LEADERSHIP SECRETS OF DAVID O. OYEDEPO

...the secrets of men are in their stories

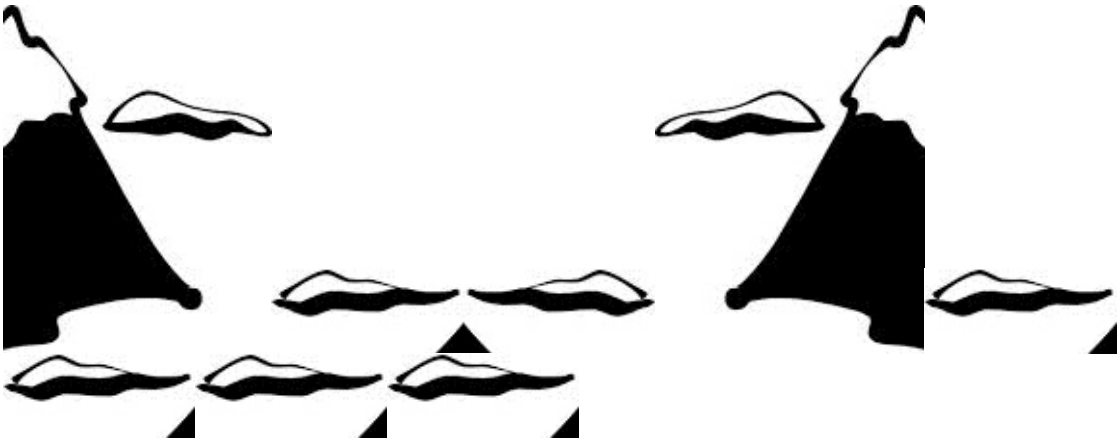
Maiden Edition



MORACK AKIN-DAVID

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COURAGE
"Just one obstacle is enough to truncate a global vision but courage is what you need to deal a deadly blow on it."
- ***David O. Oyedepo.***



I RESOLVE…
To strip the soul of all pretense,
To hold each day in reverence,
To keep the head and heart apace,
To make this world a worthwhile place,
To share my bread with those in need,
To tolerate a neighbour's creed,
To keep a stride without a strut,
To make a home in manse or hut,
To have the grit to grin at loss,
To master life and be its boss!

Anonymous

C

ourage has been defined as the ability to do

courage has been defined as the ability to do

something dangerous, or to face pain or

opposition without showing fear. The

dictionary has several synonyms to qualify courage, such as: bravery, valour, fearlessness audacity, chivalry,

heroism, confidence, nerve and a few nicknames such as

guts, grit, gristle, backbone, pluck, and spunk. Bill

Newman in his wealth of experience declared:

“...but whatever the name; it never met its

match. The heights of the Himalayas only

encourage it. The depths of the Caribbean

merely excite it. The sounds of war

stimulate it. The difficulty of a job

motivates it. The demands of competition

inspire it. Criticism challenges it,

adventure arouses it, danger incites it;

threat quickens it.”

Not that alone, Newman goes ahead and defined courage as another word for inner strength, presence of

mind against odds, determination to hang in there, to

venture, persevere, and withstand hardship.

“It's what makes the amputees reject pity

and continue to take life by the throat. It is what forces every married couple having trouble, never to say, “Let's terminate”. It's what encourages the divorcee to face tomorrow. It's what keeps a nation free in spite of attacks. Are you ready to run when the heat rises? [Are you] about to quit? [Well], every day, in some way, your courage will be tested. Real courage is saying, yes to life, not backing down when we face adversity. Courage is doing what you're afraid to do - there can be no courage when you're scared”.

There is no better way to describe the dimension of David Oyedepo's courage. The closest synonym to his

kind of courage is simply fearlessness. The genesis of his fearlessness is traceable to when as a vibrant young Christian at 25 he read an eye-opening encounter of Smith Wigglesworth, a renowned Apostle of Faith. He read an account on the life of Smith Wigglesworth via his biography authored by Stanley Frodsham on how

Smith belittled a demon. An ugly creature was rocking in a chair in Smith Wigglesworth's living room. The noise of the rocking chair was so disturbing that Smith Wigglesworth came out of the room holding a lantern to know what it was. On seeing the ugly creature with two horns on the head (a devil), Smith Wigglesworth hissed at it and said, “I didn't know it was you, devil.” He went back to his room and slept restfully.

After reading the book, David Oyedepo said, “I saw the littleness of the devil.” From that day, his perspective of the devils changed and he began to display a superiority attitude over all devils. According to him, after his encounter via the book on the life of Smith Wigglesworth, he arose and was looking for the devil or any of his agents to kill! Courage arouses boldness, confidence and it is daring. Thomas Paine once boldly confessed thus:

“I love the man who can smile in trouble;

that can gather strength from distress, and

grow brave by reflection. ‘Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose

heart is firm, and whose conscience

approves his conduct, will pursue his

principles to death."

Just after his encounter with Smith Wigglesworth, he was ministering to secondary school students in a

village notoriously known for witchcraft. In the middle

of his preaching, he paused, and announced to the

audience: "how many people here are witches? If you

are, stand up," he ordered. Virtually everyone stood up.

Then he told them to sit and announced again in case

someone stood by mistake the first time: "I mean how

many people are practicing witches here?" Then a lot of

people stood up again. He called one of them and asked

without any apology: "what do you do with the devil?"

The individual answered, "Anytime we want to drink

blood, we would go to the highway and cause some

accident…" Then David cut in with all sense of spiritual

superiority: "what if people like us are coming?" The

self-acclaimed witch answered: "whenever we sense a

higher power, we clear off the highway."

According to David Oyedepo, Christianity without

empowerment is a great risk and that risk can be deadly.

The mental illness of his nephew in 1983 comes to mind once again. The illness had defied all human efforts to

calm him down. The boy was almost becoming violent

before David Oyedepo's arrival. But the moment the boy

in his mental imbalance saw him, he recognized him

and prostrated before him. The people were surprised

and out of curiosity they asked him, “Do you know

him?” the boy said, “Yes, my uncle” (And he mentioned

his name without missing it). Then David instructed,

“Release him and put him in my vehicle and let me see

the devil that will enter my car with him.” That was the

end of that insanity. The boy later went to school, got

married and is doing well till date. From the fringes of

lunacy, the victim rose to become a victor and a success

story, updated every day, all thanks to the minister of

God, who by the right unction passed onto him by

Christ the author and finisher of our faith, who has

come to set the captives free!

His divine encounter of 1976, where he experienced a terrific transference of the Spirit of boldness when

listening to an audio tape of a message preached by

A.A. Allen, is still generating series of brave feats till

date. He was so sure beyond reasonable doubt when it

happened to him. He was only 22 years old then and he

has never looked back in daring to conquer where the

very giants dread to tread. “Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and

magic in it,” reassures Goethe. David Oyedepo said:

“Every kingdom prince is a kingdom principality set

over a territory to put to check every principality from

hell.” His war campaign is not only launched against

invisible enemies alone, but his audacity also led him to

confront every human agent crossing his way unto

exploits in the kingdom. In 1991, David Oyedepo was

surrounded by fierce looking armed gang. Then he

stood with his arms akimbo and roared like a ravening

lion, “In the name of Jesus!” They all took to their heels

shouting repeatedly, “He has a gun!”

A man of courage is not scared by the threatening sound of the opposition's roar; rather it gears him up to dare. In

1984 at Kaduna, during a 5-day crusade which had been

planned and given approval by the appropriate authority

for the facility to be used, while the programme was on, information was suddenly passed to David Oyedepo that the crusade should stop because the approval had been withdrawn. With fury in his heart, and fierceness of anger in his countenance, David went straight to the office of the officer that had sent the message and flung his door open without knocking. He looked him in the eyes and grasped his two hands. Then he uttered some

high level language (tongues) at his face and threw the officer's hand on the officer's chest, saying, “Ten of you cannot ask us to vacate this facility till we are through”. He went out and slammed the door behind him. The crusade was held without further interruption.

Courage!

Another day, a young man was sent to him with an official letter that the church should vacate the place of their regular worship in Kaduna within ten days. The lion in him stirred up again in anger. He roared at the messenger: “Tell those who sent you, in ten days you are all dead men!” The man suddenly became jittery and he began to beg, “Please sir, I was sent”. He roared at him

again, “Yes, all of you will be dead in your attempt to eject us.” That was the last time they came with such a notice. David Oyedepo posits that a good degree of spiritual violence is not negotiable to engage in a spiritual fight and attain victory. For instance, it takes a high level of spirituality and good degree of courage to “abandon” a flourishing church in a densely populated Lagos suburb for a wilderness at Ota, several kilometers away from where members are evidently highly concentrated. It is only a strange dimension of courage that would make a leader leave certainty for uncertainty as long as church growth theory is concerned. He knows

not his strength who has not met adversity. Heaven always prepares a good man with crosses. He who wants a place in the sun should expect blisters. Truth well told, everything about the move from Lagos to the other side of midnight in Ota was a total violation of every known principle of church growth. But the movement was in obedience to a divine marching order that brooks no retreat, no surrender. Just trust and obey, for there is no other way to perform mind-bending and nerve-jangling

exploits for the glory and advertisement of God's power

that will lead more souls to the Kingdom.

The only known cure for fear is faith. Yet, faith and work are like soul and body, hand and heart. Let us all

surrender to faith and good works that work in unison to

fulfill God's divine designs for our lives. God had told

David the first time he arrived at the far away forest;

“this is the place.” Every other thing therefore became

secondary as far as he was concerned. Then he stood

behind the podium on 17, September 1998 and boldly

declared that Faith Tabernacle would be dedicated by

September 18, 1999. According to David Oyedepo,

such a project, ordinarily, was “…technically

impossible, logistically unthinkable and [practically

illogical,]” because the design was not yet ready, and it

would have to go through a lot of bureaucratic processes

for approval. All the technical, structural and

mechanical logistics had to be perfected before

commencement. All these couldn't have taken less than

seven months to be in place. The question was; would

such a magnificent monument be completed in five

months? Yet in 1998, a historic ground-breaking was

done and by 18th September, 1999, a city began to

emerge in the centre of the formerly dreaded forest of

witches and horrific spirits. The imposing largest church

auditorium in the world as recorded in Guinness Book

of Records, now strategically sits in its magnificence

and splendour in the city known as Canaan Land today.

Faith is the subtle chain which binds us to the infinite and resonates with that reassuring, unchanging world

that has changed so many destinies in the past from

story to glory that all shall be well no matter what the

devil may say; the Lord will have His ultimate way to

prevail. With God, all things are possible! Never aspire

in your life to be a “might-have-been.” Go for it with

boldness of imagination and never-faltering steps in the

right direction once you can get the cue from the sure,

unfailing source: the Lord Almighty. To hit the right

stride and get your bearing right, all you need is courage

after the vision or revelation. All goes if courage goes!

More often than not however, it is in plainly and

thoughtlessly refusing divine directive that makes men victims of their personal

projections. Today, there

cannot be any technical or professional explanation for

the economic position and the dimension of church

growth in David Oyedepo's Ministries Worldwide,

particularly as experienced at the headquarters in

Canaan land. The facility is almost becoming overstressed by reason of the influx of multitude into every service including Sundays and night vigils, all because

someone was daring enough to follow the voice of the

invisible One, whose dwelling is in the light. The annual

Shiloh event has since been decentralized through

viewing centres across Lagos State and various mission

stations across Nigeria, African towns and cities and

other parts of the world. Yet, the crowd recorded yearly

still remains unexplainable. All because somebody was

and still is courageous enough to turn his back to human

theories and facts in pursuit of a God given vision.

Building a city in the wilderness with ever functional infrastructure and amenities to serve the residents of the

entire community is simply amazing: the University

community, the secondary school community, the

church and secretariat workers, the artisans and the

business environment. It becomes more amazing in a

business environment. It becomes more amazing in a country where the very basic amenities (including

electricity, water supply, and road network) are languishing in decadence due to poor management and maintenance. This is a city where, among other things, is installed a 500KVA battery-run electric power generating set; of course without fuel. Amazing things happen daily in this 'city in the desert' that calls for public attention. In November, 2011, far away in South Korea, Covenant University won a gold medal at the Young Inventors International contest, once more showcasing the glory of Nigeria. Without doubt, Canaan Land is a city of a sort, affording all manners of goodness.

On Sunday March 1, 2009, the second Sunday service kicked off at Faith Tabernacle. It simply meant the congregation had exceeded the 50,000 seat capacity church auditorium. The multiplication experienced in 2009 was not unconnected with the maiden 21 days fasting and prayer platform that God commanded David Oyedepo to declare to the entire Winners' family

worldwide to usher the Ministry and the Winners'

family into the fullness of God's agenda for the year.

One of the major effects generated by this spiritual

engagement is unhindered church growth. Multitudes

are attracted to the Winners' family by reason of the

strange testimonies shared by those whom God has

touched in a definite way that you cannot just keep close to your chest. The year 2009 was more or less a year of

spiritual adventure dedicated solely to fasting and

prayer, coupled with regular specialized outreaches. It

was no wonder, therefore, that on 17 January 2010, the

servant of God declared the commencement of the third

service on a Sunday morning at Faith Tabernacle. The

traffic of people and vehicles experienced in Canaan

Land at every meeting has no mental or human

explanation.

David Oyedepo will always help his skeptics with statements such as “God speaks according to His size,

divine insight is what enhances the delivery of divine

agenda. David Oyedepo indeed is an apostle of faith. He

is an indefatigable leader who keeps scaling heights of

exploits in leaps and bounds, the opposition notwithstanding. He posits that every true vision places the visionary at an advantage on the strength of faith. He once charged his teaming pastors: “As long as there is still room in the inn, we must keep going out to bring in more souls.” He has a high powered spiritually inspired approach to getting every outreach mandate delivered. On Sunday, February 13, 2011 a couple of weeks after the annual 21-day prayer and fasting, the servant of God pronounced the commencement of the

4th service on Sunday morning because he heard God speak to him from Isaiah 54:2-3 saying, “Enlarge the place of thy tent….” While many were excited about it, the skeptics simply held their peace watching and wondering: “What…Why… and How?” When the day came, 20,000 new worshippers were added to Faith Tabernacle! Currently, 4 anointed services are running in succession each Sunday morning, at Faith Tabernacle, all irresistibly impactful with bundles of unprecedented testimonies trailing each.

No challenge ever intimidates David Oyedepo. Before the dedication of Faith

Tabernacle in September 1999, it

did not appear, humanly speaking, that September 18,

1999 would become a reality. Some nay-sayers who

were alien to the mind of God on the project took merry

turns to wave it off as pure hallucination and mindless

fantasy. But he was not perturbed, neither yielded to the

professional suggestions given by economists and

financial analysts. He was quiet, waiting to receive a

signal from above. Then God told him: "*It took me six days to create heaven and the earth; I will not need two months*

to finish an ordinary building, twomonths toomuch!"

The work was completed in a logic-defying, sanitymocking, but God-edifying manner, and the entire

financial requirement was met without pressure.

Andrew Jackson once said, "One man with courage is a

majority". David Oyedepo's courage has been a source

of encouragement to many of his followers and has won

many followers to him globally. Thomas Paine was very

correct when he asserted that "There are too many

people praying for mountains of difficulty to be

removed, when what they really need is the courage to

climb". It has been proved by great achievers that, there

is no wisdom or counsel that can resist or circumvent the

firm resolve of a determined soul. According to Omar

Bradley, “Courage is the capacity to perform properly

even when scared half to death.”

A man of courage is full of faith. Here are the words of Reinhold Niebuhr, “Lord, grant me the serenity to

accept things I cannot change, the courage to change

things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference”.

According to Edgar A. Guest, “courage isn't a brilliant

dash, a daring deed in a moment's flash. It isn't an

instantaneous thing, but it's something deep in the soul

of man that is always working to serve some plan” .

Petit-Senn puts it this way, “True courage is like a kite; a

contrary wind raises it higher.” The Word of the Lord

caps it up in the book of Deuteronomy, “Be strong and

courageous! Do not be afraid of them! The Lord your

God will go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor forsake you.” [31: 1]. Courage is a booster of dreams; it

is an enhancement of exploits. It is a catalyst for

accomplishment. Courage will always complement

something in your life against every form of challenge.

Courage combats and conquers fear on your path to

fulfillment of purpose. Courage is a high speed inner

force that drives you in the direction of your vision, the

barriers notwithstanding.

TO THE QUITTER
The world won't care if you quit
The world won't whine if you fail;

The busy world won't notice it,
No matter how loudly you wail.
Nobody will worry
That you have relinquished the fight

And gone down,
But it's only the things that you do

That is worthwhile and gets you renowned

The quitters are quickly forgotten;

Of them the world spends little time;

And a few e'er care
That you've not the courage
Or patience to climb

So give up and quit in despair,
And take your place back on the shelf;

But don't think the world's going to care;

You are injuring only yourself

- Anonymous
Leadership Secrets of
“If it goes wrong, I am responsible, if it goes well, you made it happen.”
- David Oyedepo
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DIPLOMACY
“Don't lead your team with a whip, give them a dream and help them reach it.”
Bill Newman
Leadership Secrets of
O

ne major priority of any leader should be earning the loyalty of the team. The reason is

not farfetched, if, as it has been said, that,

without vision people perish, then the converse is true: without people, vision perishes. Earning the loyalty of

the team however, cannot be achieved by force or

coercion. It can be effectively achieved by constant

enthusiasm and curious sensitivity to the plights of each

member of the team. Each one is given room for growth

and guaranteed a sense of belonging in the system. This

is where diplomacy plays a major role in leadership for

maximum impact and delivery. Who is a diplomatic

leader? A diplomatic leader is a leader who can deal

with situations in a manner that does not offend or hurt those involved. Just like apostle Paul said in the book of Acts when addressing the assembly of Elders before Ananias the High Priest, he said, among other things, that: “and herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence towards God and towards men” [23:17].

