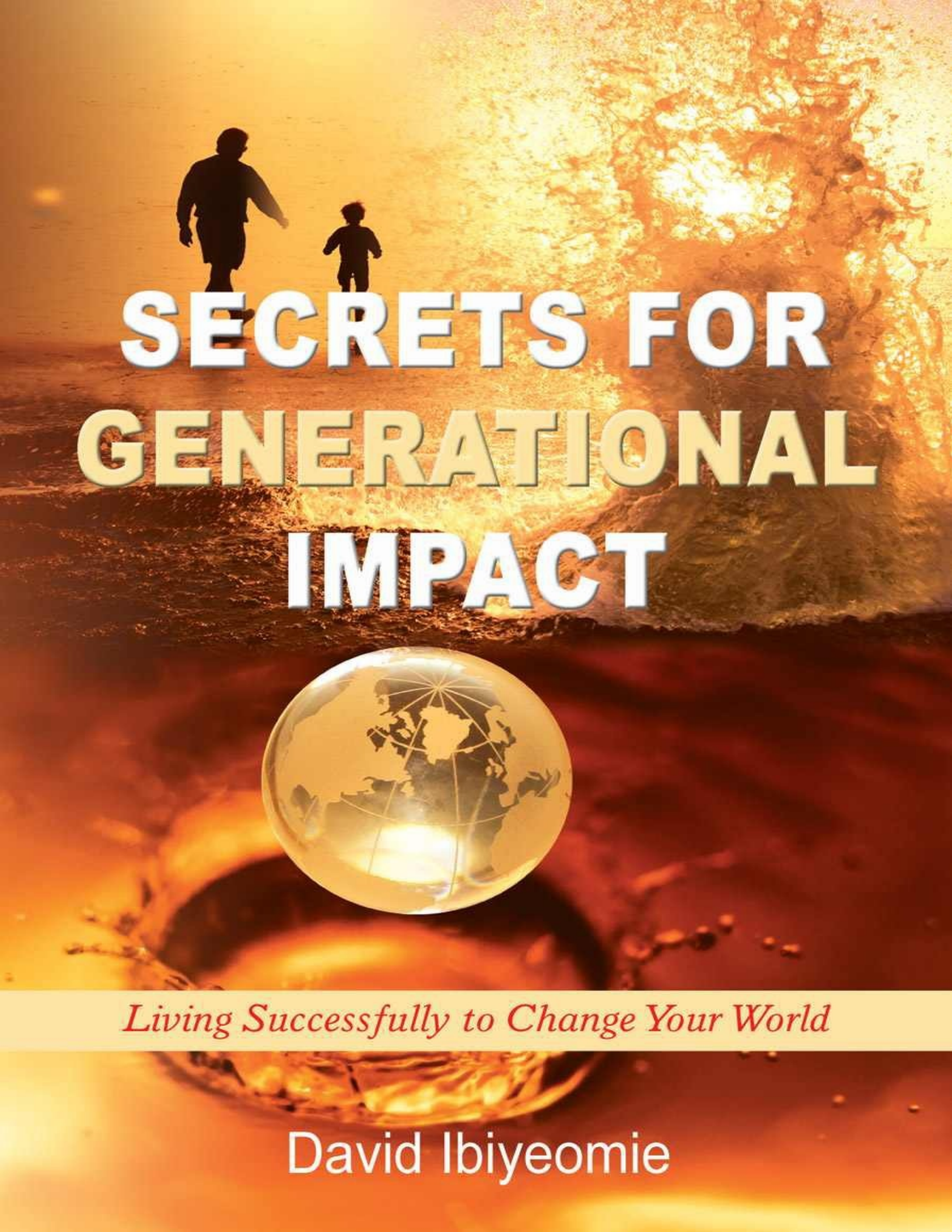
SECRETS FOR
GENERATIONAL
IMPACT
Living Successfully to Change Your World
David Ibiyeomie

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DEDICATION

To God Almighty, my Father, my Change. He is my Potter; gladly and willingly, I am His clay.

To the seekers of secrets of generational impact who long for relevance in their lives.

To Salvation Ministries Worldwide and all who love me, this is your book.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I deeply and humbly acknowledge my Teacher, the Truth, and my Holy Ghost. He is my inspiration.

My mentor, Bishop David Oyedepo, has been a strong influence over my life and ministry.

I also appreciate my gift and wife, Peace, who stands by me continually.

The staff and members of Salvation Ministries Worldwide and all who love and share in my vision, God bless you all immensely and increase you mightily.

Chapter 1

MAKING CHANGES FOR GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Every change in life begins within. Before Almighty God created the world, He saw that the world was formless and void, but He had a vision within how to make the prevailing chaos take shape. This was why He said: “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness” (Gen. 1:26a). Until something changes within, nothing will change around you.

Many people desire to change things around them—boss, spouse, coworkers, family relationships, etc.—but they are not willing to embrace personal change. You need to first of all change within before you can expect any form of change on the outside.

In this chapter we’re going to be discussing change for generational impact, and I want you to know that there’s a way to accomplish that goal. You may wish to change your job, your church, and a multitude of other areas affecting your life, but the place to start is to embrace a change within yourself. All those things you want to change may not BE the problem, the real problem may be you.

When we change ourselves—take steps to improve our attitude, skills, and increase our knowledge—everything we considered problems will change for the better. You may be wondering, “How can I make a change that will cause generational impact?”

HOW TO MAKE A GENERATIONAL IMPACT

1. Love God and His Word

> *Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments"* (Matthew 22:37-40 NLT).

Jesus insists that upon these two commandments of love hang every other provision of the Law and the prophets. In the Mark account, Jesus says to love God even with our strength. The Bible says, "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). There cannot be change in your life if you do not determine to love God.

Only the lovers of God experience good on the earth. Those who spend their lives loving Him end up as world changers. When the love of God becomes relevant in your heart, circumstances don't move you anymore. You must love God for who He is. Let God be first in everything you do, and in all that you have. If you put Him first, you cannot be last in life.

Please affirm to yourself as follows: "I will love Him with whatever it takes." If you make God first in your life, you cannot come last with God. You will always be first with Him, too. God said in Second Corinthians 3:18 (NLT):

> *So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.*

This Scripture is saying that the closer we get to God, the more we will be changed. And I tell you, you cannot change into anything else but the best. In order to encounter change in life, you have to make God first in everything you do.

2. Desire and Make the Right Choices

What you don't desire earnestly, you can never have. Therefore, desire is very powerful. Do you know that if you desire to be poor, that is what you will become? I will show you from the Bible that there was a man who desired to be poor and he got what he wanted. It was not God who made him poor, but he desired poverty, and he got it. In case you are wondering if I'm just spinning tales for you, read this:

> *There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores* (Luke 16:19-21).

If you desire change for a good life, you must start by desiring it first, otherwise God won't give you a good life. The Bible says that "the desire of the righteous shall be granted" (Prov. 10:24). If you desire a change, it will come to you, especially as you begin to change the necessary things around you; but if you don't desire change, God won't give you anything. In Luke 16:21, it says Lazarus desired to be fed with crumbs. Who desired? Lazarus! It wasn't God, but Lazarus who desired to eat the rich man's leftovers.

I want to be very frank with you, beloved. Do you know that some people desire to have their brothers feed them for life unknowingly? Maybe even you? That could be why God has not blessed you yet. You need to change your perspective. Some people feel that their older brother, their parents, or the government should be taking care of them; and therefore, they won't make any serious effort of their own to do well in life. My friend, that kind of desire is satanic and ungodly.

