

Faith O. Adeniran



SECRETS TO UNENDING SUCCESS

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WHY I WROTE THIS BOOK

Recent happenings/upheavals in the world have knocked the fighting spirit out of so many people. Even Christians, who are supposed to have the key to kingdom principles of living a victorious life, are quitting, giving up, and abdicating their rightful positions as kings and princes.

In reality of this, this book is packaged to expose you to the various keys to biblical success in life and ministry. Success is your birthright, and you are created by God to succeed and not to fail.

This book will not only teach you how to stand up and fight, it will deliver into your hand the secrets of Biblical success. It will make a success out of you.

It is your time to succeed!

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Chapter 1

What is Success?

Success has many definitions. To some, success is the achievement of set goals, in terms of wealth, position, academics, family life etc.

Naturally, an average man may consider success to mean having a good job, being happily married with children and having a car.

God's Definition of Success

Success to God is when you are in the centre of His plan for your life. It is achieving the goals that God set for you, not the one that you set for yourself.

Also, God's kind of success is finding fulfillment for the purpose for which you were created.

Goals that are Set before you

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
Hebrews 12:1

God has set a race before everybody on earth which I believe is the goal that God want us to achieve.

Everything about our life is a journey. School, ministry work, marriage etc. Our success therefore is based on how well we finish the race that God has set before us.

What many people term success are the goals they set and achieved by themselves, devoid of Gods involvement.

Many people will get to heaven and have no reward from God. Why? Because they achieved their own goals and neglected the goals and visions of God for their life. Colossians 4:17

For example, if a man's divine calling is to be an evangelist to the nations of the world, harvesting souls for the kingdom of God but instead he refuses and pursues secular business, then such an individual cannot be called successful.

Yes he may successfully build a big business empire and affected lives in that regard, but in the eyes of God, he is a total failure and has no reward.

Apostle Paul was successful man of God, who started and finished the goals God gave him, i.e. to take the gospel to the Gentiles. He said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"
2Timothy4:7

Why Frustration!

Frustration, hopelessness, and discouragement trouble the footsteps of people including believers who leave their Godly dream and vision to pursue their own agenda. Such people may give fulfillment to others by helping them to achieve their dreams, thinking that by doing so; they will find their own fulfillment. And when they cannot find it, they get frustrated with life.

I am not saying that you cannot get your fulfillment in helping others to get theirs. God may call some people to find their own destiny in other people's destiny and, if they try to get out of it, they are getting out of God's will and plan for their life.

But in other cases, if God has given you your own goals and vision, you need to fulfill it. No matter how colorful other people's goals and vision may look like.

In Colossians 4:17, Apostle Paul told Timothy, his son in the faith, to instruct Archippus, to take heed to the ministry which he received in the Lord, that he should fulfill it.

There is a ministry and vision that every one of us has received in the Lord and the ultimate of God for our life is to fulfill it in our life time. That is what God's kind of success is all about.

Chapter 2

Success is 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

Success is a matter of choice; nobody becomes successful by accident. It is a deliberate act, and the result of your progressive response to the challenges of life. God will never force success on you.

It is your personal decision and choice. You are the product of your choice. Whatever you are today is the product of your yesterday's decision. Also, whatever you will become tomorrow is the product of your today's choice.

In the above scripture, God told Moses to inform the children of Israel to choose between life and death, blessing and cursing. Though it is the will of God, for us to be blessed and to have long life, yet God still wants us to make our choice.

God is Almighty and all powerful, yet He will never go against our will power. God has given us power to choose whatever we want. In fact, He will never force you to serve Him nor worship Him. He wants you to make your personal choice.

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15

God is looking for people that are willing to serve Him. Those who choose to serve Him in total obedience to His word and to His leading.

Salvation is a Choice

God will never force anybody to be saved. If it were possible for God to force salvation on the entire human race, everybody on the earth would be saved by now.

God made provision for the salvation of mankind by the blood of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, but left the choice of accepting or not to us.

Angels cannot get people saved though they can lead people to the point of salvation, and leave them to make the decision. Therefore, man is solely responsible for any decision or action that he takes.

Can the Holy Ghost Force Believers to make a Choice?

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

John 16:8(NKJV)

The word convict here means: to reprove, persuade or compel. The Holy Spirit will never force salvation on anybody, but He can convince or persuade you to give your life to Christ. He will open your eyes so that you can see that you are in darkness, and help you to turn to light.

I gave my life to Christ almost two decades ago, and in all the years, I have not yet experienced the Holy Spirit forcing me to pray, fast, to read the Bible, or force me to go to church. Although He encourages me to do so, but has never for once forced me. The choice has always been mine to make.

The Holy Spirit is gentle, not aggressive. He will only gently persuade and leave you to make your choice.

The Bible says,

"..And that n." o man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost

1Corinthians 12:3

The Holy Spirit persuaded us before we gave our life to Christ. He helped us to believe in the redemption that is in the blood of Jesus Christ and He is still helping us to live a better and fruitful Christian life.

Jesus Chose to Die

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

John 10:17-18

Jesus might have decided not to die, but he chose to lay down His life, so that he could take it again. Even though He was to pay the supreme price, He still laid down His life for the salvation of the human race.

It is not easy to die; we need to willingly choose to lay down our life, so that God may be glorified in our life. We need to deliberately choose to die to unrighteousness so that we can live unto righteousness.

It was not the devil that killed Jesus; neither did the Jews. He did not die of sickness or disease. He laid down His life willingly, so that He can take it up again on the third day for the redemption of mankind. Praise God!

Chapter 3

Success is the Will of God

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:2-3

God promised Abraham a great nation. I don't know where some people got the idea that it is not the will of God for us to be blessed, rich or great. In many places in the Bible, God blessed nations and individuals who had covenant with Him.

In the New Testament Church, we have a better covenant with God through the blood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 8:6

God invoked blessings upon the first man and woman.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:28

If greatness is not the will of God for man, God would not have blessed them initially. The blessings are not only for Abraham, Adam and Eve because the Bible says that as long as we are in Christ Jesus, the blessing of Abraham has been invoked upon us also. We are partakers of the blessing of Abraham. Galatians 3:8-9.

As a spiritual seed of Abraham, by faith we are partakers of whatever blessing that God has blessed him with.

I Will Teach You to Prosper

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

Joshua 1:8

God taught me through this scripture the key to prospering. I got three points from it and it has never failed me since I have been applying it.

1. Your Word

God said to Joshua “This book of the Lord shall not depart out of thy **Mouth.**”

This means God wants us to confess His word day and night. God here was teaching Joshua the power of confessing His word. God cannot help us beyond our confession, and whatever we say is what God is committed to doing.

Our confessions have the capability of putting either the power of God or that of the devil at work in our life. Your words are a container that carries your miracle or your destruction.

The Bible says,

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Proverbs 18:21

The idea of the principle is this, if you can control your mouth, then you can control your life. You can shape your destiny with your words, by saying positive words always.

Some people may find it hard to prosper, no matter how hard they labour, because all they confess is poverty and lack.

2. Your Heart

Also, God said to Joshua “But thou shall meditate therein day and night.”

It takes your heart to meditate on God’s word day and night. Whatever a man believes in, he can become. God wants us to meditate on his word so that we can believe all the promises He has in stock for us.

Solomon said,

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

There is a link between your mouth and your heart. The gate to your heart is your mouth. Your heart is a vital part of your life which if used to meditate on God's word, will produce forces that can bring prosperity into your life. Your heart is full of power that can govern your life and if you make good use of it, it becomes a blessing to your life. Proverbs 4:23

3. Your Actions

“...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 third thing that God taught him was that he must “DO” all that he says with his mouth. Many believers confess the word of God with their mouth and believe the word in their heart, but fail to act upon the word. That is why they don't get results.

