
SUCCESS
BUTTONS

Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Chapter 1 Success, Your Covenant Right
- Chapter 2 Above Only
- Chapter 3 The Way To Success
- Chapter 4 Guard Your Mind
- Chapter 5 Wisdom - The Principal Thing
- Chapter 6 Discipline - The Control Valve
- Chapter 7 Hard Work

Introduction

God has given me some glad tidings for you. The summary of it all is that you are destined for success. God has made a Master Plan of success for you in all aspects of life. It is His divine will for you to be successful in life. He is absolutely interested in the ultimate realization of your success.

It is sad, however, that most Christians have not come to the knowledge of this truth. They see themselves as never-do-wells; good-for-nothings, and people who would understand it better in heaven, someday. They therefore, yield to the oppressive lies of the devil and the world that they should not and cannot make it here, that this world is not their home. They sing, "take the whole world and give me Jesus". They are so obsessed with the thought of getting to heaven now that they lose sight of their benefits in this present world.

Determine from this point to be open to the Holy Spirit to teach you through the truth revealed in this book. I am presently standing with you in faith and in agreement that your life will take a new turn after reading through this book.

Approach the word with reverence and seriousness. Allow it to get into you and it will work effectively for you.

Chapter 1

Success: Your Covenant Right

At new birth, you entered into a covenant relationship with God. This covenant covers all areas of your life. God has done everything to make you a success. He has made a grand design of success for you. His will for you is success and it is spelt out in His Word.

The problem with many of God's people is that they lack the knowledge of this truth. They do not know that God has planned and programmed them for success. So they continue to live purposelessly. They do not have knowledge of their success. They are confused. They drift and wander because they have no knowledge motivation for success.

Lack of knowledge is one of the most dreadful spiritual diseases. It is basic that you cannot rise above the level of what you know. Knowledge has a way of affecting and influencing an individual's personality and well-being. If you do not know something, you cannot use it. You cannot reap what you have not sown. There must be sowing before reaping. So you cannot use knowledge you do not possess. That is why the world says, "Knowledge is power." This is very true. Knowledge actually gives power. When you know something, you have the ability to control it. That ability proceeds from knowledge. God says, ignorance (the absence of knowledge) destroys.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"
Hosea 4:6

If God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, it means that they can be saved and delivered by knowledge. Knowledge is very important for life in the Spirit. You will not amount to anything serious with God without a good knowledge of Him. Even in the academic world, knowledge is the key word. You need knowledge to become anything in God.

On the other hand, there are people who have a lot of knowledge of God's word, but it is useless to them. They have it only in the head and not in the heart. The word has become common to them. They are so used to hearing it that it does not make any difference. Some read only for head knowledge or to increase their "spiritual vocabulary." They have not come to a place of unshaken confidence in the word. All they have is mental assent. They only agree mentally with the Word. They know and agree that it is true but do not have a heart knowledge of it. They do not believe it.

There is a difference between mental assent and faith. Mental assent knows and agrees that God is God and He is the Almighty and the Bible is His word. It agrees also that the word is true, but without committal of faith to it. This agreement or knowledge, does not work for those that possess it. It has no activating force. It is limited to the sense knowledge realm only.

Faith, on the other hand, is of the heart. Mental assent is of the head. Faith knows, agrees and believes. You cannot believe with your head. You can only believe with your heart. Jesus, speaking about the power of faith and confession, said it is only the one who speaks and refuses to doubt in his heart that can have what he says.

"For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, AND SHALL NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART, BUT SHALL BELIEVE (IN HIS HEART) that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith"
Mark 11:23 *(Emphasis mine)*

It is clear from this statement that faith is of the heart not of the head. It is not what comes out of your head that is established, but the one that proceeds from the heart. Paul says, *"With the heart, man believeth ..." (**Romans 10:10**)*. Not with the head!

Do not approach the word with a mental state. Approach it with reverence and godly fear. The word has to be sown into you before you can reap results. Your head is not the fertile ground, your heart is. When the word enters your heart, it will produce a miracle. Note that the Bible says the entrance of the word (only) produces light.

"The entrance of Thy word giveth light, it giveth understanding unto the simple"
Psalm 119:130

It does not say, the reading of the word. Not even the studying. It is the entrance of the word into the heart that produces light. I am yet to see a man into whom the word has gained entrance and still remains the same.

When the word enters you, it produces a miracle light, and you become a master in that area of life. When the word of victory enters you, you become a victor always. When the word of authority enters you, it becomes absolutely easy for you to take your rightful position and operate accordingly.

The day the word of holiness entered me, becoming holy ceased being a struggle. It has become quite natural for me to be holy. I am no longer struggling with sin. I have no business with it. I know I am above it. I know I have won the battle in that area. I am a master in that area.

It is the same with other areas of life including success. If you do not have the word of success in you, you will still struggle with failure. When the word of God concerning any subject enters you, God's ability is released to take total control of that situation. You are helpless without the entrance of the word. You should always long for the entrance of the word.

The success of the early church hinged primarily on the fact that they were always receiving the word. They constantly allowed the word to gain entrance into them. That was why it was easy for them to get things done. The light that is produced at the entrance of the word is so powerful that no darkness can overcome it.

You can be a faithful servant of the Lord all your life and yet fail to enjoy your benefits. The elder brother of the prodigal son is an example. He was a faithful and dedicated worker. He served his father faithfully but he did not enjoy the benefits of that relationship. He knew him to be his father, he knew him to be very rich but he had no light regarding his right to the things that belonged to his father. When the younger brother came back from his wasteful spending, their father was excited. He killed the fatted cow and called a great party. He dressed the prodigal son beautifully and they began to make merry and to rejoice. When the faithful brother approached the city in the evening, he was surprised at what was happening. This man grew annoyed and protested to his father:

"And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he grew angry, and would not go in; therefore came his father out, and entreated him, and he answering said,

Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment; and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends; but as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him a fatted calf. And he said unto him, son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine"

Luke 15:26-31

This man has been serving his father faithfully. He has never at any time disobeyed. He has been loyal to his father. He is an embodiment of dedication and commitment. But he said his father had not given him a kid, not even a calf. The father told him it was his. "All that I have is yours freely to enjoy." Note that the wealth has been there always. He has contributed immensely to the success of the business but he was striving in ignorance. He did not know that all he needed to do was to draw from it and enjoy it. His father told him; they are all yours!

This is the picture of many believers today. They are only serving God; they do not know their right to God's blessings. The elder brother to the prodigal son did not know these things belonged to him until he was told. Benefits do not come upon a believer just because he is serving God.

I have seen people who continued faithfully with God but lived in abject poverty. They did not have knowledge of their covenant rights. God will not say, "this man has done a lot of things, he is so zealous so let me do this for him." No! He does not work that way. It is the knowledge of the truth that you know that sets you free. Nothing can happen to you in the Christian faith above the level of your knowledge of the truth. You cannot reap what you have not sown.