That man, Lazarus, whose story I just showed you, was a child of God, but he desired that a sinner (who was a rich man), should give him crumbs—not a very decent desire, is it? Remember the story of the woman whose faith Jesus commended? That woman said: "…the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table" (Matt. 15:27). She was making a different case entirely, but the observation we're making from her remarks is that crumbs are stuff that fall from the big man's table. In other words, crumbs are not the main meal. They are leftovers, portions not worthy of considering, nothing to care about. The big man won't notice the loss of such things as crumbs.

That’s what you desire when you go bowl in hand, as it were, a-begging when you should take your place your rightful place at the table and exercise your redemption dominion rights. The crumbs are not meant for you. You were meant to eat the main course. Don’t make the mistake Lazarus did desiring to be fed with crumbs. It was his personal desire, not God’s will for him.

This is how many Christians have made mistakes as children of God; they desire relatives, or whoever, who don’t even attend church, to feed them, train their children, and tend to them. I believe that is why God says to them, “I can’t bless you.” He wants to change their lives for the better, but their desires are faulty. God wants to bless them, but they have the wrong desires.

Maybe you have been saying, “Oh, God, let my brother feed me for life.” But God is saying, “How I wish he would ask Me to bless him so he can help himself out, rather than depend on his brother.” So you see that your desire and God’s are contradictory, and therein lies your frustrations over the years. That is a satanic desire; and in case you have such a desire, I pray that you be delivered right now in the mighty name of Jesus.

Moreover concerning Lazarus, the dogs came and licked his sores. You can imagine that Lazarus would have desired to be like the rich man instead of desiring the crumbs from his table. Lazarus went to Heaven, but the rich man went to hell. Abraham went to Heaven and Lazarus as well, but which one would you have preferred? Abraham, but some people are like Lazarus.

Even as some say, “God bless me,” they’re actually saying God should bless their brother so that the brother can help pay their children’s school fees. And who is this brother of theirs? He’s an unbeliever. Some pray to God to bless some people even if they are in the occult, just so they can get some form of assistance from them. This kind of desire is very wrong. Change cannot happen until your desire is right. Stop wishing it and start working at change. Make a choice.

Moses said to the people of God, “I lay before you life and death. Choose!” (see Deut. 30:19). Why? It is because you must first change yourself before you can change others. Hear me, you must change yourself first before you can be a world changer. Only changed men and women can change the world in a positive way.

3. Develop Character

One quality of world changers is this: world changers are never linked with race, creed, or color prejudice. They have character and are ethical people. If you have to ask somebody, “Where are you from?” before you give them what belongs to them, then you are not a world changer. World changers don’t ask where somebody comes from; instead, they base their dealings with everyone on honesty and integrity. Therefore, I treat everybody around me equally, no matter where they come from.

World changers are not tribalistic, racist, or bigoted in any way. Desire, therefore, to be a person who will affect the world by having a broad and liberal mindset. Do not be frozen in your thinking.

4. Keep the Right Company

You cannot be a world changer while keeping the wrong company. The Bible says iron sharpens iron (see Prov. 27:17). Wood will never sharpen iron, so don’t be friends with somebody who is going nowhere. Not everybody at the motor park is traveling. Therefore, do not think everyone, even in church, is going somewhere. You have to identify the destination of the company you’re keeping; otherwise, if they’re going nowhere, you also will end in obscurity with them. You must not be a friend to everybody. You have to watch the company you keep.

Proverbs 13:20 says, “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” If you walk with a liar, naturally a time will come when he will ask you to confirm what he said. If the thing was a lie, you will have to compromise because you are his friend. Automatically you will become a liar because you’re walking with a liar! You have become a liar simply because you don’t want to be less than a friend even to a liar. Therefore, if you have a liar friend, the earlier you stop being friends with him, the better for you.

That someone was your classmate does not mean he must be your friend. For instance, I grew up in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, but my old friends are no longer my friends, simply because my lifestyle has changed over the years. Our lifestyles are not the same any more. My ex-classmates are no longer my friends

because the life I now live is far different from their lives. That somebody went to school with you means he was your classmate, but it does not mean he must be your friend.

Friendship is not by force but by choice. Twenty children don't play together for twenty years. So as you keep growing to be a world changer, some of your old friends will have to give way to new ones. Drop the old ones who are not near to your purpose in life.

When Jesus came out of the grave, Mary wanted to touch Him. Jesus answered her by saying, "Touch Me not, for I am not yet ascended to My Father" (John 20:17). I believe the Lord was saying that He wanted to ascend; and in the process of going up, not everyone should touch Him.

If you want to be promoted in life, go up in life, not everyone will be permitted to come close to you. Jesus said, "I want to go up. Don't touch Me yet!" I believe that means every time you want to move to another level, you may have to drop a set of friends, whether they like it or not. Where you are going is not where they are going. Only a fool wants to be a friend to everybody; and remember, no one can please everyone.

5. Have the Power of Commitment

I tell myself daily that if I want to make changes in my life and become a world changer, I must have the power of commitment in my life. This is about making the commitment to pay the price for change.

Friend, without commitment in life, you cannot accomplish anything big or great. Nations are not developed without the input of the citizens. Believe in productive, hard work and it will yield you its dividends. Cheap money cheapens destiny. The Bible says, "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase" (Prov. 13:11). As a child of God, don't believe that you will enjoy the best without working hard. If you want to be a world changer, you have to believe in hard work.

6. Self-realization

> *And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!* (Luke 15:17)

The passage from Luke 15 says that the prodigal son came to himself. A time comes in life when you talk to yourself; a time to face facts. As a child of God, a time comes when you have to talk to yourself; nobody else needs to talk to you. You sit down, call yourself to a conference, and settle issues with yourself. The prodigal son came to himself.

If you want to change situations around you, you have to sit down and talk to yourself: "I'm doing this and that—what future is there in it?" In anything you do, to make progress you have to ask yourself some questions. People may advise you, but I want to assure you that definitive change will not take place until you talk to yourself.

For example, some women find themselves at the mercy of men who flock around them and give them attention, but none propose marriage. They deceive themselves if they think men love them when the truth of the matter is that if a man truly loves a woman, he will propose marriage.

Maybe you need to talk to yourself about these types of relationships. Do you want to settle down, get married and have a family? Fifteen years of friendship is not equal to one day of marriage. You will never become a Mrs. as a girlfriend.

In the same manner, some men continue as bachelors, deciding not to settle down thinking, *This is the life, lots of different women—no wife to tie me down.* You should talk to yourself about this attitude before you get to a point where you won't listen to wise counsel about your lifestyle.

If you want things to change, you must ask yourself, How long will I keep fooling myself? Young men, hear me, if you are living in your parents' home as an adult and thinking it is yours as well, that is not true. The house belongs to your parents! They worked hard to build the house; it is not your house. Women who are interested in you must know that you are not living independently. You must be honest in your relationships.

Self-realization is the key to moving beyond the squalor of the present. The prodigal son came to himself, and his life story changed.

Change does not take place unless you have a deep-down talk with yourself. Sit down and face reality. That is what I mean. Most people are living in fantasy, and that is not going to help them get ahead in life.

7. Positive Thinking

> *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect* (Romans 12:2 NLT).