Apostle James said,

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:22; 25

No matter how much one meditates on the word and confess it, without taking any corresponding action, one will wait in vain for the desired miracle.

The perfect law of liberty is the word of God, and only the doers of the word shall be blessed and prosper in all their deeds.

Apostle James also said that faith without work is dead. As the body without the spirit is dead, so also is faith without matching action. James 2:20; 26. If you don't add equivalent action to your faith, it is as dead as wood.

These three principles to prosperity that God taught Joshua work faster than any other means. If you can take heed to your mouth, your heart and your actions, you will become successful in matter of time.

All things are yours

Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours.

1Corinthians 3: 21

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:32

This scriptures show that it is the will of God for us to have all things that He has created for us.

Some Christians think God still holds back some of His blessings. The issue is not that He does not want to give it to us, but He has given it to us freely already, to enjoy as His sons and daughters.

What we need to do is to receive and take what God has given to us by faith in Jesus name!

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

1Corinthians 2:12

We don't need to pay for it any longer. It has been fully paid for by Christ Jesus our Lord. He has bought it with the price of His blood on the cross, and when He rose from the dead, He set captives free and gave gifts unto men.

This Scripture proves that all things are freely given to us by God. The church today is suffering in ignorance of what belongs to it in Christ Jesus, and that is why several of its blessings remain unclaimed.

Satan preys on the ignorance of Christians who don't know what God has made available for them in Christ, by taking advantage of, and hindering them from freely receiving their blessings. 2Corinthians 2:11

He may tell someone that he still needs to pay for healing, salvation, prosperity, deliverance, etc, things which Christ has already paid for. If we still pay for them, then it is no longer a free gift, or we are paying for it ignorantly.

Apostle Peter also said,

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:

2Peter1:3

One common phrase in all the cited scriptures is, “All things”. God has given us all things we need to become what He wants us to become in life and ministry.

God’s divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. But we need to receive them through the knowledge of God. The lack of knowledge of what God has made available to us will make us beg God to give to us what He has already given to us through Christ Jesus.

We need to wake up to the divine knowledge of God. According to Apostle Paul:

Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

1Corinthians 15:34

Is Money Evil?

“For the love of money is the root of all evil...”

1Timothy 6:10

Money is not evil. It is the love of it is evil.

In the early 1980s, a pastor was sent out of his denomination because he caught the revelation for prosperity and started teaching it. It was a teaching that was not common in that denomination, particularly in those days.

He was accused of worldliness and turning from the truth to preaching about fables and pleasures of this world. During those days, wearing good clothes and riding good cars was considered a sign of worldliness, and one would be counted as a sinner.

Today that denomination has changed its belief about prosperity and apologized for its ignorance. Ignorance can kill and rob one of rightful benefits in Christ.

Apostle Paul wrote Timothy to admonish the rich people in his church not to trust or love money, but to trust in the living God who has blessed them with all things to enjoy.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
1Timothy 6:17

Money is not evil; it is the love of money that is evil. God does not give us money to put our trust in it, because money can fail, but God cannot fail.

The latter part of that verse, says, “God who gives us richly all things to enjoy” shows that it is the will of God for us to enjoy life.

“...Having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”
1Timothy 4:8

Money is powerful, and significant in life. All our plans and proposal are void without money.

Kings Solomon said,

A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.
Ecclesiastics 10:19

It is difficult to be a good believer without money; else we will be worse than the infidels (un-believers). We cannot preach the gospel faster without it. Yet we should be very careful so that the love for money will not occupy our heart and overrule the love that we have for God.

There is a saying: “Money is the hub on which the wheel of the gospel moves.” I partially believe this because of the importance money to the spread of the gospel of Christ. However, in the real sense of it, the Holy Spirit is the wheel of the Gospel; He is the power of God unto salvation.

We need to pray that God should bless His Church financially in this end time. The wealth of the wicked should be transferred into the Church, for the propagation of the end time harvest of souls into the kingdom of God; and for the expansion of His kingdom on the earth.

Chapter 4

Start with what you Have

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

1Samuel 17:38-40

Why are you not prospering? The most likely answer I expect is “I don’t have money”.

Money is not your problem, because all you will ever need is already inside of you, in terms of your gifts, potentials and talents. God does not want us to look for what we don’t have; He rather wants us to use what we already have. Greatness begins from inside and reflects to the outside.

The fact is this, God will not tell you to do something that He has not equipped you for, He will give you the basic requirements you need to fulfill your destiny.

Don’t look for what you don’t have, if you do, you may not get it. Rather discover what you have, develop it and begin to use it. You will be surprised that it will yield greater profits than you have ever imagined.

Let us check some examples in the Bible of people that had things which looked seemingly unimportant but which God used for His glory.

Sling and Stone

In 1Samuel, 17:38-40, King Saul gave all his weapons of war to David, to fight with Goliath. But David said to Saul, I cannot go with this, for I have not proven them. He had never used sword or any other weapons of war before.

In fact, David was not a soldier; he was a shepherd boy, who took care of his father's sheep and the only weapon he was used to were the staff, sling and stones.

David was confident with these crude weapons, because the battle was not his own but the Lord's.

David started his journey to his greatness by what he had: staff, sling, stones and his shepherd bag.

What is your sling and stone? A lot of us may underestimate the power that is in the sling and stone. We may think that they are too small for God to give us our victory.

It does not matter how insignificant what you have may look like, what is important is the grace of God that will come upon it. It is the anointing that makes the difference. When this anointing comes upon the gifts and the potentials that you have, it will bring them into significance and turn them into supernatural instruments.

In fact, it will give you greater victory and opportunity, more than you have ever imagined.

Pot of Oil

And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

2Kings 4:2

There was a certain widow, whose late husband, a prophet, left huge debts behind. The creditors came to this woman to demand what her husband owed and she could not perform. They therefore decided to take her two sons as slaves until the money was fully paid.

So she ran to Prophet Elisha for help. The Prophet asked her what she had in the house and the woman answered: "I have nothing." The problem with people is that they are ignorant of what they have. There is nobody that does not have something deposited by God on the inside for the manifestation of miracles.

Elisha must probably have juggled the memory of the woman before she remembered and said: “Except the pot of oil.”

While meditating on the scripture, the Holy Spirit told me that, the widow and her two sons had sold all the valuables in the house to offset the debts, all to no avail. This woman did not lie, she knew they had sold the entire valuables in the house except the pot of oil, which was insignificant and of less value.

God is not looking for the valuable things in your house (Life). He is looking for what He can use as a point of contact for your needed miracles.

The man of God (Elisha) knew that was the key to her miracle. He told her to borrow as many empty vessels as possible from neighbors, and as many vessels she borrowed were filled with oil. The outpouring of oil only stopped when there were no more vessels to pour the oil into.

The woman sold the oil, paid all her debts and she and her sons lived on the rest of the money. 2Kings 4:6-7

That little thing in your life which you do not value may be your pot of oil that will lead to your desired greatness in life. It could be a little singing ability that you have despised. You better discover it, develop it and begin to pour it out to bless men and women, and then you will see greatness coming into your life. It will pay all your bills.

Rod of Moses

And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

Exodus 4:2-3

Moses fled from Egypt after he committed murder. He then looked after the sheep of his father-in-law Jethro, for forty years.

One day while in the wilderness with the sheep, God appeared and told him that He wanted to use him to deliver His people from the land of bondage (Egypt).

Moses asked the Lord for a proof to show the people that God indeed had sent him. Exodus 4:1. God called his attention to the rod in his hand and told him to cast it on the ground.

