SUCCESS SYSTEMS

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

INTRODUCTION

We all, whether white, black, yellow, coloured, educated, illiterate, bond or free, have equal opportunities to either succeed or fail in life. Everyone born into the world, has the same starting point. As Job aptly said: “Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither:” (Job 1:21). But why does one succeed and another fail? A man of wisdom once said, “Your life is a gift to you from God. But what you do with it, is your gift to the world.” God is no respecter of persons and there is neither Greek nor Jew with Him. He is rich unto all who will care

to call upon Him.

What is success? Success can be defined, as the satisfactory realisation of a given goal or a set objective. In other words, success is the satisfactory accomplishment, in the pursuit of a given purpose.

Success is a universal desire. Everyone yearns for success in one form or the other. Unfortunately, many go about in life chasing after shadows, because they do not understand, what the complex system called success is made up of. Your success in life should not be dependent on man's fabricated opportunities, but should be monitored and guided by your input.

Success is elastic in nature. It is not

a destination, but an adventure. Wherever the word “success” applies, it implies accomplishment, realisation, or satisfactory progress in a given venture. For instance, if we were to describe an accomplished author, it is one who is not just a writer, but one who commands wide readership. Who is an accomplished academician? It is one who has earned that status, by the volumes of relevant papers and books he has churned out. Who then is a success? A man or woman, who is accomplished in his field.

Success is a complex multi-component product, made up of several systems. A system is a body of interrelated units. A detailed

understanding of these systems, will enhance your expertise in the pursuit of destiny, as it is grossly inadequate to be proficient in just an abstract area of endeavour. An official of Peugeot Nigeria once told me that “a Peugeot car is made up of about three thousand different parts.” But a casual observer would look at it and say, “This car is made up of the engine, body, and tyres.” As far as he is concerned, that is all he knows a car is made up of. But each of those parts mentioned perhaps has a thousand other parts to it.

I read a story of a young man and an old-timer who went sailing on the high sea. The old-timer picked up a floating leaf and asked if the young

man knew anything about biology. The boy replied, “No”, and the old-timer said, “Young man, you just lost 25% of your life!”

The old-timer again picked up a rock, from the bottom of the boat, and with a punctilious look at the rock, he again asked the boy, if he knew anything about geology. The boy replied, “No.” Again, the old-timer replied, “You have lost another 25% of your life.”

The old-timer gazed at the sky, night fall was closing in, and stars were already dotting the sky. He turned to the boy and asked, “Do you know anything about astronomy?” “No”, the boy replied and the old-timer said,

“That makes 75% of your life that you have lost.”

As the old-timer was delivering his verdict on the young man’s life, a great storm arose. The boat started drifting out of control. The young man turned to the old-timer and asked if he knew how to swim. The man said, “No”. The young man said to him, “Sir, you have just lost your entire life!” and immediately dived into the sea and swam to the shore leaving the old-timer to his fate.

Success is beyond the knowledge of atomic physics. Success is about life. You can be a graduate of chemistry, biology, geology, and what have you, but nobody ever graduates from the

school of success. You must learn to invest your best into life in order to be successful. Life is a one time opportunity you must strive to maximize.

Success is a montage, an assemblage of systems, with bodies of interrelated facts and it takes facts to be fat.

This book is made up of twelve chapters. The first chapter is the foundation, which must be laid, if you ever desire to have a true and lasting success. As the scriptures says: “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Ps 11:3). The strength of any building is dependent upon the foundation upon which it stands. The

strength and durability of your success will be dependent upon the foundation upon which it is laid. The last chapter is a collection of success habits. Two systems in this book are on marriage. This is because most successful people I have read about, especially those in the covenant are successful family men and women.

The other chapters are made up of ten success systems. Each system consists of seven kits. The repeated occurrence of vision, information and hard work in these systems, reveal that success is impossible without a combination of these three.

Vision is the covenant seed for success. It is what positions you for

success. It takes vision to engage in a successful pursuit. Until your destination is well defined, how long you started not withstanding, you will never arrive at your destination. Life remains a struggle without a clear vision of God's purpose for your life. The Bible says: "Where there is no vision, the people perish:" (Prov 29:18). God is only committed to what He has commanded. Every heavenly vision is sure to command earthly impact.

Vision is a farce without relevant information. Information is the force with which we drive a vision. It takes information to fully deliver the details of any vision.

If you do not have respect for facts, you cannot go far in life. Every committed fact-hunter naturally ends up a pace-setter. Fact hunting is therefore, a key requirement for success. Facts are not enemies of faith; rather, they complement faith. You cannot have facts and not be fat.

However, vision and information alone do not guarantee success. Hard-work is the womb that births the fulfillment of every vision. Every child birth necessarily passes through the labour room. Information without hard-work is sure to end in frustration. Every vision is at the mercy of its pursuit. Until you are ready to work hard at your vision, the quality of

information you have will be of no relevance.

It is clear from all the above that the factors of vision, information and hard-work are the common denominators in the journey to success. That is, no matter the goal, purpose, dream or target, relevant information will continue to be required coupled with diligence which is what guarantees the ultimate delivery.

I have used six of the success systems in the systemic models below to illustrate this concept at a glance.

CHAPTER 1

Foundation For Success

There is no mountain anywhere every man's ignorance is his mountain. — Dr. David Oyedepo

The strength, height, and life span of any building is determined by its foundation. A building without a solid foundation is not going to last long, no matter how beautiful it may look. The mere blowing of the wind will bring it tumbling down like a pack of cards.

Likewise, success that is not built on a sure foundation is transient.

If the foundations be destroyed,

what can the righteous do?

Psalm 11:3

You can be “successful” by doing just any thing and any how. Success can come in diverse ways, such as by diabolical means, by labour (Prov. 13:4,11), and by fraud (Jer.17:11) like armed robbers and those who steal public funds. But such success only lasts for a brief period. It is success based on vanity, with attendant sorrow and problems, which often leave their “benefactors” with marks of sorrow and eternal regret.

True and lasting success is rooted in God. He gives you success and the grace to enjoy it as well. You are not

only successful in the works of your hand, but in your family, health, mentality, etc. True success guarantees all-round success and security, it makes rich and adds no sorrow.

The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Proverbs 10:22

God is a successful God, who takes pleasure in the prosperity or success of His people (Ps. 35:27; Job 36:11). He has also given a success formula found in Joshua 1:8:

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.

God is equally committed to teaching us how to go about being successful.

Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Isaiah 48:17

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalm 32:8

The foundation for success is God, and His Word (the Bible) is the compass that points you there. The Word is the light that shatters the darkness of failure, giving you the understanding that brings success (Ps. 119:130). No wonder the Psalmist prayed asking:

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Psalm 119:18

You need an opening of your eyes to the secrets of success contained in the Word of God, because revelation is the backbone of divine success. Until the Book is opened to you, you can't

have access to true and lasting success. Revelation or insight is the secret behind great heights. The depth of insight you have is what ultimately determines your height in life.

Every true revelation from God's Word establishes a revolution. Light from heaven will always shatter the forces of darkness on the earth. The Bible says, "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."(Jn. 1:5) When you catch a revelation of success from the Word, nothing can stop your dominion over the dark forces of failure on the earth. Job's story confirms this.

As I was in the days of my youth,

when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle;

When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil;

Job 29:4-6

Job became successful by the secrets of God he had access to. He was so successful that even Satan acknowledged it (Job 1:10).

Revelation is the foundation for divine success. But how do you gain access to revelation?

REDEMPTION

Your main access to God's revelation is redemption. Redemption is salvation from sin through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Once you are born again, you become God's child, and you are automatically granted access to His secrets. Revelation is limited to the redeemed of the Lord.

...Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand...

And John 10:3-4 says:

...The sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

Until you become one of His sheep, you will never be able to understand His language. But once you're born again, you have access to the depths of God, because it takes a spiritual man to understand the things of the spirit (1 Cor. 2:14).

CONSECRATION

Another way of gaining access to revelation is consecration.

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.
Proverbs 1:23

Your level of consecration largely determines the depth of revelation you will receive from God.

Those that Jesus referred to as “without” in Mark 4:11 fall under two categories those that are out rightly out of the covenant, and those in the covenant, but who still return to their

old ways of life, like a dog to its vomit. This is how the Bible describes those that are without:

For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Revelation 22:15

These do not live consecrated lives, so they cannot enjoy revelations from God. He is of a purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on iniquity (Hab. 1:13). God who cannot stand evil or iniquity will not give revelations to those who don't live consecrated lives. That is why shallow Christians lack depth.

UNCTION

Another access to revelation is the Holy Spirit. Jesus, before His departure from the earth, said of the Holy Spirit:

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

...He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

John 16:12-14

And in 1 Corinthians 2:9-11, we read:

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

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

So the depths of God can only be accessed by the Spirit of God, as He alone knows the mind of God. To gain access to revelations, therefore, you need the help of the Spirit of God. You must be a man of the Spirit to be a man of depth. You must learn how not to grieve the Holy Spirit, so He can show you the deep things of God.

AFFECTION

Affection also grants access to God's secrets. It is common knowledge that you only open up your heart to someone you are in love with.

For instance, your neighbour may not know you're travelling, but your friend who lives in another city would, simply because you love that person. If you are about travelling, you'll pick up your phone and make a long distance call to your friend, informing him of your trip and for how long you will be away; meanwhile, your next door neighbour may not know about it.

Your relationship with a person

determines the depth of things you share with one another.

Love provides unusual access into the heart of the Father. When you love God, you have an unusual access into His secrets. David, a man after God's own heart, was a king, not a prophet; yet he had access to the depths of God. God showed him His secrets, because he loved God with his whole heart.

The larger your heart for God (which you show also to men), the greater your access to His secrets. When you stop walking in love, you start walking out of depths. The less your love, the shallower you become. The more you love, the deeper your depth of insights (Jn. 15:9-15).

No matter how much you read, if you don’t love God, you can’t have access to His secrets. Love is crucial to a man’s flow in the school of revelation.

Salvation is a fundamental requirement for gaining access to revelation. Consecration is another demand, and you can’t do without the help of the Holy Spirit, who cannot function without you living a consecrated life. You also need love (for God and your fellow men) to flow in revelation that leads to success.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 4:7-8

And because he knoweth not God, he may study for twenty-four hours a day and still come out shallower than he went in. He's not qualified to know, because he is not in love. So get rid of that bitterness and hatred, they block the flow of revelation; you only undo your destiny by them.

Jesus, our perfect example, loved even while hanging on the cross. He could still ask God to forgive His crucifiers, making excuses for them. Also, He forgave the thief who hung on His right hand (Lk. 23:43). No wonder

He enjoyed unlimited revelations!

Love is what grants you access to the depths of God. The Bible says:

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

1 Corinthians 2:9

The secrets that will make you successful will be delivered to you on the ticket of love.

Note that you can't love God and hate men. How can you claim to love God that you don't see, when you hate men that you see (1 Jn. 4:20)? God's love in you naturally flows to man also.

MEEKNESS

Another access to God's depths is meekness. Psalm 25:9 says:

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

The meek automatically has access to the secrets of success. God has no time for the proud or arrogant. The Bible described Moses as the meekest man on the earth (Num. 12:3), no wonder the first five books of the Bible were delivered to him! He had so much revelation that it was converted to reflections; so much so that the

children of Israel couldn’t look into his face when he came down from the mountain.

Looking for one to reveal the depths of creation to, God found no other person than Moses, because of his meekness. So, the meeker you are, the greater your access to depths. Jesus said:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29

Jesus, the most successful man that ever lived, was meek! That was what gave Him access to God's secrets of triumph. On different occasions in the Bible, He said, "I can of mine own self do nothing...I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (Jn. 5:30). "I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things" (Jn. 8:28). "The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (Jn. 14:10). No wonder He never ran out of revelation. Instead, He rode prosperously and in majesty!

And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and

meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

Psalm 45:4

The meekness factor for receiving revelation has no substitute. You have to be willing to learn, by having a teachable spirit. I have seen people who have read the whole Bible many times over, but in whom is no reflection of what they have read. All they succeeded in doing is gathering information. They were not meek enough to receive revelation, which is the only thing that guarantees reflection.

Information merely satisfies the

mind, but revelation boosts the soul. Meekness is a requirement in the school of revelation.

MEDITATION

Meditation means to think seriously and for a long time on something. When you meditate upon the Word of God, you give it mental attention. You ponder on the Word until the substance comes out to you as revelation. The Holy Spirit helps you uncover the deep things in the Word, the heavenly secrets that will lead to your earthly success.

The Bible says in 1 Timothy 4:15:

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

The food you eat is not what gives your body strength; it is actually the food absorbed from that which is eaten. The Word of God is spiritual food. Jeremiah said,"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart" (Jer. 15:16). There is, therefore, a need for you to meditate upon the Word, to give it serious mental attention, so the energy or revelation in it can come out. Only then can you have good success according to Joshua 1:8.

STUDY

One other way of receiving revelations is by the study of anointed books. There are things you may never uncover on your own, except you open your heart to the messages or books of other anointed men and women, who are gifts of God to His church sent with such peculiar messages. God's Word says:

The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel.

Isaiah 9:8

Every man of revelation is a life time student of the Word, and there's a

place in the body for ministry gifts. I read a book recently, at the end of which I told my wife that the author had just shown me how stupid I had been. This was because of the things he uncovered in the book, which opened my eyes to my deficiencies.

I believe it is pride that makes a man think nobody else knows better than he does. Today, our ministry is blessed financially, but it was a woman who taught me the secrets of God's abundance. I read all the books authored by men, that I could lay my hands on, and nothing happened. But when I read this woman's book, she opened me up, and heaven came down in the room where I was.

The Bible says these anointed men and women in the body of Christ are God's gifts to us. They are anointed trumpeters in the body of Christ, who are sent like angels, to open seal after seal of the Word, until we come to the fullness of Christ.

Smith Wigglesworth was the one who made me see the weakness of the devil. After reading his book, I began literally looking for the devil, to kill him. Also in the school of faith, I've spent all my life since 1977 studying the great man, Kenneth E. Hagin.

There are people in the body of Christ that you must give attention to, before your destiny can be fully realized. No matter how gifted you are,

paying attention to what these anointed people have to offer is a fundamental truth of Scriptures. The Bible says in Hebrews 12:1 that we are “compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...” We need to study them, to locate a good path to plant our feet.

Chapter 2

Imagination System
It is Imagination that sets the pace for your destination.

- class="center">Dr. David Oyedepo

The kingdom of God is a highly principled kingdom. It is a kingdom of law and order. Romans 8:1-2 says:

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Every goal has laws that guide its fulfillment. Engaging the right law frees you from the wrong one. To be free from failure (one of the laws of sin and death), you must hook on to the law of the Spirit of life.

One of the results of the law of sin is nakedness, deprivation, reproach and failure. The day man sinned, he was stripped naked. The glory departed from him and was replaced with shame. The only way out of this horrible situation is to engage the laws of the Spirit. You cannot have good success without engaging the laws of

the Spirit.

In this system, we will discuss one of the fundamental laws of success. It is imagination. There are seven kits in it.

IMAGINATION

Imagination is a vital key in the school of success.

What is imagination? It is the formation of a mental image of something that is neither perceived as real nor present to the senses. It is fundamental to success, because, according to Scriptures, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7). You are what you think.

For you to be a success in life, therefore, you must first think success; you must see success as attainable. God knew this law that was why He commanded Abraham to look as far as

his eyes could see.

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

For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

Genesis 13:14-15

Abraham could not have possibly seen much with his physical eyes. What God meant was, as far as he could see with his mind's eye or his imagination. All that Abraham imagined or saw that day, became his

portion. He didn't need to trek through all the lands to see them physically.

Another instance can be found in Joshua 1:3-4, where God was speaking to Joshua:

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

Your imagination is very elastic. How far you can pull it is how much you get. When the people decided to

build the tower of Babel, God saw that they had imagined to do it and knew that nothing could stop them.

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

Their imagination guaranteed their attainment. They imagined building a tower whose top will reach unto heaven, and their imagination became a law. Wherever this law of imagination operates, it enhances accomplishment.

That is why Paul admonishes us on

what to think:

...Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

What you think is what determines your destiny or what you become, so mind your thoughts. If as a student, you have imagined failure in your heart before an examination, you will definitely fail.

Imagination is the pacesetter for

your destination. It is one of the vital laws of the spirit. Every man's ultimate success or failure in life is a function of his imagination. God will always do as every man sees. That's why He always asks man, "What seest thou?" So, to succeed in life, it is not enough to be a hard worker; you must also be a success-thinker. You can't think success and end up in failure. When you understand and engage this principle, you are guaranteed a very colourful destiny.

To enjoy good success, therefore, God's Word should be the basis of your thought life. This is because God is committed to every positive imagination you have. God's Word has

formed my thought pattern, and I pray it will form yours as well.

Reading through the Scriptures, I discovered certain promises of God that exempted me from lack and want. As a result, my thinking pattern changed. For instance, I can't imagine me beg! I found the solution in this Scripture in Romans 10:12 which says:

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Ever since I found this scripture, I can't imagine me look up to a man for help or assistance. I can't imagine me pester any man for what I can get from

him, or asking my mentor if he has some money to give me. The Bible says:

Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.

For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

Jeremiah 17:5-6

Never imagine yourself end up as a failure in life. You must imagine success and work towards it. Every act begins with a thought, so don't allow

your mind to think failure. Apostle Paul advises us in 2 Corinthians 10:5:

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

You have to work on your imagination, for it is the designer of your destiny. You must guard your mind jealously, for out of it proceed the issues of life (Prov. 4:23).

What do you see your ministry, business or career becoming in future? Where do you see your life heading towards? What do you see in your tomorrow? Where do you see yourself getting to in life? Your thought on

these issues are crucial to your success in life. Therefore, form good pictures about your tomorrow from the word of God. You have the mind of Christ, so think positive thoughts, think success!

The next kit to be considered tells you more about Word-based images.

REVELATION

Revelation backs up your imagination. We earlier said that for you to have true success, your imagination should be rooted in Scriptures. Find a place for your imagination in Scriptures, because the scriptures do not only establish your dream, but also give you instructions on how to accomplish it.

Every purpose is established by counsel, and God's Word is His counsel. Matthew 7:24 says:

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a

rock:

The Word of God is the rock. It is the only sure ground upon which to build your dream. You may have dreamt of being the head of the establishment where you work. That is a good dream covered by the Word of God, which 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” (Deut. 28:13).

But God’s word says, “Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men” (Prov 22:29). So your dream of getting to the top may never be fully realised if all you are

doing is merely wishing, and not working. There is no cheap way to the top. But if you follow the scriptural provisions for getting to the top, nothing can stop your success.

What revelation does is to help you locate instructions from Scriptures that will enhance the realisation of your imagination or dream. If, for instance, you have imagined having a hitch-free married life, your dream is certified in Scriptures. You must have discovered from the Bible that it is God's will and that God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. You also must have seen that God designed marriage for better living, no matter how colourful your single life had been.

But a responsibility is laid upon you: “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Eph. 5:25). This means that as a husband, you do not count the sins of your wife, but you are her saviour from her errors. For the woman, the demand of Scripture for a successful home is this: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord” (Eph. 5:22). Any man or woman who heeds these scriptural demands will have a hitch-free married life. This is also applicable to every other venture you might be engaged in.

I knew I won’t beg in ministry, because after desiring it, I also found a

revelation in Scriptures which helped establish my dream. When Jesus was sending out His apostles in Mark 6:8, He “commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse.” This instruction reinforced my expectation of supernatural supplies from God. I knew that the more spiritual impact I had on the people, the more material blessings would come my way (Rom. 15:27).

Revelations from Scriptures form the supernatural reinforcement for your dreams. When you adhere strictly to them, you are set for outstanding success!

Do you have a dream for a very big

church? An insight into God's word will tell you that it can be realised. God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). He died for the entire world, not for a cross-section. Also, great multitudes followed Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry. Thus, multitudes authenticate ministry. But how do you get them to come to your church?

It is by keying into what Christ did in His ministry. As He went about preaching the Word of God, the number of His disciples multiplied, and as the Word of God increased, great multitudes of people followed Him. That is the secret for church growth! A

church does not grow by magic; it grows through the preaching of the Word of God.

So, the dream for a large church does not just answer to mere imagination or what I call day-dreaming. Your imagination must locate and follow appropriate instructions in Scriptures in order for it to materialise. That is how revelation works. It helps to consolidate imagination and gives you the practical approach to its accomplishment.