You need to renew your mind to agree with God's Word. You must change the way you think. Have you ever heard people say something like, "We don't have any influence. We are minorities." This is not correct! One person standing with God is a majority. Renew your mind. You are not a minority. You are with the majority because you are with God. But if you don't have your mind renewed, you will agree that you are a minority and will feel powerless and hopeless.

Have you also heard it said, "All that goes up must come down"? Some conclude that anyone who is rich must become poor. But that saying is not correct. The Bible says the path of the just is as the shining light that shines ever brighter (see Prov. 4:18). If you go up, you are not permitted to come down. Renewing your mind is the secret. Anywhere the cloud is bright, there must be a dark spot. Where is this saying in the Bible? The light shineth and darkness comprehended it not (see John 1:5). Don't agree with the philosophy of this world; rather, agree with the Word of God. Change will not take place unless your mind is renewed. If you think success, you will be successful.

Think big. You can start small, but think big. You cannot change your world unless your thinking is in line with God's Word. It is when you think in line with God's Word that you can change your world. World changers are people who agree with God's Word based on what God has said. Say to yourself as you're reading this book, *I renew my mind to agree with the Word of God.*

Who is that rich, successful, and thriving person who cannot fail? That is you! God's DNA is in you; therefore, you cannot fail. If people in your family have died young or prematurely, you should declare that it is not your portion to die prematurely, because you don't belong to that family anymore. Your bloodline has changed now. You are a member of the family of God—for if any man is in Christ, he is a *new creature* (see 2 Cor. 5:17). We belong to the family of Christ, and we don't die carelessly. You need to renew your mind to accept this truth.

Some might say, "But I know people of God who died young." I tell you, Stephen was stoned to death, Paul was also stoned. One died quickly and the other refused to die. While Stephen was being stoned, he declared, "Unto Thy hand I commit My spirit," and he went up. They stoned Paul, and Paul said. "I will not die!" Do you get what I'm trying to say? The fact that something bad happened to someone does not mean it will happen to you. No, renew your mind, for as a person thinks in his heart, so he is (see Prov. 23:7).

8. Break Off Limitations

Anyone who says, "I can't" in life, will remain in Can't Camp. Don't allow anything to be a barrier to your life. Never say something is impossible. Remove impossibility from your vocabulary. Determine to undertake what others have not done before. You want to know one of my own secrets? I am always willing to undertake what others are afraid to do.

Refuse to allow outside circumstances to stop the expression of your God-given talent. Focus on possibilities and not on limitations. Never say to yourself, *I cannot do this*. If nobody has done it, then be the first to do it! You go ahead and do it. It is risky not to take a risk. Be willing to take up new challenges. That's the food of champions—challenges. If David never fought Goliath, he wouldn't have been a world changer in his time.

That Goliath before you is for a crown. Every time something is standing to oppose you, it is actually trying to resist your position. Clear it out of the way and go, because you're heading higher when you win the battle. God said in Psalm 27:14:

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen

thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Hear me child of God, refuse to allow past failures to affect your future. Persevere until you win. The whistle will not be blown until you win. Quitters never win and winners never quit. Say it to yourself boldly, *Nothing can stop me.* If you get knocked down, refuse to stay down. Get up and fight again. The righteous fall seven times, and the Lord raises the believer up again.

Please, I challenge you to do something impossible today, and God will do the incredible in your life. Those who are afraid to walk on water will never see the miracle of Peter. You might say, "But Peter, too, was afraid." Beloved, what I'm telling you is that the other disciples did not even try or attempt to come out of the boat. As Peter, be bold to step out and walk toward Jesus. World changers don't settle for mediocrity; they go for something that others are afraid to do, and surely they get the rewards.

People have gone to the moon, but in some parts of the world there are those still locked in the myth that if you go to the moon you will die. But I am saying to you—dare to go to that moon; until you try, you do not know whether you will die or live. You've got to try first! This is the stuff of which world changers and champions are made.

Imagine those four lepers at the entrance gate of Samaria. They were initially afraid of the host that came to camp at their city gates. All the big men of war and all the supposed warriors had caught the fear bug and had all gone into hiding. Hunger and famine were killing all the people, even the king could not help his people. Nobody knew what to do.

Suddenly, as if out of nowhere, courage entered into the hearts of the four physically handicapped men. And what did they say? "If we sit down here, we perish. If we advance toward the camp of the enemies, we perish also. But peradventure we don't perish?" That's the way world changers think. They defy tradition and break boundaries. They tear down walls of opposition and dare to make a difference. The end of the lepers' story is that they did not perish; but more importantly, they ended up delivering a whole city from destruction and starvation (see 2 Kings 7:3-10).

How do you think people would begin to see those lepers? They would forget that they were lepers. The king and the people of the city automatically saw

those men as heroes. They became instant celebrities, and everybody began to respect them. This is what you stand to experience when you decide to leave the camp of “I can’t” to join the camp of “I can.”

Generations are emerging who will shake the world with their ability to dare to make a difference. In countries where women are not treated as equal, men are now standing up to greet them. And countries that were steeped in cults have changed. For instance, Jamaica used to be known for evil things. But some people from that country adopted a new mentality and said, “No, this country cannot be known for such evil.” They stood up and changed the tide. Today, Jamaica is known all over the sports world for something positive and progressive. Jamaica is known for its world-class sprinters.

As a child of God, be it known to you that the very bad places are the same places where God’s grace also tends to emerge. For example, they used to know you at the bar, but now you can choose to be well-known as an evangelist, at least to your former friends. As we see greater things breaking out in the Body of Christ all around the world, we know that God is pouring down His anointing on willing and ready vessels. Men, women, construction workers, businessmen and businesswomen, journalists, teachers, and others that the world will stand for and say, “Yes of a truth, you are world changers!” Therefore, this is the time to work on yourself so that you will not be left out. Receive your anointing in Jesus’ name.

DARE TO DO

Dare to do what others are afraid to do. You can’t be a world changer doing what everybody else is doing; you’ve got to do the extra. When you do the extra, you come out extra-ordinary. For example, if you are in an office where everyone is dodging a particular assignment, you take it up and go ahead and do it. Solve the problem. The world is looking for problem solvers. That is where your profit lies. Look at Bill Gates today. He decided to solve the problem of personal computers not being widely available or affordable. Before his intervention and innovation, computers were way out of reach for most people who desired to have one to do business and other necessary things. After Gates’ Microsoft revolution, owning a personal computer was no longer an unattainable luxury. One man dared to go the extra mile to solve that problem. Bill Gates is in

a class of world changers all his own. Why? He went the extra mile and became extra-ordinary.

If you are a designer and somebody says, “Oh, this design is complex, we can’t do it,” that your cue. Take it up and try to do that complex thing! Until Barack Obama emerged in the United States, nobody believed that a Black man could rule America, the most powerful nation in the world. Only brave people become great. After all, until Samson took over the lion, he couldn’t lick the honey within (see Judg. 14:5-9). It is bravery that makes greatness. All the brothers of David were covenant children, but none had the heart of God. Only David had the heart, and that was why he slaughtered the Goliath who was terrorizing everybody. It is only with the heart that you make a mark. If you want a lion’s share, then you must have a lion’s heart. Do what others are afraid or reluctant to do.