The Word has to gain entrance into you before you can get the light. Jesus confirmed this truth.

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"
John 8:32

It is the knowledge of your covenant right to success that will set you free from failure and throw you into a life of consistent success. It is not by accident or chance. The things of the spirit are not operated on chance or luck. They are programmed on spiritual laws. When the right key is used your result will surely come.

Your devotion and zeal are not enough. Paul said it is possible to be zealous without knowledge (Romans 10:2). That zeal is not good until it is coupled with knowledge, because you can never enjoy what you do not know.

You have a success covenant with God. But you need a definite knowledge of this truth to be able to enjoy it. Success is yours by right and by birth. The new creation qualifies you for success. That is the entry point into the covenant.

Naturally, life is full of troubles. It can be adequately described as a bed of troubles. But life in the spirit is just a bed of roses. There is no grammatical adjective to qualify it. It is more than anything anybody can describe.

Success for you is not a matter of chance. It has no relevance to your natural background. Most people say, "I wish I had educated parents," or "I wish I had a wealthy and successful background." They say life would have been better with them. Your background is the best. You have

the most educated parents. Your parents are the wealthiest. No one is more educated than God. None is wealthier than Him. He is your real Father. He is your real background. Your background is the most successful in history!

Jesus said, do not call anybody your father on earth. He said you have one Father and He is in heaven. He is the Almighty God. He is your Father. And since you are not a bastard, you have only one Father and He is God. He is your background.

God called Abraham and made a covenant with him. He told him He would bless him and make him a blessing.

"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land I will show thee: And I will make 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 them that curse thee and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed"
Genesis 12:1-3

The summary of what God told Abraham is that, He was establishing a covenant of success with him and his seed. This was the declaration of God's mind to Abraham and you, his seed.

There is no way a man can be a blessing to others if he is not successful himself. A failure cannot be a blessing. It is one who has made it that can be a blessing to others. Study the life of Abraham and notice how successful the man

was. God literally fulfilled that covenant. He was so successful that he had his own private army. He had a crowd of three hundred body guards! God blessed him so much that he became a blessing to many people.

God said you shall be a blessing. He said your blessing will be so obvious that people will come and be blessed by you. Your blessings will overflow to others.

A lot of Christians think or are made to believe that greatness and prosperity are not of God. To them, if you aspire to greatness, you are over-ambitious, and that such may even be a sign of pride and backsliding. But look at ***Genesis 12:1-3*** again. God Himself told Abraham, saying, *"I will make you a great nation and I will bless you. And make your name GREAT."* He said, *"I will bless you and make you a blessing."*

God is not against greatness. He is not against prosperity. He is not against success. He is the author of them all. God is the originator of greatness. Do you not know that He is the Great God? No one is greater than Him. He is not against your success. He is happy to see you succeed in life.

Notice that this was the first statement He made to Abraham. It was so important to God that He did not say anything about any other thing. He seemed to give the impression that, that was and is the most pressing thing in His mind.

God wants you to be great. He wants to bless you so much that you will be a blessing to others. That blessing means prosperity. It means success. It means reigning in life, over every situation and circumstance. That is God's will for you. Do not be deceived. God is not in anything that has to do with failure. He does not know it. He reigns over and above failure.

The reason why Jesus came is to redeem us from the bondage of the curse and to grant us entrance into the blessings of Abraham. That is the core of His assignment. He came to make life more inspiring and fulfilling for you. He came and took your place under the curse of the law and redeemed you. He brought you into covenant relationship with God.

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every man that hangeth on a tree: that the blessings of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith"
Galatians 3:13

Your blessing story started the moment God said to Abraham, "You shall be a blessing." That was when your blessing started. And Jesus came and brought you into it. He came so that you may have access into the blessings of Abraham. They are yours today.

You have come under this blessing of Abraham. You may not know it, but you are already under the covenant. You are a partner with God in success, that is how He sees you.

Understand that God knows the implications of that covenant. He adheres totally to its terms. He is bent on fulfilling it to you. He wants you to realize your position and stand tall in success.

You need to have an understanding that God intends and wills you for good success. You can only understand this effectively if you know your place in the covenant. You need to know and believe that when God gave out the covenant to Abraham, He was doing it for you. He had you in mind at that time.

If you trace a few scriptural facts, you will notice that you were present when God established the success covenant with Abraham. Paul, presenting his case on the high priestly office of the Lord Jesus Christ, insisted that Levi paid tithe to Melchizedek, King of Salem, the priest of the Most High and paid tithe to him.

"And Melchizedek King of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the Priest of the Most High God. And he blessed him, and said, blessed be Abram of the Most High God possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the Most High God who hath delivered thine enemies into thine hand, and he gave him the tithes of all"
Genesis 14:18-20

Paul said that since Abraham paid tithe to Melchizedek, Levi and his descendants (the priests) paid tithe to him through Abraham. He said the reason is that Levi was in Abraham's loins at that time and so it was the same as Levi paying tithe to Melchizedek.

"And as I may so say, Levi also who receiveth tithes, paid tithes in Abraham. For he was in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him"
Hebrews 7:9-10

This is very clearly stated. It was the same thing that happened at the fall of man. The moment Adam sinned, the whole human race sinned in him. He was the representative of man. So by his sin we were all made sinners. It became real that the whole human race was lost, separated from God.

You were not there physically at that time, but you were present in him. You were yet in his loins. So we were all accounted to have sinned. Much in the same way, you were blessed in Abraham when God said to him, "I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee and make thy name great and thou shall be a blessing." He was not cutting the covenant with Abraham alone. He was cutting it with Abraham and his seed. He was cutting it with you.

He knows you are a seed of Abraham and so He cut that covenant with you. It is not strictly Abraham's covenant. It is your covenant with God. People call it Abraham's because he received it on our behalf. But it is yours as much as it is Abraham's. God is committed to fulfilling it to you as much as He was to Abraham. You are a covenant son. You have God's success covenant.

Jesus had all these in mind when He said you are a light on a candle stick which cannot be hid. He also said you are like a house built upon the top of a hill which cannot be hid

from sight. God does not design you for obscurity. He wants your success to be obvious to sight.

"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 candle stick and it giveth light to 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 5:14-16

Success is the underlying factor in these statements. The summary of all Jesus was saying there is that, your success will be so outstanding that nobody around you can claim ignorance of it. They will all see it. You will not be able to hide it even if you want to. Success is as revealing as light. You cannot hide it. God wants you to know that He has destined you for success in an absolute sense. Success is your covenant right.

Chapter 2

Above Only

Most Christians are used to the ordinary. They have built up an impression that good success is not their lot. They believe that it is good to just barely make it. They are satisfied with a mere pass. They have lost sight of, or do not even know, the fact that God intends good success for them. They are completely ignorant of God's provision for them to be above only and not beneath.