A diplomatic person is an individual who makes conscious efforts in order to make beneficial or mutual relationship with others. In most instances, a diplomatic person does not only avoid offending people, he is also

skillful in diligently praising others for their achievements. Contrary to the opinion of many, diplomacy is not equal to hypocrisy, lying, gossip, favouritism or compromise. Diplomacy is not about pleasing everyone, which obviously is an effort in futility. The greatest leader of all times, Jesus, liberally employed diplomacy in dealing with the complexity of the people at such a difficult dispensation. The accusation of the “adulterous woman” quickly comes to mind. She was brought before Jesus for two purposes;

first to challenge His intelligence, and two, to make Him offend against the law of the land. The Law of Moses clearly specified that such an accused, after two or three witnesses, should be stoned to death. The only escape route in such a challenging situation is the corridor of diplomacy. “Cast the first stone,” Jesus intoned, “anyone of you who has never sinned before.” Jesus shifted his eyes from them to allow the accusers reason diligently and judge. The truth was, there was none of them whose hand had not been dipped in sin. The case decided itself in the end, as the accusers dropped their stones and returned to their tents one by one. One life was saved, Jesus was justified. Case closed. Indeed, diplomacy enhances a leader's capability in dealing with critical issues among people of varied temperaments and beliefs.

Diplomacy is the skill to consider in attending to other people's feelings. Bill Newman generously counseled;

“Don't lead your team with a whip, give them a dream and help them reach it.” Leadership is what is in you that you give to others. It is a general notion that if you

don't have anything in you, then you've got nothing to offer others. Leadership quality is to be consciously cultivated and not assumed. It is essentially in your ability to carry others along with you, showing good example and maintaining a sense of honesty by practising what you are promoting.

Apostle Paul was one of the most skillful diplomatic leaders the world has ever witnessed (second only to Jesus Christ; even, his trainer and mentor, Gamaliel queued behind him). Paul employed the skill of diplomacy to unify peoples of diverse beliefs, races and languages. He wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians:

“Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, even as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved” [10:32-33].

The statement, “even as I also please all men in all things,” does not mean that Paul made an effort to please everybody, rather he made an effort to meet everyone's emotional and spiritual needs.

The counsel of Paul's tutor and mentor, a Doctor of law, Gamaliel, in the

Council of the High Priest and Temple

Captains was also a display of diplomacy. At that time,

it was a difficult task to break through the hold of the

firm resolve of the Council with a contrary opinion,

particularly when it was coming from just one person

among many. Yet, Gamaliel stood as the odd man out

and said among other things:

“And now I say to you, keep away from

these men and let them alone; for if this

plan or this work is of men, it will come to

nothing, but if it is of God you cannot

overthrow it—lest you be found to fight

against God.”

Gamaliel's counsel technically cancelled the unanimous counsel of the others in the Council, of slaying the early

Apostles, including Peter and John. Obviously, the

Council was arrested by Gamaliel's diplomatic opinion,

and became handicapped in executing their plan to kill

the apostles. Yet, they never labeled him as an

opposition. Generally, the act of diplomacy seeks to

maintain peace, decorum and social stability, and that

without hurting any party. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians expressed his diplomatic leadership skill in

coordinating people of different characters and

perspectives:

“For though I am free from all men, I

have made myself a servant to all, that I

might win the more; and to the Jews I

became as a Jew, that I might win those

who are under the law. To those that are

without law, as without law (not being

without law toward God, but under the

law toward Christ) that I might win those

who are without law; to the weak, I

became as weak, that I might win the

weak. I have become all things to all men

that I might by all means save some”

[9:19-22].

Any leader who is skillful to do all these and more, without hypocrisy or compromise, like the examples of

Jesus, Gamaliel and Apostle Paul above, is regarded as a

diplomatic leader. David Oyedepo is one of such

leaders. Being diplomatic is synonymous with tact. It is

the skill in managing communication and relationships

between people within an organization. David

Oyedepo as a dynamic leader has earned the loyalty of

his large team with his compelling vision and his ability to propel his team to high performance through

constant sessions of mental empowerment,

maximizing all available resources including human,

materials and finance, culminating in competence,

efficiency, effectiveness and expertise of his team.

Without doubt, the numerical growth of worshippers experienced in Winners' Chapel International

headquarters in Nigeria is triggered by David

Oyedepo's diplomatic ability. Armed with the tool of

vision (or a mandate), he has mastered how to,

without gimmicks or coercion, motivate his entire

congregation to get engaged in the drive to evangelize

and bring new people to fill a 50,000 seat capacity

auditorium to overflow. His congregation never saw

any instruction from him as a burden or an

inconvenient task, but as an opportunity and a

platform for their blessing. For example, between the

month of June and July 2013, David Oyedepo

declared “Seven Weeks of Ingathering (evangelism).”

Like a swarm of bees, members of his congregations

all over the world invading their various communities,

winning souls for the Lord. With much enthusiasm

they continued consistently for seven weeks through

various strategic outreach approaches. By the end of

July, more than 54,000 new people were added to the Winners' Chapel International headquarters, Ota,

alone.

However, to bring such to bear, diplomacy must go hand-in-hand with intuitive thinking on the part of a

leader. The secret behind David Oyedepo's intuitive

thinking is the inner voice of the Spirit. It is his exposure

to divine direction. Olajumoke Familoni reflected in her

book, *Leadership Styles of Great Men*, the works of Boje and Dennehy (2000) on the subject of intuitive thinking.

In it the authors asserted that,

“intuitive thinking will break the traditions

of organizations; it focuses on teamwork

and recognizes only inputs and talents that

contribute to innovation and out-of-theordinary thinking. Organizations that

allow the culture of intuitive thinking will

definitely excel in the competitive global

landscape. They will rely on project teams

and talents, as well as recognize and

reward those out-of-ordinary thinkers [in

the organization].”

David Oyedepo has employed this postmodern

organizational practice and it is working for him.

Leadership Secrets: #5

Promotion in his Ministry is based on merit and not on familiarity or otherwise. Everyone is given recognition

and adequately rewarded with respect to his or her

performance and delivery. Diplomacy, when well

harnessed, engenders loyalty from the people.“The

loyalty of your team is priceless. It cannot be bought or

secured by favours. It is not won overnight. Loyalty is

only given by your team as they think their leader is

worthy of it” [BILL NEWMAN].

David Oyedepo provided an enabling environment for all who work in his organization. He encourages his

team to make maximum use of all facilities and

materials provided within the organization for their

personal improvement. He personally conducts regular

empowerment training for his team members to enhance performance and expertise. He looks for ways to personally help them fix their individual challenges to prove he cares for them. He once took his closest team of officials in his Ministry to the Redemption Camp to meet the man of God, his father, Pastor E.A. Adeboye, the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. On getting there, he told the man of God, “Sir, I brought them to you so you may personally give them your phone number. Perhaps they might like to confide in you on certain things they probably are

hesitant to tell me because of the [bureaucratic] nature of our [hierarchical] relationship and operations. That is level tact! Whitley David said, “A good supervisor is a catalyst, not a drill sergeant. He creates an atmosphere where intelligent people are willing to follow him. He doesn't command; he convinces.”

Another area where David Oyedepo typifies indisputable sense of diplomacy is his willingness to accept blame for every observable wrong in the organization. This he often says whenever he speaks on

the accomplishment of the organization: “If it is good, you did it (referring to his congregation); and if it is otherwise, I am responsible.” He has simply employed the Window/ Mirror principle of leadership. A great leader gives credit to the people when things are going well. But when things are going the other way, he bears the blame and takes responsibility. This is how the principle works: when the organization is doing well, you look through the window and say, “these are the people that made it happen.” When the organization is doing badly, you look in your mirror and say, “Yes, I take responsibility”.

Leadership Secrets: #5

In his book,

It's Your Ship, former US. Navy Captain

Michael Abrashoff writes,
“Whenever I could not get the results I wanted, I swallowed my temper and turned inward to see if I was part of the problem. I asked myself three questions: Did I clearly articulate the goal? Did I give people enough time and resources to accomplish

the task? Did I give them enough training? I

discovered that 90 per cent of the time, I was

at least as much a part of the problem as my

people were".

Many times David Oyedepo had needed to retrace his steps for a repositioning. Through his books and

electronic messages he has used such experiences as

analogy to help others to take the right step in the right

direction. He is not shy or ashamed of sharing with the

world the instances when he made mistakes in decision

making. It is general knowledge that Thomas Edison

madefranticeffortstoachievetheevolutionof theelectric

bulbfordomesticuseandhe“failed”9,999times.Oneof

his friends asked him in sheer mockery, “Won't you

attempttofailagainthis10,000thtime?”ThomasEdison

sympathized with his narrow-minded friend with an

answer seasoned with burning optimism, “No, I did not

fail9,999times;I'vesucceededindetecting9,999waysin whichanelectricbulbwillnotevolve.” Accordingtothe

intelligent diagnosis of Igho Otejiri Orienru in his book,

TheMiracleof Purpose,“[Edison's]answerwasastunning lesson in readjustment and flexibility”. Thomas Edison

later became the first scientist in the world to develop a

system that facilitated the distribution of electric power

for domestic use (homes, offices, and etcetera). His

company began producing electricity for homes in New

YorkCityin1882andeventually,homesallovertheworld

began to use electricity. Among many industrial

companies established by Thomas Edison is General

ElectricCompany,whichisstillthrivingtilltoday.

Obviously, there is no arrogant individual that can accomplish the dimension of feat as reflected in the life

and ministry of David Oyedepo. It takes diplomacy seasoned with humility. When diplomacy mingles with humility, the product is one spiritual magnetic field that naturally attracts followership. This has reflected in the way he honours his lieutenants in public. Most times he, likeaforerunner,wouldbetheonetopreparetheheartof the congregation in readiness for a ministration to be takenbyhislieutenant,DavidAbioye,andhedoesitwith all sense of duty and honour. During Shiloh 2011, while introducingDavidAbioye,hebeganbysaying,“Youwill

liketojoinmetowelcomethispreciousmanof Godthat

has stayed-through in this ministry from inception. One

of my most successful protégés (*Yelling, clapping in the congregation*) in ministry who is swimming in the same

dimension of grace today [as I do], I'm blessed to have

him, and I'm proud of him. Would you join me in

welcoming this morning, Bishop David Abioye (*Yelling, clapping*)…" Then, there came climbing the platform,

David Abioye. The man of God continued, "Can't you

see he is adding a lot of weight… (*Yelling,clapping*) if you havespiritualeyesyoucanseethat.Wearegainingweight

atthesamelevel…(*Yelling,clapping*)"

David Oyedepo is not the type that teases or cajoles people. That will be tantamount to hypocrisy and it will

be inimical to the health of his organization. He

naturally creates a friendly platform for mutual

interaction with his subordinates, thereby promoting a

sense of belonging within the team. It is all about

putting the people first. Though you will still come first

but you must have the humility and ability to put the

people first as a true leader. By so doing, your follower

will do anything to achieve both the organizational

goals and your personal cravings. Just like the three

goals and your personal cravings. Just like the three

lieutenants of King David in the Bible who risked their

lives to meet the personal longing of their master.

King David had longed for water from nowhere else but the well of Bethlehem. It was practically a difficult task

because the barricade of their archenemy, the Philistine

at the threshold of Bethlehem was already an obvious

bloody huddle to overcome. Yet his three boys still put

their lives on the line and defied the barrier. They

successfully came back with their master's desire.

That's amazing. Not all leaders may enjoy such a

degree of loyalty but it is only leaders like David who

put the people first that can. The question here is, Was

David really thirsty or he just wanted to test the loyalty

of his boys? The action David took in response to their

heroic feat made one ask the question. David refused to

drink the water but poured it on the ground, saying,

“Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should

do this: is not this the blood of the men

that went in jeopardy of their lives?

Therefore he would not drink it...”

Even if he were truly thirsty, David demonstrated he put the people first, and he showed he appreciated their

efforts for endangering their lives for his sake.

David Oyedepo will not stop to always show

appreciation to all in his team, individual performance

notwithstanding. He gives kudos to all in the team, to

both the exemplary performers and the plodders who drag the efforts by doing things their own way and pace.

He is always proud of the accomplishment of the team

work and always encourages the team for better

performance. He organizes feasts and always gives his

team credit for their successes. He does not shy away

from taking the personal responsibility of dealing with

his team members as individuals, contacting them

through the phone and encouraging them to share their

heart. He has also passed this attribute down the

hierarchy, thereby keeping touch with every member in

his organization. This has resulted in people returning

with a sense of appreciation, smiles and increased

performance.

David Oyedepo indeed is a high performer and encourager. He is not hasty to crucify any erring

member, knowing that as growth occurs, mistakes will be made. He accepts honest mistakes as the price for innovation. He gives everyone a large room for personal adjustment and character repositioning in conformity with organizational ethics. David Oyedepo has always enjoyed absolute loyalty from his subordinates and he is still enjoying it because he will always put them first. That is the power of wisdom in the life of a dynamic leader.

Leadership Secrets of
Bill Newman
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HUMILITY

"How truly teachable you are is measured by how much you can learn, not from your superiors, but from your subordinates."
E.A Adeboye, GO, RCCG

Leadership Secrets of
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umility is a vital spiritual virtue required by any leader to truly succeed. The closest synonyms of humility are: self-effacement, unpretentiousness, humbleness, modesty, meekness. Pride and arrogance are the closest antonyms of humility. A humble leader does not subscribe to selfaggrandizement. Isaac

Newton once said, “if I could see further than others, it was because I stood on the

shoulders of giants.” David Oyedepo is a humble man.

Humility has little or nothing to do with a pious look or

quiet countenance. Humility is purely an attitude and it

is a spiritual attribute or virtue.

David Oyedepo is a man with a humble spirit, who is willing to sit and listen to the voice of the “least” person

in his team. By his humility, he learnt to confide in

people he could trust. He gives everyone around him a

sense of importance by his willingness to share relevant

information with them. David Oyedepo has never been

known to ever claim he was self-made; no. Rather he

will not stop telling the world the various personalities

from whom he had contacted the grace and wisdom

behind his exemplary feats. He declared, “There is no

how I will stop mentioning [the name of the late sage]

Kenneth E. Hagin [the apostle and father of the faith

movement] in the yearly Shiloh gathering till forever…”

because that was the man of God through whom he

received the transference of the unusual grace that has

generated the monumental ripples of results his

Ministry has recorded. He is an example of giving credit

to whom credit is due. He is such a man that will not

accept the praises ascribed to him, but he will always rechannel them to God the giver of the strength and grace that had enabled him to achieve whatever people are

eulogizing him for. The great scientist and inventor,

Albert Einstein once declared, “Many times a day I

realize how much my own outer and inner life is built

upon the labors of my fellow men, both living and dead,

and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in

return as much as I have received.”

Here is a man who sheds tears on hearing some thought provoking testimonies shared upon the altar of Faith

Tabernacle. Sometimes he would rise and lift up his

hands in appreciation to the Lord who has made it

possible through his Ministry. After such testimonies, he

would mount the pulpit to comment and exonerate

himself from the glory thereof. He once said, “I have

never lost any virtue since I started Ministry, virtue

belongs to Jesus, and He is the one whose virtue goes out

to heal. If I will have to lose virtue for those healing, I

would have exhausted all." Here are the words of Bill Newman, a man I suddenly fell in love with through the

insight from his book, 10 Laws of Leadership, he said,

"one of the surest evidence of greatness is a humble

spirit. The first test of a truly great person is his humility.

A humble person can neither be put down nor exalted;

they can neither be humiliated nor honored; they

remain the same person under all circumstances."

Those descriptions best match David Oyedepo. He

never paid his detractors or opponents back in their own

coins. In my book: Triumphing in Leadership despite

Oppositions, I wrote: "There is no resistance that can

conquer or quell the burning passion of a real

revolutionary".

David Oyedepo has never embraced any praise of men under any circumstances. Living for self is living for

doom. Self-centredness is another name for the letter

"I". "I" is in the centre of sin, "I" is in the centre of

pride, and "I" is in the centre of anxiety! David Oyedepo

is never an "I" person, rather he is a "we" person. The

story was told of Toscanini, of how he humbly

responded to his orchestra when his orchestra burst into

applause at a rehearsal because they realized the height

to which he had lifted them, they were so proud of him,

but here was what he said in response, “It is not me, it is

Beethoven”. That is the attitude of a humble leader, and David Oyedepo typifies it. As mentioned earlier on how

he once took his closest team of officials in the Ministry

to the Redemption Camp to meet the man of God, his

father, Pastor E.A. Adeboye, and told the man of God,

“Sir, I brought them to you so you may personally give

them your phone number, perhaps they might like to

confide in you on certain things they probably are

hesitant to tell me…”, it certainly will take another

realm of thoughtfulness and high level humility to dare

such!”

Pastor E.A. Adeboye once said, “How truly teachable you are is measured by how much you can learn, not

from your superiors, but from your subordinates”. To be

teachable is to first cultivate the right attitude, and that

attitude is humility. David Oyedepo is a 360 degree

learner, he learns and takes counsel from his

subordinates. According to Bill Newman, “Leaders,

because of their natures, tend to have blind spots. You

may need a trusted friend to tell you how you are coming

across to people. We are in a constant state of change.

The leader needs constant appraisal. No one has

arrived. No one has got it completely together."

John C. Maxwell, the Leadership expert and author, in his book, Winning with People, said: "Each person we

meet has the potential to teach us something". It takes

humility for the founder of an institution to remain

obediently answerable to the Church Council (which he

instituted in the first place). This, he has been doing from

the inception of his Ministry, over thirty years ago till

date. As vital as humility is, it is difficult to practise

except one is spiritually inclined. Without the help of

the Holy Spirit, the practice of humility will remain a

difficult task. John Seiden, a 16th century English

historian and Jurist once asserted: "Humility is a virtue

all preach, none practice, and yet everybody is content to

hear. The master thinks it good doctrine for his servant,

the laity for the clergy, and the clergy for the laity."

The story was told of Great Britain's greatest Admiral and Naval hero, Viscount

Horatio Nelson. After the

battle of Copenhagen, he refused an honour given him

by the City of London, because he alone was to be

honoured. Nelson replied, “Never till the City of

London thinks justly of the merits of my brave

companions on 2 April can I, their commander, receive

any attention from the City of London.” That is

humility par excellence! One of Nelson's great

characteristics as a commander was his willingness to give full credit to his officers and men. David Oyedepo

will always intone: “No mortal man has the capacity to

build an institution of this magnitude! If anyone boasts

that he did, God will kill him. God is the doer!” He will

once in a while remind his congregation: “This is the

University you built; you need to go there and take a

look round. I could not accomplish this; if my

generation's assets were all put together, we could not

accomplish this feat. This is your University! This is

your Canaan Land! We want Covenant University to be

the Harvard of Nigeria.”