Revelation helps you see how to realise your dreams. Take note that you do not utilize the key of revelation for church growth alone. You should use it in your everyday activities. Its use is

not limited to pastors, evangelists, and other workers in God's vineyard. Even if you are a policeman, soldier, businessman, teacher, driver, petty trader, journalist, banker, student, mechanic, whatever, you are free to engage the key of revelation, if you must soar high as the eagle in your career. That is the way to outstanding success in life.

You need great revelations to match your great future! So it is not enough to have an imagination, you must also endeavour to have sound revelation to match!

While the Word of God gives you a backing for the realisation of your dreams, this next kit helps you see that

it is possible and can be done, as you look at other successful people who have gone ahead of you.

INSPIRATION

Inspiration is a factor in your quest for success. When you get inspiration from someone, you get new ideas from him, which makes you enthusiastic and encourages you to do something positive.

Archbishop Benson Idahosa once said, “If you have no one to inspire you, you will expire.” So, humbly look out for someone who is doing what you are doing, and you will catch a new fire and drive for accomplishment.

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:12

This Scripture proves that you can draw inspiration from someone that has achieved a feat in whatever area of life you are aspiring to. Know that every human reference is himself a product of references. You never become a reference without having a reference, because there is nothing you are doing now that somebody else hasn't done before, as there is nothing new under the sun (Eccl. 1:9). You have to surround yourself with human inspirations, because they help you realise your dreams.

No one is an island unto himself. Most men of distinction in whatever

area of human endeavour you can imagine, are products of human inspiration. Every great giant is connected to another great giant.

Inspiration is a major factor in your quest for success. Isaac Newton is quoted as saying, “If I have seen any farther, it is by standing on the shoulders of them who have gone before me.” Every wise builder naturally looks out for references.

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

And Solomon’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of

Egypt.

For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.

And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had

heard of his wisdom.

1 Kings 4:29-34

People came from far and near “to hear the wisdom of Solomon” from which they were then able to draw inspiration. No matter your profession, you need this key to succeed in life. Are you a pastor, sailor, banker, soldier, teacher, estate agent, insurance broker, journalist, or doctor? You need inspiration to make a mark in your career.

But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Job 32:8

A man without someone to inspire him will be stagnant. For instance, before you were born, somebody carried you in the womb for nine months, gave birth to you and nursed you. It is, therefore, madness to think you can be self-made. There is nothing new under the sun. There is nothing you are going to do that somebody has not done before.

My greatest inspiration in the school of prosperity is the Copeland family. I saw sincerity and integrity in them and desired it also. Kenneth Hagin remains my greatest inspiration in the school of faith, whereas Smith Wigglesworth is my inspiration in the

school of healing. He fired me up in the school of raw faith for raw healing.

Watch out for any man or woman who has made a mark somewhere, he has a human reference from whom he draws inspiration. Likewise, you also need to have someone or people to inspire you.

I drew inspiration for boldness from the man A. A. Allen. I got a new heart from listening to his audio tapes, that I no longer got intimidated by anything in life.

One day, while watching the video recording of Archbishop Idahosa's Ibadan crusade, I was moved with the needs of humanity. I saw people (the lame, sick, cripple and blind) being

carried to the stadium as early as six o'clock in the morning for a meeting that will hold in the evening. I said to God, "The suffering of man is too much, help me to play my role."

I couldn't sleep that night, as my heart was very heavy. I came out of my bedroom to the sitting room, and sat on the chair, with the lights off. Then, I heard the majestic steps of a man on the carpet, walking towards me. He walked up to me and placed a hand on my back. I never saw the face of the person that touched me, but I knew it was the Lord Himself that walked into that room. There was an explosion of diverse healings and deliverances in church the next morning! From then

on, supernatural manifestations became the order of the day in our ministry.

God has positioned men on your path, who can help you accomplish your imagination by inspiring you to attainment. You are to draw virtue from them. May you locate them in good time, in Jesus' name.

PREPARATION

The next kit in the imagination system is preparation. It is common sense for any serious venture to be preceded by proper preparations. This is made clear in Scripture.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

Luke 14:28

Every action is preceded by a preparation. Even common sense tells us that. Every building project begins with a preparation. The land and the

plan of the proposed building must be in place before you can start building. Likewise, every strong move of God is usually preceded by strong preparations. Before the birth of Jesus Christ, God sent John the Baptist ahead, to prepare His way (Mk. 1:2-8).

Similarly, without an adequate preparation in your career, business or ministry, it might be difficult to succeed in it. As a matter of fact, the quality of your preparation is what eventually determines the level of your manifestation. Whether you are a pilot, barber, accountant, evangelist, teacher, carpenter, mechanic, driver, petrol attendant or seamstress, you need preparation before you can successfully

implement any given task. That is why I say it is a common sense factor.

You can never find an athlete emerge a star overnight, without having first made adequate preparations. I heard the story of a basketballer who had a problem of aiming the basket at a 15-metre range. In preparing for a particular league match, he started practising how to throw the ball into the basket from the 15-metre range. He placed himself under the rigour of aiming the basket 500 times each day. By the day of the league match, the 15-metre range became very cheap for him, as his entire body system had been prepared for it; so he became a big success.

The level of preparation you put into a thing or project determines the degree of success that will be attained. How much success a man will attain in life is traceable to how prepared he is for the task at hand. There is no substitute for preparation.

I spent 26 months in concerted personal preparations before stepping into ministry. All that time was spent in locating answers to all the questions that I needed answers to.

One very important fact you must know is that no one can do your preparation for you. No one else can prepare for an exam on your behalf. Preparation is a personal responsibility in the school of success; there is no

substitute for it.

For instance, you don’t rush into marriage; but many today don’t give it the adequate preparation it requires. Those that are so much in a hurry won’t even bother for an adequate period of courtship. They meet their partner today, and tomorrow they are married, without adequate preparation for a married life. That is why most often, they start having problems in their home the following week. Short courtship often cuts short joy, peace and stability in the home. You need adequate preparation for anything that will be stable and stand the test of time.

In my desperation for God in those

days, I did just anything to draw me nearer to Him. At one time, I spent seven days reading the book of Acts of the Apostles, and I had an encounter of a lifetime. At another time, I went up to the mountain to read the book of Ezekiel, and stayed there for three nights. On the third day, God said to me, “Behold, I have touched your tongue with a coal of fire. Henceforth, as you say it, you see it.” Those were part of the preparations that became the power base for the work I am doing now.

The time of preparation is when you seek answers to the personal issues connected to the realization of your dream. It is the time when you settle

challenging matters related to your particular assignment by putting things in the correct perspective for success. As you diligently address these issues, God begins to open up diverse depths to you from His Word.

There is no substitute for personal preparation. There are certain questions that you may never receive answers to in public or in a general situation. This is because you are unique and there will always be peculiar things that apply to you individually. The time spent in preparation should be considered an investment, not a waste. Therefore, invest time in getting yourself spiritually, mentally and socially set for your job. You may need

to set a day apart for this. The Bible says in Matthew 3:3:

…**Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.**

This is what to do, if you want to enjoy covenant success. If you desire great success, you must match it with great preparation. Preparation is the key to your manifestation, so don’t joke with it!

PERSPIRATION

Achievement is not a gift; rather, every achievement is a product of perspiration. To succeed in life, you must know where you're going and how to get there. You must give your work the energy attention it requires.

When I began ministry work, breakfast was a luxury to me. There was a whole year in which I had just a meal per day, not because there was no money, but because I needed the time I would have spent in eating. I would read, read again, plan, etc. I was virtually in the office all the time.

I am yet to hear of any success

story that is not rooted in hard work. There is nothing like magical success. Every success is a product of hard work, as labour guarantees dignity. There is no realization without perspiration, so give your dream all the energy and attention it requires.

In Ecclesiastes 5:9 the Bible says, “Moreover the profit of the earth is for all...” But why are all not profiting? Proverbs 14:23 gives the answer: “In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.” The profit of the earth is for only those who care to labour, as “Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase” (Prov. 13:11) and only “The hand of

the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute” (Prov. 12:24).

If you are not a hard worker, you will die as a slave!

SUPPLICATION

Supplication involves calling for God's help in whatever you are doing. For covenant success, you need to keep talking to God in prayer. There is no way you can successfully realize your dream or pursue God's purpose for your life without divine intervention because "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain" (Ps. 127:1).

Without God's help, one can hardly expect any remarkable achievement. The people of Babel in Genesis 11 were

toiling and sweating it out without God, and their imagination was turned to foolishness, so that they could not realize their desire. If they had sought and received the help of God, the tower would have been built, as even God testified that "nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."

The realization of your Scripture-based imagination is not a function of hard work or expertise alone; it is also a function of God's grace and mercy. That is why He encourages us in Hebrews 4:16, to pray to Him for His help.

This is our covenant right. Rather than struggling with others to survive,

God's Word tells us to ask Him for help. The desires of your heart can be realised only by your asking God for help.

However, to call on God does not mean you have no part to play in the realization of your dream. The reason some Christians are stranded today is that they think God is solely responsible for their success, not realizing that they also have a part to play in it. God will not imagine a future for you, neither will He sweat for you. You have the responsibility of preparing the way for Him. To keep confessing, "God will do it", without any input from you is to settle for failure.

First Corinthians 3:6 makes us understand that the planting and watering is man’s responsibility, while increase is from God. Supplication is, therefore, calling for His help in our planting and watering, so we can have increase.

REALIZATION

The last kit in this system is realization. It is the actualization of the imagined thing. After having imagined an end, receiving revelations from the Word of God and inspiration from people, preparing for the desired end, and you have perspired in actual work, asking for the help of God in prayer, realisation is the next thing. It caps up all that had earlier been done. It is arriving at your desired end. You refuse to be discouraged until you get the harvest. “...Let us not be weary in well doing”, Galatians 6:9 says, “for in due season we shall reap, if we faint

not.”

Tenacity in perspiration and supplication is what leads to the realization of what had been imagined. For instance, if you are a preacher with the dream of a big church, and nobody seems to be coming to hear you, just keep on preaching. Do not give up in frustration, as even the Bible tells us to preach in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2). Your desire will soon come to pass.

A man that wants to demolish a wall with a sledge hammer cannot afford to give up after the first unsuccessful blow. The more blows on the wall, the more it is weakened, and by the 50th blow, the wall collapses

like a pack of cards. Note that it wasn't the 50th blow that brought the wall down, but the cumulative effect of all the previous blows.

Similarly, you may not see the effect of what you are doing now, but keep at it. Remember, the children of Israel went round the wall of Jericho for six days, yet nothing happened until the same process was repeated on the seventh day. So also, success is a cumulative effect of several perspirations and supplications. So, don't give up! God is on your side!

Too many people give up too soon, and that is why they don't get to the point of realization. Never mind the barriers that seem to be standing in

your way now, just keep at it, and before too long, your success will appear for all to see.

With the support of heaven there is nothing impossible, if only your mind can imagine it. Success is keeping at your work with perspiration and supplication. Never give up or look back once your imagination has a scriptural backing.

As you operate these kits discussed in this system, God's expected end for you cannot be denied. You will succeed!

CHAPTER 3

PURPOSE SYSTEM

You are either running with a vision, going on a mission, or burning with a passion… If you do not belong to any of these, life is reduced to a burden.

— Dr. David Oyedepo

Having imagined success, you need to have a purpose or a goal you are working towards. This, therefore, brings us to the next system the Purpose System. Like the previous systems discussed, this system also has seven kits.

PURPOSE

Life is purpose-driven. Man is lifeless without purpose. As I stood on the terrace of the Penthouse of a hotel in Duckland, London, I saw a car drive into the construction site, in the chilly, snowing early hours of the morning. Then I said to myself, “That’s a man on a mission.”

If you have a mission, you will always have motion. It is the sense of mission that ignites the mechanisms of motion. Purpose ignites motion; it imbues it with strength and enhances endurance.

Purpose is life. Life without

purpose is death in disguise. Every man of attainment on earth is a man of purpose. They know where they are going, and are ready to stake their lives for their goal or purpose.

Joel 2:2-7 gives us a vivid description of men of purpose. These men of purpose became men of wonders because they knew their path.

There is a young man that thrills me. His name is Anthony Robbins. He told himself he wanted to become a man of solutions, so he looked for money by all means to attend every personal development seminar in America. While still in High School, he had read about 700 books on psychology, physiology and personal

development. Today, he is a welcomed personality at any circle of intelligence on earth.

Men of purpose are men of focus; they are people who know where they are going, and anything they want, they get.

But how do they get there? They walk everyone in his way and everyone in his path, with none breaking their ranks (Joel 2:7).

Having just one purpose is enough to make one a success. A very close look at successful men will reveal that they are men of one purpose, who not only know it, but also stick to it. Matthew 6:22 says, “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye

be single, thy whole body shall be full of light."

Jesus, our Saviour, was a man of just one purpose; He said so in John 18:37, He is the bright and morning star, yet He was a man of one purpose. "Jack of all trades," they say, is "master of none." One dream is enough to establish you in life.

We can't all be businessmen, preachers, politicians or academicians; so strive to discover your purpose and identify with it. You don't have to be a businessman to be successful or rich. All you need do is to be that thing you are created to be. Know where you belong and fully identify with it. You are not a biological accident; it is time

to know where you are going. There is security in locating a divinely sanctioned purpose.

Being of one purpose is what makes you a star. So locate your purpose, and stick to it. You can’t be a preacher and a trader at the same time; it is wrong, it is not in the Bible. Jesus came here full-time for the redemption of man. If that required full-time attention, you can’t accomplish your purpose if you don’t give it the full attention it requires.

PLANNING

After having discovered your purpose, the next thing to do is to settle down to plan how to accomplish it. You say to yourself, “I know where I’m going, but how do I get there?”

The planning stage is the stage of thinking through or pondering on how to realize your goal. The Living Bible translation of Proverbs 24:3-4 says:

Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts.

Before labour you need sense. It is

sense before sweat, otherwise the sweat will lack result. So, you say to yourself, “I know where I am going, but I need to map out a plan of action. I need to know how to get there.” This is where planning comes in.

Planning helps you to locate the essentials that will enhance the accomplishment of your purpose. “How do I get to where I am going?” No one builds a tower without first sitting down to count and locate what it will take to get the job done.

Every successful person is a thinker, as thinking is the principal tool for planning. Every tower builder must first be a thinker. Every star is a thinker.

I'd like to describe planning as locating what counts in the accomplishment of your goal. After God gave me the vision and mandate to start the work of the ministry, and I knew where I was going, I still needed twenty-six months of planning and programming before I set out. I opened more than forty files, all in the process of setting my commission in perspective before actual take-off.

Every purpose is accomplished by wise planning, becomes strong through the use of common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts. The Bible also says: "wisdom has built her house, and hewn out her seven pillars" (Prov. 9:1). Wisdom helps you

locate the essentials of your assignment, what needs attention, and how to put them together.

A wise man said, “Failing to plan is planning to fail.” You won’t fail, in Jesus’ name.

PROGRAMMING

Having thought out a way of realizing your purpose, this plan needs to be put in a time frame, for ease of accomplishment. Time projection is required for the accomplishment of your purpose.

The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

Ecclesiastes 10:15

Nothing wears a man out in the pursuit of a task as not first finding out how to approach the job before rushing into it. In programming, you put a time

to your plans, because there is a time and season for everything. Having drawn up a master plan, you then go ahead to break the plan up into phases, which will enable you realize your purpose and effectively analyse or review your pursuit. Programming enhances your speed in the accomplishment of your goal.

This is where many have failed in the pursuit of their purpose. After discovering their purpose, many leave the planning and programming to God, saying, “God will do it.” But God will not bear your responsibilities for you. Can you imagine somebody who is pressed, and instead of going to ease himself, says, “God will do it”?

Whereas it is man's responsibility to plan and programme how to realize his purpose, many have erroneously left this duty to God.

A wise man said something which I totally agree with. He said, "Shallow men think of luck, but wise and strong men believe in cause and effect." That is, every cause has to be diligently pursued for it to be effective. There can never be an accidental success in any field of human endeavour. Even the success of geniuses, we have been told, comes out of ten per cent inspiration and ninety per cent perspiration. They do not just rise up one day and say, "I'm a genius."

There is a time most suited for the

execution of certain aspects of your goal or vision. It is man's duty to plan this out, as God will not do it for you.

Programming is entirely different from planning. Drawing up a broad plan of action is not enough to make you successful, as you can stumble into any part of the plan. You equally need to programme the execution of your plan. While planning sets the pace for the realization of your goal by delivering the master plan, programming your plan helps in the effective implementation of the plan.

You will discover that the first three kits in this system put a demand on your mental system. Your purpose has to be personally and mentally

secured, and you must also be emotionally attached to it. Planning and programming also take place in the mind.

PURSUIT

Having identified your purpose and you have planned how to execute it by breaking it up into time phases, it is now time for action; it is pursuit time. Until you get into action, you are merely a fan of your dream never expect to win a prize, as fans are simply after fun in any game. Only players win the prize.

...Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Habakkuk 2:2

Every purpose not pursued is sure

to die, never to see the light of day. Every vision that lacks action will end in frustration. Paul the apostle, one of the greatest stars in the New Testament, said:

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

1 Corinthians 9:24

Vision or purpose answers only to runners, not to talkers. Purpose will only answer to pursuit, not to excuses. “So RUN.” Life is a race; only runners have a future in it. You can only accomplish your purpose by daily taking conscious steps towards it.

Note that in the pursuit of your purpose, you must understand the law of hardness (2 Tim. 2:3). Every crown has to be contested for before it can be worn. To be successful in life, therefore, you must respond to the challenges of your goal.

You don't become a master until you do what will make you a master. So, it's time to work on yourself. No one can strive for mastery and be crowned, except he strives lawfully. You must, therefore, bring your entire being into subjection of the law of mastery. Hardness is an aspect of that law.

Alexander Kroll had a dream of becoming a footballer, but he had a

problem he was not built for the game. He was, however, determined to be one. So he would wake up at night to build up his muscles by training on his weight lifting equipment. He would be there from 2:30 a.m. to 4:00 a.m., developing his muscles, to make his dream a reality. This he did for months, until his muscles were developed well enough, and he was given a place in his dream team.

Every weight of glory is preceded by a season of affliction, a season of perspiration. There is a price tag on every dream. Perspiration is the price all prize winners must pay. Until you pay the price, your dream can’t be realized.

Someone defined responsibility as “responding to ability.” To succeed in life, you must compel your body to obey the call to duty. The Bible says:

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

A successful pursuit of your goal demands that you keep your body under control. You say to your body, "You don't determine what I do; I determine what you will do. I'm going somewhere; getting there is a task that must be done."

Anthony Robbins is quoted as saying, "There are two kinds of pains in life: the pain of discipline and the pain of regrets. On the scale of life, the pain of discipline weighs in ounces, but the pain of regrets in tonnes."

You won't end your journey in regrets! So, rise up and do something about that plan. "God will do it" is the slogan of the indolent. "What must I

do?” is the question men of purpose ask.

A wise man described the slothful as not just the man who does not work, but one who does not enjoy the idea of work, and reacts against anyone who is working and making it work. Men of purpose don’t wish; they work.

I know a man who badly wanted to be in business, but had no money. To raise the money he needed, he took off to his village and began tapping palm wine, from where he made four pounds. He then headed back to Lagos, and started business. Today, he has over 3,000 men working for him!

We didn’t start ministry with any saved up money. All I had was a sense

of duty. I knew that things won't happen until I make them happen by working, so I began working.

I think the reason many wake up and do nothing is because they don't know where they are going. And for those who claim to know, they are not determined to get there. Every indolent man either doesn't know where he's going or is not determined to get there. You need to set a goal, and be determined to get there.

There is no gift called achievement or attainment. Every distinction is as a result of perspiration. Until you're ready for the sweat, you're not set for the sweet. That vision can be pursued, if you really want to pursue it; so get

started now!

You must take certain definite steps in pursuit of your purpose daily. Your dream will never come true without you taking a step. Also, no one can get you there, but you. Everyone has his own dream, so don’t wait for others, expecting them to help you realize yours.

APPRAISAL

Appraisal is the vital path to progress. It has been proved that improvement is a product of reviews. No one can improve on his output without reviews.

Review here implies a rethinking of the approach and the process for the purpose of improvements and enhanced output.

Questions such as; “How can I improve on the quality of results?”; “How can I improve on the rate of results?”; “Are there more cost effective approaches to accompanying these given tasks?” and so on should be asked.

The prodigal son, engaged the tool of appraisal and review that led to the restoration of his dignity (Luke 15:14-24).

In the pursuit of any task, thinking sets the pace and rethinking helps to keep the pursuit resourceful, while enhancing the rate and quality of result.

It is appraisal that begets progress. It is reviews that guarantee enhance results.

PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance is required in the pursuit of your dream, because your dream would only speak at the end. “Rome”, they say, “was not built in a day.”

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

Habakkuk 2:3

Every vision speaks at the end. You may look like a fool at the beginning, but as you stay on to the end, you will end up victorious. The stories of most

stars have miserable beginnings; but at the end, it changes to a glorious one. With the force of perseverance in place, the pursuit of your dream may look miserable today, but it will end up in honour tomorrow.

Opportunities to faint while pursuing your vision abound. But if you're not prepared to resist failure, you will fail and destroy the dream. It takes the force of perseverance to see the accomplishment of your dream. You, therefore, must fight weariness.

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th American president, is an example of one who persevered in the pursuit of his dream. He lost in his many attempts at elective office that he looked like a

grand loser in the field of politics. But he had a goal he was determined to realize, so he didn’t give up until he was elected president of the United States of America in 1861.

It takes the force of perseverance to arrive at the point of eminence. Until you’re due, you’re not due. You shall reap it at the end, only if you faint not.

PRAISE

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase...

Psalm 67:5-6

Having done all, settle for His praise, for He is your source. Praising your source releases energy for exploits. You say to Him, “I know You are the covenant-keeping God, You never fail. What a wonderful God You are. That I’m not sick or down today, I glorify You. You gave me the job I’m doing today, and also the strength to do

it. Thank You."

As you praise Him while at the same time in the pursuit of your goal, you can't but succeed. All your input without His help can't deliver success to you, because except He helps you, no one else can. For, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." (Ps 127:1).

Your praising Him is like saying, "I have done my part, I am now waiting for You to do Yours."

CHAPTER 4

Task System

“There is no substitute for hard work but hard life.”

- class="center">Dr. David Oyedepo
- class="center">

Life is an opportunity, so you need to make the most of it; and to be successful is to make the most of life.

In this chapter, we shall be considering how to make the most of life; that is, how to be satisfied or fulfilled at the end of your journey here

on earth.

This task system, also made up of seven kits is one of those components that make up the engine of success. They are: Task, Training, Target, Tools, Timing, Tillage, and Tarrying.

TASK

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

1 Corinthians 9:16

"Necessity is laid upon me" is one of the concepts or laws that guide outstanding success. Until you see your assignment as a necessity, it is not likely going to enjoy your best, and you also are not likely to get the best out of it; for whatsoever a man soweth, that also shall he reap Gal 6:7. If you treat your assignment with levity, you will

be levelled out. If you don't function under a bond, you may die in bondage.

Those who end up as outstanding men in life are those who have bound themselves to their goal or purpose. They have a necessity perspective or approach to their tasks and assignment.

During the civil war in Nigeria, the Nigerian government had a slogan which said, "To keep Nigeria one is a task that must be done." As a result, all resources and attention were channeled to this task. The opposing side lost because they only made an attempt to secede, it was not a task. If it were a task, till the last person is killed, nobody would have given up.

Paul saw his assignment as a task,

hence he was often quoted as saying: “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21); “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy...” (Acts 20:24); “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” (Rom. 8:35). This is the bond of necessity. Every outstanding achiever has bond himself by necessity to his assignment. So, if your going into business is merely an attempt to see if it would work, you will soon retire.

What has kept me going with ease since I came into ministry is the fact

that I have never once thought to myself, “Can I go back?” This is because I had bound myself by necessity to my assignment. When I answered the call to ministry, I said to Him, “Lord, should I pretend not to have heard You, see to it that I don’t succeed in any other thing I do.” So, necessity was laid upon me, as I didn’t have where to return to if I failed. I had brought myself under an oath of performance and accomplishment. If you are going out to try, you may die in trials. Rather, make your calling a necessity.

This task concept presupposes that the task is already well defined or known. The assignment may be your

choice, talent, or calling. Which ever it is, bind yourself to it by necessity. Also, know that necessity is the mother of invention, which in turn is the mother of distinction. Necessity enhances creativity, which in turn enhances dignity, as you can’t get out of life more than what you put into it. Until you see your assignment as a task, the best will never come out of it.

TRAINING

The next kit on this system is training. The future of any task is bleak without one possessing the necessary training to make it work. This is because the quality of training is what ultimately determines the degree of triumph. Training leaves for the trained traits of excellence and character that enhance the overall accomplishment of the task.

By training, I mean establishing a development programme towards the accomplishment of your task. There are two forms of training the formal and informal. Formal training is the one received from an educational

institution, whereas informal training tends towards personal development.

The emphasis here is on personal training or development, which is the most effective form of training. While formal training sets the pace for development, personal training delivers the goods. Unfortunately, today, there are many schooled people, who, however, are not trained.

While sitting in the lounge of the Amsterdam airport and browsing through a magazine one day, I came across the story of Benjamin Franklin, who though he had only two years of formal education (he stopped at age 10 and couldn’t continue for lack of funds), ended up as a printer, publisher,

author, inventor, scientist, and diplomat. He learnt to read and write by himself. He would rather spend whatever money he had on books than on food. He became an apprentice in a relation's printing shop, from where he developed the reading habit and grew to become one of America's greatest philosophers.

Benjamin Franklin single-handedly negotiated for the French government's involvement (military and financial) in the American revolution, which was how the American colonies were able to separate from Great Britain. He also helped in framing the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Benjamin Franklin invented the Franklin stove, bifocal spectacles, and the lightning rod. He also experimented in electricity and founded an academy that grew to be the University of Pennsylvania, and a sophisticated hospital. He was one of the best known and most admired men in the Western world during the last half of the 18th century. Till this day, Americans still commemorate the Benjamin Franklin Day. It is a day off in honour of the great brain; and all these came by personal development.

I have already told you about Anthony Robbins, who through personal development also has made a name for himself in the American

business world. He has only high school education, but is now a management consultant to great business names in America. He is about 46 years old now, but started attending personal development seminars when he was in form one, and grew to be known as a solution man in his class. He has now become a worldwide solution man, addressing thousands of people around the world.

Anthony Robbins has no college degree, but he now teaches even professors. The foreword to one of his books was written by a professor, who said his colleagues were mocking him for attending Anthony Robbins' seminar. The professor concluded by

saying that nobody in the school of psychology has the kind of insight that Anthony Robbins has.

There is yet another person, who through personal development has become a resounding success. He is Richard Branson, the emperor of the Virgin Empire, a conglomerate. He was a school drop-out, who started his journey as a newspaper vendor and developed the art of reading. He was once listed as the 11th wealthiest Briton.

He owns an airline, a soft drink company, a music industry, among many other companies. About twenty of his managers are millionaires. Each arrives for their meetings in their

personal jets. Though he was a school drop out, he was not a “brain drop out.”

Personal development can create a new world for anyone. All the things that keep life going require your personal involvement. No matter how much your wife loves you, when you are pressed, she cannot go to the toilet on your behalf. Or can you, because you love your wife so much carry a pregnancy on her behalf? No one can help you study for an exam. You can’t say, “I will read chapters one to five of this book, you help me read chapters six to ten, after which we will embrace each other, to transfer the knowledge, because we are husband and wife.” Your failure will be very resounding!

For any certificate to be authentically yours, you must work for it.

There is no substitute for personal development; it is the most effective training programme for any man. The importance of training is emphasized by this scripture in Genesis 14:14:

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

God wants to arm you more than what you are trained to accomplish. God requires that one first be trained before he is placed. In fact, your training is what determines your placement.

I have seen many outstanding people in life, but 99% of them were through personal training. Oral Roberts never had more than high school formal education, but he founded one of the foremost Christian universities in America. I read an address he gave in 1968, where without any paper, he was able to chronologically tell the American history, with accurate dates and names given.

Kenneth Hagin of blessed memory used to often say, “While I was looking it up in the Greek translation, I discovered that the original text would have read this way..., but I read this because this text explains it better.”

I consider training as proof of your

personal commitment to your task. Do not be deceived by qualifications; it is no substitute for personal development. Also, don’t be discouraged by the lack of qualification either, as it is no disqualifier for achievement.

It is a paradox that the greatest men in life are not usually men of high academic qualifications. As a matter of fact, most of them do not even have college education; but they gave themselves to personal development. You make the most of life by investing time and resources in personal training and development.

TARGET

This kit implies having a well-defined goal before you. Target connotes certainty of goal. You must have a well-defined goal or focus you are working towards. For instance, you might be working towards building a large congregation or holding mass healing crusades. You might desire to own the largest garment factory or the first indigenous and largest spare parts workshop.

Every man of worth is a man with a target. To live without target is to end up in tears. I often humourously say that if you don’t have a goal, you will

live like a goat, looking for the path of least resistance.

You need to be able to define your target. How anointed you are notwithstanding, if you don’t have a goal, you will never score one. When will a football match being played without a goalpost ever end? It is impossible to determine the winner without goals. The match will only end in frustration.

Having a target is knowing precisely where you are going. It is running a vision with precision. If you don’t have a target, your friend might start an evangelistic crusade, and you go ahead to join him. Another might start a church or go into business, and

you decide to follow suit too. You might decide to go back to school for a degree or go into farming, simply because you have seen someone else do so. You will go on that way until you are disjointed. But with a clearly defined target, you won't follow things simply because they are popular.

It is important that you direct your energy and resources at well-defined goals. After having seen your assignment as a task, that is, you have bound yourself to it by necessity, and you have the necessary training for its accomplishment, you must also keep your eyes on your target. You ask yourself, "What am I actually after?"

Whenever we are going for a board

or council meeting, I always ask myself, “What is this meeting expected to accomplish? How will it be accomplished? What things are expected to be in place in order to realize it? How long do I think it will take to accomplish it?” Otherwise, at the end of the meeting you won’t have achieved anything.

Stop fighting as one beating the air. You need a target to make the most of life. It must be a well-defined and quantifiable target. You shouldn’t just run for the sake of running; you should run with the tape as your target.

TOOLS

Certain tools or instruments are required for the realization of your goal. You need to ask yourself, “What will I need to accomplish my goal?” You need to know what tools you need to become what you want to become. Putting them together may cost you something, but you have to acquire the tools, no matter the cost.

Right now, I am undertaking what I believe is God’s next assignment for me a motivational drive around Africa. But if I must succeed in it, I must first gather the correct tools. Already, there are founding fathers in

the school of motivation. Norman Vincent Pearle and Robert Schuller are a few examples. So, to succeed in my assignment, I must lay hold on their materials. I must search out from their materials what it takes to succeed in my assignment. Even the stories they tell help me understand my tools better.

You need to identify the tools for the accomplishment of your goal and acquire them. For instance, the Bible is the principal tool for anyone going into the ministry of the gospel. In addition, other books and materials that address your specific area should be resource materials which must be compulsorily consulted for effectiveness in your

task.

Assuming you are called into mass healing crusade, the materials of people like T.L. Osborn, Reinhard Bonnke, Benny Hinn and Katheryn Khulman will help you. While you are studying for the message you are to deliver, you will also receive inspiration and the confidence needed for the execution of your duty, from these materials.

Can you imagine using your hands instead of a spanner to loosen a bolt from your car? How long will it take you? You will only end up having blisters on your hands, because there is a particular tool for the job. There is need to identify the instruments for the

accomplishment of your assignment.

In warfare, for example, you must study the terrain of the people you are going to fight, so you can plan out what weapons to use. Even Jesus teaches us this in Luke 14:31:

...What king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

Going after a task without tools is like going to war without arms. Possessing the appropriate tool for your task is a must for outstanding results. Life is colourful and your target attainable, if you utilize the

appropriate tools.

TIMING

The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3:1:

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

After identifying and possessing the right tools for your assignment, you also need to identify the right time to set out in action. Jesus had all along been preparing for ministry, but when His mother called for His help at the marriage feast at Cana of Galilee, He knew it wasn't the right time to set out, so He replied, "Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come" (Jn. 2:4).

An understanding of right timing makes you a commander in life, like the children of Issachar (1 Chron. 12:32). You need an understanding of the right time to set out in whatever venture you are onto. Until the time is ripe, don’t step out. Certain businesses are seasonal. You need to know the seasons in which they thrive, so you don’t enter into them when there is a lull, for instance, selling iced cold water on a cold rainy day or during the rainy season.

If you are called into ministry, until you get a clear signal from God, don’t move. To be a valiant fighter in battle, you must have a good understanding of signals. Jesus heard that Lazarus was

dead, but He abode where He was for two more days before setting out; and when He got to Lazarus' grave, every devil stepped out (Jn. 11:1-44).

How do you know when the timing is right? It is by asking God. You say to Him, "Lord, I thank You for showing me what my purpose in life is. When do I set out in its pursuit? When do I begin Lord?" Make sure you are enquiring with a sincere heart. Remove all distractions from your mind. Stand before Him as one who really expects to hear from Him. (See my books, Keys To Answered Prayer and Winning Prayer, for more on receiving from God.)

Once you receive the go-ahead

signal to begin, from God, don't allow any devil make you change your mind. Refuse to entertain any contrary thoughts of inability to start. God won't command you to start without having made adequate provisions available. The resources you need may even be in your room; that is why the issue of timing requires sensitivity to God and to your environment.

Right timing is a major asset, if you desire to accomplish your task. You, therefore, need to be extra sensitive in order to pick the signals.

TILLAGE

What I mean by tillage is putting your hands to work. Hear what the Bible says about it:

He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

Proverbs 12:11

Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

Proverbs 13:23

You can not make the most of life without tillage; instead, you will end

up being poor. Can you imagine a farmer who just throws his seed on the field without first preparing the ground and cultivating it? He won't get much harvest from it, as either the birds of the air would feast on them or they would fall among thorns.

The future of any assignment is determined by the quality of your labour input. Just as you won't get much out of your maize seeds by just throwing them around, you won't get much out of life if you avoid tillage. You can't get much out of life without breaking the ground and cultivating it. No matter how much you use a computer in exploring for oil, without the actual drilling, oil won't come out

of the ground. You must drill for oil, passing the gas, rocks and all sorts of layers before getting to where oil is.

Everything precious requires pressure to come out. Do not sit idle, doing nothing, and yet waiting for a work opportunity to come your way. Instead, create work for yourself.

After having accepted your task as a necessity and being adequately trained for it, be focused on your task. Then gather the required tools for the assignment, set the right time for take-off of operation, and then get fully into the operation by putting your hands to work.

A pastor who pastoring is his full-time job must hang around God and

His Word, to receive what he would deliver to the people. His prayer should always be, “Lord, the whole world is waiting for You at tonight’s service, what have You for the people?” He keeps at his job, causing God to speak to him, showing him what to deliver to the people.

Our church messages are prepared like a syllabus. What is to be taught for the whole month is prepared even before the month begins.

To succeed in life, you have to settle with your job and be absolutely occupied with it. If you are called into the teaching ministry for example, don’t sit there waiting to be invited to speak to a large crowd before doing

your job. Pitch your teaching tent from place to place. Your first audience may be just two people. If your teaching impacts them, they will tell another two, who will in turn invite more people. Before long, you will have a large crowd gathering to listen to you.

Hard work never kills; it only refines. On the contrary, nothing kills like idleness. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 10:18:

By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

If you don’t want to fail in life, work!

TARRYING

Being successful in life is not a seven-day wonder. There is always a period of waiting between when you plant a seed on the tilled ground and when you reap the harvest. After having put all the success principles to work, there is always a time of waiting. There is a tarrying period, after which you take delivery of success. The Bible is very clear on this in Habakkuk 2:3:

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

So, after having done all, if success seems to be slow in coming, wait for it, it will surely come, if only you will care to tarry. "…But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Mk. 13:13).

Success will come at the end, but you need to wait for it. You need to continue on your task and not be weary, and to also wait on God to prosper your work. Keep tilling and tilling, until the toils are converted into profits. As Galatians 6:9 tells us, "let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Rome was not built in a day, neither is a nation born at once (Isa. 66:8). A child born after only six

months of pregnancy is premature. Every great manifestation requires a gestation period. So, when the results seem to be taking long in coming, all you need do is, pick up the success kits once again and examine if any of them is out of place; and repair it if necessary, and then wait for the manifestation of success.

Chapter 5

Mental System

The use of your brain determines the level of your gains.

- class="center">Dr. David Oyedepo
-

It is mental exercise that produces mental excellence and mighty works. No wonder people wondered where Jesus got His wisdom and mighty works from. Jesus displayed a great mind in His earthly ministry.

It is common knowledge that it is

your mind that determines your worth. Without a mind, no one will mind you. Only men with sound minds draw the attention of others. Solomon's wisdom drew the attention of nations in his days. Your overall state in life is a direct function of the state of your mind. Every star is a thinker and every thinker is a potential star.

When the place of the mind is well understood, prayer will be shorter, and life richer.

The whole of God's creation is tied to the operation of wisdom or to the use of the mind. In fact, the Bible refers to God as the only wise God, the all-knowing God.

We have a great invitation in

scripture that establishes God's recognition of the place of the mind. In Isaiah 1:18 He said:

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

So God believes in His investment in your life. He believes your mind is an asset for interaction, fellowship, and communion. He believes your mind can deliver you from sin.

Your mind is a divine deposit. It has all it takes to change your destiny, but it has to be stirred (Heb. 5:14)

Reasoning is the principal function of the mind. To reason implies

engaging in rational, logical, and analytical thinking. Reasoning is the ability to process issues into logical, productive ends. So your mind is a biological factory. It has the ability to process issues into logical, productive ends.

I believe we are in the success era of the Church. This Mental System is designed to help you find a place in the last move of God (Eph. 3:10-11). Seven kits will be discussed in this system that will help you stir your mind up to maximize your full potential for success in life.

VISION

I have defined vision severally as the unfolding of divine plan; the unveiling of divine purpose; looking at issues from divine perspectives; accessing divine agenda as it relates to one's life.

It is one's vision that sets the pace for his destination. Until you can see where you are going and know how to get there, you will live a life of perpetual misery. It is only as far as your eyes can see that shall be given unto you (Gen 13: 14-15).

It takes a clear vision of your inheritance of supernatural wisdom and surpassing intelligence, as a child of

God, to become a partaker of it. King Solomon was endued with wisdom from above which gave him his place in destiny. It made him to stand out far above his peers all the kings of the earth came to hear his wisdom.

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all

nations round about.

And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

1 Kings 4:29-34.

However, when Jesus came, He asserted concerning Himself “a greater

than Solomon is here" (Matt 12: 42). Jesus clearly operated at the frequency of divine wisdom (Mark 6:2; Matt 13:54). "What wisdom is this?" the people exclaimed.

We also understand from scriptures, Jesus speaking: "… as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20: 21; John 17: 18). There is much more inside the redeemed than there was in Solomon. This is a clear picture from scriptures that is pointing to your established future from God's perspective.

INFORMATION

Nothing renews the mind like news. Every extra information enlarges the capacity of your mind. Information empowers the mind. It enhances qualitative reasoning. Every great mind is an informed mind. The depth of information largely determines the greatness of the mind.

The truth is, information is the food of the mind. So the more informed you are, the more productive your mind becomes. That is why every great mind is a product of references.

Information-conscious people always emerge as great minds. There is

no substitute for information in stirring up your mind. Consciously acquired information guarantees obvious transformation.

The most effective avenue for information acquisition is reading. God places emphasis on the printed page. “Study to show thyself approved,” 2 Timothy 2:15 says.

In fact, God is the first writer. He wrote the Ten Commandments on graven stone before giving it to Moses. It was the handwriting of God. That shows the divine endorsement of the printed page as the most effective avenue for information acquisition.

Paul told Timothy to give attention to reading, doctrine, and exhortation.

He said, “Meditate upon these things that thy profiting may appear to all” (1 Tim. 4:13,15). So reading makes living successful. Most of the greatest minds in today’s world emerged out of a studious life.

The quality of the information that finds its way into your mind determines the quality of your mind. Anthony Robbins has grown to become a consultant to big corporations such as IBM, the US Army, AT & T, etc. by reading. By virtue of information, the capacity of his mind has been enormously enlarged.

We must never mistake schooling for education. Education is largely a function of information. Schooling is a

career. So it is possible to spend two years in school and still not be educated.

Every great mind is personally developed. Great minds are not born, they are developed. There is no one born a success. Success is a conscious process that individuals subscribe to.

Benjamin Franklin had only two years of formal education before he branched off to become a printing apprentice. He spent the money for his food on books, and thus read himself to great heights. He taught himself how to read, and became one of America’s greatest philosophers.

Benjamin Franklin successfully founded a university, built a specialist

hospital, became one of the foremost American philosophers, and did a particular study on lightning. He single-handedly negotiated the French Government's support for the America Revolution, which enabled America gain independence from Britain.