In Deuteronomy 28, the Bible says God's intention for you is to be ABOVE ONLY. That is to say success only and always; not failure.

"And it shall come to pass, 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. And all these blessings shall come on thee and overtake thee if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

And the Lord shall make thee the head and not the tail; and thou shall be ABOVE ONLY and thou shall not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them"

Deuteronomy 28:1-2,13

People, even preachers, have told us in the past that success is anti-godliness. People have got the idea that mediocrity is synonymous with consecration. So the Church has been singing "O take the whole world and give me Jesus ..., we will understand it better by and by ... People were deep in ignorance. They have been deceived into believing that the Christian life is a life of continuous and consistent struggles. They even say that when things are becoming very smooth with you, you must check and examine yourself because the Christian life is full of troubles and sorrows. This is essentially a lie from the devil. God does not intend life to be up and down for you.

He said, "you shall be above only, and not beneath." I cannot see any failure in that statement. It is God's heart desire for you to be an outstanding success and remain so. Success is not a symptom of backsliding or carnality. It is an attribute of divinity.

Many people in the world today claim they are successful. But the world has not known real success yet. The genuine success has not come. When it comes, every man will see and know it. It will be obvious to all. This kind of success is divine success. It is being like God in all areas of life, an all round success! Most people who claim to have success in business, academics or in their respective professions are worse than failures in other areas of life. Their Family life, for example, cannot be discussed. Their social life is something else. That is not success.

Success is being successful all round. It is being like God. And this kind is reserved for God's people only. That is

why the Bible says, "you will be above only and not beneath." God's success nature puts you over; it cannot be put under. Being above means good success. Being beneath means failure. Being the head means success, and being the tail means failure. Notice how it is put; it says,

"And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only and thou shalt not be beneath ..."

There is no sense of doubt about this. God says He will make you the head. He wants to make you the most successful. You are not meant to be the wretched of the earth. He wants you above always. He does not want you to be trampled upon. You are not designed to be a drawer of water and hewer of wood. He means you for much better things than that.

I do not know what you think about yourself, but the fact remains that God wants you to be above only. You need to allow your mind come under a new orientation and revelation from God. You need to be heart-washed and brain-washed! (Your brain definitely needs to be scrubbed). Those traditions of men and devils must be removed. You need a completely renewed mind to get into the full consciousness of God's success plan for your life.

Success is a good gift. It is a good thing. We have proofs from the Bible that God is delighted in giving good things to His people. He does not tempt people with evil. Failure is evil. Success is good. God is the author of success, and the devil is the author of failure. He attempted to dethrone

God, but failed. So, he started it. He is the author and finisher of failure, while God is the author and finisher of good and absolute success. He gives good success to His people.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"
James 1:17

God is the source of divine success. He is not evil. He gives good gifts. If you are a parent, you would not desire failure for your child. You would not even want him to be average. You would want him to be a bright fellow. You would want him to top his class all the time. Nothing but his best will satisfy you. How come then do you think and believe that God can wish you for failure? He does not do that. If you would wish your child for success, how much more would God wish you for success.

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?
Matthew 7:11

God takes pride in your success even more than you take pride in your child's success. It is His interest and deep heart hunger. He created you to be the expression of His glory and praise here on earth. You are not ordinary. At salvation, He brought you out of the natural unto the supernatural. He brought you out of the ordinary. He brought you out of yourself unto Himself. That is why you

are peculiar, and designed to be a showpiece to the world. He wants you to be a symbol of divinity here on earth.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, (God's) own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him who called you out of darkness unto His marvelous light"
1 Peter 2:9 **Amplified**

You are to be a showpiece to God's wonderful deeds and virtues. King James Version says to "show forth." A showpiece is something that shows forth. God's ultimate intention is for you to be a show piece.

God is saying to you, "I have reserved a place for you at the top. I have no plan for you at the base of the ladder. It is My express will for you to be on top and be above only. That is My eternal plan and programme for you."

You say, "Bishop, do you mean we are all meant to be at the top? Who then will be below? If we are all above only, then nobody will be beneath." And I say, it is not your business to know who will be beneath. God says it is you He wants up there. Who ever takes the last position is not for you to worry about. But note that as many as are without Christ will definitely be beneath. They cannot do any better. They are failures by nature because their father, Satan, is the greatest failure the world has ever known.

Do you ever notice that Job's pattern of life was a manifest showpiece? It arrested the devil's attention, busy as he was.

Job was a symbol of divinity in wealth and right living. He just was demonstrating God's traits in successful living. He was a sign and that caught the devil's attention. Much in the same way, God wants you to be a sign here on earth. He wants you to be a pointer to divinity in success. The Bible says in ***Isaiah 8:18***,

"I and the children the Lord hath given me, are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in Mount Zion"

God means you to be a sign. He wants you to be a wonder to many in success. Men should see God in you. Christianity is not only in repenting and going to heaven someday. We will surely go to heaven, but before then, God wants to show the world through the church that heaven is for real. This will happen when we begin to live out God's qualities and attributes here on this earth.

I do not know why Christians are used to mediocrity. God's life in you is not for such things. The seed of success is there already. Allow it to germinate, grow and have full expression and manifestation. That is God's will for you, and that is the way to be above only.

People ask me, "Pastor, what do you really mean by success? I have seen ungodly people being successful in business and all that. They do not even believe in God, and yet you maintain that success comes only from God. If that is true, how does success come, tell me how they got theirs." What those fellows have is not success. They are set up by the devil in slippery places so that they may fall

and fall heavily. The Psalmist has a lost to say about such success of the wicked.

"Fret not yourself because of evil doers, neither be envious against those who work unrighteousness that which is not upright, nor is right standing with God, for they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. For evil doers shall be cut off; but those who wait and hope and look for the Lord shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the evil doer will be no more; though you look with care where he used to be, he will not be found"
Psalm 37:1-2, 9-10

That is the state of the wicked. All you can see around you that looks like success and prosperity of the wicked is fake. They are not genuine. They fade away like the grass. They look like they are successful today, but tomorrow, they will be pulled down. God did not place them up there so they have to come down again. It is a fact of the Scripture that every tree that is not planted by God must be uprooted. Jesus said in ***Matthew 15:13***, that,

"Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up"

They are not a planting of God so they must be rooted up. You cannot imagine the number of people that have been rooted up this way in our country, Nigeria. During the 1979-83 political era, some men came on the course of history and suddenly became "successful" businessmen, politicians, ministers, governors and "VIPs.

But now, can you point to them as successful people today? Some of them have had their buildings auctioned, while some have no taxi fares in their pockets now. They were not MADE by God so they had to be unmade. This success I am talking about is the one that comes from God. It is eternal success.

When God makes you a success, it becomes irreversible. When He sets you up, you can never be pulled down. In fact, when you are up by God's doing, you can never go lower than that. When God makes you a success, you remain so eternally.