Isaac Newton also was a humble man who never wanted his praise sung beyond measure. His humility

measure. His humility

was deeply rooted in his spirituality, which also was the

root of the inspiration behind all his discoveries. It is no

wonder, as Bernard Baruch remarked, “Millions saw

the apple fall, but Newton was the one who asked why”.

One of his contemporaries, Voltaire once pounced on

Isaac Newton harshly in criticism for stating that Daniel

12:4 might mean that human beings would eventually

develop a system of transportation that would enable a

person to travel at a speed of fifty miles per hour. Isaac

Newton's humility reflected in his reluctance to publish

the results of his proven discoveries until long after

development. Isaac Newton once said, “I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into the space, but I

can lay it aside and go into my room, shut the door, get

down on my knees in earnest prayer, and see more of

heaven and get closer to God than I can be assisted by all

the telescopes and material agencies on the earth.” Isaac

Newton never claimed to be a self-acclaimed originator

despite all his monumental inventions.

David Oyedepo's level of humility is notable,

considering the height to which God has exalted him. This man of God is not a title-crazy leader; he takes after his father, “Pastor Kenneth E. Hagin, who most times preferred to be addressed as “Brother Kenneth Hagin”. David Oyedepo unequivocally intones often, “There is no entitlement in title; only labourers are entitled to wages”. During the 25th anniversary of David Oyedepo's Ministry in 2006, a well-respected man of God in Nigeria was appreciating and eulogizing him on the altar of Faith Tabernacle, Ota. Then it got to a point the man of God looked in David Oyedepo's direction and pronounced, “You are the Archbishop of our time…” I chuckled where I was seated, and then I shifted my focus in David Oyedepo’s direction to capture his facial reaction or response. He, in his characteristics style merely smiled and giggled, knowing

well that such a title was not in the glossary of his heart. He would not accept it, except it is validated in the Word of God. Doubtless, some contemporary Christian leaders perhaps would have taken advantage of such a

public proclamation from the mouth of such a revered

figure, and hurriedly arrange for a kangaroo ceremonial

ordination to bear the portfolio of an Archbishop,

which definitely adds nothing to their spirituality!

Ultimately, the office of an Archbishop is suitable for

administrative convenience in a large church

organization. There is nothing wrong with it. Yet, titles

really do not make any man more spiritual than another

(brother or sister) who knows his or her redemptive

obligations and rights.

Indeed, if any church organization really requires an archbishopric, Living Faith Church Worldwide

(Winners' Chapel International) requires it much more.

But David Oyedepo will rather remain at par with his

lieutenants; title-wise. This, in a sense, places validity on

his act of practical humility.

"From now, my sword is your sword…"
Kenneth Copeland

MENTORING

"Therearesomanyorphansinthe

body of Christ today…every shadowatonetimehasbeen
Thosewhoareashamedtobecallednurtured by another shadow.thesonsofsomeonearenever

permittedtobefatherstoany."
David O. Oyedepo

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ho you follow largely determines what

follows you, so goes the saying. It was

Mike Murdock who said, 'Show me your

friends and I will tell you your future.' David Oyedepo got exposed to the reality of these principles from his

early days. He consciously went in search of those he

would love to be identified with. His first encounter with

most great men around him began from the pages of the

books they authored, particularly all of his foreign

mentors and associates. From some of these books, he

had definite and life changing encounters he would

always talk about, referring to date, and instances. For

example, he only encountered the man of God, Oswald

J. Smith through his book, *The Man God Uses*. He never set his eyes on him at all.

Who is a mentor, or what does it mean to be a mentor or to be mentored? The Encarta dictionary defines a

mentor as someone who serves as an adviser and

supporter. Mentors are often older and more

experienced personalities who advise and guide a

younger and less experienced person. Indeed, one

cannot explain what the word mentor signifies without

referring to the great work of Homer in his poetic tale,

titled Odyssey. Mentor, a character in the epic poetic

tale, is a trusted friend to *Odyssey*, king of Ithaca.

Odyssey had entrusted his kingdom and his son,

Telemachus to Mentor's care and guidance when he

(Odyssey) had to fight in the Trojan War. Odyssey did that purposely for Mentor to teach, monitor and guide

the decisions of the little boy. In his expository book:

Pastoring for Maximum Results, John Oyebanji puts it this way; " A mentor is the one who provides modeling,

close supervision… and help in many areas such as

discipline, encouragement, correction, confrontation

and a calling to accountability".

It is rare to find a man who celebrates an encounter with a fellow man the way David Oyedepo does. He would

always recall, quoting dates with precision, his

encounters with men of higher spiritual order and the

impartation that resulted. Interestingly, he did not have

physical contact with a number of the men of God he

often mentions. For instance in 1979, he listened to an

audio message of A.A. Allen titled *'God is a killer*.' As he listened to the audio tape with rapt attention, according

to him, he heard the man of God quote from 1 Samuel

2:6, 'The Lord killeth and maketh alive: he bringeth

down to the grave, and bringeth up". For the first time

the reality dawned on David that God also kills. He was

stirred up by that exposition and according to him, his

chicken heart changed to a lion's heart. From that day,

he became overwhelmed with unusual boldness and

confidence in the Lord, knowing his safety was heavily

guaranteed. But one may say, Did he not only listen to

an audio tape just the way anybody would? Yes, but he

did it with his heart not just with his head. He did that in earnest expectation for an encounter not just to gather

knowledge and feel excited. David has continued to tell

the world about that encounter.

Just like the case of Oswald J. Smith and A.A. Allen, David never met Smith Wigglesworth in person. They

had all died before he knew of them. Yet, he never stops

celebrating Smith Wigglesworth, the man referred to as

the Apostle of faith. His contact with T.L. Osborn was

through his book titled The *Purpose of Pentecost* in 1976. That was where the Holy Spirit got revealed to him as a Personality and not just as mere experience. According to David, he read the book in one sitting, cover to cover as he began to experience a change of orientation about the Personality of the Holy Spirit. That was long before he eventually had physical contact with him and a mentee/mentor relationship was established between them. David Oyedepo also got connected to Oral Roberts via his books. One major inspiration he drew from Oral Roberts was the wisdom behind Oral Roberts University (ORU). One day, David travelled to the United States and walked the length and breadth of the campus, appreciating its beauty and the wisdom behind its establishment. He saw an example of a decent and serene Christian university. David simply concluded with all sense of modesty and determination: "This can

happen anywhere!" What David meant was that such a model university can be duplicated anywhere including his country, Nigeria. That was the day the seed of Covenant University was sown in his heart, consciously

or unconsciously. David eventually became a family friend, and indeed, family member of the Roberts. Richard Roberts once flew to Nigeria to worship at Faith Tabernacle as well as to behold the magnificent work of God in Canaan Land. Roberts' facial expression when he mounted the altar of Faith Tabernacle showed how greatly he appreciated the splendour and ambience of the great auditorium. That was the same way David felt when he landed in Oral Roberts University (ORU) many years earlier.

One man of great repute that touched David Oyedepo's life beyond any reasonable doubt was the greatAmericanFaithproponent,KennethE.Hagin.It all began when he got exposed to Kenneth Hagin's booksasfarbackas1976asayoungcuriousChristian. Truly, Kenneth Hagin's books are simply irresistible to any Christian who hopes to see a future in his or her Christian journey. His works are packaged in such a descriptive and narrative manner that a sensitive reader will experience a tangible mental picture of the content. David became endeared to Kenneth Hagin

and got engrossed in his titles to the extent that he

became a self-appointed vendor of the man's works.

In 1986, David attended Kenneth Hagin's camp meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma. According to him, as his eyes got transfixed on the man of God, he prayed: 'Lord, whatever made [Kenneth] Hagin Hagin, (the calmness, the noiselessness, the supernatural command...) I need it". It was a simple and short prayer. Then from the eyes of faith he saw Hagin's face shine and transformed to that of a baby, and suddenly he experienced a transference of the anointing (the spirit of faith shot in his direction) from the man of God. While sobbing uncontrollably from that experience, David heard an audible voice of confirmation from the Lord saying: "My son David, thebatonispassedontoyou". From that day, Kenneth Hagin became his foremost spiritual father, and he treated him as such till Kenneth Hagin went to be with the Lord. He became a practical promoter of Kenneth E. Hagin in Nigeria and indeed, the African sub-region.

He pointed many people to Kenneth Hagin's books.

When Hagin was about to die, the Lord spoke to David, “someone as close to you as your cloth is about to go”.

Then David enquired, “Lord could it be my biological

father?' The Lord said “No”. David became more

curious, as he enquired again, “Hagin?” The Lord said

“Yes”. Immediately David and his wife took a flight to

Tulsa, Oklahoma to visit him. Two weeks later,

Kenneth Hagin passed on. Even in his death, David still celebrates Hagin as his father, whose spiritual DNA he

is glad to share. In 2010, Kenneth Wayne Hagin,

Kenneth Hagin's son, was at Faith Tabernacle and

preached. That shows how the family tie has become

more of a trans-generational one.

Another man of God that has impacted David Oyedepo is Kenneth Copeland, the man from whom David was

imparted with the prosperity anointing. Long before

David had physical contact with him, he had celebrated

him in several forums. One day, he traveled to the

United States of America for a programme and he was

assigned to the very hotel room where Kenneth

Copeland was said to have been lodged the previous

time he had visited the hotel. David took the information more spiritual than casual. According to him, he rolled on the bed praying: “Lord, when a dead body was dumped in the sepulchre of Elisha, the body jerked back to life, Copeland is not dead, he is alive, Lord, whatever grace Kenneth Copeland carries, I desire the same [via this contact] ”. Then in a night vision he saw a man with an amputated arm which defied healing. Out of deep compassion, David commanded the man to be healed in Jesus' name. Immediately, a brand new arm came forth and the man got restored. From this experience, according to David,

he heard the voice of the Lord saying: From today, I have taken you into the creative realm of your Ministry.

Presently, especially now that Kenneth Hagin has gone to be with the Lord, Kenneth Copeland is another international preacher he refers to as a father in the faith. In 2007, Kenneth and his wife, Gloria Copeland were at Faith Tabernacle and ordained the two sons of David Oyedepo, David Jr. and Isaac into Ministry as pastors. Before his departure, Kenneth Copeland looked David

Oyedepo in the eyes and gave his departing verdict,

which signified transference of unction; “from now,” he

declared, David's eyes were curiously fixed on him in his

usual way of preparedness for fresh fire. “My sword is

your sword and my breastplate is your breastplate!”

That was purely another spiritual elevation for a faithful mentee to a mentor. Since that day, the connection

between the Oyedepos and the Copelands has

continued to wax stronger. The latest encounter David

had with Kenneth Copeland will forever remain a

memorable one. It will remain indelible not only in the

slate of David's heart, but generations to come will

know of it, because history has decided to make it so. In

November 2012, he had honoured an invitation to visit

the Copelands in the United States. The short visit

suddenly turned out to be that of another moment of

dramatic impartation for David Oyedepo. Kenneth

Copeland, in a Holy Ghost-initiated solemn meeting, literally cast the mantle of the grace at work in his life on

him. He looked him in the eyes and released some heavy

utterances: “Every gift of the Spirit,” he began, “every

anointing at work in me, every endowment given me is transferred to you!" Then the man of God, Copeland burst into a typical Holy Ghost-motivated laughter to seal the impartation. It was a day David will forever remember and cherish.

As it has always been said, "Charity begins at home". Doubtless, David Oyedepo's flight to stardom is not untraceable to some home-based coaches and mentors. The most prominent of them is Pastor E.A. Adeboye, the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. Pastor E.A. Adeboye is the only Nigerian preacher that David Oyedepo proudly and fondly referred to as his [spiritual] father, and indeed "Daddy G O", as he is fondly called by his followers and admirers, has become the institutionalized spiritual grandfather of every Winners Chapel worshipper.

David Oyedepo's steps were divinely ordered towards Pastor Adeboye when he was about to go into full time Ministry in September 1983. Before then both of them had neither met nor spoken to each other. The Lord had told him in July 1983, saying: I will not have you go as

others, I would have hands laid on you after the order of

Joshua in Deuteronomy 34:10 …send for my servant Adeboye and you shall be imparted with the Spirit of wisdom".

Then the day came, on 17th September 1983, David Oyedepo and his wife Faith Oyedepo were anointed and ordained into Ministry by Pastor E.A. Adeboye. From that moment till date, David's allegiance to Pastor E.A. Adeboye and his Ministry has been seamless. He loves the man of God with passion. Whatever touches Adeboye touches him. Nobody that ever makes derogatory statements about Adeboye can ever be his friend. Both Satan and all the living saints know that Adeboye is the spiritual father of David Oyedepo. The covenant relationship of David Oyedepo and E.A Adeboye has generated constant comments among Oyedepo's contemporaries who are also Adeboye's sons.

It is good to close this chapter with the introduction of the *Lion*, as David Oyedepo fondly calls him, a spiritual giant in Nigerian pentecostal history. His name is

Benson Idahosa, the lion that roars in the jungle and puts all the beasts in total disarray. Benson Idahosa was the father of contemporary pentecostalism in Nigeria. David Oyedepo, acting on divine instruction, left his base and took off to Benin City, Nigeria to establish

spiritual connectivity with Benson Idahosa. The moment Idahosa met David Oyedepo, he knew the spiritual heir, and the proper eligible candidate for his mantle had come. David Oyedepo also knew that the carrier of the raw faith he required to face every gang of opposition in the region of persecution had been found. Benson Idahosa had zero tolerance for witches and wizards. He ruthlessly molested them wherever he found them. From him, David Oyedepo was imparted with spiritual fearlessness. The bond of their relationship became so strong and obvious that the charismatic movement in Nigeria was forced to come to terms with the father-son tie of Benson Idahosa and David Oyedepo.

One day, David just arrived from a trip to the United States and the Lord told him:*All you came with (cash gift), go now and sow it into the life of my servant*

[Benson Idahosa]

in Benin. Without hesitation, David travelled to Benin

City and handed all over to him. The man of God

looked at him passionately and responded with a terrific

utterance: "*I put it back in your hand, but from today, your hands will not know dryness."* David went back to his base

with bundles of prophetic blessings from the man of

God. Benson Idahosa was never found to be fond of

any other preacher in Nigeria the way he was fond of

David Oyedepo. Matter of fact, Benson Idahosa

consciously nurtured him as the one fit to operate in the apostolic office the way he did. Indeed he prophesied

that David would be greater.

In March 1990, the

lion, Benson Idahosa called him on

phone and asked:"What are you doing tomorrow; can

you meet me in Makurdi (in the Northern region of

Nigeria) tomorrow?" David knew that whatever plan he

had for the next day was already cancelled by that

invitationfromhisfather.Hedidnotseeitasaquestionto

be considered, but an instruction. The next day, he took

off on a six-hour journey to Makurdi. On his arrival he visited Benson Idahosa in his hotel room. The man looked at him and told him to get in his bathroom for a shower. David was a little reluctant, because he knew he could do that at his convenience in his own hotel room.

Then the Lion *roared* again, "get in there boy!" As he emerged from the bathroom, the man of God looked at him with deep sense of appreciation for his loyalty. Then heaskedarhetoricalquestion:"Youmeanyoucame...so you came?" He commanded him: "Go on your knees!" David did so hastily. Then he pronounced a short but potentandindelibleblessingonDavidthus:"Fromtoday, Iimpartonyougiftsupontime!Beforetheneedarises,the supplyshallbemadeavailable."

David has not stopped referring to that encounter ever since to show how much he treasured the impartation,

particularly when he realized that there was no particular task given him by the man of God after over six hours of driving under the scorching sun that characterizes that axis of Nigeria. Benson Idahosa only called him to bless him. Till date, David's absolute loyalty to Benson Idahosa has not declined one bit

though the lion has been translated to the great beyond.

He is still loyal to his family and remains connected to

his Ministry.

David Oyedepo makes it clear that “There is no influence that has not been influenced. Only the sons of

men become fathers of men.” This is indeed a truism.

There is no self-made man in the universe; it is

arrogance that makes one think so. According to David

Oyedepo, “Those who are ashamed to be called the sons

of someone are never permitted to be fathers to any”.

Doubtless, acknowledging every human conveyor of

virtues and values in one's life is one's ultimate ticket to

unending exploits in human endeavour. According to

him, “Our craving for originality is the undoing of many

destinies. [The truth is] every shadow was once

shadowed” There is no therefore any original leader.

Leadership virtue is transmitted from one person to

another.

ennethErwinHaginwasbornonAugust20,1917

in McKinney, Texas.

He was an influential

American preacher. He is often referred to as the

'father'(or'granddaddy')of the “Wordof Faith”movement.

Many of his followers often refer to him affectionately as

'PapaHagin'andmorecommonly'BrotherHagin'.Hewasa

partof theVoiceof HealingRevivalinthe U.S.inthe1940s

and50stogetherwithOralRoberts,GordonLindsay T.

L. Osborn.

In his books, *I Went to Hell* and *What Faith Is*, Kenneth Hagin gave an account of his childhood

experience. He wrote on how he was sickly as a child,

suffering from adeformed heart,

and what was believed to

beanincurableblooddisease.

Hebecamebedfastattheage

of 15, expecting death. In April 1933, he reported dying

three times in 10 minutes, and each time seeing the horrors

of andthenreturningtolife.Butthereafter,heovercame

byfaithandhisMinistrybeganasayoungpreacher.

David would always enthuse, “I carry the spiritual DNA of KennethHagin…”meaningheisan

authentic spiritual son of Kenneth Hagin. David has ever been passionateabouthisfather,Kenneth E.Hagin,somuchthathardlywould amessageconcludewithoutHagin's namebeingmentioned.Haginhasa special place in his heart that no othermentorcompeteswith.



Leadership Secrets of

KENNETH & GLORIA COPELAND

K

enneth Copeland was born on December 6, 1936

in Lubbock, Texas. He is an American author,

public speaker, and televangelist. Prior to his

conversion to Christianity in November 1962, Copeland was a recording artist on the Imperial Records label In the

1960s; he became a pilot and chauffeur for Oral Roberts. In

the fall of 1967, he enrolled in Oral Roberts University in

Tulsa, Oklahoma.

He is the founder of Kenneth Copeland Ministries, and a proponent of prosperity teachings. He was a member of

the Oral Roberts University Board of Regents until 2008.

Kenneth Copeland Ministries established a private airport

named Kenneth Copeland Airport to serve the area of

Fort Worth, Texas. The ministry of Kenneth and Gloria

Copeland has impacted David Oyedepo in such an

immeasurable dimension.