Michael Faraday was also an apprentice in a book binding centre. He spent his money to attend scientific seminars. As an uneducated person, he taught himself to read.

What led to the technological revolution in Europe was that the people were enlightened to the need for a change.

Nothing dignifies life like light, nothing enhances dignity like

information. Settle down to consciously acquire relevant information for your life.

The truth is this, if you have the information I have about the Christian home, you will have the same testimony I have. I don't have to pray about my wife, children, or home. I know what to do to keep everybody in order.

I read so many books on marriage, that I came to the conclusion: "Why are people always talking about how to solve problems? Can't we keep problems away from the home?"

Then the next question was: "God, tell me Your reason for instituting marriage." I had read a few things, so I

started summing up the various factors that I knew, and check on the new ones that I needed to know, and I came to the conclusion: “Marriage was not designed for problems; man’s ignorance is what has introduced problems into it.” And to prove that, all the years we have been married, my wife and I have never had a case to settle.

Your dream for transformation is rooted in information. There are many people who went to school, earned degrees, but can’t even talk sense. Such fellows only had a schooling career, they don’t have any information that is relevant to life.

Many have left school for years,

but have not read even one book since they left. If a book binding apprentice can emerge a great inventor in the science world, and a printing apprentice can emerge a foremost philosopher in America, and they are still being celebrated today, then you have a hope.

Please don’t take it lightly. Information makes the difference in the school of success.

There is a man in Britain called Richard Branson. His business empire is traceable to a book he encountered when he was a newspaper vendor. The book is titled, Small Is Beautiful. It is a book on Economics.

Branson was a school dropout.

Some years ago, he was rated the eleventh wealthiest Briton alive. I'm sure he must have changed position by now, because he has added two or more businesses to his conglomerate all because he was an information addict.

Every reader is a successful leader and every successful leader is an avid reader. To be a leader means to be ahead, to see ahead, to see before, and to stay above the others. I think one of the reasons for the leadership problem in Africa is because a lot of undeveloped minds are in charge. Most of the people in charge are mostly uninformed. Military administrators that have never read any book on administration in their lives sit over a

council meeting to direct what they know nothing about. We also have Presidents who have no reference at all to any government of any nation, even the government of their own nations.

As a result, we have largely undeveloped people embarking on the task of developing nations. Can you imagine somebody who failed the School Certificate Examination trying to teach others how to pass it? When you're led by uninformed leaders, you become deformed.

Information must be consciously acquired. I once said every vision rides on the wheels of information. No matter how authentic your vision, your level of information determines your

speed and overall accomplishment. Every purpose is brought into effect by information.

I'd like you to get wild with this, and do the best to stir up your mind. You have a great mind, so your generation must mind you. That you can read this book to this point shows you have a potential for greatness.

Iron sharpens iron. What reading does is to enable you rub your small mind with greater minds, so as to sharpen it, and make it sound.

I have never seen a generation that has so many books pumping out from the Church like ours. We are in the age of success, so let's invest, let's spend and be spent to acquire information,

because it will determine the colour of our destiny.

OBSERVATION

The second way of stirring up your mind is by observation. Hebrews 6:12 talks about being “followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

That is, locating the footsteps of the great, and planting your feet there. That is what I mean by observation. Remember, he that walks with the wise (great) shall be wise (great), but a follower of fools shall be destroyed (Prov. 13:20).

To every great mind there are great secrets, and the secrets of men are in their stories. So link up with

biographies that are relevant to your course and purpose in life. Study the life of the great, in a bid to locate their secrets, and then see where such secrets apply in your life, and apply them. Those who don't recognize the great, never become great.

I know our ministry will endure, because I took time to study other ministries that have endured the life-style of the men, their approach, strategies and commitment to God and I'm just planting my feet in those footsteps.

It was easy for me to move from place to place in our ministry because I had seen men who have moved from place to place, and how they responded

to the instruction to move with delight. This became an encouragement to me. Without such information at my disposal, I might have been confused.

Thus the study of men helps to ventilate your thinking process. No wonder the Bible says in Jeremiah 6:16:

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...

Observation is connecting yourself to the steps of the great, so you can realize your own destiny. The old ways are relevant to the present adventure. Your present adventure requires the

back up of the old path. It is true that every generation is an improvement on the previous, but it also draws strength from the previous.

My counsel, therefore, is, get acquainted. Every major player in the field of life has a role model. So locate your role model, and get acquainted.

Kenneth Hagin's ministry has never had a crisis, likewise ours. Why? I've been following after his footsteps since 1977. I've drunk too deeply into his spirit, and I have access to very many secrets that have made him. So I'm not taking trial and error steps; I'm taking conscious steps after the great.

Following him made me to stick with God's assignment for my life, no

matter how colourful other things looked. He made me to understand how to abide in my calling, no matter what other places look like. He made me to know how to rest only in what God has commanded, not in what I feel like doing. He taught me what commitment in ministry means, and also the meaning of focus sticking to what it is, till the end. You won't miss your way!

I believe God knows how much I believe in that man, how much I love his ministry, and how much I look forward to a life of serenity and peace such as he enjoyed. One day, God said to me, "Pattern your ministry after this man."

Kenneth Hagin said God told him

many years ago that when he would be 65 years old, the radio and books ministries would be his major ministry. I said that is a good idea. So I asked myself, “What will be my focus when I’m 85?” I know I will still be here then, as I’m not going anywhere.

For sixty-one years, Hagin never knew the meaning of headache. He said so himself. So I can’t imagine what will take me to the hospital, because I’ve studied the steps of such men ahead, men who triumphed against sickness.

After Jesus left, everybody took note of the apostles that they had been with Christ. They saw them walking on the street, not talking at all, carrying

the dignity of the Master. People looked at them on the streets of Antioch, and said, “These are Christians.” That is, they were Christ-like.

You know what Jesus said? He said, “Follow me, and I will make you.” If you’re a follower, you will trade with every word that drops in your favour. So, take your time to identify individuals who are already playing the role that you’re dreaming of playing, and line up with their ideas. Locate their steps and plant your feet in them.

RATIONALIZATION

This is simply talking about reasoning thinking through. Unlike animals, man is a rational being. He has a conscious mind, and he has ability for rational, logical, and analytical thinking.

Every tower is a product of a great thought. So the depth of your thoughts determines the height of your accomplishment. Where you're going is secured by how you think.

The case of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-24 is a typical case. It was like, "This is death staring at me in the face. This is humiliation, this is suffering and sorrow. Is there no way

out?” Then he came to himself and called up his senses. He then said to himself: “If I don’t know where I’m going, I should at least know where I’m coming from. I remember my father has servants, who have enough to eat and to spare. Why should I die here this way? I will arise and go to my father, and say unto him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and I’m no more worthy to be called your son. Make me one of your hired servants.’” And he arose and went back home to his father.

He came to his senses by engaging in rational, logical, and analytical thinking. He drew a conclusion and acted upon it accordingly. Without his

mind, he would have died in hunger there. Without his mind, he would have committed suicide. But through reasoning he knew the way back to his inheritance. Reasoning is it!

It is time to engage your mind.

MEDITATION

I consider meditation as concentrated mental attention. Spiritually, the more mental attention you give to any scripture, the more insight you have into it. So meditation is the cheapest way to digest scriptures.

Mental distinction requires the practice of meditation.

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

1 Timothy 4:13,15

What you read is not profitable until it is digested. Just like what you eat is not profitable to you until it undergoes a digestive process, likewise what you read only imparts your life via the process of meditation.

“Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly unto them, that thy profiting may appear to all.” It is only the food you digest that you can absorb, and it is the food you absorb that you can assimilate. That’s why the excess has to go out.

What is profitable to you is what you have been able to mentally digest; and mental digestion requires the process of meditation.

Coming back to its practical

application, meditation means sitting on an issue mentally, until you're able to see through into a solution. So you don't only meditate on scriptures, you meditate on issues as well.

Now, maybe there is a problem in the family. You ask yourself, "What do I consider as the root of this problem? What can be said to be my fault in these circumstances? What are the things that I do that stirs up strife? When did this problem actually begin? What have I done to date to solve this problem? How successful has been the steps taken so far?"

You sit on that issue until light is shed on it. The moment you can see what your problem is, you're half way

through solving it.

There is always a way out of every problem. God will never allow a problem that is beyond you to come your way. There is no problem before you that is not within your power to handle. All you need to do is accept practical responsibility in dealing with the issues of life.

The Holy Spirit has been given to you to empower your mind for excellence. It is now your duty to engage that empowered mind, to chart a way of escape from the troubles of life.

You need to give mental attention to the issues of your life through concerted meditation. The more

effective you are in the art of meditation, the more mentally distinct you will become. All great men are great thinkers, and great thinkers are potential great men.

You have tried praying through too many things, and yet you're not through. Sit down to think through, because your prayer will only be answered when you're in line with the will of God. If you're not standing where you're supposed to be standing, God is not committed to answering you.

There was a philosophy I adopted many years ago. For every negative event that occurs, my stand is, "God is not to be blamed." Two, "The devil is

not the cause," and three, "I must ask myself sincere questions."

With that stand you cannot be frustrated or discouraged. The reason why many Christians have become mentally lazy is because they have one devil to blame everyday. A minister, for instance would believe that it is the devil that won't let his church grow, whereas the real issue is that he doesn't know what to do to grow a church.

There is no greater devil than ignorance. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." In spite of the devil, when you know the truth, your freedom is guaranteed. So ask yourself sincere questions.

RESEARCH

The more facts you have, the fatter you become. It is facts that make fat.

By research I mean checking through relevant materials, to enhance or enlarge your information base on the issue at stake. It is a build-up on the first kit, information. Information can be described as checking through references, while research is cross-reference.

The more studious you are, the more glorious your destiny becomes. You can’t have the facts without making the mark. When you know enough, the proof will come.

You can change your life by engaging a studious life-style. I said, “Reading provides access to information, but studying provides access to depths.” You can study your way out of shame. God’s Word says in 2 Timothy 2:15: “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”

There was a young man who said he heard me make a statement on the pulpit, that I can’t imagine anyone read the book, Breaking Financial Hardship, and still remain a victim of financial hardship.

He was very upset when he heard me say so, because he had read the

book without a change in his life. Meanwhile, he was so broke that he had no means of feeding his family. According to his testimony, he looks out for lost coins as he walks on the street, with which to feed his family.

But he heard the Lord say, “Read that book again,” and he spent three days reading the book. He now gave it a studious approach, because you don’t need three days to read that book. But to study, you need all the time. You read, stop and think, then continue.

When that brother came out of reading that book again, he came out of shame! According to his testimony, in six months, he had given tithes of 25,000 naira! That was the same man

that was in abject poverty! You can research your way out of shame.

Another man shared his testimony with me. This man had been a victim of three major plagues for seventeen years high blood pressure, hypertension, and dizziness. He had a prayer partner, with whom he had prayed and fasted. (He is a minister of the gospel.) One day, he went into a bookshop and bought three books, and got himself set for a research.

He bought the books, The Authority of a Believer, How Faith Works, and Keys to Divine Health. He said, “I read them through several times.” He continued, “Following the guidelines in your book (I didn’t write guidelines in

it, but he located guidelines in the book through a studious approach), I declared a three-day war." So, a seventeen-year-old struggle can be handled in three days, when you know what to do!

If he knew those things seventeen years ago, he wouldn't have been in the trouble for so long. He sat with the books and went through them several times. He laid his hands on what was required to deal with the situation, and applied himself to it. He concluded thus, "As I took the communion, immediately, the seventeen-year-old bondage was broken."

Let me say this with all humility: we are a people of equal destiny, for as

many as He predestinated, He called, and as many as He called, He justified. As many as He justified, He has also glorified (Roms 8:30). So if our calling is the same, and I know it is, because our justification is the same, then our glorification is designed to be the same. The difference then is insight.

If you're a minister and you have access to the facts that I'm using, we will have the same results. The difference between my peers and I is the privileged insights I have consciously acquired through a rigorous studious life.

For instance, Paul Yonggi Cho begins preparation for his Sunday service on Tuesday. (Some pastors

don’t even know what to preach on Sunday. They don’t have any idea until Sunday morning.) He spends 70% of his time in the Word, and 30% on other administrative responsibilities. But many ministers spend most of their time running after blocks and cement for building projects, and then on Sunday morning, the man of God doesn’t know what to say to the people. Can you see the reverse? I prepare thirty days ahead of time, making cross-references.

I don’t listen to church growth experts who are not growing churches, because they don’t know it. They are just propounding theories. Theories are ideas that are probably not workable.

The practitioners are the ones who have the facts. They don’t only know it, they have proved it. They are showing you what they have used, and what is working.

Yonggi Cho is one of the biggest brains that the Church of Jesus Christ has ever known. The growth of his church is a function of his mental capacity.

Have you read his books, Fourth Dimension 1& 2? It analyzes the potency of the mind. That means the bigger your mind, the larger your coast.

Peter was speaking of one of the greatest men in the New Testament, Paul the apostle. He said:

As also in all his epistles,

speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

2 Peter 3:16

Even the apostles recognized Paul's high level mentality, that there were some things Paul was talking about that were very hard to understand. Paul was operating from a higher realm. Let's see his secret.

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

2 Timothy 4:13

Paul carried his books along with him anywhere he went. The parchments are his notes. So he makes notes out of those books, because he was a life-time student. He wasn’t just a reader, he was a student. He said, “My books and my notes. If you forget any other thing, please don’t forget those.” Those couldn’t be his sermon notes, because he was preaching from place to place. They were his private notes.

PRAYING

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

Deuteronomy 29:29

There are certain things that can only come our way by revelation. In Daniel 2, the king threw a challenge to the magicians, soothsayers, and astrologers. And:

The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can show the

king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

Daniel 2:10

There are certain depths that can only be located in God. This is where praying comes in. Daniel asked for more time, after which he and his three other fellows went to God in prayers.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:19

So, you can change your mentality. You can have encounter with depths of

revelation through prayer, which I call Enquiry Prayer.

“Lord, I know there is nothing wrong from Your end. The devil is not my problem. What are the things that are missing in my life that I need to put in place? I don’t want to keep on going in circles forever on this issue. You know what is in darkness, so show me what is missing, show me which way to go.” Then will your understanding open.

The Bible says, If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask God. He will give it to him liberally, he will lavish it on him, without calling him a fool, because He knows we are limited naturally (Jms.1:5).

There are certain questions that can't be answered in the natural sphere. But God is the only-wise God. He's all-wise and all-knowing, He knows what is in darkness, and light dwells with Him. So when we go to Him in prayers, He delivers the answer to us. We can provoke mental prowess in prayer, particularly through prayers of enquiry.

Paul said, "In prayers often." Daniel, the most gifted brain in the Old Testament, said, "Let's desire the mercy of God concerning this thing." That means, the most difficult situation can be dealt with, with the prayer of enquiry. God says in Jeremiah 33:3:

Call upon me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty

things, which thou knowest not.

And Daniel said:

...The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts

of thy heart.

Daniel 2:27-28,30

That means the revelation is beyond the natural sphere. There are certain secrets that can only be located in God, and prayer is your access to such secrets.

No matter how glorified and anointed you are, this remains one avenue that has no substitute. There are certain things you may never read on the pages of a book, and may never see from the Bible, but which are revealed to you as you desire mercy from the Lord in prayer.

So the prayer access is a very powerful access in the school of

success. As you commit yourself and concentrate in prayer, you commit God to touch you and send sparks into your mental faculty that keeps showing you the best way to go.

Chapter 6

Race System

Nothing is More valuable than insight in the journey of life but if you leave your life to chance, you don’t have a chance.

- class="center">Dr. David Oyedepo

Life is a race. But unfortunately, many do not know this fact and so live their lives very carelessly. They are mere spectators and observers of those in the race. They are like fans at a

football match, who know all about the players and can make all manner of analysis, but who do not get any prize at the end of the match.

Anybody can be a winner in life, but there's a system to it. In this chapter, I will be showing you how to make the most of life as an active participant in the race of life.

RACE

Life is a race, and it takes those who see it as such to succeed. Nobody becomes a champion without having taken part in a race. Champions are not born; they are made. So, your desire to be a champion in any endeavour, begins with the task of identifying the race set before you.

For instance, if your dream is to become a star footballer or sprinter, the first thing to do is to mark out the race. You must know the rules of the race. Likewise, if you are dreaming of becoming a champion in any discipline of life, your first obligation is to

identify what the race is all about. This is because you will never rise up to action until you know the race that is 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

You must know what is before you in the race of life. There is a race set before each one of us; and it can be located by one's identified gift, calling, or choice. But each one must know what the race would take.

A star wrestler, for example, could easily be a casualty in a boxing match. This is because he is well trained for wrestling, not for boxing. He doesn't know or have what it takes to be a boxer, so he ends up in defeat and frustration.

In order not to be frustrated, therefore, it is your responsibility to identify what the race before you is. If it is ministry, you set yourself for it, and if it is business, you face it devotedly. But know that if you are not in any race, you are not a candidate for a rise or success in life. If you are not in any race and yet you're dreaming of being a star, then you are a self-deceiver.

You cannot be working and not know it. I was living in a block of flats when our ministry started. My co-tenants used to think I was a lawyer, because by seven o'clock in the morning, I would be in my suit (I had only two then) and be out about my daily assignment. I never spent one day of my working hours under my roof after I was commissioned into the ministry.

If you are not in any race, you have by your own hands erased your destiny. So, identify the race and don't toy with it.

RESPOND

After identifying the race, the next thing to do is to respond to the demands of the race. By that I mean you should be prepared to pay the price, if you hope to win the prize for the race. There are prizes for only the winners in any race.

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

1 Corinthians 9:24

You must be prepared to give it all it takes. That is, you must be mentally

tuned to the demands of the race. You must put your best into the race and not react negatively to the challenges that might come your way.

There is no free lunch in life. Every race in life has its demands, and it takes your mental right-tuning to make the most of it. You don’t just wake up in the morning and say you are going somewhere. You have to prepare yourself to get there. So your response to the race before you is a key to what you get out of it. So, be set to pay the price, if you desire the prize.

READING

You are not ready for the race of life until you lay hold on relevant information via reading. You can't become a champion until you are set to acquire relevant information that will help you realize your dream. Every star product has a trade secret; and until you lay hold on the secret, you cannot become a star.

You need to appreciate the value of information in your quest for success. Your reading should be purposeful. You should read to gather the secrets that have made other men champions.

You need to know what it takes to

get at what you are looking for. If you are correctly informed, you will not be ashamed. But if you are not informed, you are sure to end up deformed. There is no race that does not require information. The cheapest way to be frustrated is to disregard information. Reading makes one an outstanding star on earth.

John C. Maxwell pastors one of the Lutheran churches in America. Though a pastor, he is one of the most influential voices in America today, because he is also a thinker.

Zig Ziglar is another great thinker. He is a Christian and a multi-millionaire. He reveals his success formula in his book, Success For

Dummies. He said, “Just any fool can be a success, if he cares to know what it takes.”

These men don’t only attend the meetings they hold; they also attend meetings of other men.

You can’t be a successful thinker except you read. One of the ways of provoking your thought is by knowing what someone else has said. That way, you can know what to say when occasion demands. So set yourself to acquire adequate information.

RUN

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

1 Corinthians 9:24

It is not enough to know the race that is before you. If you must become a champion in life, you must also run. That is, get set for action, work! You must be diligent and get practically involved in your work.

You cannot be a winner in the race of life until you are a committed runner. The tape at the finish line is not interested in your level of information

or determination. It is only interested in who breasts it first. That you slept in the library doesn't matter. The question is, "How did you fare in the actual race?"

Talking about vision in Habakkuk 2:2, the Bible says, "That he may run that readeth it." It does not say, "That he may ponder and organize." If you don't run with your vision, it will run out of your life. So, you must run with it, as that is what translates the information acquired, your discovery or determination into action.

Running is the way up and out of stagnation. There is no output without first an input, neither is there harvest time without first a seed time. So run,

that you may obtain the prize for the race

Apostle Paul was a man who knew the race that was before him and was also given to reading (2 Tim. 4:13). But he didn't stop there. He was also actively involved in the race of life. He was very busy preaching. In Acts 19, he was busy in Ephesus, preaching daily in the school of one Tyrannus for the space of two years. He was on the race, running.

No matter the training you have received, practice is what makes perfect. Do not allow anything to be strong enough to stop the place of practice in the pursuit of your ultimate goal.