He did and it turned into a serpent. For the first time in forty years, Moses ran away from his own rod. He had been carrying the rod all about, but he never knew that it could produce a miracle.

My brother, my sister, please look into your life, and identify that seemingly unimportant thing you have been carrying about, it could be the source of your miracle. If you will give it to God, He will use it for your greatness in life. From that day, the rod of Moses became the rod of God.

And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

Exodus 4:20

He did all the miracles and wonders in the land of Egypt by this same rod, divided the Red Sea made water to come out of the rock etc.

Beloved, what is your own rod? Is it music, artistry, painting, writing etc? Whatever it is, give it to the Lord and He will turn it to “miracle ability”.

Five Loaves and Two Fishes

And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

Matthew 14:17-20

One day while Jesus was holding His open air crusade in the wilderness, He finished very late and the people were weary and hungry. His disciples told Him to let the people go into the city and buy what they will eat.

Jesus however did not want the people to go without eating because the place was a wilderness, and there was no where they could find food to buy.

Then Jesus asked his disciples what was available. They told him that they had just a small boy lunch, which were five loaves and two fishes.

He told them to bring the meal, and when they had done so, He looked up to heaven, blessed it and broke it. And the five loaves and two fishes were multiplied enough to feed 5,000 men minus the women and the children.

Jesus must have fed more than 10,000 people that day if the number of the women and the children were added. The most surprising thing was that, after they had all eaten, the leftover that day was twelve baskets.

Our God is El-shadai, the one that is more than our needs. If you can give him that little thing you have He will multiply it for you. The disciples underrated the miracle that was in the five loaves and the two fishes. Friends, the key to the miracles you are looking for is in your life. Find it, give it to God, and He will multiply it for you.

The secrets of little thing is that, if you start with what you have, that which you don't have will catch up with you. Don't despise the day of little beginnings, start now, stop procrastinating, and you will grow to your desired height in God.

A University campus Fellowship pastor once made a request to the Bishop of the Ministry for N500, 000.00k to buy equipment. The Bishop however admonished them to feed their members with the word of God, first and that as the fellowship grow, all their needs will catch up with them.

There is always a beginning. Don't be ashamed of starting small, don't despise the day of little beginning.

No one starts to build a house from the roof. You start from the foundation and move up to the roof.

Declaring the end from the Beginning

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.

Isaiah 46:10

Once your plans are aligned with that of God, He will show you the end from the beginning. But that does not make you great immediately; you still need to still pass through the process of starting from the beginning till you reach the destiny that He has showed you.

In 1992, something significant happened to me. I was in a workers retreat of the church I attended then, and as we were singing and praising God, I fell into a trance for about two hours. I was unconscious of all that was going on around me in the physical while all those around me thought I had lost my mind.

In that encounter with God, He showed me how great my ministry will become. I saw great crowds of people, thousands of them giving their lives to Christ and many miracles taking place in that trance.

I was very excited in that vision. When I regained consciousness I was told that I had been in that trance state for about two hours. I expected to see crowds around me and those miracles coming to pass immediately, but God told me that what He had shown me was the end of my ministry, and if am faithful enough, He will lead me to the end, in due season.

God's vision does not speak in the beginning but at the end. Don't bother trying to speak for the vision; it will speak for itself, when the fullness of time comes. Though it tarries, wait for it, for it shall surely speak and not tarry.

The Bible says,

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

Genesis 37:5

Joseph dreamt of becoming a prime minister and the dream did not come into fulfillment until 14 years after.

A lot of people want their vision to speak at the beginning, and when it does not, they get discouraged and disappointed. What they need to do is to wait for it, for it will not tarry, and at the appointed time it shall speak for itself.

It took Jesus 30 years before his vision spoke for Him. Even though He was God, yet He waited until the appointed time.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

Jesus kept Himself busy before the fullness of time came and when His time eventually came, God anointed Him to do what He sent Him to do.

In 1 Samuel 16; Prophet Samuel anointed David as King over Israel at the age of 17. But he did not attain to the throne until he was 30 years. It took him about 13 years of waiting before the vision came to pass.

In the beginning people tried to speak for the vision, they tried to convince the people that their vision is from God. But there was no physical evidence that the vision is from the Lord.

Like I said earlier, you don't need to speak for the vision; it has a way of speaking for itself, by tangible proofs and evidences of miracles that will be manifested in your life. Then nobody will be able to deny the results that will become evident in your life.

God started with One Man

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7

God started the human race with one man called Adam. Today through this one man, we have about 6 billion souls on the surface of the earth. God usually starts every big thing in a seed form. In fact, the smaller a thing is at the beginning, the bigger it has the potential to become. Eve was not formed from the dust like Adam. God brought Eve out of Adam. Because everything that God created has the potential to increase, multiply, and replenish or reproduce after their kind. Genesis 1:28

“...But for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Genesis 2:20-23

God brought out Eve from Adam that He already created. In other words; all that you need to become great in life is already on the inside of you.

What you need to do, is to discover, develop, and release those potentials. Don't look for what you don't have, but use what you have already as raw materials for what you don't have.

The Seed of Corn

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

Jesus referred to His death in this parable. He likened His death to a seed of corn that falls into the ground. In the real sense of it, except a seed of corn is planted, there can't be multiplication of seeds.

In one seed are many seeds. The potential in one seed is more than what you can imagine with your physical eyes. God has given every man old or young, male or female, white or black various potentials with which we can succeed in life.

These potentials can be called gifts, talents, ability, etc. So everybody has something he can sow as a seed for his harvest of success in life and ministry.

The problem with many people is that they despise the potentials that are in their seed. Until you lay down what you have, and allow it to die, it will remain dormant, untapped and inactive, but if you allow it to fall into the ground, it will bring forth much fruits.

To validate my point about the power of a seed, I want to make a reference to this fable about an old farmer who had two sons, who assisted him on his farm. One day he called his two sons and told them that he wanted to divide his inheritance between both of them. After much talk and counsel, he gave each of the sons a seed of corn, and said, "This is all the inheritance I have for you, go and farm with it."

The younger son obviously infuriated, threw the seed back at his father and said, "What can I do with a seed." After all there are thousands of bags of corn in your store house that you can give to us. Why can't you give us one bag of seed each to farm with? He then stormed away from the father's presence and eventually left home to another city to start life by himself.

But the eldest son said to his father, "Father thank you for this great seed that you gave me, I will farm with it, and in the process of time I shall become greater than you."

So the eldest son started farming with his one seed, and in less than two years, he had many bags of corn ready for sale and few years later he became greater than his father as he had said.

After some years, his younger brother came back home and he was surprised to see the great farm that his brother had. This lazy boy ended up a beggar, because he despised the potentials in a seed.

Friends, your own seed too may be small, don't throw it away, because there is greatness and future in it.

Don't despise the days of little beginning, if you do, you will never see your greater tomorrow. If you throw away your seed today, you have literally thrown away your tomorrow.

Your today's seed is your tomorrow's harvest. It is only a lazy mind that does not see greatness in a seed and despise it. Those who walk with God know that He starts things in a little way and then grows it to become the greatest.

For who hath despised the day of small things?

Zachariah 4:10

I want you to answer that question in your heart. A man that despises the days of smallness will never see greatness in life.

A harvest does not produce a harvest; a seed produces a harvest. Your harvest is in your seed which when planted, produces first the blade, then the ear, and finally the full corn. And when the fruit is brought forth, the farmer puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come. Mark 4:26-29.

There is potential harvest in every seed. Your faith is the nourishment that the soil needs to grow.