His first contact with them was in 1977 through Gloria's book,titled'ProsperityistheWillof God,'wherehehadhis

muchcelebratedencounterwiththe secret of divine unending supply. Kenneth Copeland has an unexplainable affection for David Oyedepo's Ministry and family. In 2007, the two sons of David Oyedepo(DavidJr.andIsaac)were ordainedaspastorsbyKennethand Gloria Copeland at Faith Tabernacle,CanaanLand,Nigeria.

**T. L. OSBORN**

T

homas Lee Osborn was born December 23,

1923. He was an American Pentecostal

evangelist

and author based in Tulsa,

Oklahoma. His Ministry has impacted and influenced many of his followers across the world, particularly

African sub-regions and peculiarly, Nigeria. Osborn's

crusade in Uganda in 1957 is said to have laid the

foundation for substantial growth of Pentecostalism

in

that country.

T.L. Osborn had a strong and trusted relationship tie with the late Archbishop Benson Idahosa of Nigeria.

David Oyedepo had been influenced by T.L. Osborn's

book, *Purpose of Pentecost*at an early age of 22.

There exists a father-son tie between the two. In 1999, just before the official dedication of Faith Tabernacle (a

Guinness Book of World Records

acclaimed the world's largest

church auditorium in Canaan

Land, Ota, Nigeria), T.L. Osborn

had knelt right on the nearcompleted altar, prayed and

prophesied. He went to be with

the Lord on February 14, 2012.



Leadership Secrets of

PASTOR E. A . ADEBOYE

E

noch Adejare Adeboye was born in Ifewara, Osun

State, Nigeria. His childhood was characterized by

abject poverty. He did not have the opportunity of

wearingapairof shoestillhewas14.HelaterbecameaPhD

holder in applied mathematics from the University of

Lagos. He worked as a lecturer in mathematics at the

Lagos. He worked as a lecturer in mathematics at the

Universities of Lagos and Ilorin. After joining the

Redeemed Christian Church of God, RCCG, he began to

translate the sermons of his then Pastor and founder, Rev.

JosiahOlufemiAkindayomi,fromYorubaintoEnglish.

He was appointed the General Overseer, RCCG in 1981, after the death of Pa Akindayomi, who had died the

previous year. For three years he combined his lecturing

career at University of Ilorin with his pastoral call until his

resignation from the University system in favour of his

divine assignment. RCCG was not well known before

Adeboye took charge, but now the branches of the Church

have spread to over 100 countries, including more than

14,000 in Nigeria. Adeboye's

vision has been to put a church

within five minutes of every person

trekking distance to every

household on earth. He is the most

influential pastor in Nigeria. In

2008, Newsweek magazine named

Adeboye one of the 50 most



powerful people in the world. Though they are in the same country, Adeboye and David Oyedepo never met or

communicated with each other before the commissioning

and ordination of David Oyedepo into Ministry. By

divine instruction, E. A. Adeboye was the one who poured

the oil of priesthood upon David Oyedepo. From that day,

till date, there has been an unusual, passionate and

enviable father/son bond between them.

Leadership Secrets of
ARCHBISHOP B. A. IDAHOSA

Benson Andrew Idahosa was a mysterious man. He

fought his way to live life! He was frail and sickly

as a baby, with momentary fainting. It was so bad

that one day, his mother presumed him to have died and abandoned him in a pile of garbage. But he lived to become

a renowned figure. Papa, as he was fondly called by his

followers, became a charismatic pentecostalpreacher, and founder of the Church of God Mission International with headquarters in Benin City Nigeria.

The tentacle of his

Church spread across Africa, Europe and America. He was the first pentecostal Archbishop in Nigeria, and for some years after he died, there was no pentecostal preacher in Nigeria with an Archbishop Title. He was renowned for his fearlessness. He was the founding President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, PFN. Benson Idahosa toured more countries of the world in his lifetime than any president of Nigeria ever did. T. L. Osborn, a renowned American healing evangelist, once

described Benson Idahosa as the

greatest African ambassador of the

Apostolic Christian faith to the world.

He was born on September 11, 1938 and died on March 12, 1998 at the age of 59. He is fondly

remembered for his physical

confrontation with witches and



wizards in Africa, and, for stopping a meeting of the world witches from taking place in Benin City, Nigeria. At the

time of his death in 1998, he was reputed as having

preached to more whites than any black man, and to more

blacks than any white man. The *Lion*, as David Oyedepo fondly calls him, remains a spiritual hero to him in

Ministry for life.

not financially accountable will
soon disappear into
oblivion...Nothing corrupts

impropriety."ministries like financial
David O. Oyedepo

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L

eadership is conceived as emphasizing probity

and accountability. People like to be led on the

premises of certain terms and conditions. On

the subject of integrity, Dwight D. Eisenhower, an astute illustrator has this to say: "In order to be a leader, a man

must have followers. And to have followers, a man must

have their confidence. Hence the supreme quality for the

leader is, unquestionably, integrity. Without it no real

success is possible…whether it is on a football field, in

the army, or in an office. If a man's associates find him

guilty of being phony, if they find he lacks forthright

integrity, he will fail. His teachings and action must

square with each other. The first great need, therefore, is

integrity and high purpose".

"Theintegrityof menistobemeasuredbytheirconduct,

not by their profession" [Junius]. As the saying goes,

"character is never erected on a neglected conscience".

character is never erected on a neglected conscience".

D.L. Moody advised “take care of your character, and your reputation will take care of itself”. When you break your word, you break something that cannot be mended. One thing you can give and still keep is your word. David Oyedepo is a man who upholds the law of integrity. His words are his bond. He appreciates the priceless worth in the counsel that a promise should be given with caution and kept with care. He will never veer into the comedy of error of indulging in anything no

matter how tempting that will taint his good name with the tar of scandal. He frowns at any appearance of misconduct or misappropriation. Long before he entered into the ministry, he had developed certain nonnegotiable moral codes below which he must not fall.

The moment he discovered his purpose for living as a young man, he began to build a solid foundation upon which the enviable edifice of his colorful future would stand. One of the pillars of this edifice is integrity. As a youth corps member, he was entrusted with the position of a senior officer.

He told the story of a certain scenario that took place in the organization where

he was serving as a youth corps

member. A certain officer was fond of making

requisition for money that covered a trip he never

actually made on behalf of the organization and had

always had his way. But one day, David Oyedepo was

stirred up with much distaste and vowed to stop the man

from continuing such an ignoble act of fraud. David did

just that. Truth well told, according to him, such act of

stealing was never repeated by anyone as long as he

remained in that organization. He has been a covenant

practitioner from his teen days, while staying with his

grandmother. From childhood, he knew there is a

portion of every income that must never be spent but

must be set aside for God. Out of curiosity one day he

asked his grandmother, whom he observed always parted with some coins into a small round safe made of

clay: “What is this meant for, mama?” The old woman

told him, “This is God's portion that makes the

remaining meaningful”. Since that day, the covenant of

tithing was etched on the tablet of his heart. There is no

pressure that would ever make him withhold or spend

his tithe.

A man's integrity is a function of his character. Winston Churchill said, “...you can tell the character of a man by

the choices he made under pressure”. Integrity is not a

gift, it is a choice. It is a product of personal resolution. It

is not a virtue to toy with because credibility is very hard

to regain if and when lost. God delights in men and

women of integrity. God was so boastful of Job that he

told Satan, “Have you considered my servant, Job, for

there is no one like him on the earth; a blameless and an

upright man, one who fears God and turns away from

evil…” Despite his perplexity, Job still maintained his

integrity [2:9; 27:5]. Integrity simply means uprightness.

When a man's integrity is lost, he has lost his

significance without knowing. Integrity is a priceless

asset that is more precious than all the riches in the

world, and it will always hold you to account, if you

promise more than you can perform or turn into an

artful dodger on the day of reckoning that demands that

you honor your words. It's not a ninety-nine percent

thing. It's absolute one hundred percent commitment to do what is right always, and speak the truth even if this

will hurt your position or upstage you from your

comfort zone. It's an every moment thing, for it'll be an

error-prone judgment to measure men and women by

what they do on Sunday or service days, without

regarding what they do all the week after and every

ticking moment of the day!

Integrity is what will arouse in you the unstoppable impulse to protect your name and the integrity of God

that backs it up, with all your might and every ounce of

your being. Come what may, rain or shine, you'll

remember when tempted, to be careful of your name; a

good name and a clean name you'll be bequeathing to

the coming generation which will speak volumes

through the ages when you're long gone. A good name is

better and more precious than all the gold, diamond and

silver in the world. It is not just for now. It is forever

standing as the eternal sentry as one generation passes

the baton to another in a never-ending flow of human

renewal. David Oyedepo has a claim that has not been

faulted by anyone. He will always unequivocally echo it

loud and clear to whom it may concern, saying: “Since the inception of this Ministry, I have never under any condition, knocked on any man's door to ask or beg for any form of assistance or help to get anything done”.

Integrity is the quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to higher moral principles or professional standards. There is nothing that wins public confidence like integrity. It is written in the book of Psalms concerning David, 'so he fed them according to the integrity of his heart and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands' [78:72]. Integrity thrives and is sustained on the platform of good conscience as powered by the Word of God. Our conscience is most times vulnerable to defilement if not maintained within the framework of God's Word. It's the right roadmap and compass that ensures we drive straight even in this twisting lane of this wicked world where another variant of AIDS, otherwise addressed in full as Acquired Integrity Deficiency Syndrome, has defiled many souls in its rampaging epidemic. Vows these days are desperately made in storms but conveniently forgotten in calm

moments, no thanks to the acute deficiency in the area

of keeping promises made.

Based on his discovery in the Word of God and through anointed books, he vowed never to borrow under any

circumstances. He discovered that borrowing keeps a

man in enslavement and at the mercy of the lender. He

discovered that borrowing is not covered by the terms of

the covenant. That was October 4th 1981 and till date,

he has never given borrowing a second thought. That is

integrity! Now in his Ministry, it is a legacy and beyond that, it is a signed and sealed covenant never to borrow.

David Oyedepo made a categorical statement to further

establish the validity of his integrity. He said, 'We can

address any set of people in the land because we are not

beneficiaries of whatever they carry to offer.' On

September 6, 1983, God told him never to look unto

man while meditating on a portion of the scripture

saying, “Anytime you look unto man, never claim to be

looking unto me … but they looked unto me and they

were lightened and their faces were never ashamed”.

Financial integrity has been part and parcel of David Oyedepo since the inception of the Ministry. Integrity,

just like faithfulness is a virtue of the heart. Hard work is not a substitute for integrity. Hard work does not attract reward as integrity would. David Oyedepo once said: “Open accountability opens up destiny. You don't lose anything with openness.” This subject brings to fore again the covenant naming of his second son. All he had to organize it was only ten Naira. However, one of his associates reminded him that as the founder of the Ministry, he could take as much as he wanted from the account. Nobody would probe him. His response to such temptation was a proof of the validity of his integrity. He said, “It is the naming of my baby not the Ministry's baby.” Period! He did not extend his expenditure beyond what he had, N10 (Ten Naira).

Bybeingamanof integrity,youhavenothingtoloseand you have everything go gain. In the early days of his Ministry, a friend of the Ministry sent a seed cheque of N1millionpersonallyissuedinfavourof DavidOyedepo. Heaskedtheofficerthatbroughtthecheque:“bytheway, is there any letter attached to it?” The officer affirmed;

“Yes sir, a short note”. He went and soon returned with

the note to the man of God. Then he read from the short

noteattachedtothechequethefollowingstatement:“for

theworkof theMinistry”.DavidOyedepotoldtheyoung

man that brought the cheque, the cheque belongs to the

Ministry and it is not mine. Then the officer reminded

him: “but sir, your name is on the cheque.” David made

him realize that the cheque was written in his favour

probably because the man that drew it did not know the

correct name of the Ministry. Pronto the money was rechanneled to the appropriate account. That's financial integrity!Thatwasself-discipline!

David Oyedepo warns, 'Be careful about prying into whatever anybody has. The sanctity of your calling is in

your accountability and probity.' Adhering to the virtue

of integrity requires a good understanding of the secret

behind it. One day, in 1997, he was in a car going from

Kaduna to Owerri to minister at a Full Gospel

Businessmen Fellowship meeting. Then he heard God

speak to him saying: “*You are not sent by the people, you are sent to the people. The people are not responsible for yourgoing,*

your sender is responsible. Therefore, do not raise money, raise men, and you'll have more money you'll ever require for

ministry. And now, tell them when you get to that meeting: far

be it that the Almighty God will depend on your wretched

purses, but your wretched purses depend on him for

replenishing." He got to the meeting and told them

exactly the way God told him.

Once during the annual Shiloh event, an invited special guest minister from another country, a renowned,

seasoned and well respected man of God, had delivered

a captivating and impactful message, then the

unexpected happened. The man of God, after a brief

introduction of the next thing he was about doing,

raised his voice to raise special sacrificial offering of

different categories. It had never happened in David

Oyedepo's Ministry. Then, right there where he was

seated he became uncomfortable and he needed to do

something immediately. Without delay, in his seated

position, David made a sign to the guest minister to stop

the fund raising attempt. It was abruptly aborted.

According to David Oyedepo, understanding is simply to know a thing to the point of practising it. It is going

beyond knowing to the point of seeing. Nobody doubts

what he sees. He posits that financial stewardship is a

requirement in our quest for financial integrity and

freedom. This man has been accountable and

answerable to the executive committee, which he instituted and commissioned, from inception. He must

retire all receipts after every trip. Recently, he brought

out from the archives the financial record book of the

early days of the Ministry. On April 9, 1984, the total

offering was ten Naira (N10) only. Accountability is a

must for anyone to picture a significant future.

Just before Covenant University kicked off, an officer from a visiting verification team ran to David Oyedepo

privately to remind him of the Nigerian factor. He told

him how expedient it was to set apart a good amount of

money as graft for the team (in order to have good

recommendation from them). The man was probably

sincere,buthewassincerelywrong,especiallyforgoingto

such a leader! David viewed the counsel like a computer

engineerwouldviewamaliciousviruscomingtodestroy

his most valued data. He stood and faced him with fury,

themansawwarinhiseyeballsandhebecamejitteryashe

stared at him, then David roared like a lion at him: “Get

outof myoffice,Devil!DoyouthinkIamfakingithere?”

Themanranoutthroughthenearestexit.Thatshowshis

high distaste for bribery and corruption as well as the

practitionersof thesame.Ithasneverbeenrecordedinthe

history of the Ministry that a bribe was given or taken,

eithertoachieveanythingortogetanythingdone.

Leadership Secrets: #8

David Oyedepo often makes statements such as: 'If it comes from man, then it can be blocked; No man has my

blessing in his pocket.' Indeed his statements validate

the integrity of the scriptures. God cannot be threatened

by figures because He is the author of figures and the

sole owner of all the monies in the world. God spoke by

the mouth of Haggai in the scriptures thus: “And my city

through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad” [1:17].

This also was validated by Zechariah, when, by divine

illumination, he said: …The silver is mine and the gold

is mine saith the Lord of host” [2:8].

In the words of David Oyedepo, financial probity is one of the keys in the school of leadership. Integrity is an

unavoidable tool for any leader that is worth his or her salt. Financial probity is one of the keys for a healthy, sustainable and ever growing organization. Any Church or organization that is not financially accountable will soon disappear into oblivion. Nothing corrupts Ministries like financial impropriety. Any leader that refuses the platform of checks and balances will soon end his adventure in fiasco. Nothing is a substitute for financial probity. Impeccable integrity is in the refusal to follow the norm and the vogue, but the right and dignifying way of business operation. Integrity is the missing link in African leadership today.

Leadership Secrets of
energy…
David O. Oyedepo
DILIGENCE

"Desire without diligence is

disaster. There is no future for an

idle man, only workers prosper.

One of the germs of poverty is

idleness…spirituality
substitute for hard work."is never a
David O. Oyedepo.
30 miles
to your

Destination!
I

t has been asserted that the first step into the terrain of leadership is self-assessment; a personal

evaluation to know whether one is prepared to give

it all it takes. Leadership is summarized in one word; selflessness. It is self-giving. It is sacrifice. It is to suffer so as to offer. It is self-denial. It is one's willingness to give

up things just for the benefit of others. Intellectual

fitness is a must for anyone who is on the search for any

leadership stool. Being ahead of others in a thing is what

leadership is about. These are impossible without a

good degree of diligence.

David Oyedepo embodies hard work, a man who will

never indulge in pleasure or leisure at the expense of his

work. If nothing works quite as hard-work and smartthinking, it's because nothing succeeds quite like success. There is a time when we must firmly choose the

course we must follow, and having chosen, stick our

neck all out with painstaking diligence to reach the

destination, or be prepared for the endless drift of events

to make the decision. Real winners are ordinary men

and women with extraordinary inspiration, perspiration

and drive to achieve daunting goals that will daze even

the giants amongst men and women. A man or woman

of value and success must be ever-ready to embrace

challenges with a doughty spirit and unswerving diligence so he or she may live to feel the exhilaration of

victory which only yields itself to the brave and the

farsighted. Success in the business of life is the child of

audacity, the will to win, and passion to perform. Every

individual aspiring to greatness will be inspired by the

epic story of persistence of one of the greatest leaders

of America, Abraham Lincoln:

Failed in business in 1831
Defeated for Legislature in 1832

Second failure in business in 1833

Suffered nervous breakdown in 1836

Defeated for Speaker in 1838
Defeated for Election in 1840
Defeated for Congress in 1843

Defeated for Senate in 1855
Defeated for Vice - presidency in 1856

Defeated for Senate in 1858
Elected President in 1860

Remember that it takes scores of years to be an overnight success. He who wakes up and finds himself

successful, as it has been said, has not been asleep.

successful, as it has been said, has not been asleep.

According to Booker T. Washington, success is to be

measured not as much as the position that one has

reached in life as by the obstacles which he has

overcome while trying to succeed.

David Oyedepo is an advocate of diligence. He believes in the dignity of labour. He will always posit, there is no

future for an idle man. He has no regard for a lazy and

slothful individual. Such people can never survive

around him. He posits that 'a lazy man cannot walk in

the shoes of a giant because every step is a long jump to

him.' In the early days of his Ministry, he was living in a

block of flats, where one of his friends, a lawyer also

rented a flat. One day, some fellows came looking for the

lawyer, and they supposed David Oyedepo was the

lawyer, because every morning he was in his suit, ready

for work. David Oyedepo treats business hour as

business hour and not as anything else.