"I know that whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it that men should fear before Him"
Ecclesiastes 3:14

God is a God of performance. He is in the absolute. He does all things well, and that includes your success. When He begins a work of success in you, you can only be better, not worse. Your ways will become better and better with the passing of each day.

"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day"
Proverbs 4:18

Note that light and darkness are exact opposites. Light can only get brighter and darkness get darker until there is an intervention of light. So the path of the wicked is like a darkening darkness which goes darker and darker unto the

day of doom. This simply explains why things are getting worse with the ungodly.

Take this from me, as it gets tougher and worse for the wicked in this present generation, it will get easier and better for God’s people His righteous ones. So make up your mind to be above only all the time.

Chapter 3

The Way To Success

There is always a way to enjoying every provision God has made for you in His word. If you must enter into it, you must do it God's way. You cannot push God's method of doing it aside and expect to get the result.

The Bible is God's blueprint of success for the whole of mankind. It is full of prescriptions that cannot fail. They will always work and produce the desired results, if correctly received and applied appropriately. It is a universal spiritual law. It does not know places, geographical barriers, cultures, situations and circumstances. It is not localized, restricted or confined to a particular group or social set up. It works all the time and for all who care to apply the principles accordingly. The principles for failure proof-success is clearly stated out in the book of ***Joshua 1:8.*** It says:

"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"

Three principles clearly stand out from this passage. They are:

1. Speak the word,

2. Meditate on the word, and

3. Do the word.

Success is God's will for all believers, but it is obvious that not all Christians are successful. Many are as unsuccessful as failure today, yet it is God's will for them to be conspicuously successful. Success is not automatic. It will not fall like a ripe mango fruit on your laps. There are certain practical requirements and responsibilities you are expected to meet and carry out before you can get your success.

Success is a blessing from God. And God has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3). He has poured and He is still pouring the blessings out upon you, but you have got to fight your way through into it. Success is there waiting for you but you have to get it. The land of Canaan is there for you but you have to get it.

The land of Canaan was there for the people of Israel. GOD GAVE IT TO THEM BUT THEY HAD TO FIGHT TO GET IT. The devil does not like you. He wants you to fail, so he has arranged a number of situations and circumstances obstacles on your way to success. These are things you must overcome to get there.

Speak The Word

In ***Joshua 1:8***, the word says, *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth ..."* Speak the word. It says for you to be successful, you must be a loud talker of the word

as it concerns your success. One important step to your success is being a talker of the word. It says for you to confess the word. This is very important. It is not limited to the area of success alone but it includes all aspects of life. Your confession matters a lot to your total well-being and state of life.

When the word confession is mentioned, most people think immediately of confession of sin. Sure, the Bible talks of confession of sins but that is only an aspect, the negative side of it. The Greek word translated confession (***HOMOLOGEO***) literally means, "to speak the same thing, to assent, accord, agree with." It also means "to declare openly by way of speaking out freely, such confession being the effect of deep conviction of facts."

Confession is not only on the negative side. It is also positive. In fact, you cannot amount to anything until you begin to talk right. Success begins with loud talking of the word of God concerning your success. Confession means saying the same thing God has said about you. It means agreeing with God.

God says He will make you the head and not the tail, above only and not beneath; it is now your own duty and responsibility to declare it loudly. Many people think it is pride to confess the positive. They are so "religious" that they want to show that they are humble .

They say they are unprofitable servants, good for nothing, unable to make it, the wretched of the earth and barely-going-along christians. That is why they must remain

bound by poverty and failure. They are simply ordering evil and calamity for themselves. And as long as they talk that, they cannot have anything more or less. They will get just what they say.

Jesus said in Mark 11:23, that you have what you say. The only thing you can have is what you have said. You will have to say something before a thing can accrue to you.

Notice that God never does a thing without first saying it. He framed the world by His words. He had to SAY something before creation could take any effect. That is God's order of doing things.

"For verily I say unto you, whosoever shall SAY unto this mountain, be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, HE SHALL HAVE WHATSOEVER HE SAITH"
Mark 11:23

Notice it says that you can have whatsoever you SAY. He repeated the same idea when He said in ***Matthew 12:37***, that,

"By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned"

Proverbs 6:2 conveys the same message:

"Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth"

It is sure that the words that you speak mark you out. They either make you or they mar you. You determine the things that happen to you by the words that come out of your mouth. This is the clear reason why Joshua 1:8 says, for you not to allow the word of the Lord to depart from your mouth. Whenever you speak God's word, you are speaking right words. And right words have great power. They contain great forces that are irresistible in the realm of the Spirit. They cannot go unheard.

Your success therefore begins with the loud and bold declaration of the word of success. Be bold to say aloud and clearly that He has determined to make you the head! He has destined you for the top! Success is your own lot with God and you should become success-conscious.

The words you speak have ways of controlling your thoughts and actions. The first step to success in life is talking the word. Don't say what God has not said about you or any situation. Say the same thing with Him. Say, you are a house set upon an hill which cannot be hid from sight. He has pledged to make you the head and not the tail. Declare it freely as a result of your deep conviction of these facts. That is confession. Do not allow this book of the law to depart out of your mouth!

Meditate On The Word

The next step is as important as the first. In fact, it looks like the most important step because it controls the third. It says, *"... but thou shalt meditate therein day and night ..."*

The subject of meditation is still hidden to many believers. They do not even understand what meditation is, so they do not meditate. For you to have the success you desire you must make time to meditate on the word. It is not enough to confess the word. Notice, the meaning of confession includes open-declaration based upon deep conviction of the facts.

You cannot come to any deep conviction about the word God speaks about you until you have taken time to meditate on it. Meditation enables you to get into full understanding of what God has said about you, and grants the ability to act on the word. It is in the process of meditation that the word takes root in you.

Jesus Christ described the word as the seed in the parable of the sower. In ***Luke 8:11,*** He said,

"Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God"

This seed cannot germinate and grow until it is given the conducive atmosphere and all requirements are met in meditation.

The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines the word "meditate" as, "to think seriously or deeply; to fix and keep the attention on one matter having cleared the mind of all thoughts ...; to plan or consider carefully." Another dictionary says it means "to think through." Meditation is such an important aspect of the christian life that your success and the prosperity of your spirit and faith depend very largely on it.

As you think on the word of God concerning your success, the seed will begin to take root and germinate. The word is seed. Your success seed is the word. Like natural seed, the seed, the word has enough life in it to produce the result. It is the life seed. It is living. It has life in it. It is the indestructible seed; the incorruptible seed. It cannot but produce. Have you seen a viable seed, properly planted and tended, that did not germinate, grow and produce fruit? It is just the same with the Life Seed. It just must produce. It produces after its kind. But it will not produce until it is given the attention necessary in meditation.

Meditation can be likened to incubation. In the natural, when a hen lays its eggs and is ready to hatch them, it takes some time to sit tight on the eggs. During this period, the hen provides the necessary atmosphere that would make it possible for the eggs to hatch into chicks. What the hen does during that process is incubation. It is providing the heat and the warmth required by the eggs to move from egg stage to chick stage. This cannot happen unless the incubation is done.

