14-15

He had to see the land to possess it. We are all Abraham’s children by the covenant, and if Abraham had to see, so do we. Mind you, seeing here does not mean physical sight but seeing with the eyes of your understanding or perceiving with your mind.

What you see of your future, your expectation, is what is known as a dream. It is unfortunate that this dimension of vision is presently being ignored in the body of Christ, yet it is of tremendous significance to the believer, if he must make maximum impact in his generation.

Dreams are so powerful that in Genesis chapter eleven, when the sons of men were building the tower of Babel, God had to come down to see that remarkable work of their imagination.

As a result of the picture they had in their minds, God knew that they could not be stopped:

And the Lord said, Behold, the people is 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. Genesis 11:6

So, what do you see in your future? It is your picture that determines your future! What do you see ahead of you?

It is important at this juncture to distinguish between a vision and a dream. Whereas a vision tells you where you belong, a dream determines its existence. For instance, God has called someone to preach, but all he sees is a church of 500. In spite of the great vision he has, he will never have more than 500 members. Why? Because there is a law in place that says, it is as far as your eyes can see that shall be given to you.

To live a life of impact you must discover your purpose for living and be a committed dreamer. It takes both visions and dreams to make a mark on the earth. One cannot survive without the other.

The easiest way to paralyse a vision is to be dreamless, because a dream is what drives vision. It is what gives motion to vision. On the other hand, to lack vision is not to have a purpose for living. Vision sets the pace, dreams determine the extent. Three things that dreams do for you are:

- They become a force that drives you on to accomplishment. That is why most successful men are dreamers. They are the ones who make a mark in their generation. Friend, we live in a dreamer's world. If you do not have a dream, you are doomed. A dream is the gateway to a boom.
- A dream establishes your expected end. In Jeremiah 29:11, God makes a very powerful declaration concerning your future:

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

When you have a dream, the expected end God has for you is secure, and nothing can stop you from arriving at it. That dream infuses into you an unusual drive towards achieving your goal. So what you see, the picture you have in your mind is crucial if you will make maximum impact.

I am persuaded that the devil knows how important the mind is in charting a course for the future. So he makes it the hottest battlefield for man. You must guard your mind jealously because the devil is looking for how to corrupt and pollute it.

- A dream brings about the dawn of a new day for you. Every turn

around begins with a dream. No matter how young or old you.

may be, once you have a dream it marks a turning point in life for you. Josiah, for instance, was only eight years old when he began to reign in Judah. Abraham, on the other hand, was seventy-five when God unveiled the divine plan for his life. Purpose is never late. All you need is a decision to pursue it, and that decision determines what happens.

Apostle Paul was a man who pursued definite goals. He said, ***“I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air” 1 Corinthians 9:26***

In other words “I am pursuing a definite goal”. At the end of everything, after he had accomplished his purpose he said, ***“...I have fought a good fight...” (2 Timothy 4:7).***

Even Jesus while on earth was a man of purpose. He said in response to Pilate’s question, ***“...Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth...” (John 18:37).*** He had one end and came for one cause. That’s why He said “end” not ends, and “cause” not causes. Jesus has set an example for us that we should walk in His steps.

I have discovered that men who make outstanding impact on their generation are men of purpose. You too must become a man of purpose to become a man of accomplishment. You are not every man, you are just one man. That means one thing is sufficient for you to pursue. Give it all you have got and you will get all it contains.

I am doing only one thing in the world, and that is what He has sent me to do. I have not invested money into any organization, yet I am blessed as I pursue my goal.

Show me a man with a goal and I’ll show you a go-getter in the making.

Pursuing Purpose

There are many people in the world today who have taken pains to discover where they are going, but who are yet to accomplish anything, because vision is not automatically equal to distinction. It must be coupled with action. That is to say, it is purpose plus pursuit that results in achievement. Habakkuk said:

And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. Habakkuk 2:2

God was saying through the prophet, “Don’t sleep with the vision, don’t just talk about the vision, don’t dance with it, “run” with the vision! Every day dreamer, the one who does nothing with his dreams, — will have nothing to show for it. Apostle Paul says,

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 1 Corinthians 9:24

The book of Hebrews also talks of the race of life saying, ***“... let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).***

There is a race set before you, you must discover what it is and run it. There is a prize to obtain, but it is only for runners, not talkers or sleepers. It is time to run the race of destiny.

A young man who wants to be a medical doctor, he must first know which subjects to take. Then must be prepared to give it all he’s got, otherwise that dream will never become a reality. Many Christians know where they are going but are not ready to give it what it takes.

People come to share their dreams with me. They say, “O, about twenty years ago, I knew I should go into business, but I was getting myself ready” or “Fifteen years ago, God called me into ministry, but as I was sorting myself out, God called someone else to do it.”

God cannot be stranded! Whatever purpose He has for your life is transferable to another, if you are not ready for it. Men of action are men of distinction. Get ready to step out, because until you step out, you never stand out. No matter how slow your steps may be, take them any way. One wise

man said, “If you cannot fly, run. If you cannot run, walk. If you cannot walk, crawl. By all means keep moving”. I have kept moving.

In conclusion, let me say that God is not a respecter of colour, country, or gender. He is not a respecter of persons, everyone that fears Him and walks uprightly is accepted with Him. So no matter your colour, education, gender or tribe, you can get to the topmost position in life.

I am a living witness to this truth. God has blessed me beyond my wildest imagination, yet I am not surprised that He has. I am not surprised that God has brought our church to where it is today. I would have been surprised if He hadn't.

Also, I am not surprised that our marriage is hitch-free, I would have been surprised if we had troubles. It is not because I am special, but because I saw from scriptures what it takes to be successful and I have committed myself to doing those things.

Friend, you are a man or woman to be envied.

“Eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man what God has in store for you” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

All you need is to have a dream and be committed to it. Remember Joseph? He had a dream, and was committed to it, so he ended his journey in the palace. The fact that he was hated did not cancel his future.