According to David, the undoing of many people is

converting business hour to entertainment or leisure

hours. They are engaged in matters that have no relation

with the organizational or personal growth or profit.

Except for very few unavoidable instances, David

Oyedepo has never been known not to be on ground to

conduct Sunday morning service at Faith Tabernacle.

He is always found at his place of assignment. He is a

man that demonstrates practical commitment and diligence to business. Everybody who is familiar with

David Oyedepo knows when and where to visit him and

when and where not to make such an attempt. He is

focused; he is busy with his business: Kingdom

business. “Seeth thou a man diligent in his business?”

According to his school of thought, desire without

diligence is a disaster. Only workers prosper. One of the

germs of poverty is idleness. He posits that spirituality is

never a substitute for hard work.

While challenges make others break down, it only ignites David to break records in everything he does; and

in style and substance to the consternation of naySayers, to the respect of fellow labourers in the vineyard of the Lord, and to the admiration of millions of his

admirers, who cannot but see the fingers of the Lord in

his never-stopping-to-amaze exploits for the Lord and

humankind, which keeps popping up every ticking

second. With David Oyedepo, you can never have any dull moment; he's a man who believes that the largest room in the world is the room for improvement and that when you're through changing; you're through.For over 30 years David Oyedepo has invested an average of 16 hours daily in his assignment and is still waxing stronger each day. He operates without sweat on the strength of

the divinity. He would always say, “I have not lost an ounce of energy since I began”. Years back, a medical doctor tested him and told him he had high blood pressure. He vehemently and violently responded, 'Not me, I cannot have high blood pressure!' The innocent and caring doctor was appalled and requested that he should look at the readings. Again be responded vehemently 'Not necessary, I didn't say I don't have it, I say I cannot have high blood pressure!' That was the end of any appearance of such. I therefore agree indeed the assertion is correct, that hard work never kills, idleness does! His capacity to deliver is premised on the supernatural. No human being can work the way he

does and not break down. David Oyedepo's wife, Faith,

once testified of him with respect to the supernatural

strength with which he operates. She said, “I live with

this man of God [and I know that] he never takes any

drug to enhance his strength. He is simply operating in

the strength of the supernatural”.

This man will never indulge any indolence. He posits that every man is in a form of business ranging between

Ministry and industry. Spirituality does not erode any

man's sense of diligence. Abraham was a Godly

business mogul. He was the greatest employer of labour

in his days with over 300 staff strength. He was a hard

worker and a prosperous saint. The staff strength of David Oyedepo's conglomerate of institutions runs into

thousands under effective administrative and management platforms. He once told the story of his encounter in 1982, when he was studying the biography of John Wesley and he read that John Wesley was over 80 years when he was still galloping and cascading on horseback, bearing the good news across Europe. From that exposition he knew that divine strength is a reality and he keyed into the covenant of divine strength.

David Oyedepo never compromises his work hours with any other activities or engagement. Whenever he is very busy, his phone neither rings nor vibrates. It is in perfect silence. A President of a nation once drove into Canaan Land on a personal visit to behold and appreciate what God was doing and probably to seek God. When it was brought to his notice that the president of a Nation was around, David Oyedepo came to meet him and asked: 'Your Excellency, how could you have been around without letting me know?' He replied, 'I know you are a very busy man and I don't want to interrupt your program because I am not on appointment.' Another President of a nation once was trying to reach him on

the phone and could not. He contacted a former President of Nigeria to see if he could help get through

to him. The latter succeeded in assisting his colleague, but he also confessed that it requires a lot of effort to reach David Oyedepo because of his heavy time schedules.

David Oyedepo was one of the first among Church leaders in Nigeria who brought proper business and corporate culture into Ministry and he still remains in the forefront in the sustenance of same. Daily operations in the Ministry require a high level of due diligence and smart workers. According to him, budgetary preparation in his Ministry is like that undertaken by a whole nation considering the degree of due diligence involved. David Oyedepo is an astute time manager; time is his most treasured tool in the administration of the multi-faceted Ministry. His preparation for the annual Shiloh event begins from April each year. Yet, the event is fixed for December. Oyedepo has become a phenomenon in the area of his calling, yet he still burns the midnight candle to access

fresh inspiration and revelation through books for better

performance. His priority is quality improvement. His

magnificent obsession is high quality achievement.

David Oyedepo is a true leader who sets the example in

everything he does. It is simply natural in his Ministry

for everyone under him to respond to the demand for better results because everyone can see the passion and

the drive in him. It was Aristotle who said, “We are what

we repeatedly do”. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a

habit. Lee Tacoca said;

“The kind of people I look for to fill

management spots are the eager beavers, the

mavericks. These are the guys who try to do

more than they're expected to do. They always

reach”.

David Oyedepo has always tuned to heaven's frequency for revelation. As soon as a marching order is received,

the man of God is ready to go, giving it all it takes: time,

energy, finance and manpower to deliver,

notwithstanding the opposing forces. He refuses to

conform to the general views on any subject. He indeed

is an extraordinary leadership icon.He made a

categorical statement recently, saying: 'I knew in 1981

that my place tomorrow is not determined by anybody

else. I knew when I was on the floor that my access to the

topmost top is determined by my investment of today.'

Helen Keller also said: 'One never consents to creep

when one feels an impulse to soar.' Diligence is it!

"Keep sowing the seed…keep
the grass green...
FOCUS

"You can tell where a man is

heading by what he does with his

time and money. Being busy here

and there is one of the undoing of

many destinies. It makes a man

lose his place in destiny."
David O. Oyedepo.
F

ocus is a conscious attempt to concentrate effort or attention on a particular thing. Focus has a

number of synonyms such as attention, effort,

concentration, motivation, application, and singlemindedness. It will be apt to pick singlemindedness as the right synonym that fits well into David Oyedepo's

leadership style. Since the day he discovered his place in

destiny he has never turned sideways or allowed the seduction and distractions of this world to sway his gaze away from the goal. He has never considered a second thought nor surrendered to the excuses of an afterthought which has been the undoing of many a brilliant soul. He puts so much in the wisdom of preparation to meeting opportunity, even while he waits; he is time conscious, never allowing any moment to go uncultivated in preparation for the planting and harvest to come. And this has always come in bountiful, overflowing, barn-bursting measures.

He always celebrates every discovery made on his path to destiny and he keeps at it until the tangibility of it is delivered in reality. He once said, 'You can tell where a man is heading by what he does with his time and money.' David Oyedepo has channeled all his resources to the pursuit of his discoveries in the face of

distractions and opposition. Indeed the more violent the opposition from mediocre minds and genuine wellwishers, the merrier it's been for him to rise on the airways of global prominence, that has left him at the top of the class in spite of his proffered self-effacement in announcing himself to the world. As asserted by a

renowned poet: a tiger doesn't need to advertise its

tigritude, he acts it. David Oyedepo's great works are

eloquent enough to proclaim his greatness without him

coming to its aid. It is clear that his dedication to his

vision is not unconnected with the exposition he got

after reading the book authored by Oswald J. Smith

titled "*The Man God Uses.*" His mind was liberally opened to the sweet uses of focus in 1981 when the Lord

spoke to him from the scripture: 'seeth thou a man

whose eye is single.' David Oyedepo is tenaciously

focused. Truly, being busy here and there is the undoing

of many destinies. It makes a man lose his place in

destiny. It is the lack of focus that makes a man miss his

enviable destination in life's adventure.

Just any fool can misguide a man without a mission.

Lack of focus can easily make a life miserable. Earl

Nightingale said, 'If a person will spend one hour a day

on the same subject for 5 years, that person will be an

expert on that subject.' David Oyedepo has consistently

put 16 hours daily into his pursuit since his Ministry began over 30 years ago. He was so optimistic right at the

inception that the tangible reality of his discovery was guaranteed. Addressing the power house meeting on April 10, 1982, he declared: 'the destiny of this age has been committed to our hands.' Even when his church Ministry was not yet inaugurated, he was so sure of the reality of what he was declaring. In 1984, when his Ministry was just gaining some footing and the congregation was less than 50, screaming into an old AHUJA megaphone, he said emphatically: 'I will consider it a demotion if I were invited to be President of Nigeria!' These were not just mere fancy words borne out of sheer fantasy. In the words of William Scolavino: “The height of your accomplishments will equal the depth of your convictions. Seek happiness for its own sake, and you will not find it, seek for purpose, and happiness will follow as a shadow comes with the sunshine.” David Oyedepo focused on his Godordained purpose and got the world at his feet.

David Oyedepo is a man of focus. In March 1984, barely less than 5 months after his Church took off in Kaduna, Nigeria, he began his curious search with concentrated sensitivity through prayer and fasting on what to do for

sustainable and consistent Church growth. He was all

out, trying not to become a man of success for all its worth but striving to become a man of value. Then the

exposition that came via the voice of the Lord saying to

him: *keep sowing the seed and the sheep will come. And keep the grass green and the sheep will lie down, for he makes me to*

lie down in green pasture. Immediately after that

exposition, he began a 16 - week seminar. Then he

continued to fortify himself with the spiritual seed of

prayer and fasting alongside the word exploration with

all sense of focus. According to him, almost the entire

1985 was dedicated to sowing the seed of prayer with

fasting.

He shared his experience of January 1986 how he just felt like coughing, and as he did, it was blood that came

out from his mouth as a result of long period of fasting.

Henry David Thoreau clearly makes sense in the light of

the truth about dedication: 'I have learned this at least by

my experiments, that if one advances confidently in the

direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life

which he has imagined, he will meet with a success

unexpected in common hours.' Then came 1987, like a

volcanic eruption that cannot be hindered, the explosive

Church growth began in David Oyedepo's Ministry. The

greatest achievement of the human spirit is to live up to

one's opportunities and make the most of one's

resources. David Oyedepo once enthused, “you get nothing doing nothing.” A good sense of focus has

produced the irresistible growth explosion David

Oyedepo's Ministry experiences. He has over the years

held tenaciously to the platform of the word of faith in

his entire Ministry's operation. Word of faith is the

rallying point of all of his messages which includes

Prosperity, The Supernatural and The Word of Faith

itself. He has never shifted his focus. The 50,000 seat

capacity Church Auditorium is a product of focus. The

growing educational arm of the Ministry is a product of

focus.

His unrepentant focus on his vision has created the curiosity to tap from every anointed human vessel that

carries the kind of spirit of faith that he desired. It was

this curiosity that took him in 1986 to a camp meeting in

Tulsa, Oklahoma in the United States. At the camp

meeting, he prayed fervently and passionately desiring every spirit at work in Kenneth E. Hagin. Then at the overflow where he was seated, he heard God speak, “My son David, the baton is now passed on to you.” He once enthused, 'Authentic Faith must move you in the direction of what you believe.' On arrival from Tulsa, Oklahoma after the impartation he confessed how an obvious change had taken place in his life. He said, “'the

stress was gone, the struggle disappeared, I was impacted with an unusual capacity to dare the un-dareable, believe the unbelievable and deliver the impossible”. It was an impartation of the spirit of faith.

When David Oyedepo was preparing to enter into Ministry, he consulted some established ministers of the gospel for counseling. Of course he knew that it's wise to takegoodheedtogoodcounsel,forhasterarelyconnotes speed. He, however, knew that the time is always right to dowhatisright.Hewassincerelycounselednevertobeso muchinahurrytogointofulltimeministry.Butheshould startonapart-timelevel,sohecouldworkandearnsome money before going into full time. Indeed, it was logical counsel,butinallthecounselinghechosenottosuccumb

to that eternal thief of time and destiny, otherwise called

procrastination. Often, the precious present is wasted in

thevisionsof thefuture.

Truth well told, the phrase “one of these days,” is not in existence. It is safer to do what one has to do as soon as

one could. William Congreve once advised: “Defer not

till tomorrow to be wise. Tomorrow's sun to thee may

never rise.” David declined all logical counsels and told

God, 'Lord, if I pretend not to have heard you, let

anything else I do end in frustration' and that was it.

David Oyedepo entered full blast into the Ministry, and he has lived happily ever after. The blessings of work and

laser-sharp focus are painted in picturesque words in

this masterpiece counsel:

If you wake up in the morning
With your hardest job to do,
Don't start the day with grumbling
That won't help see it through.
Be glad for work that's difficult,
For tasks that challenge you!
Workers find a thousand blessings
The idle never knew -

Anonymous

According to David Oyedepo, there was nothing to attract anyone to the work of Ministry during the time

he entered into Ministry. One could quickly see the

point his counselors were making. In those days it didn't

make sense for a graduate to go into fulltime Ministry.

The first question was how would he feed or get support

without a secular job? He once said during one of his

sermons at Faith Tabernacle that in such period, the

concerned people in the community would visit any

man whose son decided to enter into Ministry,

consoling: 'We learnt your son said he's becoming a

preacher,' then with mournful countenance, they would sympathize with such a man by saying, 'Sorry, we pray

God will let him reverse the decision.'

Indeed the work of Ministry was synonymous with

poverty in those days. That's where the maxim, “as poor

as a church rat” evolved from, to show how unattractive

it was. David Oyedepo said, 'I decided to go full time so I

can go full length in the things God has for me in the

assignment He has given me.' Then, according to him,

he vowed a vow, saying 'Lord, I will see to it that no one doing it on a part-time basis will beat me to it!' That vow is the secret behind his aggressive approach in his pursuance of his calling. To buttress his lifestyle of focus, David said it from the inception of his Ministry that he will consider it an insult if invited to leave what he is doing and be the President of the Nation. He considers it as sheer demotion, in comparison to the high calling of the Ministry. That is another expression of absolute focus! Here is the candid counsel of Thomas Edison:

“Always be interested in whatever you are doing at the time and think only of that thing in all its bearing and mastery. The world pays big prices for those who know the values and satisfactions of persistent hard work”.

laborers are entitled to wages."
David O. Oyedepo.
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ervice to humanity in the light of God's precepts is service unto God. William Cowper, a

renowned song writer once said: 'The only true

happiness comes from squandering ourselves for a purpose.' While goals are chosen, purpose is something

we have been doing all along, and will continue to do,

regardless of circumstances, until the day we die' [Peter

McWilliams].

David Oyedepo has been a service addict from boyhood. His sense of service is rooted in his exposition

into Matt. 6:33 where the voice of God echoed in his

hearing, like a man hearing from a friend side by side:

Seek ye first my Kingdom and all those things others are

dying to get shall be added unto you. That scriptural

illumination set the solid platform for his service to God

and humanity. He possesses a burning zeal to serve the

Lord. He always said, 'There is no entitlement in titles,

only in service.' He said this to us in one of the pastors

meeting at Faith Tabernacle. He also charged, 'Be

service motivated; that is where your entitlement lies.'

Just like he would always say, masters are not paid but

Just like he would always say, masters are not paid but the servants. Only laborers are entitled to wages. In 2008, according to him, a man came to him and said God had instructed him (the man) to start to give David

Oyedepo One Million Naira every month as feeding allowance. His humble response was that of amazement at God's kind of reward system for stewardship. God never forgets. The man sought his consent to pay for two months in advance. There is always the pay day and only God decides it. God is the one who rewards those who diligently serve him. His reward system is amazingly accurate.

Indeed the world system is based on buying and selling, but the kingdom system is based on sowing and reaping.

David Oyedepo once said: 'I had not entered into ministry when God had started paying me.' As kingdom princes, we are not on this earth to earn a living, but our living has already been provided for by God. It is written in the book of Job: 'If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures, but if they obey not, they shall perish by the

sword, and they shall die without knowing' [36:11, 12].

Conscientious service is the escape route from perishing

in penury. Great sense of service attracts great laurels.

David Oyedepo posits that: 'Ordination in itself guarantees nothing; it is dedication that gives value to

ordination. Where you find yourself in future is rooted

in your faithfulness in stewardship today. It is faithful

stewardship that defines leadership.' David Oyedepo held his first office as a Christian in 1970 as Prayer

Secretary of his Fellowship. In 1971, he became the

Bible Secretary. He once said, 'There are major title

holders that God did not call,' while celebrating what

God has done in his life and ministry. He has ever been

zealous in his dealings with God, just like Jehu in

2Kings: '…and he said, come with me, and see my zeal

for the Lord…' [10:16]. Once, David as a youngster was

running to catch up with a fellowship program, and he

ran past his father's house. His younger folks saw him

and they reported to his father: : 'We saw our brother run

past the house.' His father's response was: “se o ya were

ni? (Is he mad?)”. David recalled the event recently and

humorously commented, 'I thank God for that

madness.' It truly pays one to be *MaD* (Making a Difference) for Jesus.

In the early days of his Christian adventure, as a Christian leader, there was no available service

opportunity he would not joyfully accept. At times he

would be the bus driver to drive his group from one

location to another. On getting there, he would be the

drummer boy during praise and worship session and

afterwards the preacher when it was time to preach. One

day at home as a young zealous Christian, David arrived

and his father, then a devoted Muslim (but he got converted to Christianity much later) asked him, 'Where

are you coming from?' David answered, 'From

fellowship sir.' His father threatened, 'Well, that's what

you will eat.' David's inaudible answer was 'Amen.'

Indeed he is eating it and many are feeding from it today.

David Oyedepo enthused, 'Stewardship is your greatest opportunity to fulfill destiny… and you cannot serve

God too much.' Your making is in your faithfulness in

kingdom service not in your religious activism. Years

back, in Baltimore, Maryland in the United States, he

had just ended his teaching and was relaxing when he

suddenly saw the way the audience was rushing to pick

copies of his books. He was nearly moved to tears at the

sight of the scene. Then God told him, *When I found you a faithful vendor, I made you an author*. The man has ever

been excited about anything that will promote the

kingdom of God. In those days he used to market

anointed books, especially those that had influenced his

life; for example, books of Kenneth Hagin. Not really

for financial gain but primarily to spread the truth he

had found in those materials. He once warned in one of

the meetings he had with his pastors, 'There is nothing

you do for gain in the kingdom that adds value to you.