RESIST

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3

In running the race that is set before you, don't let anything stop your motion. You must resist every opposition, in order to maintain your position. Don't give in to any challenge in your race for the crown. This is because the light affliction now is nothing to be compared with the weight of glory ahead. Don't give in to pressures and discouragements, as it takes endurance to hit your mark. This

is why the Bible says:

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13

There is a demand for endurance, as you will be faced with challenges at various stages of the race. Do not give in to challenges, but rise up to them. It is your duty to resist discouragements when they come. The Bible says, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again" (Prov. 24:16).

To make the most of life, you need the inner strength or stamina for endurance. Oral Roberts is quoted as

saying, “Winners never quit, and quitters never win.” If you must hit the ultimate mark of success in life, you must not be susceptible to discouragements. Rather, you must be goal-driven, giving no room for distractions. It may not appear to be working today, but keep at it, because it will surely work tomorrow. Do not quit or give up, but stay on until it works.

There is no big conglomerate that started as a conglomerate. Most of the big enterprises you see today grew from small beginnings. They started from the conception phase, till they grew to become what they are today. You too must start from somewhere.

The Abrahamic blessing demands an Abrahamic approach. He was not weak in faith, but was fully persuaded and did not stagger at the promises of God. He knew it was going to work. The Abrahamic blessings cannot be received without giving it an Abrahamic approach. So, if you desire to be a champion, you must be ready to fight it out.

Most champions have marks of failure in their past records. But because they refused to remain on the floor, they rose up and ended up turning failure to success. You too can still make your life count. Do not give up! Robert Schuller says, “Success is never ending, and failure is never

final.”

RECEIVE

Do not stop until it happens. Do not stop until the goal is reached and the crown is on your head. Let nothing satisfy you until you realize the fullness of the purpose for which you have set yourself to be a champion. Paul said in Philippians 3:13-14:

...This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize...

Do not stop pressing until you take

delivery of the prize. Let nothing outside the prize satisfy you. For instance, if God has set you up for a worldwide evangelistic mission, look forward to its fulfilment; let nothing stop you. When ever one door closes, seven others open. So, when they shut you out of one city, go to the next. If one door is shut, another is opened. Locate the one He has opened and go through it. You wouldn't have gone round the entire world before Jesus comes.

Most successful men started from some obscure or remote corners of the world. But they kept on exercising themselves where they found themselves, not allowing their goal to

depart from them. Until what you desire becomes a reality, keep pressing.

Jesus said in Mark 11:24:

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

Believe, and then set yourself to receive. When the children of Israel entered the promise land, God did not give them the whole land to possess at once, He drove their enemies away little by little. This is because success comes in phases. So, don't stop until you have received all that you desire. Keep at it.

Success comes in stages; but don't

stop until you receive the prize.

RETREAT

The last kit on this system is Retreat. Every runner must have an established retreat time; a time when he sits back to relax his nerves and muscles, and to prepare for the next race.

A life void of retreat may end up losing its fire. Even God needed a time off to refresh Himself. That was why after creating the world in six days, He rested on the seventh day. Jesus, the Saviour of the world, also needed to rest, hence He slept off on a pillow in the inner chamber of the boat.

To show the importance of rest, God enacted a covenant with the

children of Israel in Exodus 31:13-17. It was a perpetual covenant, an unending covenant that was to be observed throughout all generations.

It is impossible to stay refreshed without taking a time-off. Retreat is the gateway to refire. Until you are refreshed, you cannot refresh others. So, you must take some time off at particular times in the race of life.

Everybody needs rest. You must make out time for recuperation, time to get things together and get set to refire, just as God took time off to refresh, and has left it as a perpetual covenant for all.

The cycle of life continues after a retreat back to the race, responding to

the challenges, reading for information, running to make ready, resisting until you get it, and running until you receive the fullness of what you are set for.

This is what makes the champion circle work. You identify the race before you and respond favourably to its demand. Next, you set yourself to acquire relevant information and then translate it into action, not minding the challenges that may come your way. Then you get set to endure by resisting all distractions, until you receive the fullness of your ultimate desire. Then you take some time off to refresh, so you can refire. That way you won't suffer a breakdown; rather, you keep

enjoying breakthroughs.

Note that use is what produces profit, so go and use what you have read. Until you work it, it won’t work, and you can’t become a champion. So, go and work it!

Chapter 7

Choice System

You cannot be committed and not be creative, you cannot be creative and not be productive and you cannot be productive and not be successful and you cannot be outstandingly successful and not be ‘impactful’.

- class="center">Dr. David O. Oyedepo

There is nothing metaphysical about knowing the will of God. In case you have not heard a voice calling you

to a particular assignment or sensed a gift you are endowed with, you can still be successful in life by choosing what to do or become in life. This is because God respects your choice.

This success system is made up of seven kits comprising: Choice, Create, Crave, Commit, Concentrate, Communicate, and Conquer.

CHOICE

All living men have the privilege of making choices. That is why when you want to buy a dress or tie, you choose one out of the many others that are there. God made man a creature of choice; and as long as man's choice is not contrary to His covenant provisions, he has God's backing.

Not everyone must have a divine calling. There are also some who may not be able to point to any outstanding gift in their lives, but can still be established in a purposeful and fulfilling life based on their choices, which God respects. God said in

Deuteronomy 30:19:

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.

Your choice is as potent as a calling. It enjoys the same divine backing as other factors of destiny. It is a decision based on your preference, and is a pointer to your future.

When you buy an ash-coloured shirt, it means you're preparing for an ash-coloured suit. That is why I said your choice is a signal to your future; it points to what the future holds for you. As a result, you should ask yourself questions such as: "What is my choice

in life? What am I after in life? Where am I heading for? What am I driving at?”

Choice is one of the principal factors of destiny, and so must be given principal attention. Nurture your choice and do all you can to develop yourself in it, because the brightest stars in the kingdom are those who know where they are going and give it all it takes to get there.

But note that the power of your choice in locating God’s purpose for your life covers areas like academics, business, professional practice, but not ministry. Ministry is given strictly by divine calling.

CREATE

To create means to provide an environment for the realization of your choice. It means to give your choice a creative approach, to develop a platform for the establishment of your choice.

Your choice requires a creative attention in order to succeed. You, therefore, need to ask yourself reasonable questions such as: “Where am I going, and how do I get there?” This will lead you to set an action plan that will enhance the realization of your choice.

The Bible says in Proverbs 16:9:

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.

God will not do your planning for you, but He is there to oversee your plans, to make sure you don't sweat in vain. It is, however, your responsibility to devise, create, or design how you will realize your choice. Therefore, be creative, as creativity is the activity of mighty men who want to make their lives count.

God is a God of patterns. He said to Moses:

See...that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.

Hebrews 8:5

So you have a responsibility to design how to accomplish your choice. But this is where many fail; they want to push this responsibility over to others, until they lose productivity.

Creativity is a must, if you must succeed in life. And what is creativity? It is the exercise of your mind for productivity. It is characterized by originality and expressiveness; it is imaginative. God is a creative creator, and He is your Father, if you are born again. Since like begets like, you are also a co-creator with Him; and so should be creative as well.

CRAVE

To crave means to have an intense desire for something. It is common knowledge that you get filled with whatever you hunger after. So, a crave for your choice means to hunger and thirst for its accomplishment. It is a natural catalyst for the fulfillment of vision.

To crave means to be passionate over the realization of your goal; to hunger and to thirst for it, to be emotionally taken over by your goal. The more passionate you are over a task, the more result you get from it. In Matthew 5:6, the Bible tells us that

those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled. In the same way, those who hunger and thirst after their choice shall realize it.

Biblically, every encounter with power answers to a desperation and a thirst. Likewise, your choice will not become a reality unless you crave for its realization.

Jesus let us into the secret of His success in ministry. He said:

The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

John 2:17

When you are consumed with zeal towards your task, you will definitely realize it. I never had the opportunity

for a honeymoon when I got married. I couldn’t imagine me staying at one place in leisure when I have other pressing assignments waiting for me. Isaac Newton was a man emotionally consumed with his task, and see what became of him.

You need passion to realize your vision. You have to be emotionally committed to its pursuit. If you don’t sit on your job, the world will sit on your head. Settle down and do your job. Isaac Newton worked and worked, until he forgot to eat. One day when he got to the table to eat, his wife had cleared the table, having left the food there for hours. But on seeing the empty table, all Newton said was, “Oh, I forgot I

had eaten”, and went back into his laboratory! That is zeal at work!

Apostle Paul was another man that was emotionally committed to his task; no wonder he got so much result. So, crave after your choice today!

COMMIT

This simply talks about commitment. That is a practical investment of time, energy, and resources in the pursuit of the choice you have made.

Working at your choice requires a practical investment of time, energy, and resources. To be successful, you must work diligently at your choice, giving it all the input it demands.

Commitment is the natural trigger for achievement. Jesus said in Luke 22:28-30:

Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

And I appoint unto you a

kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

In other words, “You have maintained your commitment; you’re now due for your appointment.” Commitment qualifies you for appointment. A consistent investment of energy, time and resources into your choice, guarantees great results. It establishes appointment, destroying all disappointments. Paul the apostle said, “I laboured more abundantly than they all” (1 Cor. 15:10). No wonder he

attained more than they all.

There is no success without hard work. Hard work establishes destiny; it is the anchor for success. Purpose starts the course of success, but hard work ensures you get there, and is the anchor that helps you remain there. That way, you won’t be tossed to and fro by the storms of life.

CONCENTRATE

Another word for concentration is focus. Concentration on your choice means giving it undivided attention.

Focus determines the sharpness of any destiny; hence you can't have a good picture if you don't have a good focus. To succeed in life, therefore, you must be a man of focus. See what happened to this man who lost his focus:

And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me,

and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver.

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

1 Kings 20:39-40

The cheapest way to miss your goal in life is to lose your focus. You are created for a purpose, so don't lose your purpose to distractions.

Focus is what causes every sports man to be a specialist. You can't be a star footballer and a star basketballer at the same time, because the two require

full-time attention. Sports men, especially those in the West, believe in focus, and so give their task the concentration it requires.

You need to pay full-time attention to your choice. When the Jews wanted to make Jesus king, He fled. Why? He was a man of focus. He knew that making Him an earthly king would destroy His mission on earth. He knew His purpose (Matt. 1:21), concentrated on it, and accomplished it.

No one gains distinction without attention. Thus, if you want to realize your choice, then focus on it, give it all the required attention.

COMMUNICATE

Communication is a must, if you desire success in any endeavour. I have identified three levels of communication. They are:

a.) Communication in thought
b.) Communication in prayer
c.) Communication in declaration

Communication In Thought

What you think determines where you're heading and where you will end, as only those who think accomplishment get it, only those who think success get it; "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7).

In order to succeed, therefore, you must maintain a healthy communication system. That is why the Bible advises that we keep our hearts with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life (Prov. 4:23).

God looks at the heart to give to every man according to his ways. He is concerned about your inner communication or thoughts.

Communication In Prayer

You cannot realize your choice on your own; you need the help of God. That is why Jesus said in John 15:5, “Without me, ye can do nothing.”

The Bible further reveals our helplessness without God in the

following verses:

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Psalms 127:1

The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.

Proverbs 21:31

Communicating our need for help to God in prayer secures His help from above for the realization of our choice. And what a joy that He welcomes us and will not cast us away when we call. Rather, He swiftly comes to our aid. We have this assurance in Hebrews 4:16.

Communication In Declaration

In order to succeed in life, it is your responsibility to think success, ask for God's help through prayer, and also to declare your success. Your declarations determine the kind of results you get. This is because the words of your mouth are seeds, and whatsoever a man sows, that he shall reap.

Every successful man or woman today had talked or declared it yesterday. Those who talk failure today will never end up successful tomorrow; and you can't talk failure except you think failure, neither can you talk success except you think success.

There is need to guard and protect

your communication system, if you must get at where you're going. Here are some scriptures that tell the importance of right declaration:

A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompense of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.

Proverbs 12:14

A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.

Proverbs 13:2

The tongue, when used wrongly, will operate as a world of evil, and destroy the labour of a man's hand. The works of your hand require the co-

operation of your mouth to produce. So, speak big today, to be in a big position tomorrow. You have to be angry with failure. You must open your mouth wide and say good things about your dream, family, and career. Locate the covenant path to success and walk in it!

You have made your choice and have engaged your creative potential. You're passionate about it and are craving after it. As a result, you're particularly committed to it and giving it all the focus it requires. When you then crown it with a sound communication system, you will be set for success, the ultimate.

There is no successful man today

who had not talked about it before he arrived there. A closed mouth can lead to a closed future.

Remember the story of Nelson Mandela. Even when his body was buried in the sand and only his head could be seen above the ground, with government agents urinating upon his head, deep down in his heart he still knew he would be the President of South Africa. He knew this right from when he was twelve, while in a church service.

Abraham Lincoln, who was the sixteenth American president, had lost several elections he contested for, for lower offices. These losses did not discourage him, however. He kept on

vying for political office, until he won the 1861 presidential election.

So, get excited about your plans, and don't be ashamed to make bold declarations about them. Remember, what you say today is what you become tomorrow! You are on the path of fulfillment, you shall get there!

So many people think God attends only to what they say in prayer. They don't know that whatever they say, whether on the road, in their car or room, will either build or break them, as God hears all of them. I can't imagine me borrow or talk about borrowing. I declare this boldly, and it offends some people. But I will not stop saying it or feeling that way and to

the glory of God, I have never had the opportunity of borrowing. I know God is committed to whatever I say, so I won't say what I don't desire.

Many have locked-up dreams. They do not know that until they tell their dream, it is doomed. Somebody might say, "If I were Joseph, I would not have told my dream." If he had not told it, as a result of which he was taken to Egypt, he wouldn't have become Prime Minister. There is no way the love of his father would have allowed him to go to school away from home. But Joseph was captured and sold into slavery. This was a step towards fulfilling his dream.

The dream you don't tell is

doomed, so get excited and tell your colleagues the story of your tomorrow and as you sow the seeds of your greater tomorrow with your tongue, I see you become a success.

Until you talk success, you won't see it. Don't declare it only to those who are happy with it; tell it to everybody, including those who are angry with it. Don't say what is contrary to your dream. Only say what you're convinced of, as this is what will determine where you will end up tomorrow.

CONQUER

There is no choice that is free of challenges. Every choice you make is exposed to challenges. And when challenges come, you are not to dodge them, but to confront them. That is God's prescription in Deuteronomy 2:24:

Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle.

The enemy has positioned giants at

the entrance of every man's Canaan. It takes men who won't give in or give up to possess their inheritance. You, therefore, need to contend with the opposition before you, not bow to it. You stand your ground, till your choice is delivered. Both natural and spiritual conflicts have to be confronted.

The choice to succeed is yours. This choice system is designed to make you understand how to treat your choice. God respects your choice, so give it the respect due to it. He said, "Choose life, and I will respect it and ensure that you live. Choose success, and I will back it up."

Your choice is as potent as a vision, as powerful as purpose, and as

productive as a gift. You are a creature of choice, so don't mess around with that great virtue. Embrace it, appreciate it, and position yourself to put it to work.

I chose the top, and I am getting there. I have chosen health, and I must enjoy it. I have chosen abundance, I must swim in it. I have chosen victory, I must have it. My choice is a must; God respects my choice, so all the devils must bow to my choice as well.

In case you have not heard a voice telling you your assignment on earth, you have the right to choose what you want to become in life. In case you haven't located any gift or talent yet, you have the right to choose what you

want, and God is committed to backing you, as long as it is covered by His Word.

Chapter 8

FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Have you defined your goal? Don’t be fact-blind, be a fact-hunter. Go for the relevant facts to help you actualize that goal.

- class="center">Dr. David O. Oyedepo

Wealth provides answers for your social needs. There is a natural demand for money in daily life.

In Matthew 6, Jesus spoke about housing and feeding. These things

require money, and God knows this too. So money is not evil; it is living for money that ends a man in the pit. It is the love of money that brings a man into frustration.

But from the scriptures, it is clear that wisdom is what begets wealth. Wealth will come as a result of your acquisition and utilization of covenant sense.

When I say wisdom, I am not talking about being a trickster or subtlety; neither am I talking about craftiness or dirty business games. By wisdom I mean insight, illumination and application of facts. I am referring to covenant access and provision to a world of financial fortune.

In the book of Proverbs, wisdom announces her products, one of which is riches - Proverbs 3:13,16; 8:12, 21. Wisdom causes men to inherit substance and to fill their treasures with financial fortune.

The financial fortune Job enjoyed is traceable to his wisdom. With the secret of God upon his tabernacle, Job washed his steps with butter, and the rock poured out rivers of oil for him. That's fortune! And Job traces it to his knowledge of the secrets of God (Job 29:3-4).

As God opens your covenant sense to the realm of fortune, you will live a sweat-less life in the realm of finance. That is the realm I am living in and

want to show you how to get there.

GOAL

A goal is a target, a defined destination. I have often said, whatever you don't desire, you don't deserve. Without goal posts on a football pitch, no one scores goals. Therefore, to live without a goal is to live like a 'goat.' A goat symbolizes a victim, which substantiates the age long idiom 'A scape-goat.'

A financial dream is the gateway to financial boom. No one ever possesses more than he can foresee.

And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look

from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

For all the land which thou seest to thee will I give it and to thy seed for ever

A dream of financial fortunes creates a future of financial abundance. An understanding of your financial root will help to fortify your dream of financial fortunes.

As a seed of Abraham, prosperity is your birthright. (Gen 12: 1-3).

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

Gen 13:2

Isaac, Abraham's seed, so

prospered until he came to a point of envy.

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

And the man waxed great and went forward and grew until he became very great

For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.

Gen 26: 12-14

And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants,

and camels, and asses.

Gen 30:43

If you are a child of God, you have become partaker of Abraham's covenant root of prosperity by reason of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 3: 13-14.

As the redeemed of the Lord, you

have a redemptive root to prosperity as one of your redemptive blessings.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2 Cor. 8:9

The consciousness of your root to financial prosperity will help you set goals that will cause you to arrive at financial fortunes.

GIVING

The way God prospers financially is different from the way the world prospers. What the world calls prosperity is how much you have; but in the kingdom of God, prosperity is determined by how much you give.

Giving is living. No matter how delicious the food you have eaten may be, there is a maximum number of hours it is expected to remain in your stomach. After that period, it becomes poisonous to your body. Even if you had dinner with the President of America, and feel like keeping the food in your stomach as a souvenir, after

some time, the food turns acidic, and must leave your body, or you might end up in the grave.

Let me show you four ways of giving in the kingdom that will produce fortunes for you.

Tithing

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not

destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:10-12

This commandment is the master key to financial miracles. Tithing is an inescapable covenant obligation. No one escapes poverty when they do not pay their tithes, because they come under a curse. This is what God says:

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and

offerings.

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:8-9

No matter how much you give, once your tithe is out of place, the curse is inevitable. Prosperity is impossible without tithing, because when you do not pay your tithe, you come under a financial curse.

Note that tithing was in existence before the law of Moses came. Abraham paid tithes of all to Melchizedek (Gen. 14:20), and Jacob covenanted the tenth of all his treasures to God (Gen. 28:22). The law only

came to help us appreciate how to do it.

The tithe or the tenth part of your income or whatever comes to you is not yours; it belongs to God. That is why you don't give the tithe, as you can only give that which is yours.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD.

And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

Leviticus 27:30,32

That is why God said in Malachi

3:8, “Ye have robbed Me.” That would have been a wrong word for God to use if the tithe wasn’t His. I want you to also understand that paying your tithe does not enrich God. Rather, you do it to secure your covenant destiny with Him, as prosperity is impossible without tithing.

Note that every other offering answers on the earth, but the tithe answers in heaven. It is an heavenly transaction, which guarantees the opening of the windows of heaven. So when your tithe answers and your harvest is due, the heavens open unto you.

Note also that sickness has no access to you when you are under this

covenant of tithing. God Himself said, “I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes” (Mal. 3:11). That means accidents and misfortune have no right to you. Also, tithing does not only guarantee you a blessing, it establishes an insurance against the wicked arrows of life as well.

To show how important tithing is, Jesus also talked about it in Matthew 23:23. He said:

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other

undone.

Jesus is here putting His stamp of approval on tithing. So not only did Abraham pay the tithe, Jacob did as well, and we saw it established in the law of Moses also.

It is worth noting also that everyone pays the tithe: whether willingly to receive a blessing, or unwillingly when the devourers are set loose through hospital bills today, car breakdowns tomorrow, business failures here, accidents there, etc.

You want a financial miracle and turn-around? Then whatever He tells you to do, do it! and He says, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse...”

Tithing is not optional; it is obligatory. Key into it, and enjoy the benefits it carries.