One Son to have many Sons.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

God is principled. He never violates His laws nor contradicts Himself. Anybody who obeys and applies the Kingdom principles would surely reap a Kingdom harvest.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22

Based on this heavenly principle, God sacrificed His only begotten son so that He can have many sons to Himself. Today Christians are called the Sons of God, because God first gave one Son to have many sons. He sowed the seed of a Son to harvest many sons to Himself.

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...”

1John 3:1

The Bible also says,

And he has always known who his chosen ones would be. He had decided to let them become like his own Son, so that his Son would be the first of many children.

Romans 8:29(CEV)

I am not ashamed to be called the son of God. In fact, it is a great privilege given to us by God, through the death of His only Son Jesus who is the first son of the Father. All (Christians) are the younger brothers of Jesus. Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. Hebrews 2:11; Colossians 1:15.

A Mustard Seed

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Matthew 13:31-32

In the scripture above, Jesus likened the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. When I saw a mustard seed; I was surprised because it was so small, such that one can never imagine it becoming a very big tree. God always put greatness in small things.

Jesus was literally teaching the principles of starting with what you have to get what you don't have. And no matter how small what you have is, it has the capacity of expanding and growing. Zachariah 4:10.

Many people have been frustrated today, because they refused to maximize the potentials of the little things they have.

I know a family who became wealthy and had great material possessions just by selling water! When they got the idea, it was so small and insignificant and some people tried to discourage them from going on with the plan but few years after they started packaging the water for sale, money started rolling in.

Many people have now gone into the business of packaging water in Nigeria after seeing the money made by the pioneers of the business.

A mustard seed may be small but its potentialities are great, once it is fully grown, it not only produces fruits but serves as refuge for birds of and a shade for men.

Like a Man's Hand.

And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

1Kings 18:41; 44

Prophet Elijah declared to Ahab the king of Israel that dew and rain would cease in the land of Israel for sometime. Of course, the King initially took the declaration with levity but when the biting effect of drought came on the land and the people, he knew that there was trouble. During this time Israel had turned from serving God and were worshipping idols. God used Elijah to turn the heart of His people back unto Himself.

Elijah sought the face of God again on Mount Carmel so that the heavens could be opened again over Israel. After he had prayed for some time he told his servant to check for any sign of rain. The servant replied in the negative after checking.

This went on for six times, but on the seventh time however, the servant came back and said, I saw a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand".

That was the proof Elijah needed. What you need for the abundance of rain over your life is a little cloud like the hand of a man. You don't need more than that. Just go for it and you will have it in Jesus name

Chapter 5

Challenges: Key to Success

A challenge is an open invitation to become a champion. It makes a winner out of a loser; it also makes an eaglet out of an eagle, success out of a failure and brings strength out of the weak.

Challenges of life reveal your strength, ability, capability and how much you can cope or handle. It also reveals the level of your faith in God. God use challenges to train us and to develop our faith in Him. Challenges are the ladder with which one climbs into new realms. It takes a man to the top.

The most successful men on the earth today are those that faced many challenges on their road to success. No man can rise beyond the challenges he is exposed to, and a man without any challenge to his faith is dead while living.

The height you will get to in life is determined by how you respond to the challenges of life. Anytime a man dodges challenges of life, he is literally saying no to his opportunity of becoming great. Challenges are raw materials that God use for our greatness in life and ministry.

The miracles you are praying and believing God for are locked up in the challenges that comes across your way. If a man desires to be popular in life, he must be ready to do what is not popular.

Challenges of life are not for your downfall, but for your lifting. It is not for your breakdown, but rather for your breakthrough.

Suffering is for a while

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1Peter5:10

Challenges and problems don't last forever. If you have not gone through breakdown, you will never appreciate breakthrough. And if you have never experienced failure before you may not appreciate success.

Failure is not forever, you are not a failure until you admit you are one. Your yesterday's failure can become the catalyst for your tomorrow's success. There is nothing that has beginning that does not have an end. Failure is not the end of your life. There is a brighter future ahead of you.

The Bible says,

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

2Corinthians 4:17

Afflictions and challenges do not have staying power; they are for a short period of time. Every challenge that comes your way has ample possibilities to offer.

Secret Sin

There used to be an erroneous doctrine that difficulties, trials, tribulations are punishments meted by God to Christians for secret sins they committed. Some Pastors also wrongly propounded that temptations, persecutions, trials cease to be the moment one gives his/her life to Christ.

The Bible says:

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

2Timothy 3:12

David also said,

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Psalms 34:19

I am not afraid of challenges because Jesus will deliver me from them all, and at the end, He will give me the crown of glory and exceeding great reward. Most of the time the challenges of life have nothing to do with any secret sins. God may at times permit them, so that you can have opportunity to become great.

A lot of believers get confused when they face problems, and believe that their sins brought the problems. This is not the fact always. Atimes when you are facing difficulties, it is a sign that you are godly, and God will use that platform to lift you.

Challenges are Common.

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...”

1Corinthians 10:13

Challenges are common to man. There is nothing you are going through now that has never been encountered by anyone. You are not the first to experience the challenge neither would you be the last.

Let us look at Peter’s comments on trials:

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1Peter4:12-13

We are told not to see trials as strange, when it comes our way, rather we should rejoice, because in as much as we are partakers of Christ’s suffering, we shall also be partakers of His divine glory.

There is an equivalent glory that awaits you, for every trial that has ever happened to you. One thing I am assured of is that, God will work all things together for good to them that love Him, to them that are called according to His purpose.(Romans 8:28)

Some Facts about Challenges

1. Challenges are Common

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...”

1Corinthians 10:13

You are not the first; neither would you be the last to go through challenges. The most important thing is to have the right attitude as this will determine the outcome of that problem. A challenge is a passing phase and not a parking phase.

The word of God says what you are passing through now is common to man and by your faith in God you will have victory to the glory of God.

2. It has a Limited Life Span

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

2Corinthians 4:17

There is no problem that has a staying power, it cannot be forever. Devil usually wants us to believe that our problems will last forever. Whatever you are passing through right now is for a moment, and has very limited time to operate in your life. 1Peter 5:10; Psalm 30:5

3. Know that God is Faithful

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful...”

1Corinthians 10:13

Some people think that God does not help when one is passing through hard time. It is the faithfulness of God that still keeps us alive in the midst of our crisis.

The faithfulness of God never comes to an end, he has said He will never leaves you nor forsake you in the times of trouble. Hebrews 13:5-6.

However, no matter how difficult your problems may be, the faithfulness of God will not let it consume you.

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Lamentation 3:22.

Therefore, you need to have the consciousness of the fact that God is with you in that problem and He will see you through. Remember, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ that loves us.

4. You are above Challenges

“...But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted, above that ye are able...”

1Corinthians 10:13

God knows the level of your endurance capability. He won't allow you to face the challenge that is above you.

Whatever you are passing through now is because you can handle it, that is why it came your way. Don't run away from it, but rather use it to climb your ladder into the next success that God has for you.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1John 5:4

Therefore, God can only allow you to go through what your ability can bear, and in His faithfulness, He will not allow you to go through what you are unable to bear. For you to be in that problem, it means that you have ability to overcome it.

5. There is a Way to Escape

“...But will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1Corinthians 10:13

Our God is good at creating a way where there is no way. When the three Hebrew boys were thrown into the fiery furnace, by King Nebuchadnezzar, God made a way of escape for them.

Likewise when Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, God made a way of escape for him. In fact, God has said when we pass through fire, it shall not burn us, and when we pass through water, it shall not overflow us. Why? Because He is God that usually makes way where it is difficult to find one.

No matter what we are passing through now, there is a way out of it. Every problem has a solution and every problem that does not have a solution does not exist. He made a way for the children of Israel when they faced the challenge of the red sea; they passed through the dry ground to the Promised Land. What an awesome God we serve. For with Him nothing shall be impossible. Whatever the problem, trust in God and by faith He will see you through.