Do it as an investment unto God and watch God do all (you desire) for you.' God never blesses activities, He

blesses productivity. Service in the kingdom is the

greatest opportunity that guarantees unstoppable posterity. In 1973, in a village called Dumagi, Shonga Local Government in Kwara State, Nigeria. David at 19, had relieved a woman who went on her maternity leave as a young school teacher. Then on Sunday morning after his arrival, he asked his friend and colleague how and where to locate the nearest Church in the village. To his surprise, his friend told him there was none. Then out of curiosity he asked again, 'Not even a Catholic Church?' The young man answered, 'None.' Immediately an unusual passion grew within him and he told God, 'Lord, may I never leave this village the same way I met it.'

David swung into action in a village dominated by Muslims. He formulated a strategy for evangelism, using the pupils as his interface; 'Tell your parents,' he instructed the pupils, 'the teacher is coming tomorrow morning for a visit.' The parents would wait for the teacher with much eagerness and sense of honour and privilege to have the teacher in their homes. Then David would speak to them about God and then pray with

them. Then he would add, 'On Sunday, join me at so and so place, there we will continue our prayer.' David did

this in many homes until he gathered people together for

a prayer meeting. Then one day, he called his colleague

and some pupils to join him cut trees and palm leaves to

build the first Church tent in that village. The church

was built within 41 days. At the end of his 71 days

was built within 41 days. At the end of his 71 days

member congregation.

David Oyedepo advises, 'See every kingdom task as

opportunity and never as a burden.' He also warned:

'Don't wait for opportunity in the kingdom, create

opportunity.' David Oyedepo left that village with no

dime. He gave all he had to promote the kingdom of

God. His departure from the village was not without a

ceremony of appreciation. The village chief presented

him with a lantern, saying: “The same way you have

brought light into our village, let your light shine all over

the world”. Where David Oyedepo is today is not by

sudden flight, it is traceable to his conscious sense of

service in the kingdom. As a school boy who was also preparing for his examination like any other student, he went on a kingdom assignment about 10 kilometres away to oversee the fellowships around. This boy,

David, began to trek back home on the dusty path with excitement. Then a soldier riding in his truck saw him and halted. 'Small boy,' he called David, 'where are you going to?' David looked at him with much audacity, 'Anywhere I like,' he answered as he trekked on, 'come on, hop in and let's go boy,' the soldier invited him with an expression of humour on his face as they drove off. But for that intervention, David was willing and ready to trek the dusty path back home with joy in his heart; all in genuine service unto God. Little wonder he is cruising in high altitude today. Indeed, it is better to be made than to be paid.

In1979,at25,Davidwaspartof theteamthatbrought Bro. Kumuyi (now the General Overseer of Deeper Life Ministries) to his village for a crusade. He was always available to serve God wherever he found himself.Heoncesaid,'Bybeingfaithful,youdon'tlose

anything. You gain everything, when it is a genuine investment with a godly motive, there is nothing to lose.' His sense of service is borne out of his unmatchable love for God. He once said: 'You cannot know my secret until you know my heart-beat for my God.' On 28th May 2010, David Oyedepo

championed the National Prayer Programme

organized to fight for the soul of Nigeria at Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos. David Oyedepo knew from

the onset that he would be a high flier, a trail blazer in

life. He once said 'foolish men believe in luck, but the

wise believes in cause and effect.' He also posits that:

'Kingdom stewardship is the greatest opportunity a man

can have. It makes you work in the highest office.'

According to his school of thought, you don't serve God

because you have the time; you serve God because you

have the heart. Genuine sense of service is a guaranteed

platform for everyone that desires to soar in high

attitude.

At a meeting of the Ministry's executive leaders on October 4th, 1984, a sum of N3000 was urgently

needed for rent renewal. No one in the meeting could

raise the fund. Then David Oyedepo said

emphatically with every sense of assurance, “God

knows that I don't need to be encouraged to release

this fund if I have it. But listen, now that we are all at

the same level, understand this; a time will come

when some of us will be flying in the air and some

will be saying: '*we don't know what they are using.*' Let me tell you what I am using, I am sold out to God!"

David had, before then, cultivated the art of service

unto God and humanity through the school of his

grandmother and had demonstrated it with practical

proofs. In 1974, when the Naira was worth much

more than the American Dollar, David Oyedepo's

first official salary of twenty four naira (N24) as a

young man was sowed into the life of his

grandmother. David purchased a set of chairs and a

centre table with it and presented them as a gift to

her. The woman looked at David from one side of her

eyes and said, "Laniyi, you bought these for me?"

David answered with a noticeable smile of

satisfaction and honour, "Yes, grandma." Then the

old woman blessed him, saying, "You shall be

great!" That prayer worked! It is indeed true that the

path to the palace is through the servants' quarters.

David and his wife once built a church auditorium

worth N70 Million and handed it over to the

beneficiaries. The 100 acres of land where Landmark

University sits on is a gift from the Oyedepo family. To

the Oyedepos, service through giving is a lifestyle. He

once challenged those who find it difficult to give,

saying:: 'Even in poverty, you can be a stupendous

giver!" Giving can only be a difficult task if one lacks a

giving heart. Kingdom stewardship is an investment

into a man's tomorrow. He will always say: 'I am not wasting my time serving the Lord. I am only investing

into my future.' You too can say this repeatedly to

yourself untilitentersintoyoursub-conscious:

"I am not wasting my time serving the Lord; ***I am*** only investing into my future."

Leadership Secrets of
Gentlemen, we are returning
to Lagos
SWIFT ACTION!
"Timely and relevant action is
what translates any vision into
is as unpardonable action David O. Oyedepo.as inaction!"
David O. Oyedepo.
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rompt obedience to divine directives puts a man on the line for honour and dignity. David

Oyedepo is a man who does not take any divine

signal with levity. He never delays action on any marching order he receives from God. It has been his

from God. It has been his

practice since the inception of the Ministry. For

example, he received the mandate of his Ministry in an

18 hour vision on 2nd May 1981, and a week after, on

8th May 1981, he shared his vision with the few

Christian friends around him. That same day, the prayer

platform called Power House kicked off. On the 24th of

May 1981, implementation began alongside with the

weekly Faith Clinic called Faith Liberation Hour, and it

continued until David's Official Commissioning and

Ordination into Ministry on the 17th of September,

1983; there was no down time. According to David

Oyedepo, there is no value in a vision that is not

pursued. The future of every vision begins with its

implementation. A vision not programmed is a vision

shattered, a programme not pursued is a purpose lost.

This brings us to the mystery called time. Time is a living phenomenon which passes signals to every living

creature to take advantage of every opportunity as it

presents itself. Every sensitive and time conscious

person stands to command his or her environment.

Time speaks directly into the human mind with peculiar notes otherwise known as signals and those who give

regard to time signals are crowned kings of every

situation and circumstance. The time consciousness

attitude of the children of Issachar was described in the

book of first Chronicles: “…men that had

understanding of times, to know what Israel ought to

do; and all their brethren were at their commandment”

[12:32].

Time does not just show by way of simply appearing, time also tells everyone what to do with every aspect of

its changing phase: time to sleep, when to wake up,

when to play, when to pray, when to rest, when to work,

when to appear, when to disappear, when to act, when

to refrain, and none of these should be swapped for the

other. It is the wisdom of the divinity to enhance human

operations. The psalmist demanded; “so teach us to

number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto

wisdom” [90:12].

In July 1983, God had told David Oyedepo:“I will not have you go as others; I will have hands laid on you after

the order of Joshua in Deuteronomy 34:10. Send now

for my servant Enoch Adeboye and you shall be

for my servant Enoch Adeboye and you shall be

impacted with the spirit of wisdom." Though he had

neither met nor spoken to the man of God before, yet

without delay, he sent a letter to Pastor E. A. Adeboye.

Even when it did not look feasible that the man of God

was coming because of his schedules, David never

considered a second option because God reassured him

the man of God was coming and all he needed to do was

to keep his fingers crossed. Indeed the man of God came

and performed the commissioning and ordination.

They met for the first time at the ordination venue.

There was no prior verbal discussion, especially as

telephones were farfetched as at the time. All

correspondence was delivered by human messengers.

Every action in life is time bound. Time is the most transparent and most consistent phenomenon that has

ever happened to mankind. The sun has never changed

its daily scheduling; neither has the rain refused to drop

according to its periodic scheduling. In the book of

Genesis it is written: "While the earth remains seedtime

and harvest; and cold and heat; and summer and winter

and day and night shall not cease” [8:22]. Time shows,

time tells, time tests, time passes, time comes, time goes.

Advancement in any man's life is at the mercy of the

level of regard he has for the phenomenon called time.

Man's failure or success, therefore, is traceable to the

understanding he has with respect to time.

Leadership Secrets: #12

David Oyedepo has always been a man of prompt action in response to every divine directive. “Strike the

iron when it is hottest” has been his guiding principle.

Henry Ford once declared, “I am looking for a lot of

men who have an infinite capacity to not know what

can't be done.” The man David Oyedepo is one of such.

He once charged his congregation regarding the pursuit

of any vision when he said, “If you cannot kick-start it,

jump-start it, if you cannot jump-start it, push-start it.”

It is expected that by all means and at all times, you keep

granting your vision motion, because only the violent is

permitted to hit a home run!

God told David Oyedepo on 19th July, 1989 in clear terms: Arise, get down to Lagos and raise me a people.

Pronto, the 'Lagos Invasion Project' kicked off, and all

arrangements to move to Lagos began with all sense of urgency. By September 24 1989, the Lagos Church had started, and the results of prompt action began to generate strange dimension of church growth in his Ministry. As far as David is concerned, any contrary opinion, no matter how sincere, is considered a mere distraction. He is an ardent follower of divine signals. K. Chesterton, on the secret behind his accomplishment, has this to say: “I owe my success to having listened respectfully to the very best advice, and then going away and doing the exact opposite.” Truth well told, most

logical and fantastic counsels from other people may cancel one's relevance in life if stupidly followed. Yet the seemingly illogical personal conviction could turn one into a global phenomenon.On the 4th of May 1994, the Lord told him: “The harvest of Africa is now well over ripe; rush in to prevent it from decadence.” By May 8th 1994, sprinkling of blood was performed upon a large map of Africa during a breakthrough night. It was the spiritual opening of the gates of the African continent for gospel invasion.

According to David Oyedepo, every divine agenda is delivered by divine strategy. It is God's own way of

delivering His plans. By June *14* 1994, African Gospel Invasion Project (AGIP) office was opened in Lagos. By

15th of January 1995, the first set of missionaries was

deployed to selected African countries. David Oyedepo

will always say that belated action is as unpardonable as

inaction. Sir Cecil Beaton once counseled: “Be daring,

be different, be impractical, be anything that will assert

integrity of purpose and imaginative vision against the

play-it-safers, the creatures of the commonplace, the

slaves of the ordinary”. David Oyedepo is not among

the 'play-it-safe commoners', he dabbles into

extraordinary things. Hugh Walpole has this to say for

those in play-it-safe school of thought: “Don't play for

safety-it's the most dangerous thing in the world”.

Leadership Secrets: #12

David has never been known for rationalizing any divine marching order with an analytical mind. On

Saturday, the 22nd of March 1996, during a

breakthrough seminar, as he was preparing to minister,

he heard the Lord: “it is time to get our aircraft”.

Without a second thought or committee endorsement,

he declared it as raw as he heard it: “Now the Lord just told me it is time to get our aircraft.” That same day, without prior preparation for it, an offering was raised in that meeting towards the fulfillment of the declaration. And that was it. The aircraft was delivered that same year. Swift action it was!

John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States of America (1961-1963) once taught out of his wealth of experience: “There are risks and costs to a program of action but they are far less than the long range risks and costs of comfortable inaction.” That explains why in August 1987, at a Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Lord told David in the course of the conference: “Arise, get down home and make my people rich”. David Oyedepo could not wait till the last day of that conference. He came down home immediately. That same year, he started a regular programme in Maiduguri (Nigeria), tagged: “Breakthrough in Business Seminar”. A timely and relevant action is what translates any vision into tangible fruition.

While still in the celebration mood for the dedication of Faith tabernacle, a great monument that attracted global

attention, David Oyedepo was moved again by the

propelling force of Faith to set the ball rolling for the

take-off of Covenant University. That was in October of

1999, one month after the dedication of Faith

Tabernacle. By November 27, 1999, an in-house

Consortium on the take-off of the University was

inaugurated and by December 1999 the application

form for a private university operating license was issued

by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

Astheactivitiesof theConsortiumwoundupearlyin2001, an Advisory Council was inaugurated on February 17,

2001todevelopappropriatestructuresforthetake-off of the

University. By July 15, 2001, the verification team of the

NUC came for final inspection of facilities and

programmes. Driven by Faith, David Oyedepo laid the

foundation stone of the permanent site on Sunday,

January 27, 2002 and what followed was the approval by

the Federal Government of Nigeria with the

presentation of the operating license on February 12,

2002, by which Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State,

was authorized to operate as a private university in

Nigeria.Thefirstphaseof developmentwascompletedin

eightmonths;whilethefirstbatchof about1500students

was ushered into an ultra-modern university campus after an early morning inauguration on October 2002. It

is all a result of conscious commitment to planning,

programming, pursuit and management skill

development, to borrow words from David Oyedepo.

As at 2010, the running cost of Covenant University was

put at N200Million per month.

According to him, divine insight is what enhances the delivery of divine agenda. Indeed, it is your willingness to

takeactionthatnaturallygeneratestheabilityforyoutoact.

Those who lack the courage to take pragmatic action [called risk] die a little more each passing day. Benjamin

Franklin puts it this way: “some people die at twentyfive and aren't buried until they are seventy-five.” An old saying goes: “My mind is made up, don't try and confuse

me with the facts.” James Thurber cautioned, “All men

should try to learn before they die what they are running

from, and to, and why.”

On February 14 1983, while reading a magazine called The New Wine, David Oyedepo heard God say: “the

words I put into your mouth, commit it into writing, and

the same unction upon the spoken word I will also put

on the written word." That same year, the publishing

arm of the Ministry commenced operation. The first

book was published in 1985. He will always challenge anyone that claims he heard God by saying "If you

believe it, prove it by doing it and if you don't do it, then

you don't believe it."

There is a way time speaks and you become so uncomfortable until you have taken the step that

matches the challenges or opportunities that are

presented to you. That is why you hear the popular

sayings as: "This is your time;" "Your time is gone;"

Your time is coming;" "take your time;" Maximize your

time;" etcetera. To every opportunity there is a time slot,

and once lost, check it out; it may affect the storyline of

your life. Be watchful and equally be ready with an open

mind to tackle life's challenges and opportunities.

Prompt action borne out of spiritual sensitivity was what rescued David Oyedepo and other key leaders of

the Ministry from a plane crash. They were already 30

minutes airborne from Lagos to Kano in Nigeria. It was

the 4th of May, 1998. The pilot confided in him,

informing him about the challenge encountered mid-air.

One of the two engines of the aircraft had just stopped

functioning. Without any sign of concern or panic,

sipping his drink, he asked the pilot: “can you navigate

back to Lagos?” The pilot answered in affirmative. Then

pronto, and without creating any form of suspense,

David announced: “gentlemen, we are returning to Lagos.” Nobody could ask him why, though the curious

expression on each one's face was carrying question

marks. “Delay,” according to Northcote Parkinson, “is

the deadliest form of denial.” Thank goodness, because,

just as the plane touched the runway safely in Lagos and

halted, the second engine packed up. It was a day of

divine rescue in the book of records of David Oyedepo's

Ministry. Thanks to prompt action inspired by the Holy

Ghost. He once said, 'it is not great might that make men

and women in the kingdom, it is great response to great

insight that makes great men.’

In May 1987, when the church by divine prompting was set to spread out, and the first five set of churches were

already mapped strategically across Nigeria, David was thanking God for what God had done and was about to do; then God spoke to him: “My son David, what did you bring for me?” In response, he said, “Lord, everything I have is yours.” Then the Lord asked him again, “Give me your car (a Mercedes Benz).” And straight away David submitted the key and document to the appropriate officer as a sign of submission to God in total obedience. Obviously it wasn't what he planned to do, but what God had just said. Then the baritone voice of the Lord re-echoed in his hearing: “My son David, even if you don't want to be rich, it is too late.”

Peter Mcwilliams in his thought-provoking book, titled “DO IT! Let’s Get Off Our Buts”, revealed in a short phrase, what he discovered as the biggest lie in action: “I'll do it later”. The mystical depot called “Later-land is the last home where the hope of many dreams are shattered and dumped.” They'll never see the light of the day. Push nothing to a later day; there is no such day. Always dare to be specific. It is expedient you do what you can do now. If you can't get it done now due to

obvious constraints, then decide if it is worth doing at all. If yes, then fix when you will get it done and pursue it to a conclusive end.

In December 1987, the Lord told David Oyedepo to give-up his salary and that was the last day his name appeared on the pay-roll of the Ministry. When his wife asked him for the upkeep allowance for the home, he told her, “I have laid it at the altar.” His wife responded, “Praise God.” According to David Oyedepo, discovering the reason for doing a thing is the secret of getting maximum results doing it. David Oyedepo indeed had gotten the secret of prompt action in obedience to divine directive long time ago. He once declared emphatically, “Obedience may sound ridiculous most times but the end is always miraculous. It may be costly but the end of it is priceless.” William

Blake (1791) advised in a poetic piece thus:

If you trap the moment before it's ripe

The tears of repentance
You'll certainly wipe
But if you let the ripe moment go

You can never wipe off the tears

Of woe

Leadership Secrets of
It's the ministry's cheque...
not mine
SELF-DISCIPLINE
"Subjecting the flesh to the
demand of the spirit in fasting
and prayer can hardly be
discipline."accomplished without self
David O. Oyedepo
A

ccording to the Encarta Dictionary 2009

edition, discipline is simply conscious control

over one's lifestyle. It is mental self-control

used in directing or changing behaviour, learning something, or training for something. In short,

according to Bill Newman, 'nothing worthwhile or

significant is possible without discipline.' Self-discipline

has its spiritual root in the scripture, as found in the book

of Second Timothy: 'For God has not given us the spirit

of timidity but he has given us the spirit of love and of

power and of self-discipline' [1:7NIV] .

Self-discipline is the ability to motivate self. It is the ability to do what is necessary or sensible without

needingtobeurgedbysomebodyelse.DavidOyedepo

hasconsciouslycultivatedthecultureof self-discipline

from the early days of his life. He once said, 'I gave my

life to Jesus at the age of 15 and I never had the reason

to backslide or rededicate my life.' Self-discipline is the

bedrockof sustainablelifetimedecisions.Itisallabout

discipline. Discipline is the mother of all moral

attributes in any one's life. David Oyedepo has been

celebrating his oath of dedication after reading the

book T*he Man God Uses* by Oswald J. Smith on September 12, 1976. He was sold out to God, and still

remains sold out. Subjecting the flesh to the demand of the spirit in fasting and prayer can hardly be

accomplished without self-discipline. “Discipline is

thebasicsetof toolswerequiretosolvelife'sproblems.