Kingdom Promotion Givings

This is another form of giving, and it includes your free-will offerings and kingdom demand offerings.

The free-will offering is given as you will. Jesus referring to it in Matthew 5:23 said, “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar...” This implies that there is what you bring to the altar each time you go to church.

Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened

bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.

Deuteronomy 16:16-17

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

1 Corinthians 16:2

Never go before the Lord empty handed; it is an abuse of privilege. Note that it says, “Everyman shall

give”, not “Some men shall give.” Giving is an everyman’s responsibility and privilege. Saying, “I don’t have” before the Lord is a self-inflicted curse.

The free-will offering is coming before the Lord with something in your hand to appreciate His good hand upon your life.

We also have the Kingdom Demand Offerings or Sacrifices under this category. God said to Abraham, “Bring Me your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and sacrifice him to Me.” Such sacrifices are God’s covenant device for your supernatural lifting (Ex. 35:4-5).

The Kingdom Demand Offerings are given for the kingdom sake, by

reason of kingdom demands and opportunities that come your way. They are given for the promotion of God's work on the earth.

When God makes a kingdom demand on you, it is so that He can add colour to your destiny. It is His secret way of promoting you. So, always respond with excitement as Abraham did.

Every sacrifice that is given from a willing heart naturally leads to an encounter; a divine and supernatural one. It must be whole-heartedly given, and with excitement and cheerfulness. That way, you will always be sure of an increase.

Giving To The Prophets

Another form of giving is giving to the prophets. Jesus introduced us to this form of giving in Matthew 10:41:

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Prophets are God's anointed messengers sent to be blessings to us. So everything you give to them attracts prophetic rewards, as it provokes prophetic utterances from them.

Prophets are spiritual fathers. When you touch their hearts, you provoke a release of blessings from them like

Isaac did to his sons in Genesis 27. Giving to God's prophets provoke prophetic blessings that cannot be bought with money. There are two very clear cases of prophetic blessings provoked by giving in scriptures that will help us appreciate the place of giving to them for our prosperity: the widow of Zarephath and the Shunammite woman.

The widow of Zarephath made for Elijah first out of her last meal, and as a result, the barrel of meal was not wasted, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of Elijah the prophet (1 Kgs. 17:9-16). She was supernaturally sustained throughout the famine, along with her whole family!

The Shunammite woman on her part cared for Elisha by making a room for him in her home whenever he passed through her town. This act terminated barrenness in her life (2 Kgs. 4:8-17)!

Caring for prophets takes care of your own cares; so let's embrace the ministry of caring for the prophets in our midst. You need to provoke something in your direction, so take advantage of them. They don't have needs; they are only agents sent to service the needs of humanity. They are God's messengers sent to every generation.

Giving To The Poor

A fourth dimension of giving is giving to the poor. The poor around you are opportunities for your rise in the kingdom. You are either a needy or a supplier of the needs of the needy. Your giving to the poor, therefore, excludes you from the company of the poor that the Bible says will never cease from the land (Deut. 15:11).

The opportunity to give is an everlasting one, as you are giving to God when you give to the poor.

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Proverbs 19:17

Ministering to the needs of the poor is also one of God's strategies for your prosperity (Prov. 28:27; Ps. 41:1-2). Until you are concerned about the needs of the needy, your needs are never met.

Giving is living! If you are not a giver, therefore, you are not living. The joy of living is in giving; so enjoy it! As God has blessed everyone, so let him give.

WORKING

No one is born rich, neither was anyone born with a three-piece suit and a pair of shoes on. Everybody came into this earth stark naked. Nobody carried a purse or cheque book in his hand when he was born. People arrive here to become what they choose to be. That is why the Preacher said in Proverbs 10:4:

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Just like some men become rich, others also become poor. Your choice determines what you become. “...But the hand of the diligent maketh rich.”

So the making of wealth is not limited to giving alone. Whereas giving procures the blessings; working opens the channel through which the blessings flow back to you. So, giving without working is like pouring water into a basket; because the channel is not created for the blessings that accrue from giving to be delivered to you.

The following scriptures show the link between giving and working.

A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

Proverbs 18:16

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

So, it is your giving plus your working that determine your ultimate placement in life. The Charismatics have been taught how to give, but many do not know the covenant place and dignity of labour. For example, Abraham encountered the promise of blessing by giving, but he could only take delivery of the blessings by working.

In Genesis 12, God called Abraham out, with the promise of blessing him. In chapter 14, he gave tithes to Melchizedek, king of Salem, who blessed him. Yet for Abraham to prosper, he had to work. He was a

cattle rearer! God has nothing to bless when you are not working. That's why the Bible says in Psalm 1:3, "...And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Covenant blessings don't just drop on people from the sky; they drop on what people do. Giving positions you by the rivers of water, but what you do is what allows you take delivery of the blessings of that privileged position.

There is no future for the idle man in the covenant. You have a choice between hard work and a hard life. Even Jesus the Saviour chose hard work. He said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (Jn. 5:17).

Let's stop wishing, and start working instead! Nothing works until

you work it. There's dignity in labour. Stop playing around, as you may attract a curse. Don't just hang around, looking for who will dole things out to you. That's not the covenant.

If you are not working, you will not only become poor, you are also signing up to die poor. The Bible says he who doesn't work shouldn't eat (2 Thess. 3:10). That means for him to survive, he must beg.

Kingdom prosperity doesn't stop at giving; it continues in working. Very many are givers, but far less are workers. This is because many think the blessings that accrue from giving will drop down from the sky. No! You have to create the channel through

which the blessings will reach you.

You are not a candidate for covenant blessings if you are not going out and coming in. Looking closely at Deuteronomy 28, you'll discover that the blessings are only poured out on the work of the hands of the people: "...All that thou settest thy hand unto..."

Your giving is like the rainfall that falls upon the work you do, causing a release of the blessings. However, your working (very hard) will be labour in vain without the giving covenant first being in place.

Don't be ashamed of whatever work you are doing, as it is what determines your worth. You're in a covenant relationship with God, and He

will bless “all that thou settest thine hand to do.” So, celebrate your work, for you will soon become a celebrity in the world.

THINKING

In the course of my meditation, I came up with the statement: “It is wisdom that begets wealth.”

We have talked about working; but working alone is not what makes rich. Wealth is the offspring of wisdom.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

Proverbs 3:13-16

It is creative work that guarantees productivity, and in turn wealth. By thinking, I mean the ability to co-ordinate thoughts productively for increased output, as reasoning is what makes rich.

A man can be labouring without results, and thereby be wearied. He may know what to do, but not know how to do it. It is the knowledge of how to do a thing that gets it done, not just the doing of it. It is not just work, but wise work that makes for wealth.

That's why the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 10:15:

The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

The wisdom element is the missing link that causes people to work and work with little or nothing to show for it. Remember, our giving does not equal plenty on its own. Giving connects us to the blessings, while working helps us take delivery of the blessings. And if we are wise workers, then we can take delivery of greater blessings.

Jesus said no one builds a tower without first sitting down to generate,

create, and analyse ideas (Lk. 14:28). As you sit down to qualitative meditation, with a there-must-be-a-way-out attitude, you provoke the treasures on your inside to come forth.

Every event is an invention, which is a product of intuition. Intuition is nothing but qualitative meditation, which is the ability to co-ordinate thoughts productively. You have an excellent spirit; all you need do is to engage it. Engage in creative thinking for high level productivity.

The level to which you engage your mind is what determines the results you obtain in life. So, engage your mind in productive thinking, to generate great wealth. Creative

thinking is what brought Jacob out of slavery (Gen. 30:37-43). I see it bring you out of lack and want also!

TRUSTING

The next step in getting financially blessed is trusting. Quite a number believe God, but very few trust Him. But what enhances a successful, cheerful, and relaxed giving life is trusting God.

Those who trust Him are totally dependent on Him, and on no one else. The Bible says:

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

Jeremiah 17:7

Trusting is the highway to

continuous triumphs. In Matthew 6:31, Jesus said:

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

The only way not to take thought for your life is to trust God; and that is your highway to kingdom prosperity.

Many are giving to God in worship, but are not enjoying His blessings. Why? This is because they are not dependent on God for their needs. They keep suffering because they are depending on their pay packets and big brothers, rather than on God. The Bible says:

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:5

Friend, you need to enter this realm of trusting, as it is the realm of continuous triumphs. I don't have needs because I am trusting Him. My trust is not in the congregation I pastor, as I don't do my planning based on the number of the congregation. I plan based on my knowledge of God.

That money in your bank account or pocket is not what holds your tomorrow, so don't trust in it. Rather, put you trust in God to meet all your

needs, and He will give you all things richly to enjoy.

Many have passed the test of giving, they are workers and creative thinkers, but they need to train themselves up in the area of trusting. Don’t trust in your expertise, or in your contacts. Just put your trust in the Living God. Also, many have overcome trusting in men, but are yet to overcome trusting in themselves. But let’s learn to trust Him. It delivers from trials. When you trust God for everything, you are free from trials. Trust was a secret that guaranteed Job’s prosperity.

If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art

my confidence;

If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;

Job 31:24-25

In recounting his integrity before the Lord, Job could confidently say gold was not his hope or confidence. Neither was his wealth any attraction to him.

In Psalm 112, the prophetic Psalm that gives us an insight into God's kind of wealth, the Psalmist tells us that the man's heart is established. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings, because his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. He has dispersed because he's not afraid

(he’s trusting), he’s giving to the poor, his righteousness endures forever, and his horn shall be exalted with honour.

God’s riches is held in trust, but delivered on trust to those who trust in Him. If you cannot trust Him for supplies, then He cannot trust you for His provisions. It is so sweet to trust in Jesus. Please trust Him; He never fails!

Waiting

Waiting is a proof that you believe God and trust His unfailing love and faithfulness. It is an expression of your faith and confidence in God’s ability to do what He says He will do.

Abraham’s story of patience best explains what I mean by waiting here.

God promised Abraham a son, but Abraham had to wait for twenty-five years before Isaac finally came. In fact, God did not only promise, but actually swore to Abraham (Heb. 6:13-14). But see how Abraham took delivery of the promise:

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Hebrews 6:15

Abraham needed to have endured before he could obtain the promise. Indeed, every man requires a degree of covenant patience. The covenant of prosperity is not magic; it is an adventure in faith.

In Habakkuk 2:3, God said every

vision is for an appointed time. So, though it tarries, we are to wait for it. Unfortunately, however, many do not want to wait; no wonder they are wasting.

God said to me in 1981, “The hour has come to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil, through the preaching of the word of faith.” It was a mandate for a world-wide ministry, but the mandate to go into Africa never came till 1994! I had to wait! “But at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it.” The waiting period is where many miss it, making the prosperity covenant look like it is not true. But understand that quick prosperity will always end in

grievous austerity, because it lacks the required foundation for lasting results.

Why wait? Your lifting with God is for appointed times and due seasons, and He's the only One who knows when your due season has come. So, just as Apostle Paul encouraged in Galatians 6:9, do not be tired in your covenant walk, because there is a due season.

Don't be caught in the trap of murmuring. God runs a due season calendar on each of us. When you are due, He will not deny you. But if you faint before you are due, you lose it all.

Another example of the need to wait found in scriptures is in the parable of the sower.

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Luke 8:15

Though the seed fell on a good heart and ground, it could only bring forth with patience. Though we live in a society that is ever in a hurry, we need an understanding of God, to keep us above the system. God is saying to someone now, “I know you are honest, but you need patience. The day you are due, I will not deny you. Wait! Wait! Wait!”

Everyone in this covenant has a future, which is continually being

contested by the enemy. It takes covenant intelligence to beat him hollow. Waiting without staggering is the secret of high-flying Christians. Prosperity does not come overnight; it comes in phases. So, wait for it!

It takes a lot of discipline to wait, but God is never late. He will not let you see His wealth until He has found you worthy to retain it and hold it in trust. There is no shame to them that wait for Him, so wait!

TALKING

God prospers us through giving, working, thinking, trusting, waiting, and talking. Whatever you are not able to say or declare, you have not believed. No wonder Paul said:

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

2 Corinthians 4:13

In the world of the spirit, your mouth is what gives expression to your choice.

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 that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mark 11:23

Whatever he doeth not withstanding, he shall have whatever he saith. Your mouth is a key factor in the realm of prosperity. God considers what you say as the conclusion of your expectation. Remember when the children of Israel were about to enter the land flowing with milk and honey, and they said, “We be not able”, God

said to them:

Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

Numbers 14:28

You cannot enter the land flowing with milk and honey by talking poverty. No matter your level of commitment to labour, the quality of your giving, your thinking, trusting, and waiting, if you miss it at the talking stage, you wipe off everything. Until you talk prosperity, you will never prosper. That is the word of God. You must talk prosperity everywhere, both in the public and in your privacy,

as prosperity only answers to those who talk it.

You make your way prosperous by giving (which is what provokes divine blessings), by working (which provides the channel through which the blessings will come), by thinking (thereby enhancing greater results), by trusting (without which your results will not be delivered to you), by waiting (because you need patience to bring forth fruits), and by talking.

Friend, talk prosperity! Until you talk it, you cannot take it. Until you talk it, you really do not believe it; and until you believe it, it cannot be performed in your life (Lk. 1:45). Prosperity is produced on the ticket of

faith; and faith is given expression to through your mouth.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

Please note that if you are not doing it (that is, giving, working, etc.), but are talking it, it's an empty talk. But when you are on course, and you are giving it expression through your mouth, then you are ready for your manifestation.

THANKING

Thanking is the seventh strategy for financial fortunes. Giving glory to God is your final step into the realm of unlimited prosperity. Abraham is our example here.

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Romans 4:18-20

It was his giving glory to God that opened him up for his miracle. Though nothing had happened yet, he kept giving glory to God.

You are either, thanking and giving glory to God or you are murmuring against Him. The only way to come out of a life of murmuring is to be thankful. Abraham was thankful to God even before he received the promise. He could be thankful because he refused to consider anything contrary to the promise he had received and the God who is faithful.

To be thankful is to be fruitful; and to be thankless is to be fruitless. You are never fruitful until you are thankful.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

Psalm 67:5-6

You do not praise after the increase has come, but before; as it is praise that provokes the increase. Abraham first gave glory to God before God responded. You should not wait to give thanks after the fruits, because you cannot see the fruits without thanking.

Thanking comes before the fruits and continues after it for sustenance and an unending flow.

Until you give thanks, nothing multiplies. Jesus gave thanks over the five loaves and two fishes and they multiplied and fed 5,000 people, with twelve baskets leftover!

I regard goal, giving, working, thinking and trusting as seed planting, while talking and thanking are watering stages. We have to do both the planting and watering first, then and only then, can God give the increase. Until we have planted and watered, God is not committed to bring increases our way.

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:6

So many have planted but very few have successfully watered so, there is no increase. If you have been giving, it is time to begin watering through a continuous attitude of thanksgiving. If you will do this, none of your seed shall be wasted anymore.

May you receive the grace for a life of thanksgiving from henceforth!

Chapter 9

Fortune System
It is your mental picture that
determines your actual future.
— Dr. David Oyedepo

This system is also made up of seven kits: Future, Faith, Format, Forfeit, Fight, Focus, and Fortune.

FUTURE

You must appreciate the fact stated in Romans 8:29-30 that you're not a product of chance and that your new birth is in God's divine plan. You're a child of destiny. In fact, Jesus said, "no one comes to me except my father in heaven draws him" (Jn. 6:44).

There were two young men Esau and Jacob. Before they were born, a word came, "the elder shall serve the younger." They hadn't been born yet to have done anything, but one had been chosen to lead, and the other chosen to serve. And in that very great narration of the mystery of predestination, God

said, “Who art thou oh man, that thou answereth back unto God? Has not the potter the right to make the clay anything he wants?” (Rom. 9:10-11) So you are chosen!

I caught a scripture in 1977, and it blew up in my heart. I read it from the Revised Standard Version Bible. That scripture says, “For I know the plan I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jer. 29:11).

So God’s plan is established concerning you. You’re a creature with a definite future. The moment God calls you, He guarantees you a future.

God said to Jeremiah, “Before I formed thee in the womb, I knew thee,

and I ordained thee to be a prophet unto nations" (Jer. 1:5). Jeremiah was ordained in the womb before he was born, not after a pastor laid hands on him. Has God changed? No! Our arrival here is not fortuitous; we are not a surprise to God. He was involved in our creation, He calculated our arrival, and knew that we will be in the faith. Isn't that favour?

Look at the socio-political and economic scene. The Abrahamic covenant is the strength of that tiny nation called Israel, and it's still working in their favour. The Jewish community in Canada and America are forces to be reckoned with. They arrive at any area and buy up the whole place.

Behind every outstanding thing that happens on the planet earth, is one Jew or another covenant person. God is still having respect for the covenant He cut with Abraham, and Jesus has hooked us up to that Abrahamic covenant of greatness (Gal. 3:13-14).

If the natural vine is still producing results, why will the spiritual vine not produce even more results? Remember what God said to Abraham. He said, “I will make you great. I will bless you and thou shalt be a blessing, and I will make your name great.”

Genesis 12:1-3 is an apt scriptural definition of success. God just came to visit Abraham, and said to him, “I want to single you out. I will make you great

and your name great. I will bless you, and then you shall be a blessing, and in thee shall all nations of the earth be blessed.”

Until you believe in a future, you can’t secure one. To end your journey in fortune and all-round accomplishment begins with believing in the future.

FAITH

If you believe you have a glorious future, you will declare it. What you have not said, you have not believed. The spirit of faith demands that you express what you believe. The dream you don't tell is doomed.

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

Genesis 37:5

Every time he dreamt, he told his brothers. The future you don't declare will rupture; for with the heart man believeth, but with the mouth confession is made unto salvation

(Rom. 10:10).

There are many dumb dreamers, who by their dumbness have buried their great future. Joseph dreamt a dream and told his brethren, and they said to themselves, “Behold the dreamer cometh.” It began with mockery, but ended in glory. We have believed, therefore, we have spoken (2 Cor. 4:13)!

Stop talking misfortune. You don’t talk misfortune and secure fortune. Jesus said, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears...I am the Vine, you are the branches... Before Abraham was, I am.” He didn’t hide his identity. Rather, He kept declaring it, to the anger of the Pharisees.

What you don’t say, you never see, because your word is a seed, and the Bible says, “...while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest shall not cease” (Gen. 8:22). The Bible says, “As many as believe gave He power to become...” (Jn. 1:12). So, it is your faith that determines what you become.

It is one thing to discover you have a future and another to believe you have one. What you believe is what you become.

I had a very memorable encounter with God sometime ago, which lasted for 18 hours. I was before the Lord, it was a sweet communion. The weekend after this encounter, I was at a gathering where I declared all I saw.

That was why the vision did not die. What you don't declare, you don't deserve, "For he shall have whatsoever he saith."

I remember eleven years ago while in America, somebody walked up to me, excited, after I had finished sharing the Word and said, "Oh, what a wonderful experience I had as you were sharing. What needs do you have in your ministry?" "Our ministry has no needs," I immediately replied, "we only meet needs" and that is true. But even though I had seen this truth in the Word of God, I had to declare it in order to see its manifestation.

Your mouth is the gateway to your future. It is not just the way for food,

but much more it is the gateway to your future. You have to know how to put it to work before it will allow you to get to where you are going.

No matter how much a man gives in church, just listen to him talk for one minute, and you can tell whether he believes in prosperity or poverty. You want performance? Then stand in faith, calling those things that be not as though they were. This was Abraham's style. What you don't call won't answer to you, so call those things that be not as though they were.

When I started teaching prosperity, I was an object of mockery, as people called me all manner of names. A close friend even pierced me with arrows, as

I was the subject of his preaching at a service where I was seated.

If you won't let them mock you, God won't make you! I have a future. Where you are today notwithstanding, you also have a future; but you have to declare it with your mouth!

In October 1984, I said to my colleagues, "Now that we are all at the same level, understand what I'm talking about, because a time is coming when some of us will take off in the air, and you will say, 'We don't know what they are using.'" I had always known where I was going and have kept saying it. I wasn't bragging. I said so many things that so many people didn't understand then, so they took off

one by one; it was too much for them!

They asked, “Who is this dreamer? What’s he talking about?” On April 10, 1982, I said, “We are going to have an auditorium at the base, which is going to sit 50,000 people. Today the auditorium is built, and it seats 50,400 people!

The future you don’t declare, you don’t deserve. I see this as the missing kit in our faith adventure. You cannot be mute and still make waves.