6. It Holds Positive Possibilities

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1Peter 5:10

Many people never see anything positive coming out of the problem they are passing through, that is why they get frustrated and discouraged.

Jesus suffered on the cross because He knew the glory and joy that was set before Him. This made Him to endure the cross, despising the shame, until He finally sat at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

I have gone through many pains and difficult times in my life, but I refused to quit because I know the joy that is ahead of me, which the devil is afraid of. I view life through a positive lens and never from the negative. My brother, my sister, I urge you to begin to see good possibilities springing from that issue, begin to see victory from that problem of life.

7. It Builds Character in Us

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:3-5

Sometimes, the challenges and tribulations that God brings across our path is meant to remove imperfections in us, because He actually uses them to build character in us.

Paul says in verse 3 and 4, *knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope:*

You need to understand that God is building some saintly character in us which are the bed rock for our success in life and ministry.

Many pastors and ministers talk much about charisma, i.e., the gifts of the Spirit or the supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit, but very few of them talk about the character of a believer, i.e. the fruits of the spirit.

We can have all the gifts of the Spirit in manifestations in our life, yet miss it and go to hell. But there is no way we will have the fruits of the spirit in our life and go to hell. Jesus said, by their fruits we shall know them, not by their gifts. Matthew 7:16

We can get to the top by the gifts of the Spirit, but it takes the fruits of the spirit to keep us there.

Everybody must work on their character and one of the best ways to do this is to learn from the lessons of the challenges and trials that comes our way every day.

8. It Reveals Hidden Potentials

But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Job 23:10

The best of God cannot be seen on the surface. The potentials inside the raw gold is within, it will not come out until it goes through the refining fire. All the dross must get out of the raw gold, before the fine gold can appear. The best in you however, cannot be manifested until you go through some challenges that will force them out of you for full expression.

The gifts, potentials and talents that God has blessed you with are hidden, so you need to bring them to the open, before it can be a blessing to humanity.

Just as the potential inside the teabag can only be released until it is submerged inside hot water, likewise our potentials will not be released until we face some hot challenges and trials that will force them into manifestation.

9. It Separates the Chosen from the Called

For many are called, but few are chosen.

Matthew 22:14

God has the standard He uses to separate the chosen from the called. There are many people that God has called today, but very few of them are chosen for His great works.

However, God wants to prove and try everyone He has called to really know their heart. He makes them to pass through His acid test to see the true state of their heart, whether they are materials He can use for His great work and mission on the earth.

The secrets in the heart of man will come to the open, when it passes through the fiery furnace of Gods fire.

Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Isaiah 48:10

God does not use unrefined men. His vessels must have pure and perfect heart, before He commits His treasure into their hands. Of course, God is looking for men, for His great harvest, yet He will still separate the chosen from the called.

Apostle Peter told Timothy his spiritual son that he should make all diligence to make full proof of his calling. 2Timothy 4:5

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

2Peter 1:10

It costs nothing to call people into ministry; His concern is for them to pass His test of faithfulness to be chosen for the assignment. Of course, God is the one who decides who He will call for His work, but we are the one who decides who He will choose, by our obedience or our disobedience to His instructions.

How to Handle Challenges

The problem of most people today is “How to do it.”When the devil perceives your ignorance of certain issues, he will take advantage of you. 2Corinthians 2:11

God said through prophet Hosea that “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”Hosea 4:6

According to King Solomon,

An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.

Proverbs 11:9

The best deliverance any man can receive is through the knowledge of God's word. Knowledge is the truth and is powerful enough to deliver you from any bondage of the devil. God's people are perishing because they lack knowledge and not because the devil is powerful. The word of God further said, "...And a people without understanding shall come to ruin." Hosea 6:14(ESV)

Every lingering problem usually has its root in ignorance. Apostle Paul confirms this when he said that for one not to have knowledge of God, it is a shameful thing. 1Corinthians 15:34

Demonic powers have their roles to play in the disruption of mans destiny but the major destroyers of any mans destiny is ignorance.

So, knowledge liberates men from bondage into liberty and from darkness into light. The way out of our difficulties is through the word of God that is the only way we can use our challenges as a ladder to climb into our next placement in life.

"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD..."
Hosea 6:3

In the last part of this chapter, I want to share with you on how to handle challenges, and use it as a springboard into your breakthrough. May God give you understanding as you read through in Jesus name.

10 Ways to Handle Challenges

1. Make God your Source

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.
Jeremiah 10:23

The first person you need to involve in the working out of your problem is God. You must seek His face and ask Him the way out. Make God your source and He will lead you out of that crisis. Man is undependable and subject to change, he will fail you when you need them most. But God never fails. Ask His for leading and guidance and success will come at the end of it all.

Solomon said,

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

A lot of people first seek help from their fellow man and when they have been disappointed, they then turn to the Lord. They do the first last and last first. When you trust in the Lord, there is hope for you. Jeremiah 17:7.

2. Diagnose the Problem

Curses cannot hurt you unless you deserve them. They are like birds that fly by and never light.
Proverbs 26:2(GNB)

The beginning of any mans deliverance is when the cause of his problem is known. There is no problem that does not have a cause, and it will be easy to solve a problem when the root cause of it is known.

When the root cause has been diagnosed, then proper preventive measures could be planned to solve it. Most of our problems are really the issues of wisdom, and correct application of wisdom can solve most of our longstanding problems.

There are some problems that will not come your way, unless you break some principles of life.

3. Don't exaggerate your problem

And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search, it is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.
Numbers 13:32-33

The dictionary definition of the word exaggeration is: when description of a problem is stretched beyond the truth; make seem larger, worsen, bigger than what it really is.

Too many people over estimate the strength of their problem. They make it too big as if they cannot overcome it. God will never allow you to go through a problem that is too much for you to bear. He knows the degree

of temperature you are able to bear without been burnt. Problems are meant to be solved and not to run away from.

Some people's problems linger more than necessary because they have overblown it in their imagination beyond what it is. Any problem you can't handle in your mind, you can't handle in real life.

The Israelite spies said there were giants in the land, which was true, but the giants were not that big to the extent of calling themselves a grasshopper in the sight of the giants. To win the battles of life, you must see your problem as it is, and also see your God as bigger than the problem.

4. Don't underestimate your Problem

Problems are not to be exaggerated and at the same time, must not be underestimated. Some people take their problems too slightly until it kills and destroy them.

You need to confront your problems headlong, and find possible solutions to them. God will give you divine wisdom on how to handle them.

Most Christians wrongly apply their faith and in the process, fall into nonchalance, apathy and laidback attitude which only magnify and worsen issues which ought to have been tackled earlier.

Faith and Foolishness are poles apart. Faith is practical; it is conviction that is based on corresponding action. Belief in God must have corresponding action to your faith.

Faith does not deny the fact of a problem, but it only embraces the truth that with God all things are possible. So, don't underestimate your problem, see it as it is, and believe God for a change.

5. Look for Positive Alternatives

There are many ways out of a problem; a careful study needs to be done on how to find alternative ways to solve the problem.

Some people get stranded because they know only one method of solving their problems and when that method fails, confusion sets in.

You need to acquire information from various information sources, such as the library, journals, newspapers, other media, your legal adviser, your doctor, your Pastor, or your financial adviser if the need be.

You must learn how to let the professionals handle your life for you; otherwise you will be a victim of the mediocre.

When the various alternatives are open to you, subject them to proper examination and prove their positive probability before you take a step on them.

6. Think through the Alternatives

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

1Corinthians 2:16

We have the same mind that Christ has. God gave us our mind to think, and to use it to find solutions to the problem of life.