If you have seen a hen in this process before, you will notice that it is usually very patient. It sits on the potential chicks until the conditions are all met for hatching. The eggs have the potential life of chicks in them but cannot hatch until incubation is done. It is a natural law that when the incubatory law is fulfilled, the hatching must automatically follow.

If you meditate on the word too, the word must definitely "hatch" out to your success. When the seed of success is

sown into your heart, and meditation is fulfilled, it must definitely take root, germinate, grow and produce its fruits.

The word of God produces after its kind. If you want it to work for you, fulfill the conditions. It is only when you meditate on the word that it gains effectual entrance into you. You hide it in your heart. You ponder on it day and night. You give yourself to serious thinking on the word. You clear yourself of all other thoughts and focus on the word.

This is not possible by merely hearing or saying it. You can say it all the day long but until it has taken absolute root in you, you will continue to struggle. You cannot confess right until you know what to confess. Your heart (where meditation takes place) is the source of all issues of life. That is where all things flow from.

Jesus in ***Matthew 12:34*** said, you will only say what is in your heart: *"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"*

You will speak what is in your heart. If you take time to study those who tell lies, you will also see that what they say is what they have purposed in their hearts to say. Jesus said it. You only will say what is resident in your heart. The only way you can confess the word is to allow it to reside in your heart through meditation. When you do this, the next step becomes natural for you.

Act On The Word

It becomes easy for you to act on the word. It does not take you any effort. This can only happen when the word has formed in you and has become a part of your being. Then the third step comes in

"... that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein"

Success belongs to those that do the word. Many Christians are too busy doing nothing. They are in a hurry going nowhere. They do not take time to look into the word to discover what produces success, a diligent application of gospel truth brings spectacular success results.

But you can not use or apply what you do not know. It is important therefore for you to settle on the word of success. Know it, study it and understand it. Allow it to get into you so that it can be applied when needed. Success will not work for those who are trying and attempting it but for those who know their Bible reason and basis for success.

Discovery brings recovery! When you discover what plan God has for you in success, you are set on the way to successful living.

God is not to blame for anything that happens to you. If you fail, don't blame God. Don't blame Him if you are sick. He has provided and reserved a place for you at the top of the ladder. He wants you to be there, above only. But you have a choice. You will decide what you want and where you will be. If you discover this success plan and walk in it, it will work for you.

You have to make yourself available to God's instructions on what to do and what not to do. You can't beat God. He is always available to those who make themselves available. He said if you draw nigh unto Him, He will draw nigh unto you. You have a duty of drawing nigh to Him to register your availability before it can ever come your way.

This success story is conditional. In ***Deuteronomy 28:1***, the word "IF" stands out conspicuously. "IF" stands for conditionality. So there are conditions to fulfill if your success must manifest, and the key word is availability. That verse says:

"And it shall come to pass, 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"

God does not override people's will and intentions. He leaves it open. So He puts a clear "IF." The manifestation of the blessings depends on that simple word. It is conditional, not automatic. If you want success, you must pass the test or meet the conditions for success.

It is the same in other areas of the Christian life. If you must make any progress, you must know, understand and apply the laws that govern the areas where progress is needed.

Your success level is determined by your availability to the word. God intends you to be an eternal excellency, but you

may remain a reproach in failure all your life if you do not hold to the line that leads to the realities of eternal excellency.

Chapter 4

Guard Your Mind

Most people have not come to realize the important part the mind plays in their day to day life and experience.

Man is tripartite. He is principally a spirit, has a soul and lives in a house called the body. The truth has eluded many for so long. They only see things from the physical perspective. They do not have a clear understanding of their nature. They do not know that they are spirits, like God is.

The word says, "He that is born of the Spirit is spirit." God is a Spirit; We are born of God, so we are spirits! But that is not the end. You also have a soul which comprises the mind, emotions and the will. The soul is generally referred to as the seat of the person (personality). The mind is a very important department of the soul. It is the seat of the intellect. It has to do directly with what you think and how you think. It controls your personal self-esteem. In many places, it is rendered as the heart.

When you are thinking of a man’s personality, you can think of the mind as the heart of his being. Not the physiological heart, but when you are talking in terms of

the whole, total and rounded nature of man, then the spirit is the real man.

The mind, the seat of the intellect has overpowering influence over the other aspects of the soul. It is obvious that man's intelligence-level will affect his emotions and choice of things will. So the mind becomes crucial in success pursuit.

The mind is the arena of battle. It is where ideas are harnessed and hatched. It is where thoughts spring up. The greatest schemes in the world today are products of ideas originating from the mind. And these include positive and negative ones. They are all products of thoughts, and thoughts originate from the mind.

The principal use of the mind is thinking. God gave you the mind to think! That is its major function. When the mind has concluded the thinking, it passes it over to the will to decide. That is why most people do not make any success. They are good thinkers but poor decision-makers. Even in the choice, your mind is still actively involved.

The mind is the battle-ground for success or failure, prosperity or poverty, health or sickness and disease, favour or disfavour. It is the mind. That is where the stronghold is. Paul the Apostle said it is the stronghold the arena of war in ***2 Corinthians 10:3-5,***

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds).

Casting down imaginations (reasonings) and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"

I will point out three words to you in these verses. They are IMAGINATIONS, KNOWLEDGE, and THOUGHT. Imagination is the same as reasoning. And the mind is the seat of reasoning. You reason or rationalize with your mind. It is one of the basic activities of the mind.

Knowledge is another. The mind as you now are aware is the seat of the intellect. You KNOW with your mind. Thought or thinking is a principal function of the mind. If you put all these together, you will see that Paul says they constitute your first battle. It is the battle for the mind. In other words, what you imagine, know and think determine what your life becomes eventually.

Before new birth, your thought life was perverse. You naturally thought negatively. You did not think any good thing. And that explains the perversity that characterized your day to day activity. Your actions and reactions were controlled by the thoughts that took root in your mind. But now that you are born again, your mind remains just the same.

True, your spirit man has become a new creation according to 2 Corinthians 5:17, but that does not affect the mind. You have a duty therefore to renew your mind. The thought pattern of the old nature of sin does not suit the new creation who is created in righteousness and true holiness.

So you have a duty to change it, make it conformable to the new, and that you do by renewing it with the word of God.

I said that meditation means, "to think through something." I also said the principal function of the mind is thinking or thought (either positive or negative). The point now is you have to take time to gird your loins by thinking through God's word. God's word is the divine tool for conditioning your thinking.

Thoughts are governed by three basic things: **association, observation,** and **teaching.** Your mind is conditioned by what you observe, what you see automatically registers on your mind. It is also controlled by what you associate with and of course what knowledge you allow it to acquire.