Many years ago, I was walking around the premises of Oral Roberts University in America, and looking at those fantastic structures, I told myself, “It can happen anywhere.” That was on about 500 acres of land. Today, by the grace of God, our ministry has over 700 acres of land.

Dare to dream beyond where you are now! Stay committed to your dream, and the world that hates you today will envy you tomorrow!

Chapter 3:

Insight For Impact

Two motor mechanics run their workshops side by side. The first one appears to struggle with every vehicle that comes to him for repairs. He does not seem to know what to do. Obviously he does not have adequate knowledge about cars. Everyone who takes his car to him leaves dissatisfied. Soon, word begins to spread that he does not know the job.

The second mechanic is very different. Just by listening to the sound of your car engine running, he can tell what is wrong with it. So without much ado, he bends down to rectify the problem and in no time, the car is in good working condition. So you tell your friends, “I have a mechanic who is such a wonderful craftsman. He can fix any car.” Before long, that motor mechanic begins to make impact in that environment. Why? He has adequate knowledge of his job!

Knowledge is what determines the degree of impact anybody makes. The deeper the knowledge, the greater the impact. There is simply no short cut to it. Impact is a direct product of insight. That is why Daniel 11:32 says:

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Those who know their God are the ones that will command attention by reason of their results. They will stand out as a city set on a hill, which cannot be hid. They will obtain outstanding breakthroughs!

In these end-times, the results coming from the Church will be so amazing they will humble sinners. Our generation will bow in awe at the things God will be doing through us. Don't label yourself unlucky. You are not unlucky; you are not disadvantaged, or unfortunate, all that you are suffering today is a special case of ignorance!

You are not a failure because somebody is against you, you are a failure because you don't know what it takes to be a success! God says:

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me:

seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. Hosea 4:6

Unfortunately, many Christians blame the devil for their lack of success. But as a wise man once said, “You are not a failure until you start looking for who to blame for it.”

If the devil could not stop others from succeeding, how is he able to stop you? The devil does not have the nature of love in him, so the issue is not that there are some people he loves! The Bible calls him “the wicked”; his very nature is wickedness. If others are making it, surely the devil is no excuse for failure. There is no mountain anywhere, every man’s ignorance is his mountain!

You Need A Word Encounter

Read this story carefully:

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Luke 5:1-10

The fishermen in this narrative were already, worn out and frustrated when Jesus entered into their ship and instructed them to thrust out a little from the land. After ministering to the people he said to Peter, ***“Launch out into the deep, an let down your nets for a draught”***. Peter argued that they had toiled all night and had taken nothing. Then he said, ***“...nevertheless at thy word...”***.

This story adequately describes the situation many believers find themselves today. Jesus has entered into their lives as Lord and Saviour just as He entered Peter's boat (Remember we are vessels of mercy according to Romans 9:23) but, they are still frustrated, because the presence of Jesus in ones life does not mean an automatic access to breakthroughs.

What triggers off the miraculous in your life is, ***“Nevertheless at thy***

word”. It is the Word of God at work in you that determines your worth in life. To make maximum impact, you must respond positively to the Word of God.

Perhaps you have toiled all night and caught nothing, but if you will give heed to the Word you will not only enclose a great multitude of fish, the kind that breaks nets, you will also need to beckon on others to come and help. That’s maximum impact!

It takes an encounter with the Word of God to become a man and a woman of impact. It is the Word that brings an end to frustration, stagnation and humiliation.

Looking at Peter, you will discover that the encounter he had with God’s Word not only ended his life of misery, it enabled him to make the kind of impact that is still being felt years after his death.

That can be your own testimony too!

Think about it, if creation, the greatest event in human history, came as a result of the Word of God, the greatest impact a man can make will have to be as a result of the Word.

A woman met me sometime ago (at the site of our new church auditorium), and she testified that when she first came to the church four years ago, she could barely clothe and feed herself. But as at the time we were talking, she had bought a ship and was requesting for a pastor to come and dedicate it. I asked her, “Do you mean a boat or a ship?”

She said, “a ship”. According to her, it was the Word she had been hearing from the altar that turned her life around.

If you want to become a man of impact, your responsibility is to get addicted to the Word of God. It will cheaply make a star out of you. There are quite a number of successful men and success motivation speakers in the world. They have a lot of ideas, keys and secrets of success which they peddle, however none is comparable to the secrets in the Word of God. The Word is tried and tested; it is infallible. Its source is eternal, so its effect is universal. I can count on every word written there. It contains all you need to make maximum impact on the earth.

Job was a man who impacted his generation tremendously. He had so much possessions that he was known as the greatest man in the East. The East at that time was the centre of civilization, so Job was the greatest man in the greatest country of the world.

That man made so much impact that he even commanded the attention of the devil.

The truth of the matter is that you can never command the attention of the devil, until your life becomes a threat to his kingdom; and nothing threatens him like a life of impact.

What then was Job's secret?

When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness; Job 29:3

Job became a man of impact through the secrets of God he had contacted. At the root of every revolution is revelation, and the basis for every transformation is information. It was the information Job had access to that transformed him to a man of impact.

We are in the success age of the Church, but what the Church needs to accomplish anything is information. That should not be a problem because we have the richest information bank available to any group of people, and we are connected to the original source of life, God Almighty!

A young man came up to me one day and said, "Sir, you said something last year, and it has come to pass in my life. You said that by September, 5,000 people in this church would have become millionaires. I am one of them!"

If this young man had not shared his testimony with me, I never would have guessed that he was a millionaire because he did not look it. Yet all that God had done in his life, is a function of his response to the secrets of God's Word that were unfolded to him.

If you will take time out to locate the secrets of God, you will become a man to be reckoned with on the earth. All a man needs to live a prosperous life and enjoy good success is contained in the Word of God. That is why God commanded Joshua to embrace it and make it his way of life, if he desired to have good success:

This book of the law shall not depart from thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good Success. Joshua 1:8

The Word of God is our manual for living. Adhering to the instructions

contained therein will result in a glorious and colourful life as God declares in Deuteronomy 28:1

... if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

This scripture makes it clear that there is a way to put the Word to work, for it to place you far above the nations of the earth. That way is, to observe to do all that the Word says.