Without discipline you can solve nothing. With only

some discipline we can solve only some problems.

With total discipline we can solve all problems.”

[Escott Peck -*The Road Less Travelled*]. Everything in a man's life answers to the subject of self-discipline;

including obedience to directives from higher

authority.

According to David Oyedepo, his grandmother had nurtured him with the culture of discipline from

childhood through to his teenage years. Teenagers generally are known to be prone to having false feelings of independence from parents, a sort of I-can-fix-it syndrome. In those days, most grandmothers were known to pamper their grandchildren, unknowingly indulging them into doing things that were inimical to their glorious future. For example, on one of those days, David had put on his best wears and as a young star ready to join his peers for an outing, but his grandmother stopped him because David could not convince her beyond reasonable doubt the importance

of such an outing. Then she went philosophical, and told David in her local dialect:'eniti o joko, ko le j'oga'

('whosoever refuses to sit tight and get serious is not a candidate for mastery'). David obeyed his granny and sat back. He is the better for it today. To play down the place of discipline as leaders is to tread the path of failure. “Influenced by a superficial psychology, we have abhorred restraint, indulged our natural impulses and crucified inhibitions. We forget too easily that no worthwhile or significant life or work is possible without

discipline” [Bill Newman].

It takes a high standard of discipline to place a line of demarcation between personal possession and

organizational assets, despite the fact that one is the

Founder and General Overseer of an establishment.

David Oyedepo is reputed for that. The story of the

1Million Naira cheque comes to mind again. It takes

self-discipline to uphold the content of a small note

rather than the details on a cheque. Though it's written

in his favour, yet he declined accepting the cheque as his;

rather he ordered it must be rechanneled to the

appropriate Ministry's account. Vince Lombaardi said:

“'I've never known a man worth his salt who, in the long

run, deep down in his heart, did not appreciate the grind

and the discipline. There is something in good men that

truly yearns for and needs discipline.”

As I stated earlier, in 1985, David Oyedepo was to name his second son and all he could afford for the

naming was N10.00 only. Nevertheless, one of his

subordinates reminded him that the Ministry

differs not from the founder and for the fact that

nobody would query or crucify him for taking

money from the treasury of a Ministry he founded.

His reply was thought provoking. He told the young man, it is the naming of my son not Ministry's son.

That does not sound like just being principled, it is much more of being disciplined. Indeed, one can be principled and yet not be totally disciplined. His grandmother taught him the dynamics of tithing.

She told him that the tenth part of every income is God's portion that renders the remainder meaningful. Since then, David has keyed in to the spiritual obligation of tithing.

The urge or tendency to borrow or beg for funds died in him long before his ordination into the ministry. In 1981, through the illumination he caught from the pages of the scriptures, he resolved never to borrow but to depend absolutely on God for supply. Ever

since, he has never fallen into the temptation of borrowing. It is discipline that will restrain a man from taking advantage of his close relationship with presidents of nations, to ask for financial or material

favour. Since his ministry began,' he said, 'I have never knocked at any man's door, dead or alive for any sort of support for the ministry.' He has said it repeatedly that: 'We can address any set of people in the land because we are not beneficiaries of whatever they carry to offer.' He once told a sitting president of Nigeria, 'Any time I seek any favour from you, stop taking my counsel.' That is contentment borne out of self-discipline! During the construction of Covenant University, a first generation bank came to him to offer him a loan of N1Billion as part of her goodwill towards the construction. He turned it down and told them, 'if I begin to take loan at this level of the project, what would I be doing when it gets bigger?' That is high tension contentment, that's high level discipline.

During his courtship days the devil told him: now that youhaveagreedtomarryeachother,youcangoahead and sleep with her. David Oyedepo responded and told God, Lord if I do such thing, strike me with

leprosy. That statement is borne out of the grace of God in operation in his life and consciously cultivated.

and consciously cultivated

self-discipline. Without self-discipline, ability or

courage or good feasibility study will naturally end a

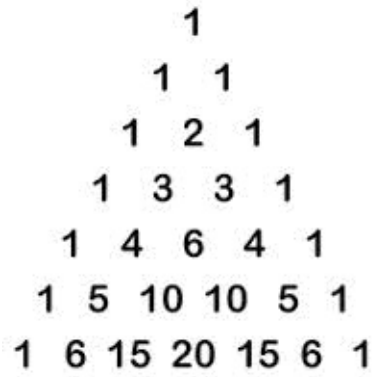
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‘For every disciplined effort, there is a multiple reward.'
-
Jim Rohn

Leadership Secrets of
“Any organization that has no
respect for order has no future.”
David Oyedepo
ORDER
“This church is not a

denomination, it is a

commission. A denomination is a human set up through religion
bureaucracy [but] a commission
is backed up by a mandate.”
David O. Oyedepo
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rder is viewed as the bedrock of the stability

and sustainability of any organization both in

pursuit and accomplishment. David

Oyedepo posits that the reason for failure in life, more often than not, is not because of lack of ability or

capacity. It is largely due to lack of order. What is

order? It is the arrangement or disposition of people or

things in relation to each other according to a particular

sequence, pattern or method. David Oyedepo once

made the following proclamation concerning his church

organization: “This church is not a denomination, it is a

commission. A denomination is a human set up through

religion bureaucracy [but] commission is backed up by a

mandate.”

Indeed a commission is viewed as a specially organized

group of people who are empowered by the law [human

or divine] to perform a given task. The terms of

reference of a commission are relatively specific, though

it may be very broad and long term, or concise

depending on the nature of the given task. David defines

“The commission” as “a divinely commanded

mission.” Mandate in this context therefore can be said

to be a divine order to get a specific task performed. In a

general scope, mandate is a written command by a

person or organization [the “mandator”] to another

[“the mandatary”] to take a certain course of action. A mandate is automatically terminated on the bankruptcy,

incapacitation or removal from office or death of the

mandator. In David Oyedepo's case the mandator is

God, who can never be bankrupt and is always capable

to back up what he has commissioned. He can never be

removed from His office neither can He die. The

mandatary is David O. Oyedepo, and the mandate states

that:

“Now the hour has come to liberate the

world from all oppressions of the devil,

through the preaching of the word of

faith, and I am sending you to undertake

this task.”

In his moments of concentrated pondering and critical analysis on the details of the mandate (order), he

discovered that four cardinal factors were distinctly

defined in the mandate:
1. The Task: To liberate the world from all

oppression of the devil.
2. The Target: The world.
3. TheTool: Thepreachingof theworldof Faith.
4. The Time: Now

The foundation of his monumental impact on human

race, from the beginning has been orderly laid. There

was no guess work, ambiguity or grey area from the origin of his ministry. David had subscribed to the

subject of order since his youthful days. He once

recalled when as a young man, after he had dressed up

for an outing would ask, “would Jesus appear like this?”

David embodies decency and orderliness. Creation was

brought to bear based on the phenomenon called order.

Fishes were never created before the waters, neither was

man created until his habitat was well put in place.

What foundation is to a building is what order is to any

human or organizational system. The corporate

anthem of the American business world is the

wonderful phrase that goes thus: “Build to last”. Lack

of respect for the phenomenon of order is the bane of

most human entities. Indeed, it is structure that

determines the future of any system. But the future of

any structure is at the mercy of the fundamental factor

called order.

If the mutual and hitch-free working relationship and inter-dependency between the horse and the cart must

be sustained, order (or sequence of instructions guiding

their mutual operation) must be consciously

maintained. It would be an expensive or risky

experiment to put the cart before the horse. The result

could lead to the fatal failure of the structure and the

system. That is the power of order. Isaiah the son of Amos gave a pictorial explanation of the value of order.

He puts it this way:

“Do those who plow for sowing plow

continuously? Do they continually open

and harrow the ground. When they have

leveled its surface, do they not scatter dill,

sow cumin and plant wheat in rows and

barley in its proper place and spelt as the

barrier? For they are well instructed, their

God teaches them. Dill is not threshed

with a threshing sledge, nor is a cart wheel

rolled over cumin, but dill is beaten with a

stick and cumin with a rod. Grain is

crushed for bread, but one does not thresh

it forever, one drives the cart wheel and

horses over it, but does not pulverize it.

This also comes from the Lord of hosts:

he is wonderful in counsel and excellence

in wisdom" [28:23-29 NRSV].

Indeed, order is one of the major subset of wisdom. It is what keeps a system running. One major factor in the

school of order is regular review of every organization's

developmental procedure. According to David

Oyedepo, "if you are afraid to review your approach, you cannot improve on your results." He has always

believed in the need for a functional structure in his

organization. His reason is not farfetched, every human

organization, spiritual or secular, requires a viable

structure to run, grow and be sustained. He knew the

relevance of order in any set up from the onset like a

man knows his name. Few years into his ministry, he

penned down certain significant and revealing truth that

cannot be ignored in any organization. Among such are

the following:

Any organization that has no respect for

order has no future.
Any system without an efficient structure

is bound to rupture.
Without a viable structure, there can be no

future for any organization.

The organizational structure of David Oyedepo's Ministry is a product of order. A multi-faceted

organization housing various facilities and institutions

including the 50,000 capacity church auditorium,

educational arm (network of Primary schools, High

Schools and Universities), Word of Faith Bible Institute

(WOFBI), the Aviation arm, the World Mission

Agency, Real Estate, Financial Institution, Table and

Sachet water Production Factory, Covenant Bread Production sector, Restaurant Operations, Guest

Houses etcetera. Yet every arm of the organization is

maximally functional, properly managed and

adequately monitored. David Oyedepo in one of the

meetings he had with his pastors once intoned, “Any

policy that is not well policed will soon become

ineffective [and eventually abandoned]. Olajumoke

Familoni in her book, Leadership Styles of Great Men,

writes,

“We are in an era where spirituality is

becoming an integral part of business

organizations… Oyedepo diagnoses the

need for change stage by stage and carries

his associates along in the change

process.”

Olajumoke Familoni continued in her meticulous analysis by saying. “The organization that will survive

the test of time today will be those willing to respond to

the tenets of corporate governance and thus allow

integrity to preserve them.” David Oyedepo has said for

umpteen times, that “whatever is void of strategy will

soon became a victim of tragedy.” The church arm of

his organization focuses on a 3-fold message including:

Word of Faith, Prosperity and the Supernatural (that is manifestation of gifts of the Spirit). The tradition of his

Ministry has been passed from the leadership down the

Ministry has been passed from the leadership down the hierarchy to the membership. Every genuine “Winner,” as each church member is fondly called must reflect the tradition of the commission, including:

WORD ADDICTION:

The leadership has over the
years nurtured every Winner in the culture of the Word of Faith. Coming to church service (whether Sunday service, mid-week service or any other specialized services) without writing materials alongside with a complete Bible is incomplete for an average winner. A typical Sunday service at Faith Tabernacle is like receiving a professorial lecture at Cambridge University. Every Winner has over the years been nurtured in the culture of reading at least one book in a month. Every Winner is ushered into a new month with a running theme for the month, as well as the recommended books for the month. An average member of Winners' Chapel International is a word addict.

DECENCY IN DRESSING:

Every living faith leader

at every level in the hierarchy represents decency, and

the same reflects in every genuine follower. David

Oyedepo has been into it since the inception of the

Ministry even when the only facility of the ministry was a room and a parlor apartment, occupying six staff,

which also doubled as the residential apartment for his

family. He would wake up early, dressed up in suit,

arrange his desk and chair, ready to work. Decency in

dressing culture has become the identity of every

genuine Winner all over the world where the ministry is

represented. And it suits every member of the now

multi-cultural and multinational staff and the entire

congregation of the Ministry worldwide, who know

pretty well that you are unmistakably addressed by the

way you dress.

PULPIT ETHICS/INTEGRITY:

David Oyedepo has

always preached what he practices and that has been

transferred to every leader in the hierarchy. Telling lies

on the pulpit is a forbidden practice and a violation of

the tradition of the commission. The ranking system of

the hierarchical set-up in the church arm of the

commission is simply noteworthy. Any curious observer

can easily be tempted to want to join the team. Talk of

the carriage of the array of Pastors as they handle

assignments in their fitted suits which characterize every

Pastor in the Winners' family. Their sitting arrangement

at any of the church programmes speaks volume about

the superiors, coordinates and subordinates in the

hierarchy. For example, depending on who handles what assignment at the altar in a typical prayer session,

one can almost tell who may not likely come up at all. It

is such a neatly regimented system that has zero

tolerance for rank breaking!

The altar mannerism of Winners' pastors is highly notable. Every assignment at the altar is taken with all

sense of duty and due diligence; such an enviable

privilege anyone may like to look forward to. Every altar task is carried out according to a meticulously timed and outlined assignment. In Winners chapel, time consciousness is of essence. It is safer for one to spend 4.59 minutes for a 5-minute assignment, than spend 5.01 minutes, because any extra minute spent is taken as eating into the next assignment. Apostle Paul cautioned in his first epistle to the saints in the City of Corinth, “Let all things be done decently and in order” [14:40]. Therefore, going out of order in Winners' Chapel is tantamount to edging oneself out of future privileges. It is one church organization where, like a footballer who committed more than necessary fouls, a pastor could for a season be benched by reason of his violation of the laid down pulpit ethics.

Leadership Secrets: #14

It takes divine order to sustain an organization of the magnitude that is found under the leadership of David Oyedepo. Leadership is interpreted as someone who sets achievable goals, charts the direction and influences people to follow. It is “the behavior of an individual when he is directing the activities of a group towards a

shared goal” (Hemphill and Corns, 1957, p7). It is being

at the forefront, showing examples to the followers to

follow suit. David Oyedepo typifies all these. But it takes

order to bring all such to bear. Talking about church

management method in his church, he has this to say,

“The management structure of our church system will

continue to serve as a research platform on church

organization for many years to come because by divine

skill we built unbelievable reserves year in year out for

the last 30 years.”

While many hate any change that doesn't jingle in their pockets, David sees change from the all-good

perspective of the Lord, who is the God of new, fresh

and rewarding beginnings and that of our Lord Jesus,

who goes about doing good in a variety of neverto-beforgotten ways. Indeed variety in the expression and execution of God's will has become not only the spice of

life in the Ministries under his charge and the noble

causes he champions, but has continued to add flavour

to the business of the life of peoples of different faiths, nationalities and creed which he has continued to touch

in so many unforgettable ways. Every team member in

his organization has imbibed the philosophy of (unavoidable) change and is adapted to the same with good conscience and faith, believing it is for the good of the organization and for the growth of the team. Every robust and vibrant organization is built on well-defined order. No business is allowed to outlive the founder outside of a consciously constructed and orderly established structure. One major milestone in the history of David Oyedepo Ministries International was recorded on 7th September 2012. It was the release of the operational manual that will, like the constitution of a nation, forever serve as guide in all operations within the commission globally.

This is one ministry where leadership tussle has never been recorded and much more may never be, with the advent of the operational manual, The Mandate. The bulky red book titled “The Mandate Operational Manual” addresses matters from the minutest to the most complex in relation to the daily operations within the church arm of the global ministry. This manual explicitly addresses the leadership

succession plan: the eligibility requirements and the

procedure. It is a comprehensive documentation devoid of any form of ambiguity. This affordable and easily

accessible operational manual, the Mandate is so

detailed that it has become the handbook for an average

Winners' Chapel International worshipper across the

world. This goes to explain the level of premium David

Oyedepo places on the subject of order. It is why the

extent of expansion of David Oyedepo's organization

will remain boundless because of the formidable and

enduring structure on ground.

"A healthy marital life remains a

fundamental requirement in spiritual leadership."
David Oyedepo

CHOICE OF SPOUSE

A good woman is worth, if

she were sold, the fairest
gold crown that's made of purest
John Wodroephe

O

ne major factor, notwithstanding how great a

vision is, that determines the fruition or

failure of any dream is marital choice. Marital

choice can either make or mar anyone's vision. Lots of great destinies have ended their lofty dreams in the abyss

of marital woes. Certainly, a broken home is the world's

greatest wreck. While charging his teaming pastoral

team in one of those special leadership sessions, David

Oyedepo warned that a healthy marital life remains a

fundamental requirement in spiritual leadership.

We live in a world where many are in sheer confusion in relation to marital matters. The unmarried, the married,

the widows and widowers are all under perpetual

pressure and fear of uncertainties. They are entangled in

the confinement of varied degrees of peculiar

predicaments; with most wondering if marriage is

worth the entire rigor. To fuel the fears and confusion,

Katherine Hepburn pulled the trigger of her sentiment:

“if you want to sacrifice the admiration of many men

for the criticism of one, go ahead, get married.” Many

people are confused, bearing the invisible inscription

that seem to ask; “is God still involved in the process of

marriage?” Marriage in the contemporary world is

characterized with gambling, permutation and

combination. Human mechanized approach called "match-making" has overtaken the original divine due order. Some young and single Ministers of the gospel (male and female alike) are also not left behind in the darkness of ignorance and confusion with respect to marital choice; and therefore they have ignorantly succumbed to canal demands of mental and scientific approach to marital search system. It is little wonder many have relapsed to the comfort zone of social media, posting their profiles "to whom it may concern," God's will notwithstanding. Cher, an American singer and actor once observed: "The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing – and then marry him." That's ridiculous enough.

David Oyedepo posits: "Every man and woman must take responsibility to maintain a super healthy marital life." Diagnosing the root of marital woes in the Western world, David lamented, saying: "quest for equality is the reason behind marital crisis in the west, which is why they [same sex] now marry each other." To

confirm David Oyedepo's sentiment on the institution of marriage, Barak Obama, the president of America, while bidding for his second term election, suddenly realized that the gay world was a factor for his winning ticket. Then he began to press for the passing into law in

Washington DC, same sex marriage: an aberration, a manipulation of an institution that the creator perfectly established: a conscious promotion of the oddity called lesbianism and gay practices.