Based on this truth, you can determine what you think by controlling your observation, association and what you are taught. This is where meditation comes in again. Think upon the word of God. Allow your mind to settle on the word. Renew, control and reorientate your mind to thinking Word thoughts. Paul said to be transformed through mind renewal in ***Romans 12:2,***

"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"

It therefore becomes important for you to know this. You may have thought that you have no control over your thought. I believe you do. You can determine the things you dwell upon in your mind. That is why Paul said we cast

down imaginations, high things and bring every thought to obey Christ.

It comes after you have constantly renewed your mind by meditating on the word. By this you will be able to prove God's will. Proving God's will means bringing to light, to public glare and sight, God's perfect will for you. And that means if you renew your mind, your failure will be transformed to success. That is God's perfect will for you.

It is important for you then to watch your thought pattern. People easily fall into problems (temptations) because they do not keep watch on their mind. The choice of what you think about is yours. The devil can not force you to think on a thing; you have the power of choice. The decision is in your hand. This is why the Bible says for you to gird up the loins of your mind! ***1 Peter 1:13*** says,

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober ..."

You have to gird it! Your thought pattern controls what happens to you. If you don't gird, control and master your mind-power to think success thoughts, you can never be successful. You become conscious of what you think about regularly, and before long, you see that your thoughts (desires) begin to pattern and determine your life circumstances. The Bible says you are a product of your thoughts.

"for as a man thinketh, so is he"
Proverbs 23:7

Your thought makes or mars you. Somebody will say, "No! my confession makes me." But what do you confess? Out of the excess of your thoughts! So you say what you think! And what you think is what you have after saying it. If you think failure, you will talk failure and get failure. I said, thoughts are like seeds. If you sow it, it will germinate and grow.

The Bible says you will reap what you sow. You cannot expect to reap an orange if you sowed some guinea corn. If you want orange, sow orange seeds. If you want success, sow success seeds. Think success thoughts. See yourself successful. Don't allow any other thought. You never can rise above your thought level. It controls and dictates your actions. It patterns your lifestyle. You will be exactly what you think of yourself.

Thoughts are images. When you think on a particular thing, you don't think on it in words. They come as images but the images are painted to the outside world by words. Proverbs 23:7 says that you are the image you hold of yourself. You cannot be better. You cannot be worse. You are exactly that image, the picture you paint of your life.

People say, "I don't understand you. I am not thinking anything about me now," and I say that is why there is no progress in your endeavour. No motivation. That explains why you are stagnant. You must begin to think success thoughts if you must be successful. This affects all areas of life. You cannot succeed in any area your thought is not established upon. You are drifting; you cannot make it. Make a definite thought commitment. Think on what God

says about your success. Build that image. Allow it to be real to you. Give it all it takes. That is the secret.

I do not mean to say it is easy. You will face challenges while you are renewing your mind to think success. Your mind will tell you it is not possible. You cannot make it. Back out! It will present you with a catalogue of sound reasons why you must back out. That is the battle you must win. The unrenewed mind is the greatest antagonist of success. But you can win that over and make it.

Saturate your mind with success truth. Associate with successful people. Observe success materials and success teachings. Get acquainted with them. Allow them to take hold of your thinking and you will notice a divine transformation in your life.

Apart from all these, what you think about has a way of getting across into your spirit man. And when it comes to that, it becomes wonderful or dangerous depending on whether the thought is positive or negative. When a matter gets into you, it has reached the state of accomplishment. You are ready, eager and set to do it.

Be careful of what you think. Think success not failure. Think prosperity not poverty. Think self-esteem not self-deprivation. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. You do not desire to be poor, so do not think it. You do not desire to fail, so do not think it. If you must think anything, it must be what you desire. You would not desire evil for yourself, so don't think it. Think positive. Think good. Think success. Think health. Think prosperity. Think of

things that are of good report. Paul tells us what to think of in ***Philippians 4:8,***

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things"

That is the prescription. Always use Philippians 4:8 to test what you think about. Most of the thoughts people think do not even pass the first test. They are not true! Do not think on anything that does not pass the test.

Is it true? Honest? Just? Pure? Lovely? Of good report? Does it have virtue? Does it have praise? If it does not pass this test, throw it out of your mind. Think on good things. Think your way through to success and excellence.

Chapter 5

Wisdom: The Principal Thing

God means for you to have good success. That is His master-plan for you. He is not happy seeing you a failure. Failure is not in God's nature. He does not have it and does not want it for you. It is a symptom of spiritual death. God wants you a success!

As each blessing of scripture carries a demand to fulfill specific conditions, success has its mode of operation and wisdom is one of the principal things needed for it.

Ecclesiastes 10:5-10 tells us of an evil under the sun, and the evil is, servants riding on horses and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

"There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, an error which proceedeth from the ruler: folly is set in great dignity and the rich set in low place. I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking like servants upon the earth.... If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put forth more strength, but wisdom is profitable to direct"

The summary of this passage is that the reason why princes have had to start walking on foot while servants ride on horses is folly. He said, "folly is set in great dignity." It is folly. The prince has begun to operate foolishly and folly is a basic prerequisite for removal from the princely office.

God wants you to retain your horseback status. He does not intend that servants take your place. He wills you to be a good success, an eternal excellency, a joy and pride of many generations. But this is only obtainable by forsaking foolishness and walking in wisdom. In verse 10, he said, *wisdom is profitable to direct.*

Wisdom is the principal tool in maintaining your horseback position. As a king, Saul, Israel's first monarch, lost his exalted position for lack of wisdom ***(1 Samuel 13:13)***.

"And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which He commanded thee; for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue..."

He lost the prospect of his dignity being established over Israel on an eternal basis simply because he acted foolishly. You cannot operate folly and expect your kingdom to continue. You cannot behave without wisdom and expect to be successful. Success is attained and retained by wisdom. If at any time you fall short of wisdom, there is no other substitute that can work. Wisdom is wisdom. Other things are other things. Wisdom is profitable to direct. It will be an act of folly for me to come to church and begin to single out one deacon after another telling their faults and deficiencies.

There are things that do not require prayers to solve. A mere application of wisdom gets the situation easily under control. Things that have been developed and cultivated

vigorously and carefully over the years can be destroyed in a matter of minutes for lack of wisdom.

It becomes very important therefore to be guided and directed by this all important tool for success. You cannot go too far without wisdom. It is so crucial that the Bible says it is the principal thing. Notice that in a school setting, you have a principal course (your major), minors, and electives which are optional. It does not matter how well you perform in the minors and electives, if you fail the major course, you cannot be said to have passed.

So also, in order to have good success, wisdom is of paramount significance. Without it, you cannot make it. It is the foundation upon which the success complex is built. And if this foundation is weak or non-existent, what sort of building would you claim to have? The fact is, you need wisdom more than any other thing. If you must have good success, you must pass the wisdom-test. It is indispensable.