Friend, you are not a failure. You cannot be a failure. Failure is an event. It is another opportunity to start more intelligently. If you have failed before, this is not an issue. For instance, I have failed in the past, but am I still a failure now? No; glory to God. When you succeed, the world will celebrate you in the name of Jesus. Don’t settle for less. Go, pay the price, and begin to succeed. Nations will welcome you because of the gift of God in you, in Jesus’ name.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. Making changes in how you think, act, and behave is hard, but if you want to move ahead in life, enjoy success, and influence others for the Kingdom, changes are necessary.

2. In what areas of your life are you willing to make changes? Your career? Your habits? The words you use? How you treat others?

3. Many times in life there come times when you must decide to step out of the boat or walk into the enemy's camp to improve your lot in life. Are you courageous enough to take that first step?

Chapter 2

OVERCOMING THE FORCE OF COMPROMISE

WHAT IS COMPROMISE?

Compromise can mean settling for something lower than what you want. If you're compromising, it means you lower your standard. Second, compromise is an attitude of lowering a standard or belief system in God and His Word—that smells of potential danger. Compromising God's Word will bring disgrace and embarrassment.

Compromise is also acting below accepted or acceptable standards with the aim of securing instant gratification at the expense of God's lifting. A typical example of this kind of compromise in the Bible is Esau who sold his birthright for food (see Gen. 25:29-34). What Esau did here amounts to agreeing to secure momentary gain and face eternal pain!

The moment you compromise your standard as a Christian believer, you automatically minimize your impact in life. Compromise is a destroyer and killer of impact. It will not allow you to excel. Compromising makes you settle for mediocrity and failure:

> *Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour* (Ecclesiastes 10:1).

If you look at this Scripture from Ecclesiastes, you will notice that certain words stand out: dead flies; ointment of the apothecary; stinking savour; little folly; reputation; wisdom and honor.

The ointment of apothecary is a perfume with an added fragrance. Its aroma and fragrance travels as you carry it. The moment the perfume is opened, it

sends a good aroma around the environment. The aroma in turn creates an impact. This is what the ointment of the apothecary does. Anywhere it goes, it carries a special fragrance. By implication, anywhere it goes, it commands attention. It creates an environment all its own—a clean environment.

Nevertheless, the Scripture says a little folly that is dropped or introduced into the apothecary's perfume, such as a dead fly, can make it stink. In other words, compromise can be likened to a dead fly introduced into the ointment of the apothecary. It is capable of causing a person of reputation to suffer degradation, humiliation, and rejection.

Compromise starts with a little negligence. Most times people will say, "It doesn't matter, everybody is doing it." There is a careless attitude that makes people not bother about their behavior. One thing compromise does is reduce a person gradually without their knowing it, and eventually they lose relevance wherever they are. But I prophesy, dear reader, that this will not be your portion.

When a person loses relevance, he or she suddenly become a nuisance in the same place where they used to command attention. I pray you will not be rejected! You will make a lasting impact in life till Jesus comes.

WE'RE IN A RACE

Every one of us as children of God must understand that we are in a race. Paul said:

> *Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified* (1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT).

However, I want you to realize that you should not just run as a person who does not know why he is running. I translate this passage as: We are in a race.

Everyone runs to obtain a prize. You are not uncertain. You are not just beating the air. It is not a short race, and each person is running to receive a crown at the end.

You are not running a race for just one minute; or a four-year term; rather, it is a lifetime race. And each one of us must run this race to receive our individual crowns.

Prayer

Pray as follows: “I refuse to compromise. I will settle for a standard according to God’s Word and I will live by that standard. I will not lower the standard. Amen.”

HOW TO RUN TO OBTAIN

Understand first that you are not in a sprint but a marathon. You do not need to get rich quick. Quick riches kill, or are at best shortcuts that open the door to compromise. If you focus your attention only on learning the tricks of a trade and not the trade itself, you won’t last in that trade. What this means is that instead of learning the trade itself and becoming a professional in it, you only learn the tricks of it, you find shortcuts.

Somebody one day asked me what was the shortcut to success and I answered him, “There is no shortcut to impact.” Another time someone asked me, “Tell me in a nutshell, what is the secret of your success?” I answered, “I need to tell you the whole shell because it is not one factor.” There are no shortcuts or nutshells when it comes to success. Many factors are involved in the process.

A STORY

There was a beautiful bird sitting on a tree branch making sweet melodies. Everyone passing through the woods was attracted to this bird because of its fine feathers and the making of melodies. One day a man was walking through the

woods and he passed by the tree and heard the bird singing. The bird saw the man who had a box in his hand. The bird asked the man what was in the box. The man said, “There are earthworms in the box.” Then he asked the bird if he could have one of the bird’s feathers in exchange for an earthworm. For just one feather, the man in turn gave the bird an earthworm.

The bird then said to itself, *Very good, instead of working hard and almost killing myself in the process of looking for earthworms, I will take advantage of this shortcut.* The bird kept removing feather after feather from her body in exchange for more delicious earthworms. A time came, though, when the bird discovered that she had no more feathers on her body! The one-time beautiful bird was no longer beautiful. The one-time bird that could fly, could no longer fly. The one-time bird that could make melodies could no longer make a melody. In wanting a shortcut to life, the bird ended up reducing her life to one of despair and humiliation.

THE LESSON

Many Christians are looking for shortcuts, and in the process they are compromising so many good things. Unknowingly by this kind of attitude, such persons are reducing all the virtues of God in their lives.

The sooner you realize the importance of maintaining your standards, the better for you. It is foolishness to think that there is a shortcut to life, like the foolish bird in the story.

Many people are tempted to think or believe that shortcuts are ways to get ahead and obtain the things that they want. Well, hear me well, dear friend, we must stay on the path of the circumference of time before we arrive at the center of opportunity. Many have compromised their standards as political office holders, compromised their marriages, their reputations, their academics, their ministries, families, and their businesses all in a bid to get temporary benefits at the expense of tomorrow’s impact. The effect of your impact will start diminishing the day you start compromising your standards. If you want lasting impact, you must not compromise.

A prime example in the Bible is the man Solomon. Solomon, the Bible says,

started out on a fantastic note, a wonderful foundation; and Solomon loved his God:

> *Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship* (1 Kings 3:3 NLT).

Solomon loved his God, but he began to compromise his standard. A man who loved God all of a sudden began to look at strange women and idols. Solomon got to a point that he married one of the daughters of Pharaoh and opened a shrine. Let me use modern language to describe Solomon's behavior. The man who was building a temple unto God was now building shrines to pagan idols! The same Solomon who loved God and the Bible all of a sudden began to see and love strange women. He became a misfit. The truth is only God knows if Solomon is in Heaven today; but from his steps, I doubt if he made it into Heaven—the same man who was credited in the Bible with loving God.

Many, like Solomon, lower their standards of excellence and godly character. They slaughter generational impact on the altar of compromise. They started out so well with people commending and recommending them, but before long they started lowering the qualities that made their reputations and distinctions, and eventually they ended up in the pit of disgrace. I pray that you will not be part of such, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Say to yourself as you're reading this book, *I will not compromise. I would rather increase my bar; my standard will increase from one level to another.* I pray that your story will impact generations and will last for a long time in the name of Jesus.

Institutions with positive values, businesses with values, leaders with positive, lifelong values, countries with values, and individuals with values are the ones who will stand the test of time and always remain on top, regardless of the competition around them. For instance Harvard University, established in 1636, has been rated the best university over time, not because God loves it more than others but because certain standards have not be compromised and certain values have been maintained as far as academic settings are concerned. On the other hand, any business that plays down positive values by compromising its standards soon becomes past tense in terms of relevance and impact. Theirs will be the story of "Once upon a time…." People will say things like, "Remember

that company? It used to do so well."