Let's get it right from here; Marriage is not any human idea. It is absolutely God's idea. Therefore any form of deviation from its originality will always culminate in mockery. Marriage institution is not cultural based, it is God-based. There are fundamental rules that govern marital institution, and once violated may end any marital union in ridicule. Most Christians cannot categorically tell how and when God speaks with regards to marital decision making. Don Marquis said it all: “Ours is a world where people don't know what they want and they are willing to go through hell to get it.”David without prejudice vehemently warned that no explanation is tenable enough for family failure, saying

explanation is tenable enough for family failure, saying the man is to be held responsible. Regrettably, he concluded that the greatest victim in family crisis is the woman. Ministry or career success is a function of marital stability. Therefore caution is of essence when making marital decision because leadership begins from the home-front. Read the evergreen words of the charity legend, Mother Theresa:

Spread love everywhere you go;
First of all in your own house.
Give love to your children,
To your wife or husband,
To a next door neighbor…
Let no one ever come to you
Without leaving better and happier.

Be the living expression of God's kindness;

Kindness in your eyes,
Kindness in your face,
Kindness in your smile,
Kindness in your warm greeting.

While still a bachelor, David Oyedepo asked God: 'what is your purpose for instituting marriage?' He asked out of curiosity against the backdrop of his observations of many marital woes and failures around him. He needed to know ahead of time what awaited him before

committing himself. He knew that marriage is too sacred an institution to venture into without adequate preparation. Then, in response to his curiosity, through the pages of the bible, according to him, God gave him 7 covenant platforms for lasting marital bliss. From that day, he knew he was heading for a hitch-free marriage.

According to the statistics based on a survey conducted on marriages in the United States in early 90s, more than half the marriages ended in divorce within five years. Yet, even now, it isn't getting any better. This is despite all the oaths and vows at the altar before God Almighty and wellwishers that graced the grandeur and elaborate wedding party. For some, the friction that triggered their marital crisis began from a breakfast table at the honey moon venue. “I know a lot of people didn't expect our relationship to last,” Britt Ekland, Swedish film actor enthused, “but we just celebrated our two months anniversary.” Ridiculous, isn't it? On this side of the globe, series of unheard-of events of domestic violence are witnessed as regular occurrence, ranging from simple quarrel to physical assault, sometimes

degenerating to the use of deadly weapons.

According to David Oyedepo, he never prayed about his marital life neither did he place petition before God for a

future partner. One day one of his friends told him and

said, 'Brother David, it's time we begin to pray for our

future partner'. Hear what David answered, 'Yes, we

may pray for you, but such prayer point is not in my list.'

How audacious. Interestingly, David was first to be

answered and settled martially ahead of his friend. His

response to his friend's request was founded on the light

that was shed abroad in his heart from the scripture as written in Matt 6:33. 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God

in and His righteousness and all other things shall be

added unto you.' David believed that marital settlement

was one of those things that would naturally be added to

him as he remained connected and addicted to his

covenant obligations.

The magnetic field of his faith was strong enough to command such a meek and submissive lady like Faith

Oyedepo. He made it known to her from the beginning

what she was about to sign-on to. David has always been

an unusually restless fellow from his youthful days. The

point at which his peers were tired in kingdom assignment was the point it would be like he was just starting. He once posited: “You can't be a fool being a full time follower with God.” While in higher institution, his teacher who was so uncomfortable with his Christian activities on campus once threatened him: “David, if you want to be a student, be a student; and if you want to be a Christian, be a Christian!” David responded to his teacher: “I am a part time student and a full time Christian.” How audacious! That is just David. Therefore, it would require abundant meekness and patience with wisdom for a woman to get along with such a die-hard kingdom addict.

His courtship with Faith was not less than six years. As earlier stated, it will serve as a reminder here that before his marriage, the devil told him: 'Now that it is obvious and everybody is aware that you will get married to this lady, I will make sure you fall by fornication! 'David responded to the thought with a vow, 'Lord if I ever do such, strike me with leprosy!' Through determination

and self-discipline, David and Faith conquered the

temptation of fornication before their wedding night.

Truly, it is not how short or how long a courtship lasts

that restrains immorality, it is how determined the two

individuals involved, to put flesh in subjection to the

spirit by the word of God. Three decades have come and

gone, his marriage still stands strong with catalogues of

success stories to show.

During the process of his wedding, his marriage counselor asked him: “Brother David, what do you

think of marriage? What do you really expect from it?”

Then he answered, “Hitch-free marriage.” His

counselor quickly corrected him by reminding him that

from experience, marriage is not all the bed of roses and

he concluded by saying “you see David, you cannot

avoid stepping on each other's toes.” David quickly cut

in and he asked his counselor with due respect but

unapologetic: 'sir, as I sit by you now, do I step on your

toes?' The man grinned and said: 'no,' but curious to know what David was really up to. Then David

concluded by saying: “sir I can give you two reasons.

One, I am not blind and two I am not mad.”

One, I am not blind and two I am not mad."

According to Peter McWilliams, marriage is like a dinner with desert first. The falling-in-love portion

shows us the beauty within us. Everything else shows us

everything else - the good, the bad, the beautiful and the

ugly. Faith Oyedepo, after crossing the Rubicon of

spinsterhood to womanhood, demolished the bridge

and vowed never to look backward, but to put into

practice all the good lessons she had learnt to build and

keep a tranquil home, full of sweet flavors of love,

garnished with nectars of fun and coated with endless

favor.

She knew her husband's temperament so much, having studied him keenly during their years of courtship, and

she was willing to bend and to blend. David, a restless

hard working extraordinaire go-getter, is always battle

ready to deal ruthlessly with any resistance on his way to

accomplish his set goals. Faith Oyedepo had built up her

faith to withstand whatever comes her way in the home

God has ordained her to keep and care for.

It did not take so long a time before Faith's first major test came. Her husband arrived from a trip one fateful

day. With a broken heart she greeted her husband with a written medical report. The doctor had told her she had a miscarriage. To her disappointment, David was unmoved. He wasn't, because he knew the trickster behind the report was the devil, and he was not willing to accept it as the final say. But without any expression of empathy he reacted to the report with a strong spiritual counter-verdict: “It cannot happen,” and to trivialize the situation, he immediately demanded, “Can I have my food please?” Definitely his violent reaction was against the situation, not against his darling wife. Ordinarily such situation should engender much emotional display of piety, pity and abstinence from food or pleasure. But David knew better, he would not subscribe to a pity party, as it may mean accepting a defeat. The phrase “it cannot happen” was the faith—seasoned spiritual counter-verdict to reverse the medical verdict.

True to his word, it never happened. The pregnancy was sustained, and at the due time, a bouncing baby boy joined the Oyedepo family. He's a kingdom soldier today. It takes Faith to marry David. Truth well told.

today. It takes Faith to marry David. Truth well told,

God found David and equally found for him Faith to

match. Faith Oyedepo is a great home-maker extraordinaire. Her hands are forever in the production chain in the making of her own biological children who are amazing success stories and firebrand ministers of the good news, and the raising of the next generation of ministers of God that will help keep the flame of the gospel burning in the hearts of men, transforming lives. So flawless has she been able to discharge her responsibilities that her brief in the global ministry keeps getting lengthier by the day, as more challenging roles have been added to her bulging portfolios.

It takes a hard working woman to survive around a hard worker such as David Oyedepo. There is no room for idleness around him. He has zero tolerance for laziness. Faith knew this from the outset. So, she had been a diligent worker since she joined her husband. Faith Oyedepo, as a university graduate was the first typist secretary in the ministry on a salary of N140 per month. She has not ceased to be a worker in her

husband's multi-faceted organization. This is in addition to her unflinching responsibility as a home manager, attending to the needs of the swarm of guests that visit her home from time to time. Yet she's never found wanting in her primary assignment: child upbringing. All her children are excelling in their

various endeavors with good reports about them from far and near. All said and done, a success without a successor is termed a colossal failure. Giving one's children proper training is the greatest success any parent can boast of, especially when the children exemplify such parental trainings and instructions in their daily living. In years to come, children are the ones to perpetuate the monumental works parents have built over the years. The Secret of a person, it has been said, is in his story. David and Faith Oyedepo have a testimony of exemplary parenting. In her thought provoking book, titled: “Raising godly Children,” Faith Oyedepo eagerly agreed that “a child is like plasticine - soft, pliable and moldable.” Therefore, just like an experienced potter, skill is required to effectively mold a child. It requires

some degree of discipline, tender care, and tact.

Early in her marriage, Faith Oyedepo vowed never to be found wanting in her responsibility towards her

children. After every Sunday service, she would return

home, sit her children down and break into smaller

pieces the message preached to their level of

understanding, Faith made it part of her daily

scheduling to teach her children the valuable principles

of God's word. It is little wonder therefore to see all

their biological children turning out as success stories in

their various careers and ministries. Their two sons, David and Isaac were ordained into Ministry in 2007 at

the Winners' Chapel International Headquarters, Ota,

Nigeria, by the American televangelist, Kenneth

Copeland and his wife Gloria. It will suffice to say the

two boys broke their father's record by reason of their

age. David, the eldest son was 24 while Isaac was 22

when they were ordained. Their father, David Oyedepo

on the other hand received a divine call into Ministry at

27 and was ordained into pastoral Ministry by Pastor E.

A. Adeboye at the age of 29.

The greatest responsibility of a parent truly is child upbringing. David is indeed a successful father. He gave

his children proper and strong spiritual foundation on

which they built their enviable edifices of unshakable

spirituality, as well as acceptable moral values. All the

children of David and Faith Oyedepo were well taught

and nurtured from childhood with the well nourishing

word of God. They were trained to know, to

acknowledge and to subscribe to the beauty of

fellowshipping. Daily, they gathered together, praised,

prayed and shared from the bible. It was made

mandatory for each of their four children to practically

participate. This they did diligently under the

supervision of one or both of the parents.

David Oyedepo with the partnership of his wife, Faith, has performed and delivered effectively the priesthood

responsibility of fatherhood. They did not only teach

their children, but they did it with personal examples for

the children to see and emulate. He believes that a

principle alone is meaningless until it is adequately

matched with appropriate personal examples. “In

practicing the art of parenthood, an ounce of example is

worth a ton of preaching," so says a wise man.

Faith Oyedepo, a well-trained diligent home maker and child training technocrat believes that it is better to train

a child than to repair an adult. Faith recalled in her

book, "Raising Godly Children", how she would lead

her children to their father's study door, leave them to go

in so they could ask their numerous questions and get

satisfying answers. Faith facilitated daily an intimate

interaction between her children and their father,

despite his heavy schedules. She painted the picture of

love and fun shared in her family which has ultimately

established great intimacy and emotional stability

between children and parents. She said "Those who

visit our home are so blessed when they see my husband

playing or discussing with our children in spite of his

busy schedule. Sometimes, he puts our youngest

daughter on his back and runs round the living room

with her. I believe he does so because he understands that despite his own busy schedule, he has a great role to

play in their welfare and upbringing. He also

understands that the success of the family will also affect

understands that the success of the family will also affect his success in life and Ministry " [Raising Godly Children, Page 29].

David Oyedepo, a disciplinarian and firm father confessed that "fatherhood is not a [mere] title, it is a responsibility." Truth well told, the heart connectivity of father and his children is answer to a societal sanctity, and antidote to communal chaos. Indeed there are fathers, but not many fathers are truly fatherly in discharging their core duties in the home. Dr. Myles Munroe, a trainer in human and leadership development unequivocally noted: "the emotional, psychological, spiritual, and moral needs met by the loving, caring balanced environment of a strong [healthy] marriage and family unit cannot be substituted" A man who ignorantly or callously fails to discharge his fatherly duty has gallantly failed his maker and humanity. It is the duty of a father to provide platform for a sane and sustainable society. This he must do by first of all providing incorruptible, amiable and responsible leadership for a healthy and tranquil home front. David and Faith Oyedepo have cleanly and

gallantly emerged as examples of responsible parents.

All of their children have given them great joy and

absolute peace, generating maximum impacts upon

humanity. David and Faith Oyedepo had sown precious

seed early in their children. Now, they are deemed due

to savour and relish their harvest of sweet nectars.

In her book, Marilyn Hickey narrated the story of Max Jukes and Jonathan Edwards. This story should send

any sane person on an expedition of sober reflection:

“Max Jukes was an atheist who married a godless

woman. Some 560 descendants were traced:.

310 died as paupers
150 became criminals
7 of them were murderers
100 were known to be drunkards
More than half of the women were prostitutes

The descendants of Max Jukes cost the United States Government more than $1.25million in 19th century

dollars.

Jonathan Edwards was a contemporary of Max Jukes.

He was a committed Christian who gave God first place

in his life. He married a godly young lady, and some

1,394 descendants were traced:

295 graduated from college, of whom:
13 became college presidents
65 became professors
3 were elected as United States Senators
3 as state governors, and others were sent as

ministers to foreign countries.
30 were Judges
100 were lawyers (one the dean of an outstanding law

school)
56 practiced as physicians (one was the dean of a

medical school)
75 became officers in the military
100 were Mayors of large cities
One was the comptroller of the U. S. Treasury
And one was vice president of the United States.

Not one of the descendants of Edwards Family was a liability to the government." This without doubt is food

for thought for every father and mother.

David Oyedepo got it right when he made the most

important decision [second only to salvation] of his life:

marrying a well cultured, and God fearing young lady

over three decades ago. She's Florence (who changed

her name to Faith), a lady nurtured in the nourishing

words of God by her godly parents. Little wonder she

could pass the same on to her children gracefully and diligently. She believes that child training is a personal

non-transferable responsibility of any wise parent.

The marriage of Faith and David Oyedepo is what one may refer to as a purpose – driven marriage. They did

their search and were able to fish out their role models

with respect to marital responsibility and stability. They

were fascinated and inspired by the Marriage of Papa

Kenneth Hagins and his wife. Faith Oyedepo confessed:

“One family among many others that has given me great

joy is the Hagins family. As I see generation after

generation of the Hagins serving God. I applaud the

investments of Papa and Mama Hagins in the lives of

their children. Their children are not only a blessing to

their parents, but also to the body of Christ.”

David Oyedepo and Faith his wife trained up their children with the proper blend of life principles and

personal examples. When they were children under the

close supervision of their loving, caring and

disciplinarian parents, David Oyedepo's children were

not permitted to do what they liked, except what's right.

David and Faith had the understanding that allowing a

child to do what he likes and not right is moving him to a

future he will not like. They jointly instructed their four

children knowing it is tragedy not to train one's child in the way of the Lord. David Oyedepo warned, "If you

don't train your children you will likely lose them and

they may lose their future. Evelyn Roberts, the wife of

the great American televangelist and founder of Oral

Roberts University, Oral Roberts, wrote in her book,

Raising Children:

"If I had to do one thing over again, I would

saturate my children even more with the

word of God. For a child can only think

what he has in his mind. The world will

desperately bid for your child's mind, and

you can't stop them. But while they are in

your care and under your control, you can

build an arsenal of scriptures and Christian

thinking in them, that the very gates of hell

cannot prevail against. We learned early that

Satan was out to get our children, but we

were determined that he would not. I am so

grateful for Oral's part in instilling the

scriptural. From the time the children could

talk, Oral took them on his knees and told

them Bible stories. And he had them learn

and recite scriptures."

Those were the role models David and Faith Oyedepo studied and followed, and they got the same result – an

exemplary marriage. While many ladies dread the

challenges and responsibilities of marrying a minister of

the gospel of Jesus Christ, Faith Oyedepo faithfully

faced it headlong. She has always stood by her husband

in adversity and prosperity. She never doubted the

futuristic reality of her husband's vision. Before they got

married, in October 1981, David wrote a letter to her,

and it reads in part: "I speak in my office as a Prophet.

We matter to this generation by divine election. We are

the era of saviors the world is waiting for…"

Faith was not in the dark, neither in doubt regarding the man she was to marry. Truth well told, outside of David

Oyedepo, Faith could have perhaps gotten married to

her second best (if such exists). She seemed to have been

configured for such an addicted kingdom promoter like

David. She saw it coming, and she was well equipped to

meet up with the demand. At 22 while still in courtship with Faith, David made a discovery from the pages of the Bible, and from that discovery he wrote a note of committal in form of an Oath unto God, to serve Him forever, come rain, come shine. Then he told his fiancée (Faith) to co-sign the oath as a sign of her commitment to a life sold out to God - She did. She did it because she

knew that the man or woman who has common sense and good sense of judgment to know right from wrong is happier than the man who is immensely rich but lacks good sense of direction!

Faith Oyedepo is never a noise maker neither a heart breaker, but a dedicated wife, full of wisdom and understanding. Hers typifies a diligent and submissive woman. She epitomizes total submission. Hers is a reemergence version of biblical Sarah's sense of submission. One day, David arrived from a journey to the United States of America. The wife asked him: 'What did you bring for us.' He replied; 'sure, come and see.' Then he opened his box and it was filled with volumes of books he had bought, worth over $9,000. The wife asked again, 'what else?' he replied again,

'Why? There's nothing else.' Then she pressed him

further: 'Not even something for the children?' David

placed a seal on the dialogue by saying: “The content of

these books, if well explored can turn me to a

manufacturer of those things.”

David truly had been building his library, reading and researching since the age of 20. Faith, who has always

believed in the integrity of whatever her darling

husband said, quickly viewed her husband as investing

into the great future to come. The reality of that future is what she's swimming in today. In the words of Joseph

Fort Newton:

“We cannot tell what happens to us in the

strange medley of life. But we can decide what

happens in us, how we can take it, what we do

with it-and that's what really counts in the end.

How to take the raw stuff of life and make it a

thing of worth and beauty, that is the supreme

treat of living.”

Faith Oyedepo is a woman of virtue and of a rare breed.

She is a sweet mother to her biological children and

hundreds of thousands spiritual children across the

hundreds of thousands spiritual children across the world. She is a true help mate and loyal co-laborer to her husband. The gem cannot be polished into 24-carat wonder without friction nor the child of God cleansed without adversity. David Oyedepo has been able to ride the storms of life, together with his wife of covenant, Faith Oyedepo, and both have been able to come out of it all victoriously. In all challenges the awesome twosome, David and Faith, never betrayed any shadow of fear nor pressed the panic-buttons because they knew the God whom they served inside out, and were persuaded that He would arise, and scatter every spot where the enemies were gathered. When you blend

David with Faith, you've got a winning combination! Indeed Faith is the perfect match that spices the life and Ministry of David Oyedepo.

Leadership Secrets of

"A wife is a gift bestowed upon

man to reconcile him to the loss of paradise"
Johann Von Goethe

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