We need to think through our problem with the mind of Christ. The problem that cannot embarrass Christ should not embarrass us, because we have the same mind as Christ, and we should be able to find the right solution to our problems.

Praying through is good but you should also learn how to think through your problem, with the renewed mind of Christ that you have.

Apostle Paul said,

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Ephesians 4:23

Deep thinking can bring many ideas into your mind which can ultimately solve your problems. Our renewed mind has the capacity to think like God and to give solutions to lives problems.

All the great inventors that this world has ever known were great thinkers. And through their minds they solved major problems for mankind.

If you don't start thinking you will start stinking. If as a child of God your mind is renewed, then through it God can lead you out of your problem.

A renewed mind can prove what is good, perfect and acceptable will of God for your life. Romans 12:2

Whatever the information that is inspired through your cogitation, it must be proven and tested based on the word of God. The word of God must be your standard, and anything that does not agree it must be eliminated. And then hold fast to that which is good and perfect will of God.

7. Seek for Counsel

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14

People usually fall and fail because of the absence of right counsel in the midst of their problem. But when there is proper counseling, solution is guaranteed and purpose is established.

Every problem of life has a solution and one of the ways is seeking good counsel from experts or experienced people.

All the positive alternatives obtained must be subjected to proper counseling, so that good decisions can be drawn from them.

Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

Proverbs 15:22

It is advisable that before one gives up on any project, one should seek the advice of the experts; because it has been discovered that people usually give up on the edge of their breakthrough. If you quit at the edge of your breakthrough, other people will reap the fruit of your labour and sweat.

So, seek not just for ordinary counsel but good, proper and seasoned counsel from the professionals who are God fearing people.

8. Decide on one Alternative

There is no reason to seek information and counsel from the professionals if one is not ready to take action on it. One must be ready to take responsibility on the counsel and work it out to get expected solutions.

You must prayerfully select one of the alternatives and rightly apply it, so as so to get the expected success.

Without decision there is no direction, because it is your decision that gives you direction in life. If you don't decide on what to do, nothing will be done. It is what you acted upon that will actually bring solutions to your life. Action releases the power of faith at work in your life to accomplish your expected result.

9. Act! Don't Procrastinate

If you wait until the wind and the weather are just right, you will never plant anything and never harvest anything.

Ecclesiastics 11:4(GNB)

A lot of people fail today because they don't act immediately on their decisions.

We have too many decision makers but few decision takers. The most important thing is to act on the decision you make. A life without decision is a life without direction; it is your decision that gives direction to your life.

Everyone can make a decision, but the real test is in taking action to actualize the decision. Many people get stranded in life because of procrastination.

Another translation of Ecclesiastes 11:4 says, "If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done."

There was the story of some fishermen, who were desirous of improving their knowledge of catching fishes for sale. Throughout the year, they spent money attending numerous conferences and seminars on fishing, buying new books, new boats, finding new technology and looking for new improvement.

This they did for five years continuously and never actually used any of the knowledge gained to catch any fish. These men died as failures, with many unpaid bills. I pray that you don't die as a failure, and that God will give you power to act.

It is true that where there is a will there is a way. There is a difference between having a will and having a wish. Your will leads to decision

taking and wishes remains at the level of your desire. You can wish for or desire a thing for the rest of your life without having it. That is why it is said that if wishes were horses, even beggars will ride.

You need to turn your wish to will and your desire to decision, before you can get your expected miracle. When you wish you procrastinate, but “will” takes an action that leads to productive solution.

10. Face it, and Expect a Miracle

For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

Proverbs 23:18

The word ‘expectation’ connotes a strong passion for something. It is to wish, or desire for something to happen, especially something that seems impossible. God wants you to have positive desires for specific things in your life. He always wants to see the desires of the righteous come to pass. That is why He said, the desire of the righteous shall be granted. Proverbs 10:24.

What is your expectation from God? Are you really expecting God to bring a miracle out of that issue? If you really believe God for a miracle you have to face it and have a positive attitude for a solution. Whatever you don’t desire, you don’t deserve; and what you don’t expect, you will never experience. Your desire will put the power of God into motion for your maximum breakthrough.

God cannot do for you more than your thought pattern because as a man thinks in his heart, so is he. (Proverbs 23:7). What is your thought pattern about the action you want to take?

Some of us need to change the negative thoughts that are hindering God from blessing us. We must change our mindsets, before God can reach us. King David said,

Delight thy self also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 37:4

God has given His verdict that He will give us the desires of our heart. Our God is a loving Father who wants to see all His children prosper and succeed, as He has planned and purposed before the beginning of time. Why don’t you align your desire with what God is about to do in your life and ministry? God will do according to the desires of your heart. Don’t

let the devil lie to you that it is impossible because with God all things are possible.

It is your turn to laugh! It will be like when the Lord turned against the captivity of Zion, they were like them that dreamt, their mouth was filled with laughter and their tongue with singing..." (Psalm 126:1-4). So shall your testimony be in Jesus name. Therefore, face it and expect a miracle from God!

Chapter 6

Start Little and End Big

Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

Job 8:7

Starting small doesn't mean ending small. Small beginnings usually have big endings. To despise small beginnings is to miss the greater future.

The reason why we don't have great finishers is because we don't have small beginners. Starting from the top leads you nowhere. God will never make you start from the top; He will rather get you down to the basement where foundation is laid.

No builder starts construction from the roof. Every building construction starts from the foundation and keeps going up until it gets to the roof top.

Only a grave is dug from the top. So if you are trying to start from the top, you will eventually find yourself down. In fact, it is risky because, "You are digging your grave."

My advice is this: put your best into your small beginnings. If you do you are putting your best into your future.

Your input will determine your output, and your today's input is your tomorrow output. If you can't impact your beginning you can't impact your future. A man that wastes his today has literally wasted his tomorrow. Such people do not have a colorful future and great ending.

Just as the kingdom of God is in phases; the result of our investment also comes in phases. No matter how hardworking you are, your harvest will not come out as a full grown corn, it will first come as a blade, then ear, and after as a full corn. Mark 4:28

God's kind of prosperity comes in seed form. Don't eat your seed, but plant it and invest on it. And at the due season of life it will bring forth fruits in 30, 60, and 100 fold returns.

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Ecclesiastes 7:8

Many want greater ending but they despise little beginnings, it is the principle of life that whatsoever a man sows that shall he reap.

Why does God Start Small With Us?

1. He wants to see your faithfulness in little things. Luke 16:10
2. God is looking for partners He can work with from the beginning. Psalm 133:1
3. God wants to kill the possibilities of pride in our life. John 3:30
4. God wants us to learn how to work with Him in stages. Isaiah 28:10
5. God wants to give us the opportunity to expand, enlarge, fruitful, multiply and replenish. Genesis 1:28.
6. God wants all the glory to be given to Him at the end of it all. 1Corinthians 15:10, 1Corinthians 1:29.

Dear readers, I want you to know that failure is anti-covenant, i.e it does not agree with the wishes of God for your life. You are not a failure until you choose to admit failure. Failures are those who do not want to take up the challenge of starting from the beginning. If you want to start big, then you are working contrary to the covenant of God.

John Maxwell says, "Your future is a blank canvass, waiting only for you to get started on it. The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious."

May God give you the grace to start small, like the way Jesus the King of Kings started small in the manger as a baby. Receive understanding in Jesus name.

Chapter 7

The Force of Imagination

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

No man becomes successful in life without first seeing himself as a successful person. What you can't see yourself becoming, you will definitely never become.

Lack of imagination leads to failure and presence of it is a catalyst for success. All great inventors are great thinkers; full of imaginations.