That explains why Jesus told Peter: “Launch out into the deep”. Every fisherman knows that the fish of great value are located in deep waters. All that is found in shallow waters are tilapia and frogs. The amazing sea creatures like whales, sharks and dolphins, are in the sea.

If you must live an impactful life, you must be prepared to launch deep into the Word. Every launch into the deep results in an amazing catch. When Peter obeyed and thrust out, he caught more than he bargained for. When Joshua paid attention to the Word, it ushered him into a life of impact. The Word is what you need to make lasting impact on the earth.

On a trip I took to East Africa, I observed that everyone who stood up to share a testimony said, “I am saved and love the Lord.” So I told them, “It is not enough to be saved and love the Lord, you must be saved and filled with the Word, if you desire to make impact!”

Jesus knew that there are many things vying for our attention, yet He told Martha that only one thing is needful to make life meaningful, and that thing is the Word of God. Until you give maximum attention to the Word, you never make maximum impact.

For instance, once you locate the truth on divine healing and seize it, you become eternally free from the harassment of sickness. The same thing applies to financial prosperity, success, etc. Nobody recovers without a tangible discovery from God’s Word. No doubt, a discovery is the believer’s guarantee for recovery.

Here is a proof of what I am saying as shared by a sister in the church:

I was a trained secretary and I was working as one until 1991 when my husband insisted that he will like me to join him in his boutique where he sells imported wears. I joined him, but I was not fulfilled and wasn’t

happy. I started seeking God's face for what to do. As I was studying the Bible one day, I got to where Joseph was prospered as a houseboy. I was so excited, so I started asking questions in my mind. And then the Holy Spirit ministered to me that if God can prosper a houseboy, then as a wife I can be prosperous in my own husband's house. I became relaxed from then.

So I started searching through the scriptures again and I got to where God gave Moses the description of how to build the tabernacle. God told him that he has put in some people, the spirit to make artistic designs.

I discovered from there that it is not that they actually went to school to learn, but through the Spirit of God upon them, they had inspiration and they were able to accomplish the task. From these, it was like the word was being lifted from the pages of the Bible and somebody was really talking to me. I knew there and then that I have the gift of God on my inside to make designs.

I also discovered from Proverbs 31 that the virtuous woman had her own business. She bought a vineyard even from her own purse. So I realized I must be an asset to my husband, my children and even to my in-laws and everybody that God has brought my way. That made me really settle down to put my hands to work.

I started out with just a tailor. By the grace of God, today I have about twelve tailors with small domestic machines. Also we have about twelve industrial machines, buttonhole and hemming machines, and four embroidery machines.

— **Banjo, A.**

Everything a person becomes is a function of the discoveries he has made. So how do you make the necessary discoveries?

Study!

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

The art of studying involves a conscious search for facts, a search for heavenly information that will ultimately produce earthly transformation. That is what it means to study.

Note, however, that the main purpose of your study is to show yourself approved unto God. It is when you are approved of God that you have proofs. Once there are proofs, impact is guaranteed.

To rightly divide the Word of truth means to know which scripture is most appropriate to handle a particular situation. It is knowing where to draw the light required to produce your desired result. Anyone who refuses to study is preparing for a life of shame.

Life does not answer to luck, it answers to light. Many people have been suffering, waiting for a day when things will get better. But their suffering will not cease until the Word comes. Success in life is not a function of chance, but of choice. Until you choose knowledge, your struggle continues!

I am persuaded that no one succeeds by chance, no one makes things happen by accident. Impact is a product of secrets discovered. Apostle Paul, was a man of tremendous impact; although the last to join the apostles, he became the chief. But his rise was far from being accidental. He was a very studious man — carrying his notes and books everywhere, as revealed in his letter to Timothy:

The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments. 2 Timothy 4:13

He was a man who dug deep into the scriptures, understanding its mysteries above all of his peers. Ultimately he wrote 50 per cent of the New Testament. Impact is a product of insight!

One of the most outstanding men in scriptures is Daniel. Although a captive, he made tremendous impact in Babylon because of the secrets of God at his disposal. None of the wise men of the land could equal the depth of insight he had. Daniel proved time and time again that the secrets of God are superior to the secrets of men. God's ways are higher than man's ways and

His thoughts than man's thoughts; even His foolishness is wiser than the wisdom of men!

As intelligent as Daniel was, it was obvious that his secret lay in his access to divine insights which he contacted by studies. He himself said he ***“understood by books...” (Daniel 9:2).***

Paul too was a man of tremendous unction, yet he could not do without studying.

Nothing can take the place of a studious life, not your gift, and definitely not the anointing!

The Word of God is the main text for all round success. It addresses all issues of life, and answers all man's questions. That explains why no student of the Word is a failure in the world.

A young man was diagnosed as being HIV positive. He remembered hearing me share how another lady with the same problem had triumphed over it through knowledge. He got some tapes, bought a walkman and began listening to the Word, checking through the scriptures as well.

He later went for tests twice, and came with the results, as evidence as he shared the testimony of his healing. Both tests confirmed him HIV negative! Friend, every question in life has an answer in the Word of life! Everything that makes for life and godliness is ours potentially. However, for them to become ours in reality, we need knowledge:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 2 Peter 1:2-3

The things you need can be purchased through knowledge. Until you find it in the Word, it never comes to pass in your life.

Even in the natural, a discovery always precedes a recovery. For instance, when a man loses his goods, and reports the incident to the Police, they begin a search. Until the missing goods are discovered, they cannot be recovered. That is why it is foolhardiness to talk about a recovery when there has been no discovery.

It is therefore necessary that you undertake a discovery mission in the challenging areas of your life. You must embark on a deliberate search for

facts, and if your situation is desperate, desperately search out the facts that can deliver answers to you.