When you start compromising the quality of your work, given time, you will soon fade away, your employer will let you go. Most countries, in Africa especially, started out so well because their founders had respect for values and refused to compromise their standards for excellence and impact. Unfortunately, however, soon after the founders died, the next generations began to compromise their standards as public office holders; consequently, as of today, once admired nations have become heaps of trash. Pity!

Compromise is a killer.

One day a hunter came across a bear in the woods, and the bear said to him, "I want a full stomach." The hunter replied to the bear, "I want a fur coat." In response, the bear suggested to the hunter, "Let's compromise." The hunter agreed and started compromising with the bear. You know what happened eventually? The bear ate him up. Although it was too late, the hunter learned the lesson of compromise: it doesn't work!

When you think you have to choose between the lesser of two evils—the way of wisdom is to choose neither. Don't choose between evil—evil is evil. I will shortly tell you the negative effects of compromise. We are talking here about generational impact, not impact for just one day. This is an impact that will go beyond your own generation. Believers have learned lessons from biblical figures like David, Paul, and others who have been gone from this earth for thousands of years, but their impact is still felt by millions.

Whereas in a country like Nigeria, some people who have ruled us and left just a few years ago, are not even recognized on the streets when passing by. People may even want to stone them when they see them—calling them thieves. They compromised their standards while in office. This is an example of the negative effects of compromise.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF COMPROMISE

1. Compromise Causes a Loss of Relevance

Compromise causes people to lose their relevance and significance. Typical examples we have in the Bible are Saul and Samson. In the case of Saul, God personally rejected him from being king over His people because of his disobedience to God's instructions through prophet Samuel, which caused Saul to lose relevance with God. God replaced him:

> *Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be My king"* (1 Samuel 16:1 NLT).

In concluding about Saul; God said to Samuel that Saul had misbehaved and brought down His standards, so why keep mourning for Saul. Now you may wonder why Saul would bring down the standards of the same God who had made him king, but the answer is simple—the people. This is a lesson for leadership.

Most times we lower our standards because we want to please people instead of pleasing God. God has appointed us to provide direction and instruction for some people, and they ought to look up to us for the way forward. But when we have compromised God's standards, we end up seeking to please people rather than God.

Saul fell because he tried to please. Most of us who are children of God want to please people at the expense of God. A example in my culture is when a Christian leader says that his people have decided to make him a "traditional chief." My response, "My friend, do you know that in the process you might offend God? You and I know that taking a chieftaincy title will involve you pouring libation and other such things. You are already compromising your godly standards just because you want to please your people." There are similar circumstances in the Western cultures—when egos get inflated, compromises are made.

When your time here on earth is over, you will have God to face. You know there is a Heaven and there is a hell. Both are real. But then it will be too late to determine if you have served God, and you realize at the end that you missed

God.

In the case of Samson, God commanded him to be a Nazirite all his life so that he could "execute" the battles of the Lord for God's people, but somewhere along the line, Samson began to compromise the standards of God for his life and ministry. At the end of it all, Samson died in enemy territory after having his Nazirite hair shaven off and his two eyes plucked out by his enemies. What a pity!

2. Compromise Replaces Respect with Hatred

God forbid that the same people who had been holding you in high esteem and respect suddenly begin gossip about you and despise anything you have to say. Compromise leads to such a situation. The following Scripture shows how even God treats the person who has lost respect from the Almighty:

> *I called you so often, but you wouldn't come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered. So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you—when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone, and anguish and distress overwhelm you. When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me* (Proverbs 1:24-28 NLT).

3. Compromise Replaces a Good Reputation with Rejection

An apt biblical example here is Esau whom the Bible describes as a fornicator because he compromised his birthright simply because of hunger. What a shame. Esau lost an eternal inheritance for a momentary pleasure and realized too late. He regretted in tears, but unfortunately even his tears could not bring back the lost heritage:

> *Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who*

> *traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal. You know that afterward, when he wanted his father's blessing, he was rejected. It was too late for repentance, even though he begged with bitter tears* (Hebrews 12:16-17 NLT).

It will be too late to think you can repent in Heaven, because the Bible says it is appointed to people once to die, but after that comes the judgment (see Heb. 9:27). This means whatever you do not check and correct now, can never be corrected in eternity.

4. Compromise Means No Impact

Rarely in biblical records or contemporary history are there people who compromised who made a positive impact on their generation or future generations.

5. Eternal Regrets

A person who gives himself to compromise will have regrets in the future and eternally. If you are given to compromise, you become like an elephant missing in the bush—no one will come looking for you. God and people don't want to identify with someone who has been destroyed by compromise, someone who wouldn't stand strong for godly standards.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. Have you ever given in to a temporary satisfaction not realizing that there were bigger implications? Did the story of Esau prick a memory? Compromising the larger and more meaningful issues in life always brings shame. Do you agree?

2. King David is an example of someone who compromised his godly standard regarding intimacy with a woman not his wife, but eventually redeemed himself before God. Do you believe God is capable of forgiving you for any compromises you may have made—or will make in the future?

3. Do you have regrets about compromises you have made throughout your life? Resolve today to stand strong on God's Word and His promises. You can live a godly life when you depend on the Holy Spirit as your strength. Do you believe this?

Chapter 3

DEALING WITH COMPROMISE

Compromise in anyone's life is an ill wind that blows no one any good whatsoever. We have identified what compromise is, and we shall now consider 12 ways to deal with it. This means that you will watch over your own life so carefully that the minute traces of compromise begin to show up, you know exactly what to do and how to get rid of the evil in your life.

1. HAVE A FOCUS

Place a picture of Heaven before you at all times. The Lord Jesus says, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13). In the analogy of athletes in the Bible, apostle Paul makes it clear to us that there is always a way to run a race and win. You can't just run and obtain the prize. You have to run with precision, with direction, and with focus. Therefore the apostle says:

> *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway* (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).

The Scripture from First Corinthians tells the Christian that it is possible to miss the race to Heaven. Getting to Heaven is a race of life for the Christian, and you must win it. One way to overcoming compromise is by placing a picture of Heaven before you so that no matter what you're doing on earth, the ultimate focus is Heaven.

God does not want you to belong to Him and belong to cults. By His grace, He wants to help you eliminate all other belief systems from your life. If you are serving God and yet still indulging in occult practices or other ungodly acts, you need to ask for God's help and stop immediately!

Stop compromising God's righteous standards! God hates idolatry. If you don't clean up, you may not go up. And if you die not believing that the Son of God died for your redemption—no matter how big a Bible you carry—you will go to hell, and satan will deal with you because you have been carrying the Bible but pretending. As a matter of fact, if satan is to punish his own people, he will punish you the more for pretending to be among God's true children.

2. POSSESS A LIVING, ACTIVE, AND WORKING CONSCIENCE

At all times you have to possess a living, active, and working conscience:

> *And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men* (Acts 24:16).

Let your conscience be alive. When Christians believe they can say whatever they want to say, they are spiritually dead! They have no conscience. If you get to that point as a child of God, you are already heading for destruction. You are heading for a crash unless you make a U-turn.

3. STRIVE TO GO TO THE TOP

You must strive to go to the top and remain there. Do not try to go up and come down again; rather, maintain the top position:

> *And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them* (Deuteronomy 28:13).