One day, my wife and I were in a vehicle, when suddenly we were about crashing into a concrete pavement. My wife began saying, “In Jesus’ name, in Jesus’ name.” I said to her, “Once is enough, we are not going to hit that

pavement.” I wasn’t the one driving, but as we were about six inches to the pavement, the car stopped! It had to stop, because nothing defines your destiny like your tongue.

“For with the heart man believeth.” The Bible says you can bring heaven down, so don’t ask, “Who will go to heaven?” We can bring Christ down with our faith. By believing in the heart and declaring with your mouth, you can bring heaven down to your world. We were somewhere in Washington, and someone said to me, “Bishop, you don’t talk as if we live on the same planet”, and I replied, “We don’t! I’m seated in heavenly places.”

Can you see your future? Then,

start declaring it everywhere you go! I said at the beginning of our ministry that I will never preach underground on this earth, that wherever preachers get to under the sun, that's where I'm going. Our church had not grown to even ten worshippers then, but I had read in the Bible that, "You shall be the head and not the tail, you shall be above only, not beneath."

FORMAT

After dreaming a future and declaring it in faith, this is the platform upon which you will now begin to operate. This platform is nothing but planning. It is a platform that you operate from, to accomplish what you see.

Here, you need relevant facts that guarantee the security of your future, facts that relate to where you're going. If a child could see himself as becoming a medical doctor in future, it is good. But he must know what it takes to get there. So while he is in school, he must study Integrated Science. In the senior class, he must

face Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. He needs these facts, otherwise he would merely be a day-dreamer. He should not take extra lessons in History as he does not need it. Instead he needs extra lectures in Chemistry, Biology and Physics, because his goal is medical science. These facts will help him in planning his programme towards his desired end.

Somebody has said, “Failing to plan is planning to fail.” It is not in just discovering what the future is and believing it, but you must plan to realize it. The Bible says, “Which of you will build a tower without first sitting down and counting the cost”

(Lk. 14:28).

The counting process is considering the issues involved and putting them in their proper perspective to achieve your desired end.

FORFEIT

The value of every product is reflected in its price. The value of your future is, therefore, determined by the price you are willing to pay for it.

Three of us can buy a car of the same make. Whereas one pays 500,000 Naira, another might pay 2.5 million Naira and the third may buy it from the factory, at the price of 4.5 million Naira. The value of your future is determined by the price you are willing to pay for it.

Many know where they are going, but the price to be paid looks too much for them, so they start pretending as if

they do not know. There is no free lunch in life. Nothing great is free. Responsibility is the price you pay for greatness.

Somebody has said, “A genius is ten per cent inspiration, and ninety per cent perspiration.” Watch every academically excellent candidate, you’ll find him putting in some extra hours above others. Many are not ready to pay the price, but they want all the profit. It is forfeit that breeds profit, “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it” (Matt.16:25).

You must first invest your money in some goods before the goods can be sold to bring you profits. If you like,

hoard your money in the bank, it is the money you invest that brings in profit. You must first forfeit the money, before the money can profit you. If you are not willing to let go of the money, it has no power to bring profit back to you. Likewise, every great future requires time, energy and input of all kinds. If you are not ready to pay the price, do not expect to take delivery of the fortune.

To attain to that bright future you desire calls for self-denial. It calls for your sacrificing certain things that you would have loved to get, but you can't afford, because of where you are going.

I asked my wife one day, "How much did that breakfast cost?" When

she mentioned the amount, I told her “Never again will anybody take eggs in this house. I didn’t come to this land to eat eggs.” That was many years ago. I couldn’t afford eggs in our breakfast, because it was going too far into what the future held for me. I didn’t want a broken future. I couldn’t appear in church without an offering in my hand, because I took egg.

The financial fortune I am walking in today started many years back by self denial. I have never prayed for a house in my life, because I won’t rent anyone beyond what I can pay without prayer. I never asked for how much it cost to rent a house in the GRA in those days, as it was not for me then. I

shouldn’t be found near there. I stayed on in an apartment whose toilet was open to the whole church. I must be up early to quickly take my bath by 5.00 a.m. before the congregation starts coming in.

Also, as I swept the church in those days, I would pray over the benches, “Lord, bring people here today, that my labour be not in vain.”

What you don’t pay for will not profit you. Self denial is it; but this fast world thinks one can dodge it, but you can’t. You can’t dodge it, if your desire is to become anything. There is what to forfeit before you arrive at what will profit you.

You can understand now that a

future does not just happen, there are things that deliver your future into your hands, and when it is delivered, it is called a “fortune”. There is not resistant-free path in life, and this leads us to the next kit in this system, which is:

FIGHT

Every time you talk of victory, a fight is implied. No one's future is delivered to him on a platter of gold. Heaven, the fortune of all fortunes, is for over-comers.

Your future is signed, sealed, and delivered, but there are oppositions. You possess your future by contending with every opposition in battle. God said so in Deuteronomy 2:24:

Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: BEGIN TO POSSESS

IT, AND CONTEND WITH HIM IN BATTLE.

A fight will always precede victory. Faith is not just the talk of the mouth, it is a fight. Paul said, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life” (1 Tim. 6:12). You must fight the fight of faith against the obstacles in your way. Jesus came here as the Messiah, but He fought from day one to the end. His battle began from when He was born, when Herod wanted to kill Him.

Fortune in life only answers to valiant fighters. People, who don’t take “No” for an answer, but know where they are going, and won’t let any devil stop them nor stand in their way.

Fortune in life will only answer to people that don't know how to say, "We can't make it", people who will go through thick and thin to get to where the answer is.

There is a fight to be fought, if you must earn a future and end your journey in fortune. Can you imagine, God gave them the land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey; but the same God plants giants there by Himself? If you want your Canaan, get ready to confront the giants.

In every man's Canaan there are giants and only fighters will clear them off the way. Your portion is not secure until you are set for a fight. Don't forget, it is not a fight of the flesh; it is

a fight of faith. But we do have this assurance that, “Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 Jn. 5:4).

God has given to you a mouth and wisdom that none of your adversaries can resist nor gainsay (Lk. 21:15). David said:

...Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

1 Samuel 17:45

The confrontation David had with

Goliath was a fight, and it established the throne of David. Look, if you are not ready to fight, you may die as a slave. Your destiny is colourful; but it demands a fight to take delivery of it.

I packaged some seven steps to victory in my book, Born to Win. They are strategic steps in dealing with the oppositions that confront you on your way to your future. You need to first discover the word of God that gives you the victory and then you settle down to consciously release your faith in those words. Thereafter, you appear in heaven and present your case to Him. Being justified by God, you then confront the mountain. You say to it: “Now listen, what you are still doing

here? You have no right to be there. Is it not written...”

God cannot deny Himself. Since you have asked according to His Word, and your faith is in place, He has to answer you, and then the battle will be over.

I am talking about strategic faith warfare, not religious warfare: “Oh God, I have been believing for the past ten years.” Satan enjoys it when you’re crying, because that’s all they do in hell, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Satan is excited when you are crying. That’s why when Jesus wants to help anyone, He first says, “Weep not, settle down. What exactly is the matter? Weep not.” Tears

don’t help anybody, so stop celebrating religious tears.

Somebody laid hold on the book, Born to Win, some years back, when he was at a low ebb in life. His boat had drowned, and everything had collapsed. But after reading the book, he prayed, “Lord as I engage these principles and come out of this trouble, certain percentage of the first profit that comes to me goes to the man that wrote this book.”

One day, this man walked to my hotel room, and handed me a bag. The bag contained 322,000 naira! He said he brought the money in obedience to a vow he made to God.

He had read the book while

travelling from Calabar to Port Harcourt in a taxi. He saw in that book that he could be out of that predicament and he took steps.

Everyone that is now an over-comer went through a fight. There is no winner without a fight. But the good thing is this: God who says, “I have given you Canaan” saw the giants before He said that to you. All it takes to overcome is to take on the spirit of faith, “For the kingdom of God suffereth violence, and the violent taketh it by force” (Matt.11:12).

We fought for every inch of our operation at the onset of this ministry. The opposition was so stiff and thick, but grace and faith were so much in

place, that we were always smiling, as if those oppositions did not exist.

FOCUS

Do not let the battle make you lose focus of where you are going. There is no all-rounder in life. The world is ruled by specialists. You belong somewhere; don't let the battle that is presently raging chase you out of where you belong.

You're never a focus until you have a focus. You can't become a reference, except you stick to where you belong. First Corinthians 7:20, 24 says:

Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

Stay where God has placed you. He said, “If your eyes be single, your whole body will be full of light” (Matt. 6:22). How successful you become in life will be determined by how much you stay focused where you belong. There is a prophetic parable in 1 Kings 20. A prophet wounded himself, and put ashes on his head, then appeared to the king and said:

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

And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone...

1 Kings 20:39-40

Your own assignment is enough to occupy you. So stay on your job. Identify with your job, be excited about it. Stick to it and celebrate your task in life, as your assignment is sufficient. The Bible says, “And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”(Ps 1:3).

This doesn’t exclude your job or calling. Let the preacher stay on there preaching, and not start running up and down, because he is faced with some challenges. Let the businessman stick to his business. Don’t close your shop and office, and go on break for six

months. The only way to make it through to the end is to stay focused.

When they were to make Jesus king, what did He do? He fled, because that was not His assignment! Not every open door is God's open door; many are traps in disguise. There is a purpose for which you are created; locate it and stick to it.

When we were coming into full-time ministry, a lot of people were genuinely bothered for us. They asked, "How are they going to feed themselves?" "How will they go through life?" They were also bothered that if problems arose they might spill-over to them.

I was asked, "Why are you going

into full-time ministry? Why not do it part-time, as others around you are doing?" I answered, "They were not sent as I am sent, and God forbid that anybody doing it part-time should beat me in the race."

I told a friend of mine (we were going into ministry the same time), "You know why we are going full-time? So we can go full length. Nobody doing it part-time will match me in the race." I have never been involved in any business deal since I came into ministry, nor have we organized anything to sell or resell. If preaching is enough for me, then the assignment in your hand is more than enough for your accomplishment in life, so stay

focused!

You must also stay focused on God, because He is your only source of hope for a tomorrow.

The delivery of your future is what I have defined as Fortune.

FORTUNE

If these six forces are in place, then you will end up in fortune that cannot be denied.

How do I ensure a fortune? Don’t stop saying what you have seen, don’t stop the plans that you have made, don’t stop paying the price it calls for, don’t stop the fight, and don’t be distracted from where you belong. Then the future you are looking for will be delivered into your hands. See a future, shout it on the house top, set a stage for its operation, and then pay the price that it calls for. Don’t give in to any opposition; confront them, until

they clear off your way. Stay focused, and no devil can deprive you of the fortunes that belong to you.

One man said something that I hated, he said, “Christianity is for lazy men.” He must have seen Christians who won’t do anything but want everything to happen for them. But the Bible tells us:

Every house is built by someone, but he that built all things is God.

Hebrews 3:4

You have your part to play, as God will never play your part for you and until you play your part, God will never play His. So you are the one to initiate what your future will hold. You are to take the first step, before heaven will

send the back-up.

Chapter 10

PRE-MARITAL SYSTEM

Character should be considered as one of the greatest assets in the school of success. Character will take you where ability can never.

- class="center">Dr. David Oyedepo

Marriage is a divine institution established by God Himself and God’s purpose for instituting marriage was for the good of both parties, for He said:

I will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:18

But what do we see today? The marriage institution has been abused and bastardized. The Bible says, “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour” (Eccl. 4:9). But this is no longer the case in many homes today. Many now see marriage as a necessary evil. Rather than the home being a haven of love, joy, and peace, some homes have now been turned into boxing arenas, where husband, wife, and children are in daily championship contests. But from the beginning it was not so!

At the end of this system, God would have visited your home and turned it into the haven of rest, joy, love, peace, and abundance that He created it to be. For those already enjoying the benefits of marriage, He will put in your hands what it takes to enjoy the fullness of the blessings it carries.

Under this system, we shall consider what I call the seven “Ps” for success in marriage Propose, Prepare, Proceed, Promote, Protect, Protest, and Possess.

Every success is fathered by facts. These seven facts will help you to establish a very strong and successful home.

PROPOSE

The adventure into marriage begins with a proposal. It requires a man walking up to the lady he has chosen to marry (out of the numerous tens, hundreds, and thousands he has seen), and telling her that he wants to marry her.

Telling a lady you want to marry her does not require your beating about the bush or harassing her. Just go straight to the point and tell her your intention “I want your hand in marriage. Think about it, and let me know your decision.” Don’t go telling a lady, “God told me you are my wife.”

The Bible says, “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord” (Prov. 18:22).

I often say humorously that after God gave the first man, Adam, a wife and he blamed God for it “… The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat”(Gen 3:12). God stopped giving people wives. Now, it is, “Whoso findeth...” Each one shall find his own wife, so don’t tell a sister, “God said you are my wife.”

Your proposal must be as a result of your choice, which should be based on facts. Don’t be beclouded by religion when deciding who to marry. What should inform your choice of

who to marry is “Do I agree with her personality, style, and outlook?” Amos 3:3 says, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

Your decision on who to marry shouldn’t be based on dreams. A marriage proposal must be based on articulated facts “Are we going in the same direction?” “Do we have the same goals?” God respects your choice, so don’t be afraid to make one.

However, it is not only the man that has a right to make choices; the woman also has a right to decide who she wants to marry. So, don’t put pressure on people to marry you, neither should you gather people around an innocent lady, in order to press her to say “Yes.”

A note of warning here: no matter by what vision, revelation, dream or counsel, there is no meeting point between a Christian and a sinner. The Abrahamic covenant demands that you marry among your kinsmen only. As a believer, your kinsman is a fellow believer, you are not permitted to marry a stranger.

Life can be very colourful, if you give it an hi-tech Scriptural approach. That way, you will be able to adapt Scriptural truths to life. If you find somebody you want to marry but she doesn’t agree with you, go and find somebody else. You don’t have to die in the hands of an idea that won’t work. Do not use the faith as a tool of

frustration. Jesus came to offer life, not religion. He said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10).

So, proposal should be based on facts, and when the response from the other party is positive, then **preparation**begins.

PREPARE

By preparation, I mean a fact-finding period, when the two of you now begin to know yourselves and begin to put your facts together into the future you both anticipate. If it goes well, wonderful; if it doesn't, then call it quits. Breaking engagement is scripturally permitted; it is not considered as a divorce and should not be mistaken for one.

If in the process of fact finding you discover that you can't go on any further, because you both disagree on ideas and your expectations do not agree, then common sense demands

that you call it quits at that point. “Yes” to a proposal is different from “yes” to a marriage. Many often endure their engagement period and go ahead and get into married, thereby entering into crisis.

The quality of preparation you put into any given task determines the quality of result you get at the end. Lack of adequate preparation is the reason for the high rate of divorce in America and the western world today. They marry very quickly and pack it up just as fast. I met an American friend I had known for quite some years and said to him, “Hi, how is your wife?” He said to me, “We’ve called it quits. I thought you knew; we called it quits

two years ago.” He was telling me this with all excitement!

One great advantage of the African culture in preparing for marriage is that a period for preparation is allowed. But the pitfall is that when once you are engaged in Africa, marriage is in most cases mandatory. Since both families already know themselves, when you want to opt out of the relationship, the whole world would gather together to say it’s not possible, simply because kolanuts have been exchanged.

The solution to this is, don’t tell your parents until you’re thoroughly sure and satisfied that you’re meant for each other, and that you will not change your mind to cause confusion

among family members.

The preparation for marriage is not in prayers; it is in fact-finding and an intelligent analysis of available facts, to determine whether the step to marry has a future. My preparation for marriage took six years, but its effect is speaking today. My wife knows everything about what I’m doing now before it ever came to light; I let her know what to expect.

PROCEED

There is no short cut to preparation. In fact, you're not permitted to **proceed** until you are satisfied with the available facts. It is after you have decided to proceed that you then go ahead to inform all that need to be informed, such as both parents and families.

The facts have been thoroughly analyzed, the choice has been made, and now the decision to proceed. It is at this point that you can begin to get to know those who need to be known.

PROMOTE

This is when you take practical steps towards marriage. It is at this point that you start **promoting** the plan for marriage. This is when you begin taking practical steps towards getting married, by putting in place the necessary things for marriage. For instance, as a man, you can't be a squatter and want to be married. This period of promoting is, therefore, the time to start taking steps to secure an apartment, no matter the size. Also, you can't marry without cooking pots and a stove.

If you don't have a room or a bed,

then you are not qualified for marriage. Age is not the determining factor for marriage. What you are not prepared for, you can't succeed at. I couldn't afford to continue living the way I was living before marriage after I got married. I needed to put certain things in place before I could consider myself ready for it. If three of you were sharing a flat before you got married, things can't continue like that after marriage, otherwise what you will have would be a slave, not a wife. She would have to do all the cooking and laundry for both you and all the men in the house.

The Bible says, "Let every man take his wife..." As long as you are

living in your father's or uncle's boys' quarters, you are still a boy. One room outside your uncle's house makes a home, not a boys' quarters behind his house. So, a man that wants to marry must have a place where he can be a man, not where he is considered as a boy. You have no right to marry if your father is still feeding you.

PROTECT

Being fully set for marriage now, the next thing to consider is protection. You must protect your destiny by protecting yourselves from defilement. For, if the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do? The honour in marriage must be preserved by disallowing the defilement of the bed. The Bible says:

Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Hebrews 13:4

Temptation is not equal to sin. Falling into temptation is what is termed sin. Jesus was tempted at all points, just as we are, yet He was without sin. You take cover under God in prayers, and then take practical steps to protect yourself from falling into sin.

Marriage is honourable, as long as the bed is undefiled. Defilement of the bed is the defilement of your marital destiny; and it takes the mercy of God to restore the honour. We were in courtship for six years, and I only knew my wife on our marriage day. This was not without practical steps being taken, and taking cover under God. Protection is very crucial to your desired future.

In case that at the end of your decision, promotion, and in the effort to protect, certain unpleasant things develop, then you can **Protest.**

PROTEST

This is pointing out the unacceptable issues you have discovered with vehemence. “No, no, no, I can’t take that!” And because you are not married yet, you can tell him or her, “That step is not acceptable. It is wrong on so and so basis!”

If you can’t achieve better understanding before you get married and start living together, you will never have an outstanding family. You need to get to know what goes well, and understand the reasons behind it.

You had earlier agreed on certain terms and then suddenly there is a

deflection or a deviation, you are allowed to react, in order to put the issues right, so that when the home is eventually established, there will be freedom and liberty of communication. “This is not what we said. This is not what God’s Word says on this. This is why I am saying this and this and that.” This should be allowed from both parties.

Also, if any of the spouse’s family members raise some issues that can jeopardize your future, you are permitted to protest “This won’t work, on the basis of this and that.”

When I was to marry, certain things were included on the list of things I was to bring, which I knew I would not

bring. I would rather never marry than bring those things, because of my stand for God and my future. When they sent the list to me, I didn't respond, because I knew I won't do it. Even though they had the pipe and could dictate the tune then, I still had the right to change my mind. I knew I loved my wife, and we were looking forward to getting married, but I loved my God much more.

So, one day, they said to me, "We sent so and so paper to you, and you didn't respond." God gave me wisdom to reply, and I said, "You see, there were certain things on the list, that if we get involved in them now would cause us to become problems to you

tomorrow.” My father-in-law agreed with me and said, “Whatever is against your future there, cancel it.”

You can’t be a boy and succeed in marriage. You must be a man with respectable opinions. But if other people are the ones to buy your wedding suit and shirt, then they will have the final say.

By reason of what we were taught many years ago, many of us may not be exposed to what I’m saying now. But I had access to these secrets by virtue of personal studies, so I was able to take a stand. It’s up to you too.

POSSESS

The final “P” is **Possess**. Protest is allowed and should be applied when occasion demands it. It is after this has been resolved that you can possess your husband or wife, and the home is born.

With all these in place, you can then march to the altar together. It is at this point that the young man can now stand in front of many witnesses and say, “I, Victor …” or, “I, Samuel… wed thee…” The man is set. Mentally, he is satisfied, physically he is in order, and the system is in place. He is leaving boyhood for manhood.

Marriage in the kingdom is not for boys; it is only for men.

Until these processes are in place, it is not yet safe for you to marry. It is only at this final point that you can be convinced that you have a goodly heritage. This is when you can be sure that a great future is established for your home and that you are heading for something very colourful and glorious.

...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Matthew 19:5

This is the foundation. There is nothing more devastating in marriage

than being tied to the apron strings of your parents. For every small decision, he or she says, “I am going home”, because he never left home in the first place. A boy can’t leave home, it’s only a man who can. Neither can a girl leave home, as she lives at home. That’s why many couples are in a house, but are not at home. They are at home with their parents.