I don't care what you are looking for. It is in the Word, all you need to do is search for it. If you search the first time and do not find it, search again. If you research and still do not find it re-search! Don't stop searching until you find it. Why? It is there.

Unfortunately, many Christians give up too soon. They search the scriptures once, and if they don't find what they are looking for, they give up! But if they lose a thing of value in their bedroom, they will sweep until they find it. In fact, if it is not located the first time, they will sweep again and again, sometimes lifting up the carpet, shaking it desperately, because they believe it must be there!

I have not arrived where I am in God by chance, I got there by searching, researching and re-searching. Many years ago, I embarked on a desperate search for the secret of prosperity. I wanted to know how to access, operate and maintain it. I separated myself for three days and took along with me three books - one by Kenneth Copeland and another by his wife Gloria and the Book of books, the Bible. By the third day, I found it. My eyes opened and my understanding blossomed. Immediately, I knew I could never be poor again!

I may not be the wealthiest man, but I know I am one of the wealthiest men in the kingdom.

My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off. Proverbs 24:13-14

Until you have found what you are looking for, you cannot have proofs. The world is tired of stories, excuses and explanations from you, now it wants to see proofs. It is not interested in how grammatically correct your English is; it wants to know how much impact you are making.

You will observe that when a man goes to the bank to withdraw money, it is not his English diction that determines whether or not he is able to withdraw money. All that commands respect is the amount he has in his account.

In this kingdom, what commands results is how much knowledge you

have.

Take the issue of marriage and family life for instance. In no other area of life have people been as battered. When I was growing up, I saw first hand, the perils of marriage. One of our neighbours had turned his living room into a boxing ring, and his wife into a punching bag! It was a very disheartening sight, which made me to decide I did not need marriage.

When I came to the Lord and came of age, I asked the Lord His purpose for instituting marriage and how I could get the best out of it. In my search and hours of meditation, I contacted seven power keys to a hitch-free, problem-free, crisis-free home.

I discovered that like prosperity, marriage is not a promise but a covenant. So if I do what is expected of me, I will not even need to pray before success in family life will become mine.

I also found that marriage is meant to be a plus not a minus; it is for a lifting and not for demotion. By instituting marriage, God was not looking for how to make life worse for man but how to improve it. Marriage is definitely not for better and worse as the catechists would have us believe; it is for better and better!

What about Church growth? Well, our church is not growing by chance, but by knowledge of God's secret of church growth. God told me, "Keep sowing the seed, and as the grass grows, the sheep will come for it." Jeremiah 3:14-15 says,

Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

From this passage, it occurred to me that as long as I am feeding the people with wisdom and knowledge, the church will keep multiplying and increasing. Acts 6:7 confirms this:

And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

So, any pastor who wishes to see his church grow must feed the flock with life applicable teaching, not religious dogma.

As a boy growing up, I watched how my grandmother tended her livestock. In those days the houses were not fenced, so domestic animals moved freely from house to house.

However, I noticed that any time my grandmother was going to feed her livestock, other animals from neighboring places would gather as well. Try hard as she may, she could never chase them away. Even if she tried to, they always returned, because their owners did not bother to feed them.

God reminded me of this incident to teach me how to grow a church. All a pastor needs to do is to give the flock fresh food and the sheep will lie down content. The psalmist said: ***“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.” (Psalm 23:2)***

The important thing here is that it is not just food —, but fresh food “*green pastures*”. That is how our church has kept on taking giant strides, recording remarkable increases annually.

Nothing commits God to perform like discovered truth. Once you have found it, God is committed to confirm it, because He cannot deny Himself. I also found divine health through a studious search I have not always been healthy. If anything, I was a sickly boy and worst of all, I had tuberculosis. One day however, my eyes opened to Matthew 8:17 which says,

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

I concluded that if He “took” my infirmities and bore my sicknesses, then I cannot have them.

Discovery is the fastest route to having strong influence. Even in the world we live in, a discoverer never really dies. His breath may stop, but his discoveries live on. Several generations after, men will still be celebrating them.

The main problem with believers is that although they know that the Bible contains all the answers to the questions of life, they are half-hearted in their search. Its time to give it all you’ve got.

In Luke 15:8, Jesus shares a parable about a woman who lost a piece of

silver. To locate it, she lit a candle and sought for it diligently until she found it. The point of emphasis here is that she lit a candle.

Proverbs 20:27 says ***“The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.”*** All that makes for life and godliness is in the ‘belly’ of God and only your spirit can search it out. That is why until your spirit is active in your search for answers, heaven may not reckon with your efforts.

It Is A Personal Responsibility

Responsibility is the price of greatness. There is no free lunch in life. If you do not want to die a liability, you must accept responsibility.

Remember what happened in the days of Elisha: The widow of one of the sons of the prophets was about to lose her two sons to her husband's creditors, so she ran to Elisha for help. He asked her, "What hast thou in thine house?"

Until she remembered that she had a little oil, she did not procure her miracle solution.

Friend, there's a price to pay for a life of impact, it is the discovery and application of the truth. One secret discovered is enough to shoot a man to the top. I see you getting there, in Jesus' name!

Chapter 4:

Think And Make Impact

Everyone born of God is born a star. That means, no matter the colour of your skin, gender or race, as long as you are a bonafide child of God you are destined to shine on the earth.

This becomes easily believable when you consider the fact that Jesus Himself is a Star:

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. Revelation 22:16

Stars shine at night, but the light of Jesus shines not only at night, but during the day as well.

We know from John 17:18 that as the Father sent Jesus, even so has He sent us. What this boils down to is that: If the light of Jesus subdues the day and the night, our light too should be so prominent that even in broad day light it shows.

It must sink deep into your consciousness that you are created to be a star, a pace-setter in your community, a guiding light to those in darkness, an impact maker. That's what you are created to be!

However, the world we live in is for thinkers. It is for those who, by the use of their brains, have determined the level of their gains. That was how Joseph, a Hebrew slave could rise to such great heights in the land of his captivity. He made impact through the use of his mind.