A wise man once said that getting to the top is not the issue—maintaining your position at the top is the challenge.

4. DESIRE AND WORK TOWARD BEING THE BEST

God is all for His children being the best at all times and not just being the first for a while. This where vigilance comes in, because vigilance is the price of freedom. You have to watch so many things around you being sure that you do not harbor anything that may compromise your stand for excellence and perfection. This was the style of Daniel and his companions in Babylon, and this was what helped them to maintain the upper hand at all times.

> *But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods* (Daniel 1:8 NLT).
>
> *Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom* (Daniel 1:20 NLT).

5. CRAVE TO MAKE A GOOD NAME

Crave to make a good name for yourself that posterity will not live to curse:

> *Choose a good reputation over great riches, for being held in high esteem is better than having silver or gold* (Proverbs 22:1 NLT).

Live so that after you are gone people will always thank God that you existed. May that be our testimony in Jesus' name.

6. CONSTANTLY STUDY THE WORD

Apostle Paul told Timothy to study to show himself approved unto God. So it seems to me that the One who approves our lives for exploits, breakthrough, and excellence when we study the Word is God Almighty Himself.

Give yourself constantly to the diligent study of the Word and the practice of same, and be prayerful too:

> *I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord;* ***teach me*** *Your principles. I have recited aloud all the regulations You have given us. I have rejoiced in Your laws as much as in riches.* ***I will study*** *Your commandments and reflect on Your ways. I will delight in Your decrees and not forget Your word. Be good to Your servant, that I may live and obey Your word. …Even princes sit and speak against me, but* ***I will meditate*** *on Your decrees. Your laws please me;* ***they give me wise advice*** (Psalm 119:11-24 NLT).

Glory to the Lamb of God! I believe that as you are reading this book, your life is changing and your greatness is emerging, in the name of Jesus Christ.

7. NEVER PLAY WITH "LITTLE" FOOLISHNESS

I say do not play with the so-called "little" foolish habits because the Bible says little foxes spoil the vine (see Song of Sol. 2:15). The most dangerous organism that kills many is called a virus, and viruses are very small, seemingly insignificant things. They are insignificant in size but very destructive. Most diseases that kill people are not visible; their symptoms are things most people do not count as important—they seem simple and inconsequential. For example, the HIV virus, is it not a small thing? Yes, it is! It's just a small organism, but its effects on the human body are far-reaching and devastating. It has killed multiplied thousands worldwide.

There are things in life that appear very simple and easy, but they are very destructive. Do not underrate these little things. Remember what the Book of Ecclesiastes says:

> *As dead flies cause even a bottle of perfume to stink, so a little foolishness spoils great wisdom and honor* (Ecclesiastes 10:1 NLT).

So-called “small sins” are not to be played with because they have the potential for great destruction.

8. BE READY TO STEP ON TOES

As a man or woman battling to prevent compromise, you must get ready to step on toes and not worry about whose ox is gored, as long as you keep doing the right thing. Daniel and his companions in Babylon were not afraid of taking a stand for righteousness, even before the monarch; and with time they became distinguished for it. Everyone knew them for who they were—uncompromised men.

If you are a person who will not compromise, people will respect you for what you stand for, but they may not like you. The Bible says “woe” to you if all men say well of you (see Luke 6:26). When you won’t compromise, people will not like you, and you will hear comments like, “Leave him alone, he’s acting as if he is the only one!” It doesn’t matter, let them talk, it is only a reaction to your stand. As far as God is concerned, you are doing well and building your reputation before Him and not before people.

Let others say anything they like, but make sure you are ready to step on the toes of compromise—anyone taking the wrong track, do not care about stepping on their toes! Do not ever regret doing the right thing.

We are called to change the world and we can’t get that done by blending with the standard of the world around us. The Bible says we are to be in the world but not of the world (see John 15:19). We ought to have a standard that towers above that of the world. We are to change the world and not the world us.

9. DON’T DESIRE TO BE EVERYBODY’S FRIEND

As mentioned previously, to be a friend of everybody is to live a life of foolishness. It is not possible to be a friend of everybody unless you do not have standards.

10. HATE SIN AND PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS

Do not under any circumstances give sin an acceptable coloration. Do not make excuses saying, “It’s just my weakness,” or blame it on someone else. Sin is sin. Excusing sin as weakness is a modern coloration for sin. People give excuses instead of frankly admitting that it is sin, and it is a challenge they have and must face and attack.

It is easier to repent by acknowledging that sin is sin than trying to cover it up or excuse it away.

The Bible says:

> *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people* (Proverbs 14:34).
>
> *Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows* (Psalm 45:7).

Righteousness is a secret of success with God and humankind.

11. POSSESS A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

God gives His Word so that we can be corrected:

> *All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness* (2 Timothy 3:16).

If you have made mistakes, be willing to learn from such mistakes; and when you are corrected, do not be offended. Take to the correction with a good heart,

for therein lies your victory, “He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy” (Prov. 29:1).

I am sure you do not wish to be destroyed nor to end in destruction. The way of wisdom is to take correction from well-meaning friends, pastors, and leaders, as well as people God has put in your life in meaningful relationships. The Bible says:

> *Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war* (Proverbs 20:18).
>
> *For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety* (Proverbs 24:6).

It is often not a good sign when a person won’t take advice or counsel, and none can contribute to his or her life. Such a lifestyle is dangerous. So do not get angry if you are corrected, because a teachable spirit is a safety net for your soul. Jesus even encourages us: Come to Me all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Come and learn of Me for I am meek and lowly in heart (see Matt. 11:28-29).

There is always time to learn, and you have to be honest with yourself about that. You believe you want to make impact in life, yet you are always offended when corrected. That kind of attitude will not lead to an impactful life. No, do not get angry, but rather accept the correction and swallow it all.

Don’t lower your standard even in your marriage. Spouses can learn from each other—listen with love.

12. KEEP GOOD PEOPLE AROUND YOU

Truly good and faithful friends do not often fear to tell us the truth to our faces, even when the truth hurts. Therefore, you need to keep people around you who can tell you the hard truth, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend…” (Prov. 27:6).

You must avoid associating with sycophants because they will not allow you to dwell and live in the truth. They tend to blind your eyes to reality; they blur a

formerly sharp vision with lies and sweet tales. The Bible makes us understand that when Israel was without a teaching priest, they began to run into problems. To have a life of impact, you need to stay with people who can tell you when you are wrong.

Do you know why the political system in some parts of the world cannot go forward? It is because people around the leaders are sycophants and self-servers. Even when the leader is misbehaving, they will keep cheering him on and telling him he's the best.

Rather than keep people around who just want to pump your ego and give you false ratings of yourself and your performance, you need men and women of integrity willing to tell you the truth—that you are either doing right or wrong. These are the kind of people who will help you become a better person. Even though you may not like such people around you—those are the ones you really need.

The typical leader wielding power will fire or remove from office the person who tells him he is wrong. Imagine a man like King David for instance. Who did he send to go and call Bathsheba when he wanted to commit adultery with her? Was it a stranger? No! It was one of his own servants. This was why David fell, because it got to a point where people around him were afraid to tell David the truth.

My advice to you as a person wishing for a life of impact is this: do not get to a point, even in your place of business where your co-workers cannot talk to you when there are issues at stake. Otherwise, if it gets to that level, you are heading for a terrible crash!