I have seen mighty prayer warriors who have never tasted success. They are not likely to taste it until they acquire this all important ingredient - wisdom. I have heard and seen people who confess the word rigorously but have not got the result they desire. They lack wisdom! The Bible clearly states that wisdom is the principal determinant of success.

In ***Proverbs 4:5-7***, the Bible says,

"Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not, neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee; love her, and she shall keep thee.

WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING; therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding"

The problem most people have, even ministers of the gospel, is that they have never paid any serious attention to the need to operate in wisdom. They have worked hard in other areas but the principal thing is lacking. That is why they are not possessing. They are not making it.

There are people who have great potential for global business connection, but they are not known beyond their little compounds along their lonely streets. There are men of God with great visions who could have otherwise been moving nations for Jesus confined to little congregations, all for lack of wisdom. They have the ability, but they lack the principal factor of harnessing and managing that ability to produce great results. Wisdom is lacking in their lives, they remain at the base of the ladder.

Consider the Lord Jesus for an example. His whole life and ministry were guarded and guided by the accurate manifestation of wisdom. Even from childhood, wisdom was in manifestation. He grew with, and in wisdom. ***Luke 2:40 and 52*** says,

"And the child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him... And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man"

Even Jesus needed to be filled with wisdom and had to increase His wisdom level from time to time. If Jesus

needed and used it, you then must know that you CANNOT do without it. Each time He taught, they marvelled at His wisdom. He taught with authority because He had what it takes to make it.

The men who have had the greatest positive influence on the world have been men of immense wisdom. Billy Graham is easily one of the greatest men of God in the world today. In fact, he has been described as the John the Baptist of the 20th century and evangelist to the world. If you look closely into his life, his greatest desire is not power or any other thing, but wisdom. He has the greatest individual christian influence on the world today. His driving force has been wisdom.

Through wisdom a house is built. If you know the process of building you will know that it is not a thing you do haphazardly. It requires diligent planning and patience. It needs careful, progressive structuring. It takes wisdom to do that!

Wisdom, simply put, is the ability to compute knowledge to lay hold on your desire. Wisdom helps you to know how to walk with God to bring your desire to pass. If you must rise to the top, you must know this and hold onto it.

If you are in business and you don’t apply wisdom, you will not only run at a loss, you will fold up. If your capital is N500.00 and because you are of faith and power, you decide to deal in building materials, you will notice that you are not walking in wisdom. N500:00 cannot keep you in building materials business. In fact, nobody will know

you are selling anything. They will not notice your materials. It will just look like you have gone to the market to buy them and waiting for a taxi to transport them home. You can pray all night and all day on that, but unless you bring in some wisdom, you cannot make it.

You need to be able to apply yourself at every given time, based on what you have, to believing God and managing yourself wisely for increase. You may have a vision for building materials but you cannot start out on that now. Start where you are, small as it may be. Then you can go on to greater heights as you improve on your capital.

Much the same way, if you are in business and your total output is N1,000.00, it will be unwise of you to rent a shop of N1,500.00. If you do this, you will go bankrupt. Your prayer and fasting will not change it. It only requires a simple application of wisdom. Wisdom is profitable to direct.

Wisdom is the principal thing. God is going to use this weapon to show His glory to the devil these last days. God is going to use the Church, full grown in wisdom to manifest Himself to the devil (Ephesians 3:10).

Ecclesiastes 10:10, says,

"If the iron be blunt and he do not whet the edge, then must he put forth more strength, but wisdom is profitable to direct"

Take this illustration. James and Peter are two wonderful friends. They were employed by Federal Forestry

Department to fell trees. Upon agreement, it was decided that each person would be paid N3.00 per tree felled. They were given same brand of blunt cutlasses and left to go into action.

James said, "Beloved Peter, I am off to the town to sharpen my cutlass." But Peter, being "full of faith," said, "I will finish all the work before you arrive, because to him that believeth all things are possible" (even felling trees with a blunt cutlass!)

James went to town to sharpen his cutlass out of the money he would be paid. On his arrival, brother Peter was still on the first tree. Now James finds it easy to fell trees because he has "whet" the edge of the cutlass. At the end of the day, brother Peter with all his strength and faith, felled 3 trees, while James succeeded with 10 trees. Peter would have N9:00 while James would have N30:00. Assuming that he spent N1.00 on taxi and another for sharpening his cutlass, he is still left with N28.00 while brother Peter has N9.00 only.

Look at it: they both had the same assignment, perhaps the same skill, interest, and cutlass. The difference is that James was wise about it and his wisdom paid off. It made the difference. When James went sharpening his cutlass, Peter was busy working hard. He was not lazy about it. He worked very hard but got very little out of it.

If you do not apply wisdom in all you do, you will work yourself out with only very little to show for it. "Whet the

edge" of the iron so that you will not need to put more strength. That is wisdom.

A lot of people are hasty. They cannot wait. They want immediate success. They want it to be automatic. But you see, you have to begin somewhere. At the beginning, when a farmer sows his corn, it first comes up as an ordinary weed. But that is not the end. It is corn, irrespective of its look. Eventually, it grows into the full corn with the fruits beautifully displayed.

Then you ask me, "Pastor David, how can I get this wisdom?" You can get it through three major ways. You get wisdom at **salvation** because Jesus has been made unto us wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30). You can get it by **asking for it** (James 1:5). And you can get it through the **laying on of hands.**

If you sense a lack of wisdom in your life, lay hold on it. Ask God. He gives wisdom freely and generously too. He gave Solomon when he asked for it. Jesus had an abundance of it.

The Bible says Jesus is the wisdom and power of God. He is wisdom personified; and He is in you, if you are born again. The very wisdom of God dwells in you! The much of that wisdom you manifest depends on what attention you pay to the word of faith you exercise to manifest it. You have wisdom in you. Harness it and use it to make a success in life.

It does not matter how much time, money and energy you have invested doing the wrong thing. Wisdom demands that when you notice your fault or mistake, do not hesitate to switch over for good. That is wisdom and every other thing is folly. Learn to be absolutely right in whatever cause you are involved in. Do not manage it. Be sure you are on the right key. Then you will notice that you are ready for it and nothing can stop you.

Get this wisdom the accurate computation of spiritual facts to arrive at your success. Everything has a way of doing it. The all purpose way is WISDOM. It is the principal thing.

Chapter 6

Discipline: The Control Valve

Another important ingredient for success in all life endeavours is discipline. It is as important as wisdom. You may be a Solomon in wisdom but if you are a Samson in discipline, you will not make it. Your wisdom will become foolishness because unused wisdom is in fact worse than folly. Wisdom is the ability to know what to do under a specific situation, but discipline is the ability to bring or train yourself to doing it. You see how related these two ingredients are. They are very important.

Many Christians are not balanced. They do something to the extreme and leave others out completely. That is not discipline. It is doing the right thing at the right time and at the rate it should be done. One who is not living or walking

in discipline is like a child. You cannot commit any serious thing into his hand. He cannot handle it. It is like handing an automatic revolver over to a child of four years. In the first place, he may use it against himself. He is not disciplined in mind to understand the functions of the gun he is handling. He may then end up using it against himself.