Your parents are placed after the key “Proceed” because that’s where they belong. The initial steps should not include them. In fact, they should not be involved until all the facts have been properly analyzed and positioned. That’s what it takes to get set for a home. The race is not permitted to

begin until after these things have been put in place. And if you are absolutely responsible for your choice, then you won't look for someone else to blame.

You will not fail! Your home shall be the haven God created it to be, in Jesus' name!

Chapter 11

Marital System

A glorious marriage is not a product of wishes, but of workings.

- class="center">Dr. David Oyedepo

Now, home, sweet home has started! Let’s now discuss how to sustain it and make it the haven God planned it to be. So, we shall address what I call the seven “Rs” Relate, Respect, Reason, Romance, Rule, Resist, and Realize.

RELATE

This means establishing a social togetherness reckoning with the other partner as being relevant, and establishing a mental liberty that allows for a free flow of communication.

You must disallow a feeling of inferiority, but rather create a free atmosphere for effective communication. Your wife is a help mate; so you are mates, just like classmates. You are co-helpers. An environment that spells slavery must not be allowed.

Scripturally, for any system to run

successfully there must be a leader. The understanding of what makes up a system is also very crucial. A home where only one person has the say is a house. Practical relationship is fundamental to building a very successful home. The essence of this relationship is to establish free communication. The moment a home becomes communication-deficient, it is heading for devastation. A situation where you can’t openly look at issues and comment on them for the progress of the home is dangerous.

RESPECT

People have always thought that respect is a one-sided issue in the home, that the wife must always respect the husband. But it's a two-way flow. There must be respect for each party that makes up the home, for the Bible says the husband should honour his wife. This sounds very un-African, but it's the truth. The Bible talks about, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Eph. 5:21).

In 1 Peter 3:7, we read:

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife**, as unto the**

weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Yes, the wife is supposed to submit in everything (Eph. 5:22-24), but she should also be given the honour due to her.

On my way to the airport one day, I saw some policemen on the road. The superior officer was shouting at the junior one, calling him all manner of names crazy, stupid. The junior one tolerated this for a while, but after sometime, he removed his uniform and said to the superior officer, “Take your uniform,” and went ahead to slap him. Those that gathered around the scene said, “That’s good for him. His mouth

is too big.” That was an inspector and a private. That means the superior officer had pushed the “goat” to the wall and discovered that a goat could bite. Don’t push a goat to the wall, because the bite of a goat can be poisonous. It doesn’t bite often, so all the poisons are stored up inside.

I looked at that inspector and the private, and I received instruction. There is a way you would talk to your son and you’ll lose your respect as a father. Initially, when you talk rudely to him, he would tell you, “Enough sir, Enough! Please, please, you are not the only father in the world.” That means you are going beyond your bounds. If you don’t stop there, he would say,

“Man, enough.” That is to say, the goat can bite, if you go any further. I think most of the crises we have in homes today are caused when one party does not think that he owes the other respect. When respect is not mutual, it becomes slavery.

Every man owes his wife a degree of honour. It’s common knowledge that the more respect you give, the more respect you earn. Respect is a seed, and only those who sow seeds reap the harvest. As you want others to do to you, do the same unto them. If you don’t respect your wife’s views, you will shut her up from expressing them.

I know it is naturally expected that the wife respects her husband. The

Bible advises the woman in 1 Peter 3:5-6 thus:

...Being in subjection unto their own husbands: even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are...

But respect must be mutual; otherwise, you enslave the other party.

The husband has a covenant obligation to accord his wife the respect due unto her. If he forms the habit of talking to her disrespectfully, especially before other people, they will also treat her like that.

Honour your wife, and she would naturally respect you. Consider her as an heir of the kingdom together with you, as 1 Peter 3:7 says. Respect is

earned, not taken.

REASON

To maintain respect in the home, make sure your views are born out of reasoning. When you produce your cause, buttress it with strong reasons. What a man utters determines the level of respect he would earn. I was in a meeting some time ago and the floor was thrown open for people to make their observations on certain issues on the agenda. After hearing some views, I left the meeting, because the statements made were not born out of reason. The foolishness in the utterances made was unbearable, so I had to leave.

Likewise, when you are making your observations in the home, make them based on good reasoning. Let your reasons be strong enough to command the attention of your listener; don't just make an open ended observation. "This is my observation on this issue and my view is based on the following facts. If things continue like this, we are likely to have this…"

Let your observations be based on facts, not guesses. The depth of your reasoning determines the height of respect you earn, so you must take time to find out what exactly you want. It will help you a lot.

"The children should go to this school." "On what basis?" "For the

following reasons...” Then you list them. You will find the other party saying, “Okay, even though it’s costlier, these reasons have greater value than the cost. Let’s see how we can approach the payment.” Or on the other hand, the other party might say, “They can’t go to that school, but I perceive we can supplement what this other school, which costs less offers by providing the following extra inputs. This extra input will cost much less than paying the high school fees at the other school.” Then you let the voice of reason prevail.

A member of our church was the Commandant of one of the Command Secondary schools, and he came to the

house with some admission forms, because he wanted my children to attend the school. I agreed that it was a good idea, but reasoned that he would not always be the Commandant, and my wife agreed with me. A year later, he ceased being the Commandant.

But another woman might have said, “Whether he will always be the Commandant or not, they are going there.” I needed a spiritual environment for my children, which is of greater value to me than any other thing under heaven. If I can build them up spiritually, I am sure of a bright future for them. I want them to grow under an atmosphere that guarantees a future in the faith.

“So how does that affect the running of the home?” “This way, that way, this way.” And by reasoning, you move on together, rather than to start screaming at each other: “They must go to that school!” “No, they can’t go to that school!”

The man that is saying they will go to the school has no reason, the woman saying, “No they can’t go”, also has no reason. So, they are both unreasonable and are heading for the pit.

Reasoning is an analytical, rational and logical thinking process. It makes planning easy. Every sound decision is as a result of good planning. So, locate the facts that are relevant to your desires, and plan based on these facts

and available resources. One of the reasons for crisis in the home is poor management of resources. Escape it by planning well, based on facts.

You need to engage reasoning in your communication or you start losing respect. If your spouse can't find reason in everything you say, then you can't get respect out of him or her.

Never raise an issue without substantiating it with proven facts. And at the end of the day, let the voice of reason prevail. You may have ten facts and the other person just two, but which may be stronger than yours. With meekness, let the man in charge have the final say.

Once you are able to establish a

forum for communication, there won’t be room for nagging. Never raise an issue without reasons, otherwise, you may begin to build walls of barrier in the home system.

ROMANCE

Romance is one of the greatest facilitators of a crisis-free marriage; but this is where many Charismatics run into problems. When a home lacks romance, it starts suffering disintegration, as it is one of the vital reasons for setting up the home. Many marriage teachers may not agree with this, but this is the Bible, and I absolutely agree with the Bible.

Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let

every woman have her own husband.

1 Corinthians 7:1-2

"To avoid fornication" is one of the reasons for marriage, and romance is God's tool for preserving marriage. "But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn" (verse 9). "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man **have** his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." The word "have" there doesn't mean just to marry; it also means let him enjoy his own wife.

"Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband" (vs. 3). "Due benevolence" means give him or her the benefit of marriage. The

benevolence you are to render is your body. You are to offer your bodies to one another. If a woman does not give her body to her husband, another person will give her body to him, and vice versa.

God made man, and He knows what He made man of. There is a sexual desire inside man, and marriage is the only institution designed to accommodate and satisfy that desire. That way, it can remain a productive burning, instead of a destructive one.

A sex-starved marriage is heading for destruction. Both spouses should be available for one another; not that the wife would say she is praying when her husband needs her, and the husband is

speaking in tongues when his wife needs him. This is where I believe many Charismatics have courted trouble. When the couples are not available for one another, there's tendency to go where they would be accepted, because the burning must be satisfied.

The Bible says you must not allow your abstinence go beyond a time (vs. 5). Nobody fasts for one year. The Bible says you can keep away from each other only for prayer and fasting, which is not usually a very long time. Jesus, the Messiah of the world, fasted for only forty days. That means you are permitted only forty days license to separate and come together again, lest

Satan tempts you.

You must establish a natural romance that makes for a healthy home and relationship between a husband and wife. The moment you stop desiring your wife or husband, you are already falling apart from each other.

Lester Sumrall wrote a book entitled, 60 Things God Said About Sex. These are men who had and enjoyed Christian homes. To tell your wife today, “I am waiting on the Lord”, tomorrow, “I am waiting on the Lord.” Next week, “I am waiting on the Lord,” before you finish waiting, you won’t find anybody again.

Most crises in homes develop out of sexual tension. I am a counsellor,

and have listened to many people. Romance is one of the areas you must intelligibly manage, because it reinforces the marriage covenant.

RULE

This addresses the administration of the home. It is establishing guidelines that will enhance the smooth operation of the home and putting up structures that will help actualize what you look forward to achieving in your home. That is, assigning responsibilities to the various parties that make up the home.

God has appointed an administrator in the home the husband. Rulership is assigned to the man; but he now has to make use of all the available resources human, material and otherwise, to effectively carry out his duties.

For your home to be administered properly, an administrative system must be put in place, assigning quantifiable responsibilities to everyone in the home, giving room for improvement. In my family, for instance, my wife is the managing director of the home, while I am the head of the administration. All the maintenance in the house is her job, but it is my duty to provide the means. There is an arrangement that stipulates who watches over what. Even the stewards and domestic staff have their own responsibilities and duty supervisors for each week. If it’s not done that way, you won’t know who to hold responsible when things fail.

We did not start this arrangement because of enlargement; it started right after our wedding. I have never been the one to decide what we eat in my home, neither do I know the price of any food item. My wife has a free hand in running the home, but she has to be accountable. So, every month there is a book where what came in and what went out is recorded. What is spent in running the home is also well programmed.

You need to put a structure in place. Don’t let life drag you on, give it direction. Determine how much you want to spend on food and who is to be in-charge. That person would then have to plan out how to utilize what is

available. I believe that if you can think well, what you have is enough.

You need to establish an administrative structure to make your home a sweet place. You need to put in place a management process, something that keeps it going. Nothing enhances progress like planning. So, engage an effective planning based on facts. You can lift the burdens by sharing out the duties, and let each spouse do his or her job. If you don’t have such a structure in place yet, establish one now.

RESIST

Don’t allow any error to survive in your home. Resist it both spiritually and practically. Don’t allow anything that might contaminate your dream for your home to survive. Resist any thing that is detrimental to the well being of the home.

Any questionable movement, doubtful relationship and unprofitable friendship should be resisted, like when a man comes to see your husband, and after he leaves there’s always tension in the house. Maybe certain unhealthy discussions have gone on. A situation where somebody comes to your home

and there is no grace in what he says; rather, both of you are drained after he leaves shouldn’t be encouraged. Don’t pamper it, resist it.

Don’t watch the devil creep in to defile your destiny. Whatever won’t let your dream work, walk it out of your home. I don’t mean walking in mere suspicions, but proven facts. What you don’t resist will remain. So resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

REALIZE

Continuity is the secret for the realization of your dream home. You have to be consistent in doing the secrets revealed. Don’t stop relating, respecting, reasoning, romancing, ruling, and resisting until you realize your dream.

Keep your fingers on the keys until you produce the expected sound. Refuse to think otherwise. A hitch-free home is attainable, so that 40 years after your marriage, your wife will still be your “sugar baby”, and your husband will still remain your honey. Never give in, never give up, keep

going.

One important point I must mention here is that both parties in the home must learn to forgive; it enhances peace, joy, and love in the home. Learn to forgive your spouse and children. Your home will not fail!

Chapter 12

COVENANT SUCCESS HABITS
Having a role model is not idol worship; rather, it is wisdom for speed, strength and stability. It is one major way to maximize your potentials in the race of life.

- class="center">Dr. David Oyedepo

Someone has said: “You don’t decide your destiny; you decide your habit, and your habit decides your destiny.

I suppose the word habitat is from the word habit. This implies that where you find yourself is entirely a function of your habits. That is why I have said once and again that it is your attitude that ultimately determines your altitude.

Someone else said, “Sow a thought, reap an act; sow an act, reap an habit; sow a habit, reap a character; and sow a character and reap a destiny. Principles and character must go together for maximum results in the pursuit of destiny.

So in this concluding chapter, we will look at some character and habits that I believe one needs to possess in order to enhance one’s success in life.

DECISION

In Genesis 49:3-4, Jacob lamented over his first son thus:

Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:

Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel...

Indecision is a plague. Indecision was the reason for Reuben's failure. Its effect is frustration, depression, and devastation.

Somebody said indecision is the graveyard of good intentions. Indecision is the graveyard of vision,

no matter how lofty and promising the vision is. No indecisive man can be successful. Decision is the great seed of distinction.

Indecision leads to deprivation. Vision without decision is a delusion, self- deceit. According to Revelation 3:16:

...Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

God is not a friend of indecisive people.

It is not enough to have a goal, but you must make a quality decision as far as that goal is concerned. The Lord called and I heard Him very clearly. I heard Him alone, not everybody heard

what I heard.

Any vision that is not personally delivered to you is not worth pursuing, because there are so many pseudo-prophets around today that see vision for others. Jesus called His disciples directly - Peter, James, etc. He did not ask somebody else to help Him call them.

In the school of success, you are personally responsible for your decisions. Decisive men are successful men. Indecision gets you nowhere. Luke 9:62 says:

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

So, decisive men don’t look back. They are ever forward marching. They don’t take no for an answer. Their heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.

The reason so many things you have seen in scripture have not produced for you is because you lack decision to make them produce. So every time a light breaks forth on you from the scriptures, reinforce it with a decision, and you will see how real the word of God is.

Decision provokes determination, and determination energizes vision and when vision is energized, it is compelled to be fulfilled. God has shown you where you’re going, make a

decision to march forward. If you lack decision, you will never be a successful visionary.

ASSOCIATION

Your relationships in life either make you or break you. They never leave you neutral.

Agreement should be the basis of every relationship. Abraham's vision was under pressure and was delayed with Lot and Terah around. Until Terah died, and Lot separated from him, Abraham did not enjoy speed and comfort.

There are certain people in this life that will never allow you to see the fulfillment of your vision except you separate from them. So, right association is a booster of vision (Matt.

7:6).

You have a responsibility to decide the people you walk with. Friendship is by choice, not by force. Many great destinies have been ruined as a result of wrong association. The calamity of Israel in the wilderness was traceable to the mixed multitude in their midst. The people factor is one of the principal factors in the school of vision. Jesus said, “Beware of men.” Moses’ great vision was ruined by people. As powerful as that vision was, people choked it (Deut 1:37; Ps. 106:32-33).

Anyone who constantly provokes you is an enemy of your vision. People have mistaken walking together for

unity. Walking together is not unity. Unity means not being against anyone (Mark 9:38-40).

Right association is a natural vision booster. My most valued associates are men and women of God who are called to do the same thing I am called to do. Unity is not leaving your job to hang around others; it is wishing others well, while you face your job.

Remember the story of Amnon and Jonadab in 2 Samuel 13:1-29? Anyone that has a negative influence on your life is an enemy, not a friend. Certain “Lots” have to go, otherwise you will lose your lot in life.

CONCENTRATION

This has to do with focus. One of the factors that will enhance the fulfillment of your vision in life is concentration. There is power in concentration (Matt. 6:22). After you have found out where you should go, you then give it all of your attention - mentally, physically, and emotionally. The power of concentration always guarantees distinction.

You are one man and you are at your best in one thing. If you can locate what that thing is, then you have a vision. Concentration is sticking to your discovered vision. Those who

stick to their goal are those who are steadfast in the pursuit of that goal, and the enormity of your result is a function of your concentration.

The Messiah came to the earth to fulfil just one cause (Jn. 18:37). One cause is enough, not two or three. A jack-of-all-trades is always master of none. Sit with your job, settle down on it.

You don't know how high you can fly until you stick to your job or assignment. The day John went to town was the day he lost his head. He was supposed to be a voice crying in the wilderness, not in the town. You will not lose your head to lack of focus. So stick to Paul's advice on concentration:

Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

1 Corinthians 7:20, 24

GRATITUDE

This is acknowledging the grace of God as you move towards the fulfillment of your vision. Never take God for granted. When you despise the days of small things, you miss the greatness that lie ahead. Every good result is rooted in God.

Look at where you are and convince yourself of God's backing in getting there. Gratitude brought Solomon to his place of eternal encounter. Grateful people don't miss greatness. Those who truly celebrate their God in the kingdom become celebrities. Ingratitude shuts you off from God's

blessings. Be grateful for every stage you get to in life.

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Psalm 103:1-3

When you sit down to constantly locate issues for thanksgiving in your life, you will never be stranded in the pursuit of your vision. Gratitude grants you the abiding presence of God, which makes the difference anywhere.

Gratefulness is a covenant yeast for

a vision that will succeed. Your vision will lead you to distinction with this booster in place.

JOYFULNESS

Joy is another success booster. Joy becomes part of your nature when you become born again. This is because it is one of the fruit of your regenerated spirit (Gal. 5:22). All the products of the fruit of the spirit are divinely endowed in you when you give your life to Christ. They become your nature.

One thing about life in the Spirit is this: until you are depressed, you cannot see failure. So depression is the bait of the oppressor. When he succeeds in introducing depression into your life, he has made you a victim.

That's why Paul said: "Rejoice, and again I say, rejoice!" He didn't say, "Rejoice in results", but, "Rejoice in the Lord."

I am not happier today (talking about emotional excitement) than I was twenty-five years ago, when our church attendance was only twenty. This is because I'm not rejoicing in results, but rather, I'm rejoicing in the Lord.

What you call joy that comes from your results is actually happiness. Joy has nothing to do with events, but with your nature. It is not what you get that stimulates joy, it is who you are that gives expression to joy.

One interesting thing about life is that only excited people excel. Every

moody, long-faced person has a long way to go. The longer your face, the longer your way. An interesting thing about life is that only excited people are licensed to excel. When you live above sorrow, you automatically begin to shine.

Joy is a covenant yeast; it causes every dream to blossom. So, do not let the enemy rob you of it.

Joy imparts strength and insight (Neh. 8:10; Isa. 12:3). So what happens with your dreams is a function of the strength at work in you and the strength at work in you is a function of the joy of the Lord on your inside. The more joyful you are, the stronger you live. Joy is, therefore, a success booster.

Let me show you some joy stimulants your have at your disposal:

MEEKNESS

This is what determines your scope of enlargement. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth, but the proud don’t have a future (Matt. 5:5; 1 Pet. 5:5). God is against him, how then can he go forward?

MERCIFULNESS

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Matt. 5:7). And it is by the mercy of God that you become whatever you will be. It is those who sow the seed of favour that reap the harvest of favour. You want to go forward? Then get somebody else moving forward.

FAITHFULNESS

This is what determines promotion. If you have been faithful over a little, God says He will make you master over much (Lk. 16:10).

If you are a tither when you're worth ten naira, you have compelled God to move you to a hundred naira level. If you are a committed pastor of two people (preparing for service as if you're preparing for a world conference, you get before God's presence celebrating the opportunity to minister to God's people and prepare yourself adequately to do so), you're moving God to move you to pastoring a

much larger congregation. That's faithfulness.

UPRIGHTNESS

Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Isaiah 3:10

God's provision for man's success has uprightness as its foundation. Job was an upright man, and he was the greatest in all the east.

Many people have the systems for success, but don't have the results. Why? The foundation is not in place. The Word of God provides a four-dimensional ministry (2 Tim. 3:16). If uprightness is out of place, the

principles will not work, and adjustments will not produce either. But when the foundation is in place, every other thing keeps working. So, give up sin! Without uprightness, the struggle for success continues.

Epilogue

Having gone through these systems, you must have realised the great price involved in the quest of man to succeed. Nothing of value is free. If therefore, success is about added value, then it must carry definite costs.

My attempt in this book has been, to unfold the diverse cost involved in becoming a success. Value is essentially a function of cost. It is time to stand up to the challenge and give the champion in you a chance of expression.

The top is open and free but

everyone has to make his way there. It is time to sit up so you can stand out. It is time to fasten your seat belt, so you can go fast and far. It is time to brace up, so you can fly high.

This book is about helping you to accept full responsibility for the success dreams that you have. It was Martin Luther King Jnr. that said, “If you can’t fly, run. If you can’t run, walk. If you can’t walk, crawl. But by all means, keep moving.” If this book succeeds in putting you on the move, then my purpose for writing this book would have been fulfilled.

Over to you! Your choice is what determines your lot. My desire is to see every reader of this book at the

topmost top.

So, see you at the top!

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