Even in marriage, if you intimidate your spouse to the point where she or he cannot talk to you, there's going to be trouble ahead. Do not say you are powerful, for then you are heading for a catastrophe. Your spouse should be bold enough to point things out to you that you probably had not noticed or seen from your angle. Your spouse's point of view matters to your success and well-being. Don't despise her or his opinion.

The servant David sent to call Bathsheba could not tell him pointedly that the woman was another man's wife and that he should not go there. He couldn't tell the king that he was wrong, treading on forbidden territory. The fellow couldn't

tell the king the truth even when he sent him on a wrong errand.

This is also how many believers get intimidated to the extent that we actually compromise our standards of holiness and righteousness and the fear of God. Out of fear and compromise, many believers will go completely against God's standards.

However, if you want to have a lasting impact in your life and on the life of others for God's glory, you have to keep truthful, honest, strong believers around you who can look you in the face and tell you the truth, even when it is risky to do so. Do not get bitter when they do this, rather appreciate their frankness.

> *Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother was Athaliah, a granddaughter of King Omri. Ahaziah also followed the evil example of King Ahab's family, for his mother encouraged him in doing wrong. He did what was evil in the Lord's sight, just as Ahab's family had done. They even became his advisers after the death of his father, and they led him to ruin. Following their evil advice, Ahaziah joined King Joram, the son of King Ahab of Israel, in his war against King Hazael of Aram at Ramoth-gilead. When the Arameans wounded Joram in the battle* (2 Chronicles 22:2-5 NLT).

In the Scripture passage from Second Chronicles, you see that Ahaziah's mother was the one telling him to do bad things, and see where it landed him.

Do you know that people actually advise others to do bad things? There are also people who will never tell you the truth. All they are after is their own profit and interest. And unfortunately, that is the kind of system we have in many countries today. We have sycophants around who will keep singing unjust and greedy leaders' praises until they die.

Be careful of such persons, otherwise you will settle for what you are not supposed to settle for. Prefer people who will tell you the truth—do not get angry at them. Accept their correction, and God will change your story. If you take all of the 12 ways to deal with compromise to heart, you can make a generational impact.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. Does having a focus (on Heaven) give you the motivation to keep from compromising your standards? Is your conscience alive and well and keeping you in line with God's Word? Getting to the top and reaching your goals means working hard—are you willing to put in the effort?

2. Studying the Word of God is a prerequisite for staying on the righteous path that leads to God's favor. Are you committed to keeping the Word in your heart and mind? Can you improve on the amount of time you spend in His Word?

3. Have you recently taken a serious look at your associates? Are you keeping company with people who are honest and willing to tell you the truth? Are you drawn to the friends who are practicing in the occult? Who are your best friends, colleagues at work? Are they God's choices for you?

Chapter 4

THE LAW OF SACRIFICE

> *…Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

In the world as well as in the Kingdom of God, nothing goes for nothing. You cannot expect to get far when you have not paid the price. Jesus came down from Heaven to earth—a sacrifice for humanity—so that humankind could be free. After the sacrifice of Jesus, God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name above every name; and at His name, every knee must bow. Jesus Himself said:

> *…I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again…* (John 10:17-18).

Looking at these Scriptures from Hebrews and John, you will gain more light and insight concerning the issue of the sacrifice. The Bible says it was for the joy that was set before Him that Jesus went through the pain of the cross and the other indignities He had to suffer.

Nobody forced Jesus to lay down His life. He said He willingly laid it down. That is sacrifice in action. For whatever is of value, there is a price to pay. As a matter of fact, the greater the self-sacrifice, the greater the impact you stand to make. Jesus laid down His very life—the ultimate sacrifice. This is why today His name and power cover the whole earth. He said He was not forced to do it.

Sacrifice is often a willing effort borne out of vision or intense desire. The birth of anything great carries the cost of sacrifice. Everything of value takes

time to become reality. There is nothing of value without a cost. You want to be great? There is a price to be paid. Those who don't want to pay the price of sacrifice today will not enjoy the dividends tomorrow.

Do you know that the nation of Brazil took the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan like many other nations? However, Brazil paid the price by committing to going into technology for the next twenty years. While others who took the loans were dying in poverty, Brazil came up on top. Why? It paid the price. Today, Brazil manufactures cars, aircrafts, etc. That nation made a sacrifice of twenty years during which they paid their debts and turned their country around.

I am not preaching loan-taking to you, but I'm trying to show you what one nation did with sacrificial living. People talk about Singapore today. Do you know what Singapore did? That country some forty-something years ago was one of the most beggarly countries of the world. They were so poor that other poor nations called them poor! Their situation was that bad. So what did Singapore do to change their financial situation? Singapore began to invest heavily into the educational sector of their nation. The investment was so much that over time they began to break through in major areas of Information Technology (IT) and science. Today, Singapore is one of the world's best and most viable economies. Why? It was because they made a sacrifice.

On a personal level, Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for twenty-six years for the sake of his country's freedom. He paid the price that others were afraid to pay and became the greatest African leader in the world. For everything that makes you great, there is a price to be paid. There is nobody, no matter the person, who has ever paid the price and regretted it. Many want the change, but only a few are willing to pay the price of sacrifice. Please take this truth—it will change your life.

If you are to be a man or woman of great generational impact, sacrifice is a fundamental requirement. Even as a student, there is a time for sacrifice; you must deny your body sleep sometimes. You must shun night parties and overeating. You must burn the midnight oil. Nobody becomes great without sacrifice. No first class student goes to parties every weekend. That's for third class students. A-list students are the ones who sacrifice everything in order to make impact their result.

If you want pleasure now, you will not have the desired future tomorrow. There is a time to give up extra comfort for the discovery that will help you affect tomorrow positively. You have to give up some things in order to be a world changer. Every man or woman of impact has made sacrifices at one time or another in their lives.

MY PERSONAL STORY

Many people do not know that I grew up in Port Harcourt, in the South-South region of Nigeria. I could have spent my time going from one friend or relation to the other, just visiting. But that was not what I did because I realized early that you couldn't go around visiting people and make an impact. So as a matter of policy, I don't go visiting people, not because I don't like people, but because I cannot make an impact by sitting around talking about the weather, politics, etc. So I had to pay the price by staying inside, studying, and doing other necessary things. Right now the rewards of the days of sowing are being realized. Nobody becomes great and makes an impact without a time, or times, of sacrifice.

Do you know that even in marriage the story is the same? Marriage has its own sacrifices. You will have to make sacrifices to become a good spouse and parent. This involves denying yourself some pleasures. It may not be convenient, but a good woman and man want a God-fearing spouse, and that is why believers must resolve to live like true children of God. No good man or woman will marry a wayward person. It's a sacrifice to be the kind of person worthy of a spouse.

Men and women must focus on the godly aspects of marriage when looking for a mate. If people are only interested in dressing up and partying, they aren't ready for the responsibilities of marriage and parenting. There is a sacrifice to pay—certain pleasures of life must be forsaken for the sake of a solid foundation for a marriage relationship. Good, godly people are looking for the same type of person with whom to share their lives.

BENEFITS OF A CHANGED LIFE

1. Improvement

Every changed person grows. When you change, you improve; and improvement makes you grow in life. When you want something you've never had before, then you will have to do something you've never done before. Improvement also increases self-worth. As mentioned previously, the Bible says, "The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter…" (Prov. 4:18 NLT). Every time you change for the better, you improve in one area or another, and that adds value to your overall worth.