Imagination is having the picture of your success in your heart. Whatever you want to become in life, you have to see it first, before you can receive it. The mind of a man is like a television that processes and show the picture of one's success.

Mick Murdock said, "Your imagination is an invisible machine inside your mind and God gave it to you to create picture of your success." Imagination unlocks the incredible potential of your success in life and ministry.

See it and have it

Napoleon Bonaparte said, "Eyes that look are many, but eyes that see are few." The human race is governed by its imagination. A lot of people today have eyes that look but few of them can see with it.

A man can keep looking at something and yet never see anything good about it. We need to pray, that God should give us the eyes that see into the unseen realms.

The fact is this, whatever you can't see, you can't have, but if you can see it then you can have it. Your mental picture transfers your victory from the realm of the spirit into the physical.

God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. Ephesians 1:3. But of course, we don't need them there; we need them in the physical realm. So, we need to see it spiritually and picture it first with our imagination, before we can attain them in the natural realm through faith in God.

“All the breaks you need in your life are within your imagination.”
Whatever the mind of a man can imagine and believe, it can achieve.

Abraham was a great man of faith but God had to help his faith by giving him a mental picture of His great promises before he could believe the promises for his life. God used his imagination to strengthen his faith. Your miracle begins in the soul of your imagination, and whatever you imagine to do, cannot be restrained by the devil or any man.

God visited Abraham one night, took him out of his tent and told him to look up towards heaven.

And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.
Genesis 15:5

Abraham had given up hope of having a child at his age, but after God stirred his imagination of how plenteous his seeds will be, like stars of the sky, the Bible says in the next verse that,

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.
Genesis 15:6

If what you see in the physical can help your faith, likewise what you see with your imagination can help your Faith. God had to give Abraham a spiritual picture of how his seeds will be uncountable, before he could believe God's promise for his life.

Nothing can stop your Imagination

“...And now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.”
Genesis 11:6

God knew the strength in imagination that was why He said nothing will stop that which man has imagined to do. No matter how big your dream is, if you can believe it in your heart, then you can have it, in spite of any the opposition and difficulties you may face.

In Genesis 11:6 God saw the extent to which the imagination of men motivated them into building a tower that will reach to heaven. It looked like an impossible project in the natural, yet their imagination told them that it was possible.

They started building it together in the spirit of unity. When God saw their oneness, wide imagination and burning persistence, the Bible says, “God came down from heaven to stop men from achieving their goal.”

With God nothing shall be impossible Luke 1:37. If your imagination is in line with God and His word, the sky is your starting point, not your limit. With God we can achieve whatever we want to achieve in life and ministry.

You are the only person that can stop your vision and dream from coming to pass. Not even the devil can stop you.

I often tell myself that, if I fail, it is my choice; not the devil, not God not any human being. God cannot stop me because I am His son and my will is in line with His will, and I can attain my greatest dreams in life.

In Romans 8:31, the bible says, “...If God be for us, who can be against us?” No one can be against us except ourselves.

Let us learn to have big imaginations, dreams and visions, because God is for us and not against us. And whatever, we can imagine we can have. Our imagination is the eye of our mind, and whatever we can see with it we can attain and finally we can receive.

E.W. Kenyon said, “Make your brain to work, it may sweat, but make it work, it will become envy of those around you.” I have discovered that every star is a thinker and every thinker is a potential star. The rise of every man is the function of his mental faculty and the quality of your thought is the quality of your life.

We need to engage ourselves in positive thinking and deep meditation. Our meditations are concentrated mental attention and it is nothing but the act of thinking through.

Napoleon Hill said, “The break you need in life waits within your imagination. Imagination is the workshop of your mind capable of turning mind energy into accomplishment and wealth.”

I want to encourage you to learn how to exploit all the power and advantage that lies within your imagination.

A man can create anything he imagines in his mind. There is something about visualizing, dreaming and imagining what God has promised you that can cause faith to rise up in your heart and mind. The powerful pictures that God paints in our heart builds up faith and hope in us and help us in our faith walk with God.

Remember, the word imagination comes from the word image, so learn how to paint images of success, greatness, prosperity and any positive images you can think of, and such images, shall begin to come into manifestation in your life and ministry in Jesus name.

You can read more about imagination from my book, "The Making of Champions."

Chapter 8

The Force of Determination

If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Job 14:14

Determination is a state of the mind. It is the possession of a strong will power to forge on, not mindful of all the difficulties and challenges of life. It is being constant and unmovable on your road to success.

You need a strong desire to achieve what you are aiming at. Don't quit until you get your breakthrough.

According to R.U. Derby, "Men give up when success is within their grasp. They leave it for somebody else to capture." Determination is a habit worth cultivating and I want you to develop it in your daily life activities.

It takes the hammer of persistence to drive the nail of success. The more you refuse to quit the more you are get close to your greatness.

Sometimes, on our road to greatness we may face diverse difficulties and oppositions meant to make us quit and to give up. When the problem is getting too much and you feel like turning back, in such times you need to keep on going on.

You need to make up your mind before you embark on the journey of success with full determination not to quit irrespective of what comes your way. When you make such decision from the onset, it will push you through all difficulties that may come on your way.

Don't be counted among them that quit at the edge of their miracle. Gird around your loins the belt of determination, put on the cloak of faith and you will surely succeed.

According to Frank W. Annsaulus, "Where there's a will, there's a way." Your determination to become great in life will be evident in your words and actions. Definitely when one is truly ready for a thing it puts in its appearance.

Don't Quit

A dictionary definition of the word "Quit" means, "to give up, to renounce, to abandon, to leave, to depart from, to cease, to desist from that which one has been doing. To turn back after you have embarked on a project makes you unfit for the greatness in life and ministry.

The cost for quitters is high time, energy, pains, finances, reproach, ridicule, shame, disgrace, disappointment, failure, poverty, lack, rejection, etc.

You need to determine to finish the race, before you ever start at all. This will help you not to quit when you face any problem on your way to greatness. Napoleon Hill the famous writer said, more than 500 of the most successful men America has ever known, told him that their success came just one step beyond the point at which defeat had overtaken them. Don't quit, keep on fighting, maybe your next fight will lead to your long awaited victory.

Rev. Kenneth Copeland, a man of God that has influenced my life said this, "When you refuse to give up on your vision and dream, the devil will soon run out of fuel." But the most painful aspect of it is that, before the devil runs out of fuel, many of us have already quit.

It is better to forge ahead, because the devil will soon get tired and success will be yours in Jesus name!

A man is not a failure until he quits trying. Failure is never final; you are not a failure until you fail to try. When a man is determined not to fail in life, he sees possibilities in every opposition that come across his way. The number of times you tried and failed does not really matter, if you can bounce back and keep on, you will soon get at success.

The great scientist and inventor, Thomas Edison dreamt of a lamp operated by electricity. He tried his experiments and failed for more than 10,000 times. Yet what He said was that he had only found 10,000 ways of how not to make an electric lamp. He kept on at the dream until it became a reality.

Failure or success is a matter of choice. Are you at the verge of giving up on your dreams and goals? Make the right choice to succeed in life.

Persist more for a while and the next opportunity may be your springboard for greatness and victory. Practical dreamers don't quit.

A song says "I just can't give up now; I have gone too far from where I started from".

Dear reader, why quit when you have gone far? The cost of quitting is more than what it requires to keep on going on. If what you wish to do is right, and can give you fulfillment and success and you believe in it, go ahead and do it! Don't be mindful of what people say. Make up your mind to succeed.

Desire to Succeed

When a man desires something so intensely that he is willing to stake his life to get it, he is sure to win/succeed.