Without the use of your mind, no one will mind you.

Regrettably, the Church has ignored the place of the mind in impact-making. But man is tripartite. He is a spirit with a soul, living in a body. Paul makes this clear in 1 Thessalonians 5:23,

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So God recognizes your three-in-one existence. My emphasis in this chapter is the soul. It is there that the mind, will and emotion exist. The mind is the intellect of man. All his reasoning capabilities are stored in it.

The church has lost grounds to the world in the use of the mind, because until very recently, any emphasis on the mind was considered detrimental. However, the truth is that without the use of the mind, a man has no worth. It is the qualitative use of the mind that determines your worth on the earth.

Think about it, once a man loses his mind and is said to be insane, he actually loses his value as a human being. He is not reckoned with among the living. During a population count or census, no one counts the mentally deranged. They are not given houses to rent or put in schools or given employment. So you see, the worth of a man is tied to the use of his mind.

New birth does not only affect the spirit of a man, but every other part as well. **John 8:36** says, ***“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*** So at new birth, you were not only freed spiritually and physically, but mentally too.

There is an open invitation in **Isaiah 1:18**, which says,

“Come now, and let us reason together...”

In essence, no matter how terrible your situation, “Come now, and let us reason together....” It is the quality of your reasoning that will determine how much of the good of the land you are able to access.

To reason means to think logically, rationally and analytically. As important a place as the Holy Ghost occupies in our lives, He cannot think for anyone. You cannot substitute the use of your mind with praying in tongues, prophesying or laying hands on the sick. It simply has no substitute!

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Acts 6:2

They used the word, ‘reason’. That means, “We have sat down to logically look at this assignment, and we have decided that we cannot leave the ministry of the Word and prayer to serve tables.”

So they delegated their authority, choosing able men to see to the welfare of the widows, while they faced their main task.

You will observe that they never said, “It seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us,” or “The Holy Ghost said.” No! They sat down to reason it out, although it was Pentecost time and the Holy Spirit was just freshly poured out on the earth!

Friend, reasoning makes rich. Your level of impact cannot be separated from the use of your mind.

The Church has celebrated the place of the spirit. It has emphasized the need for a healthy body, but it has totally ignored the place of the mind.

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. Proverbs 23:7

The mind can be likened to the control room of life because it co-ordinates and controls the activities of a man. Call it the headquarters of a man's existence, if you like. That is why scriptures say, as a man thinks in his heart (heart here meaning mind), so is he.

Out of your mind are the issues of life. How much life delivers to you is a function of how well you engage your mind in productive activity. Therefore ***“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)***

The issues of life are not handled by prayer alone. In fact, there are many things we pray about, that simply engaging our minds in thinking can cheaply dissolve.

I have never sat down to pray about my family, for instance. All I have done is to discover from scriptures what God expects to be done, properly analyses it and then take appropriate action. That is why my prayers are very short. I know that the things prayed about and those thought about have equal access to the Father because the Word says:

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Ephesians 3:20

It is a fact that the men regarded as stars in various fields today are committed thinkers. So, it follows that those who desire to become stars must become thinkers. Until you become a committed thinker, you don't become a commander!

The thrones of the earth are reserved for thinkers. Kings rule by wisdom,

not by strength, money or appearance:

Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. Proverbs 8:14-15

That implies that the depth of your thought life will determine your height of attainment. Nothing will take you up in life faster than the quality of your thoughts.

According to Psalm 1:1-3, a man who will become like a tree planted by the rivers of water - ever flourishing, and ever blossoming is the man who takes time to meditate on the law of God day and night. By meditation, I do not mean pious looks or sitting down in deep religion, I mean sitting down to logically, rationally and analytically think through the precepts of scriptures to get results. That is what catapults a man to great heights in life. So start thinking!

Apostle Paul gives us a ‘thought-syllabus’, that is, what kind of things to think about. Things true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of a good report, full of virtue, and praise-worthy should form our thoughts. (Philippians 4:8) Paul is saying, “Do you want good reports? Think on how to get them.”

For instance, in recent times, our ministry has been engaged in mammoth construction projects. Yet all that goes on, on the site is being supervised directly by our team, without a contractor! As a result the projects are executed at half the estimated cost yet with impeccable quality, simply because we had the sense to do the job. By sound, rational, logical and analytical thinking, no mountain is insurmountable.

The world is not ruled by men of strength, but by men of sense. Hardwork can never produce what high sense can! Aren’t there hardworking labourers who never make it to the top? But show me a hard thinker, and I’ll show you a man going somewhere!

Even the Son of God, Jesus, caused an explosion in His world by His wits! Everywhere He went, men marvelled at the wisdom He displayed. Even at the age of twelve, He kept the doctors of the law on their toes, asking them questions and answering theirs:

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. Luke 2:40, 42, 46-47,52

Looking at verses forty and fifty-two, it is evident that Jesus' development was not lopsided. Physically, He increased in stature, mentally, He was filled with wisdom; and spiritually, He waxed strong in spirit. Jesus was not only filled with wisdom, He increased in it.

Recall that, 1 Corinthians 1:24 calls Jesus the power and the wisdom of God. Yet He increased in wisdom. This should help you appreciate the fact that your mind has an unlimited capacity for growth.

Every Christian requires a three-dimensional growth - spiritually, mentally and physically. As a matter of fact, Romans 8:6 says, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." In other words, if to be spiritually- minded results in life and peace, then to be spiritually mindless will result in chaos and crisis! To be spiritual without the mind being affected positively will make a man an abject failure.

Regenerated, Anointed And Sound!

Every born-again Christian possesses a regenerated, anointed and sound mind. Your mind is regenerated because the Bible clearly says if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature and old things are passed away (2 Corinthians 5:17). That newness affects the three dimensions of your being - spirit, soul and body.

A regenerated mind is the opposite of a reprobate mind. Reprobate means depraved or spiritually unproductive. That is what unbelievers have, and that explains why no matter how intelligent they may be, they still stoop down to do some very silly things:

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Romans 1:28

The Bible also tells us that the wisdom of this world amounts to nothing, when compared to the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 2:6). As far as God is concerned, what the world has is zero compared to what redemption offers the believer.