Paul said that a child (an undisciplined man) will always talk and do things as such. There is a direct correlation between the child and one without discipline. The general comment is that he is childish or behaves like a child. Paul says in ***1 Corinthians 13:11,***

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child; I understood as a child, thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things"

In summary, he is saying I was not disciplined to know what to do when I was a child. It was beyond me as it is with every child; but when I grew, I disciplined myself to be full grown.

Many Christians are yet to graduate from babyhood. They are not childish in physique but in mind. They cannot harness the power of will to do the right. They allow their lives to go haywire. That is why things happen to them anyhow. Such people cannot think of being successful. They lack discipline. They are childish at heart. Paul says in ***Galatians 4:1***,

"Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all"

Note that he says an HEIR! He is lord of all. His father has given him the right to all he left behind. He has the title-deed. He has all things credited to him but as long as he is a child, he is just like the servant. His childish state does not permit or enable him to enjoy the pleasure of things that rightly belong to him. This is one reason why you cannot enter into God's success plan for you. You are an heir to success but if you don't graduate from babyhood, you cannot enjoy it. You will continue to live in failure like servants. But if you will dare to discipline yourself you will enter into the privileges and pleasure of your heirdom.

Ecclesiastes 10:16 says,

"Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child and thy princes eat in the morning"

A country whose leaders are undisciplined will see woes. They will suffer natural disgrace and international humiliation. The leaders will behave anyhow. They can spend all the money on things that are not profitable. And you can be sure that such a nation can never succeed, at least, not under indisciplined leaders.

Discipline is crucial to success. You have to know what to do, do it at the right time and at the rate required. David fell a victim of indiscipline. And he had to pay for it dearly.

In ***2 Samuel 11:1-2***, the Bible says,

"And it came to pass, after the year was ended at the time when kings go to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel and they destroyed the

children of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried at Jerusalem"

If you read this story further, you will notice that David was not expected to tarry at Jerusalem at this time. He was to be at the battle front. *"At the time when kings go to battle ..."* But David tarried in Jerusalem. He was not doing the right thing at the right time.

He was king of Israel. He succeeded Saul who lost that same throne on the ground of folly. David here is walking in indiscipline. He was not doing the right thing. Reading through Chapter 11 and 12 of 2 Samuel, you see what indiscipline brought upon him. Verses 2 and 4 of chapter 11 says,

"And it came to pass at eventide that David arose from his bed, and walked upon the roof of the King's house. And from the roof he saw a woman washing herself and the woman was very beautiful to look upon... And David sent messengers and took her. And she came in unto him and he laid with her ..."

You can see the chain of events. Indiscipline, idleness, adultery, and if you read further, you will see murder. He arranged all manners of evil and, eventually, arranged and killed Urriah, Bathsheba's husband, to conceal his sin.

God was highly displeased with David. Verse 27 says,

"... But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord"

It was a product of indiscipline.

Most people who are in some form of pitiable condition today would have been spared the trouble had they some basic discipline in life. It is important for you to get this straight. Your success will always elude you until you begin to mature in discipline. Train your body and mind to be subject to the discipline of the Spirit by the word of God. Mortify the deeds of your flesh through the Spirit.

You have great potentials that can be harnessed. But you cannot do that in careless circumstances. You need to discipline yourself to pave your way to success. Have control over your time. This is very important. A lot of people say time is against them. If you ask them what they have done with the time available to them, they cannot point to anything. They are thieves of their time.

Plan out your time and use it wisely. It is not wise to allow things to happen just as they come. Make a plan of action. Plan very carefully and stick to your plan as much as possible. Set time and achievement goals. These will help you manage your time. Make positive realistic plans. Do not follow after trivialities. Make concrete plans and follow them. God is interested in discipline. You won't enter your success complex without discipline.

Chapter 7

Hard Work

If you really desire success, you must work hard for it. Success does not fall on people's laps. It is not obtained on a platter of gold. You have to work your way through to it.

If you look at people who are lazy and idle, you easily see on them that they are not ever going to make any success. They are such failures. The requirement for failure is laziness and idleness.

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

You cannot be successful in any area of life if you are not hard working. It is one other factor of great significance. You need to be diligent in business, at school, in ministry, if you must be a success. The Bible says in ***Proverbs 22:29***,

"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men"

That is God's formula for success - diligence. He said if you do not want to fail (stand before mean men, men of no repute, men of no substance), be diligent in your work. Work hard and you will not keep company with those strugglers at the base of the ladder. You will be up there with kings.

You must know that the more you apply yourself to hard work, the better you become. Consider the example of sportsmen. The more they train, the better they perform. Why do you think they are called into camping before major outings? It is to perfect their diligence, to prepare them for the task. And you see more likely than not, they always come out stronger, better and more experienced.

Your hard work will expose you. It brings out certain potentials that have been latent. It will bring such into dynamic manifestation and you will begin to discover that you are worth more than what meets the eyes. You can make it! You can be better than you are. You can be more successful. You can be more prosperous. You have no limit in God.

All you need now is all that is outlined to you WISDOM, DISCIPLINE and HARD WORK. These three will cause an explosion in your life for good. You will easily see the bright and wider horizon. As you move in one direction the horizon will get broader. You can exercise yourself more. You can get more than what you have now. You can be much better.

Note that it is not your efforts primarily that guarantee your success. Remember that it is not by power nor by might but by the Spirit of the Lord. The Bible says the horse is prepared for war but the victory is the Lord's. Except the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it. So you only fulfill your own part and God produces the results. But He will not produce it until He sees you actively involved.

You must meet His requirements for promotion. Promotion (success) does not come from any human source, it is from above.

"For promotion cometh neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south; but God is the Judge. He putteth up one and setteth down another"
Psalm 75:6-7

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"
James 1:17

Success is a good thing. It is from above. It comes from God, not primarily from your efforts. But when you put in your efforts, He will bless it and make it successful. He said anything you do will be successful (Psalms 1:3). Even in the great book of blessings of Abraham, Deuteronomy 28:1-15, He still said, it is what you do that He will bless. In the field, in the storehouse because you are busy there! He said if anybody will not work he should not eat. That is to say, no success without diligence.

Don't be lazy, if you really want to succeed in life. Go out there and do something. Be guided by wisdom, apply yourself through discipline and get out there to do it diligently. With this, your success is guaranteed.

God wants your success. He desires it. It is yours to decide. He has made all the provisions. You just need the conscious exercise of your will to get into it and stay in it.

Start today. Do it now. Decide against failure. Choose success and follow it through. It may not look an easy thing to do, but start. Somebody said, "it is better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly."

DO IT NOW. Take a bold step towards success and your life will begin to be meaningful to you. DO IT NOW and SUCCEED!