When a man is about to quit, it means his desire is getting weak. The best he can do is to rekindle his desire, so that he can get going, until he attains his desired goals and dreams.

Jesus said,

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Mark 11:24

Edwin Barnes said, "A man may be poorly dressed and penniless, yet his burning desire can bring him the greatest opportunity of his life time. A man full of strong desire never takes No for an answer. In fact, No does not necessarily mean "No". There is "Yes" behind every NO!

Dreams come true when desire transforms them into concrete action. Friends, ask life for any great gift and encourage life to deliver them to you.

You Need Patience

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Hebrews 10:36

Patience is the ability to endure pain, provocation or put up with severe conditions of life until a favorable result come out of it.

Patience is not passive but active. It is holding on to the promises of God until it comes to pass.

You need to add patience to your faith, so that you can obtain the promise of God for your life. When your faith is getting weary and weak, then you need patience to carry it to its destination. "Patience is the battery that keeps the clocks of faith moving."

Without the battery the clock cannot move, so also without patience faith cannot work. That is why Hebrews 10:36 says, "You need patience, so that when you have done the will of God, you can obtain the promise."

Abraham the father of faith got the promised child Isaac after he added patience to his faith and waited for twenty five years.

Beloved, I want you make up your mind not to quit, and patiently wait at the promises of God until you obtain it.

One of the men God used to mentor me along the area of success is Mike Murdock, who said, "Something good is happening every moment of your life. Something is growing bigger. It may be the discovery of your weakness in your previous plans being revealed. Whatever it is today is producing some special result from your effort!"

Dear friends, just keep on going on in life, make sure you are doing the right thing, refuse to quit, sooner than you expect, your success will manifest in Jesus name.

You can read more about determination in my book "The Making of Champions"

Chapter 9

Welcome to the Winners World!

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1Corinthians 15:57

The winner's world is only reserved for those who believe in Jesus as the son of God. Not only that, it is also for those who are determined to make it in life.

You are born as a victor into God's kingdom. The original master plan of God for your life is to become a champion. He has created you for every good work and you cannot afford to disappoint Him and your generation by not the great investment that God has put in you.

God has done everything, to make our success a reality. The next thing for you to do is to go for that which He has made ready for you by Christ Jesus.

Our success in life is the function of God's grace over our life. God is the source of our success. Greatness is our nature and our birth right. Why? It is because we are born as champions into the family of God. One translation of the Bible says, "He that is born of God is a world Champion." 1John 5:4

The kingdom of God is the kingdom of winners and anybody that is born into it is born into the winners' family.

This book cannot place greatness in you; you are already born great in God. We are already chosen as kings and priests in Christ Jesus. The book is only helping to wake up the sleeping giants on your inside, to be what God has called you to be, to help you discover, maximize, develop and release your potential to bless your generation.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
1Peter 2:9

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.
Revelation 5:10

Seed of Greatness

There is a seed of greatness in everything that God created. You have greatness inside of you in a potential form.

A lot of people even Christians, have died leaving their seed of greatness undiscovered. They were destined to be great by God, but died in poverty, because they never discovered who they were in God.

You need to die empty. You need to pour out all your potentials to bless humanity. You are too loaded to die with it. Empty all that God has put in you, then you can go to your grave and die empty and satisfied.

I want you to congratulate yourself, for being born into the winner's family. I want you to prayerfully read this book over and over again and be determined to develop all the success secrets I have shared with you. I believe no devil, man or any circumstance can stop you again forever.

The sky is the limit is the common saying, but with enough information gained through this book; I will say the sky is no longer your limit, but rather your starting point. That means you can go as far as you determine to go.

All I have shared in this book are personal revelations of God to me and that is the secret of my success in life and ministry.

Beloved readers, you have a brighter future than what you can see today. Your tomorrow is going to be great as God has destined it to be.

Arise and possess your possessions in Jesus name-Amen. Shalom!

Wisdom Keys

Chapter 1

1. Success is being in the centre of God's plan and purpose for your life.
2. Success is finishing the race that God set before you
3. The ultimate plan of God for man is to fulfill his destiny

Chapter 2

1. You are the product of your choice
2. Nobody becomes successful by accident
3. The Holy Spirit is the helper of the Church today

Chapter 3

1. Success is the will of God for mankind
2. God can teach you to prosper
3. God cannot help you beyond your confession
4. The gate to your heart is your mouth
5. Only doers of the word shall be blessed
6. The problem of the church is ignorance
7. Ignorance can kill and rob you of your benefits in Christ
8. All our plans/proposal are void without money
9. We cannot be a good Christian without money

Chapter 4

1. Discover what you have, develop it and begin to use it
2. There is a treasure in your life, that you have not yet discovered
3. God is looking for something to give you your miracle
4. Give God that little thing; He will multiply it for you.
5. God's given vision does not speak in the beginning but at the end.
6. Those that despise small beginnings have despised greatness unknowingly.
7. God usually starts everything big in a seed form
8. Dreams are not for the present, but for the future
9. Your greatness is already positioned in you by God
10. Your today's seed is your tomorrow harvest
11. You only need a seed to get a harvest
12. God gave one son to have many sons
13. You don't need harvest to get harvest; you only need a seed for your harvest.

Chapter 5

1. Challenge is the ladder you climb into your new realms
2. Your yesterdays failure can be a catalyst for your tomorrow's success
3. Problems are for a short period of time
4. There is no problem that has a staying power. It will soon be over.
5. Any problem that does not have a solution does not exist.
6. It takes charisma to get to the top, but it takes character to stay there.
7. Your potentials will not be released until you face some challenges.
8. Any mountain you cannot climb is your ignorance.
9. With your mind you can think through your problem.
10. Problems are to be solved not to run away from.
11. There is no problem that does not have a cause.
12. Make God your final alternative.
13. A life without decision is a life without direction.
14. Every other thing in life responds to the decisions you make.

Chapter 6

1. Anything you start from the top is your grave.
2. Your today's input is your tomorrow's impact

Chapter 7

1. What you can't see you can't have.
2. Eyes that look are many, but eyes that see are few.
3. Every star is a thinker and every thinker is a potential star.
4. Nothing can stop what you imagine to do

Chapter 8

1. Men give up when success is within their grasp
2. The cost of quitting is higher than that of going on with life.
3. A man is not a failure until he quits trying
4. Dreams come through when desire translates them into concrete action.
5. Patience is the ability to endure provocation until a favorable result come

Chapter 9

1. Success in life is the function of God's grace.
2. Empty your potentials before you die, it is not needed in heaven.

Do you want to confess Jesus as your Lord and personal Saviour?

Say this prayer now.

Lord Jesus, I come to you today. I am a sinner and I cannot help myself. Forgive me my sins and wash me and cleanse me with your blood, which you shed for me. Come into my life and reign and deliver me from sin and Satan. Write my name in the book of life. Thank you for saving me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen!

Have you prayed this prayer? Congratulation, you are now a Born Again Christian.

I encourage you to join any Bible believing Church close to you for your further growth in Christ.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Faith Kayode Adeniran is a dynamic minister of the gospel with a strong preaching and teaching unction upon his life, called to empower the body of Christ to succeed in all areas of their life. He is the president of Faith Adeniran Ministries (FAM), a multifaceted ministry, comprising of a Church, a media Ministry, a publishing outfit, a trainer's ministry and an out-reach ministry.

He is a conference speaker, a writer and author of several books which are all in high demand. Faith Adeniran Ministries has been used by God to impact the body of Christ in several African Countries, Europe and United States of America.

He is a graduate member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. He is happily married to Helen Adeniran and they are blessed with three children: Praise, William and Prince.

Faith Adeniran currently resides in Bristol United Kingdom from where he brings miracles to your world through the word.