However, despite that 'zero-mentality', unbelievers have managed to succeed in many areas of life. We should do much more with the loaded minds we have!

Every born-again Christian who goes a step further to be baptised in the Holy Ghost, not only has a regenerated mind, he also has an anointed mind. From Isaiah 11:3, we see that when the Holy Spirit comes upon a man, He makes him "of quick understanding":

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: Isaiah 11:3

The Holy Spirit fertilizes the mind, enhancing its ability to comprehend deep things. That explains why the man Stephen, after Pentecost, spoke with such confidence that no one could resist the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke (Acts 6:10).

In fact, he summarized in one chapter, the history of Israel!

That should suggest to you and I that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not only for speaking in tongues, but to enhance your understanding. It is to make you live a smart life. You are by destiny supposed to outsmart the world, not to be the one always outsmarted, outwitted or out run!

1 Corinthians 2:16 makes it clear that you have the mind of Christ, which according to Paul, is sound, sensible and profound.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

With the winning combination of a regenerated, anointed and sound mind, what more does anyone need to excel? That is to say, you have three times more than what an unbeliever has, so you have what it takes to beat the world. God expects greater results from you and I because He has endowed us with what it takes to make it. So, sit up! Where you are now is not your end, there is a greater tomorrow awaiting you!

God has given us a brain so we can give Him rest. When a baby is born, all he needs to do to attract his mother's attention is cry. However, as he grows older, his cry does not command the same attention; in fact the first likely thing is that he will be scolded.

Similarly, your crying to God in prayer is a nuisance to Him, because He expects you to have outgrown certain things by now! Just as our natural parents expect to have rest as we grow, so also, we must give God an opportunity to rest by putting our mental resources to work.

You are superior to your world. If the four Hebrew boys in Babylon - Daniel, Shadrack, Meschak and Abednego could beat the Babylonians by their wits, how much more we, under a new covenant with better promises. Remember that they were found to be ten times better than all their colleagues because an excellent spirit was found in them. Now you know that you not only have an excellent spirit, you have a regenerated, anointed and sound mind. So how can you fail?

Those Hebrew boys were captives in Babylon, yet they earned the respect of everyone - from the king to the commoners. When a man has results, nobody wants to know whether he is black, white, yellow or even green. Nothing commands respect like results.

Even in the West today, there are black men who are multi-millionaires and white men who are paupers. So you are not disadvantaged as long as you

are saved. You are saved to shine!

Developing The Mind

As has been mentioned earlier, success is a result of the use of the senses. Men of impact are men of 'sense'. The brain of man is the means behind all his gains, it is the life-line of his destiny; but it does not produce great profits automatically. The Word says it must be stirred up:

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6

Through Studies

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:2

Information is an important way to sharpen the mind. As you expose your mind to information relevant to your field of endeavour, transformation into a man of impact in that area becomes inevitable.

For instance, after the Lord called me to ministry, I started gathering materials that would help me understand how to do the work He had called me to do. I studied about 38 different biographies, so that when I am confronted with a challenge I can make reference to how others dealt with it.

Solomon the wisest said:

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

Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. Ecclesiastes 8:1

When a believer gives himself to rubbing minds with others through reading and researching, he can be said to be sharpening his mind or brain. This is because the authors of those books are higher minds, so by interacting with their writings, he is exposing his mind to information that will lead to his own transformation.

If that is true of books written by human authors, how much more when you sharpen your mind with the Word of God, whose author is the only wise God? You will become a star indeed! That is why you need to sit down in consistent and concentrated study.

This is the edge you have over the world — your access to the wisdom of the only wise God packaged in the Bible. That is why the closer you are to God, the wiser you become in the affairs of life.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Romans 11:33

Imagine that! Your contact with God is contact with the depth of the riches of His wisdom and knowledge, which to the world is past finding out. But you need to sit down and consciously rub minds with God.

That was the secret behind the impact the Hebrew boys made in the land of captivity. Whatever the king was asking for, they told him that no one on earth had the answer except God Almighty. Those fellows stood out because of their connection to the custodian of all secrets — God!

That is why your case is different from that of unbelievers. When you are connected to the original source, you will produce original results! I remember a time when we were at a University for a lecture, I did not know exactly what was expected of us, but when we got there I saw some well-known ‘Brains’ in the country reading their papers. I was wondering what they were reading.

When it was my turn, I came to the podium and by the help of the Holy Ghost “read” an unwritten address. It swallowed up everything the others had said! I concluded that when you are connected to source, it shows!

God is the authentic source of mental prowess. That is why when you are linked up with Him you should see it as an opportunity to access wisdom. How else do you develop your mind?

By Impartation

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses. Deuteronomy 34:9

As soon as Moses laid hands on Joshua, his mental system was fired up. That impartation delivered to him mental dignity.

Timothy also had the same experience when Paul laid hands on him:

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:6-7

By Wise Association

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20

The association you keep will either make or break you. If you walk with the wise, you become wise yourself; but if you keep company with fools, you are setting yourself up for destruction. No matter how anointed you are, the moment you begin to walk with a wrong man, you will live a wrong life.

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 1 Corinthians 15:33

By Meditation

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. Psalm 119:97-100

David discovered a secret that enhanced his productivity. Through it, he became wiser than all his enemies. He even had more understanding than all his teachers and the sages of the society. That secret was meditation. As long as he gave himself to meditation, he was fellowshiping with depths in the Word, which culminated in an enviable life.

By Separation And Quietness

Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom. Proverbs 18:1

There is an atmosphere that makes meditation easy. Often, we live in the midst of noise, so the quietness we need for meditation is not there. I am persuaded that if you live in the midst of noise, you end up a nuisance. That is why students on the verge of writing their exams withdraw to quiet places. They seek seclusion because there is need for a lot of concentration, if they desire distinction.

This is the missing link in society today. There is so much idling about. It is quite possible to see someone going on a casual visit early in the morning, often without an appointment. But time is the greatest asset in the school of success.

The difference between a success and a failure is that whereas the former invests his time, the latter wastes his. Time is an asset of equality, everyone has twenty-four hours daily.

What must be done is to carve out time to engage your mind in meditation. Separate yourself to seek and intermeddle with all wisdom; it will result in a sharp mind. Isaac, for instance, who became a marvel to the Philistines, was known to separate himself to think through issues:

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 24:64

Later, he planted seed in the time of famine and it yielded hundred-fold results.

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him. Genesis 26:12

He must have engaged a unique approach to it.

In addition to separation is the need to create a quiet environment.

The effect of Isaac's ingenuity is still being felt in the nation of Israel

today. Formerly a desert place, it is now a blossoming garden exporting food all year round! If you desire wisdom, then you require separation.

And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; I Thessalonians 4:11

Quietness enhances the quality of thinking. When the Jews caught a woman in adultery and asked Jesus, “Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?” (John 8:5), Jesus stooped down and began to write on the ground as if He didn’t hear them.

I believe in His meditation, He thought, “If I say don’t kill her, these men will stone me because everyone accepts Moses as a mighty prophet. But to say stone her is unthinkable. What do I say?” In His quietness, Jesus located a solution and said,

...He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. John 8:7

Quietness enhances productive reasoning!

A young lady once came to me and told me that during her exams she had gone blank and could not write anything. I did not utter a word, but I said in my heart, “There must be an answer.”

In the course of thinking, a word dropped into my spirit, “But God has a pen. If He wrote the Ten Commandments with His handwriting, He must have a pen.” I reasoned further that all things lay bare before God, so He must know where the young lady’s paper was.

God has said that we shall be far from oppression, so I knew that He will do anything to ensure that the devil does not have occasion to laugh over her. Having acquired that insight, I said to the lady, “The Lord has a pen and He will use it in your favour, and you will pass that exam!”

She passed in flying colours!

I got connected to that insight through quietness. I cherish quietness and will pay anything to have it. That is why although we have many rooms in our house I sometimes have to put certain guests in the hotel – to avoid the noise they will make in my home. Quietness is precious to me. It has great spiritual value.

For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your

strength...
Isaiah 30:15

In the moment of quietness strength is released. There is no substitute for inner and outer quietness in your search for answers to the issues of your life. Quietness is what is needed to enhance the quality of one's thought life. You must seek it at all costs. If your sitting room is too noisy, withdraw to your bedroom. Quietness is what you require to invest into your future.

Use The Night Seasons

I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. Psalm 16:7

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. Psalm 19:2

Night time is power time. It is actually the most quiet time of the day, and as such, is the best time to seek solutions to the situations of your life. When you spend your night seasons thinking, your thought life is enhanced. Utilize the night season to lay hold on answers that will make the inhabitants of the earth respect you.

With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Isaiah 26:9

By Insight Expectant Prayer

Another important way to exercise your mind is through insight expectant prayer. This is not the kind of prayer that involves a lot of shouting, banging the table, etc. Rather, it is a prayer of enquiry. In it, you are asking the Lord to show you what to do, where to go or the secret to success in an endeavour. Look at this:

Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: Daniel 2:16-21

There are secrets of life, and they belong to God (Deuteronomy. 29:29). However the good news is that He desires to reveal them, if you will do what it takes. So the question is not whether God is willing. But are you willing to seek answers from him?

By Mental Exercises

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5:14

No athlete in the natural becomes a star without exercise. The same is true of the believer. To become a man of impact, a highly productive individual, an authority in your field, you must be prepared to exercise your mind. You can exercise it to the point that it is able to chart a positive course for your life. Jesus taught that. He 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? Luke 14:28

Observe here that to build a tower, the builder must first sit down and count the cost. In essence, he must engage in mental exercise to construct a high rise tower.

Similarly, for the believer to produce outstanding results, you must practically engage your mind. That is, settle down to evaluate the affairs of life and come up with practical answers.

Every builder is a thinker, for through wisdom a house is built and with understanding it is established.

Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. Proverbs 24:3-4

That is why, whereas some fellows work for thirty years without owning even a plot of land, others work for just ten and own a house.

The difference between them is that the former is a wanderer while the latter is a thinker.

To live like a wanderer, without a tangible plan for your life, and jumping into every project that comes your way is folly. Wisdom demands that you programme your life, doing what you must to ensure that you leave an inheritance for your children's children.

Look at the parable of the prodigal son in Luke chapter 15. That boy wasted his entire means in riotous living. He crashed so low that he tried to eat pigs mash, but the pigs didn't allow him.

One day, he came to himself by engaging in mental exercise. He reasoned that if his fathers hired servants had enough to eat and to spare, why should he, a son, die of starvation. So he arose.

Friend, no matter how horrible the state of your life is right now, if you start to think, that negative state will turn to a positive one!

All these factors, if put to use, will make you a man and woman of impact and give you a place on the earth. As you enlarge your thought capacity, you are enlarging your coast of success.

E. W. Kenyon said, "Make your brain work, it will sweat but make it work. Then it will improve and develop until you become the envy of those around you."

Someone else said, "Wealth is the product of the capacity of a man to think." That means impact is a product of man's capacity to think. I believe that most problems of life have cheap solutions with the use of the mind.

Let the wife who is being beaten sit down and find out why, and desist from doing those things that provoke her husband. Let the staff who is hated at the place of work sit down and discover why he has problems and begin to deprogramme himself from doing those things.

Friend, there is no insurmountable mountain, no impossible problem, no temptation without a way of escape. All you need is some mental attention to that situation, and you'll be out of it.

We live in a thinker's world, thinkers rule the world; If you are not a thinker, you end up as a slave. But as you put that mind of Christ in your possession to work, the world will mind you!

I see a new day dawning for you!

Chapter 5:

The Hardwork Factor

Without doubt, the end time is our time. Prophecies in scripture make it clear that the Church will take the lead in the affairs of life while others will follow. Everyone will come to know that the Church is practically in charge (Isaiah 2:1-3; Zechariah 8:20-23).

However, these scriptures will only come to pass following certain laid down principles. I have come to appreciate the fact that no one succeeds by accident. A life of impact is not a product of luck. It is a costly mistake to assume that prophecies fulfil themselves. Certainly not! There are secrets that trigger them off.

Hardwork Is It!

By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through. Ecclesiastes 10:18

There is no future in this kingdom for the idle. Rather than prospering, he begins to decay and his body becomes a conducive resting place for sicknesses and disease due to lack of use.

Just like when a building remains uninhabited for a period of time, it begins to fall through. However there are some buildings that appear to be on the verge of collapse, but because they are occupied, they continue to stay up.

The Bible says in **Genesis 2:2** that ***“...God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.”*** This gives us an indication that God is a worker. In fact, it is this nature of hardwork that is revealed when in verse eight the Bible says,

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

God did not fold His hands wishing for a garden to grow, rather He “planted” one. That speaks of dedication to duty. Nothing works for the idle. Hardwork is the sure escape out of a hard-life.

Jesus too was a hardworker, He said of Himself:

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. John 9:4

Since you are made in the image of God and have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, it will be a crime against your heritage to be an idler.

Look at Abraham, the father of faith. As full of faith as he was, he too was a worker. At the retirement age of many civil servants, Abraham was re-firing! At 75 he was still rearing cattle and at 92 he led out an army in the night to overtake the enemy! He reared cattle until he became very rich in silver and gold.

To retire at 50 is to open yourself up for decay. The patriarch Abraham

had a unique strength that kept him going, until he was very old. That is your portion too!

When Isaac came on the scene, he too displayed his father's unique 'appetite' for hardwork. At one time, whenever he dug a well, the Philistines always contested for it. But he never gave up. He kept digging new ones until he wore them out and called the name of the last one Rehoboth. (Genesis 26:19-22).

What about Jacob? Having no cash to pay the dowry for his wife, he chose to work seven years for her. Even when Laban cheated him, by giving him Leah and asking him to serve an extra seven years for the woman of his choice, it was no big problem for Jacob, because he was a hardworker!

Recall how Caleb came up to Joshua and demanded for the mountain Moses promised him? He was eighty, yet he asserted that he was still as strong as he was forty years before! (Joshua 14:19-20).

Paul also was a hardworker. Although joining the team of apostles late, through diligence he became the 'chiefest' of them all (1 Corinthians 15:10). That is why he admonished idle men:

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:10

Friend, if you must win, you must work!

I have purposed never to look abroad or anywhere for assistance. What God cannot give to me, I don't need. I know that as I face my business, God is faithful to supply all my needs. So, I give myself to my job, celebrating the dignity in labour.

There is no audience on the earth today I cannot address with the gospel. No one can tell me, what I am saying is irrelevant. There is a depth in me which I contacted through rigorous searching.

By His grace, I know my job and I am doing it.

Get Busy!

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. Ecclesiastes 9:10

There is a future in whatever your hands find to do, as long as it is a righteous job. Wherever you find yourself is a good enough place to make a mark. It is useless trying to escape to America or anywhere else. There is nothing there that isn't where you are.

In case you are black, please know that black is not synonymous with lack. Jesus has made you free, it is foolhardy to enslave yourself again. You must begin to see that there is dignity in labour. There is much food in your tillage and much profit where you are.

I believe strongly that there is no man without a talent. God has deposited something within you that if you care to work at, will bring you much fulfilment. You have to get busy releasing your potential.

Invest Your Time!

Time is a major factor for a life of impact.

Businessmen say often, “Time is money”, because their success is tied to how wisely they invest their time. Time is success. Those who do not know how to make proper use of their time cannot accidentally stumble into success. The truth of the matter is that God has given each of us enough time to be the best we are created to be. The inventors we celebrate today became so, by investing their time in locating secrets. They took time to dig up facts, think through issues and locate solutions.

As I said in the previous chapter, time is an asset of equality. What you do with it determines your destiny. Many in public service go to work but do nothing. They simply while away time.

Stop spending your time, start investing it. Time spenders are wasters. When you make the most of your time, you are making the most of your life! What many businessmen need to experience breakthroughs is to give their businesses the time it requires; then the results will begin to show.

I spend all my time on my assignment and it shows! I relate with the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, so that my assignment can be pleasing to Him.

I was amazed when I saw a New Testament commentary written by Kenneth Hagin’s secretary. I wondered where she got the time from. Then it occurred to me that she didn’t have time, she made time. The quality of your time investment determines the quality of life you live. So, go ahead, put your best into your life’s goals and watch yourself make impact in the world.

Consider this parable:

And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver.

And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it. 1 Kings 20:39-40

While many Christians are busy here and there minding trivialities, the

success they are looking for escapes! Investing time gives colour to destiny.

Isaac Newton is still being spoken of today, because he took advantage of time. A plague had broken out in his school and all the students were asked to go home. Newton returned to his father's farm and did something useful with the eighteen-month break from school.

It was during that period that he made those three outstanding discoveries of the law of mechanics. Perhaps some of his mates whiled away their time, but Newton invested his. That investment is still affecting the world today, and he is remembered as one of the most brilliant men that ever lived.

A wise man said when you refuse to change, you end up in chains. God has destined you to be a pace-setter in your world, but changing from slothfulness to diligence and from time-wasting to time-investing, are principles that help you to make maximum impact.

Put your hand on your chest and say, "Lord, teach me discipline. I don't want to be a time waster but an investor. Lord, please help me."

It's Over To You

The time of celebrating the impact of others is over, it is now time for you to make impact on your world. The facts have been handed over to you, but until they are applied, a life of impact remains a daydream.

It is your time to affect your world positively. It is your covenant birth right to leave footprints on the sands of time. The world is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. Others are making it; you can make it too!