For instance, your market or business will grow to meet you. If you don't change, anywhere your market stops is where your change stops. It is not the devil in your business that is afflicting you or blocking you. It is what you are doing or not doing. If your company is not growing, then you are not growing—you haven't changed. Every time you change, growth is inevitable. It's an unwritten law, but it is automatic. When you don't change, there is no growth.

If you are not going forward, it is because you have not changed, and that's not necessarily because of satan. It might surprise you to hear that even the people who are changing and growing also have the devil to contend with. The devil is fighting every child of God, but the Bible says we should not be ignorant of his devices—one of them is making you think that he has the power to stop you from going forward. Don't forget that Jesus called satan a liar and the father of lies. So in this instance when he makes you think that he has power to stop you, he has sold you a lie. The only one who can stop you from moving forward and making progress is you!

Whenever things are not working, all you need to do is change, because when you change, improvement naturally follows.

2. Recovery of Destiny

The moment the prodigal son changed his mindset and his direction, his destiny was recovered. The Bible records that the best robe was requested to be put on him (see Luke 15:22), and he was also given a ring. A changed life will attract a recovery of destiny. Every time a person changes, things they've lost begin to be restored to them.

3. Enhanced Productivity

The Bible says when you see a man who is diligent in his business, he will stand before kings and not before ordinary people (see Prov. 22:29). Change enhances productivity, and productivity will lead to excellence. Excellence is the deterrent to sexism and racism. You say why or how? It is because when you excel, your background will become irrelevant. One sure thing is that it does not matter where you come from or who your father and mother are when you're making an impact. No one will bother to know such irrelevant details. No one will be interested whether you're white or black. It doesn't matter anymore. The impact you are making is all that matters.

This was why Joseph became a great man in Egypt. When it was clear to the king of Egypt that Joseph had the solution to their problem of an impending famine, it didn't matter to him that Joseph was a foreigner—he had the key to the question of the moment. Joseph was immediately promoted from the prison to the palace! That will be your story if you embrace change. This was the same reason why Barack Obama became the president of the United States. The number one citizen in a white-dominated country is a man whose father was a black Kenyan and his mother a white American. Stop telling us the devil is your problem.

I am convinced that women are not always maltreated—and I encourage women to step out and make changes—make an impact in the world. There are women who have done so already. Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala became a vice president of the World Bank. She also became a federal minister in Nigeria.

Every time you hear people say they are being marginalized because of where they come from, I say it's a lie! Why? The truth is that they do not have a touch of excellence yet. What they need to do is improve their mindset and status by making changes within. No one can marginalize a person who has the answer. If you are a doctor and you know how to treat people such that they get well, who will bother about where you come from? You can come from the moon for all people care. Doctor Ben Carson is an African-American neurosurgeon in the United States—he is one of the best in the world, and he operates on many White people.

My friend, stop telling lies that the devil is your problem. For your information, satan's influence is almost everywhere; and he's fighting everybody

even including Barack Obama and Doctor Ben Carson. Failure has a way of explaining itself away with excuses and looking for whom to blame. Anyone blaming others for their non achievement or low achievement is a failure. That's not how world changers think!

When you take responsibility as the reason for the failure you're experiencing, God will be able to help you. It's not some witch in your community. It's not the devil either. He's just a mere roaming ambassador. He's disturbing everyone else also, but they're succeeding. Almighty God says that He will prepare a table before you in the presence of all your enemies (see Ps. 23:5).

4. Excellent Reputation

When you make positive changes in your life, you will earn an excellent reputation. The Bible says, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches" (Prov. 22:1). The moment you change, you will earn people's confidence. Watch anybody who changes for the better, you can put your money in their hands, and there will be no fear of loss. When you are trusted at your place of employment, there is a sense of security and opportunities for advancement. If you're the boss of a trusted person, no matter how hard the economic crunch is biting, you will not want to let go of that trustworthy staff.

5. Righteous Leadership

Genuine change goes hand in hand with righteous leadership. Leadership is not about one person in office; rather, it is about everyone assuming leadership at work, in the community, the church, and at home. The Bible says righteousness exalts a nation (see Prov. 14:34). When we change, leadership is also enhanced. There's no way a chimpanzee can be head of state. Why? He has a problem of nature. Likewise, if you do not change from your fleshly nature, even when adorned with a suit, you are like a chimpanzee who wants to be president. Can you make an armed robber a president? Even if you do make him a president, he will still be an armed robber until he changes his criminal ways. Until something happens and change occurs within you, nothing else will change.

6. Assurance of Heaven

Jesus asks a pertinent question, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Matt. 16:26). Only changed people go to Heaven. You may ask why I believe this. Because even though Judas was with Jesus, he didn’t change. He performed miracles, but he didn’t change within. So he went to hell despite all the miracles he had performed. Why did Judas go to hell? Judas went to hell because he loved money.

Do not be excited that you attend church. If you don’t change from evil ways to godly ways and thinking, you may still end up in hell. Change is important and inevitable. Don’t love anything of this world above the Lord Jesus. Judas loved money so much that even when Jesus told the disciples that one of them was going to betray Him, Judas was not moved. In his heart he seemed to say, *Even if you talk from here till eternity, I will still betray you!* This was the time for Judas to change and repent, but the love of money had captured his heart already. He refused to change.

It is very painful and unfortunate that even when some people come to church services and hear messages that should convict them of sin or wrong-doing and cause them to change, they refuse. Many will say to the preacher instead, “The pastor can say anything he likes, but I will do what I want to do.” These are modern-day Judases. My friend, the sooner you change, the better for you. There is hell and there is Heaven. Let no one deceive you that there is no hell (see Matt. 24:13). Hell is real! But if you don’t change now it may be too late to find out when you die. Those who change are sure of eternity. It takes a changed person to live an eternal life in Heaven.

AFFECTING PERSONAL CHANGE

Regardless of how much you desire change, nothing moves when you don’t move. Nothing changes when you don’t change, so to begin is to take a proactive step by taking an inventory of your life. Get a notebook and write down the areas of your life you are desirous of change. Write all these things down and make a personal commitment to pay the price for change.

The Bible says concerning Jesus, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a

man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus laid down His life for you. Hear me, dear reader, the ultimate life changer, forever, is Jesus. He is the only One who could give His life to save all of humanity—to give humankind the choice whether to accept His sacrifice or deny it.

Perhaps you are an unbeliever reading this book today. You can choose to change your destiny by giving your life to Jesus right now—no matter the sin you may have committed or the evil you have done. Jesus died so that He could change you. He died to bring that needed change into your life because you cannot change yourself. No one can change except through Jesus.

You can be in church and not be in Christ. The end of it is crisis. I was going to church too, and was busy praying like others, but I knew I wasn't born again. I didn't know the Lord. I didn't have Jesus as my Lord and personal Savior. The church you attend is not the issue when we talk about knowing the Lord. It has to do with your personal relationship with Jesus. If you have not made peace with Jesus and He comes today for instance, you will not make it into Heaven. You are not saved.

I believe in my heart that as you're reading this book God is giving you an opportunity to make peace with Him and settle your eternal destiny. I pray you receive the courage to make the right decision today in the name of Jesus.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. The birth of anything great—ideas, a baby, inventions, etc.—carries the cost of sacrifice. Nothing of value is without expending time and effort into it before it becomes reality. Are you willing to spend what it takes to become the person God intends—a world changer?

2. Of the six benefits of a changed life, which two have you experienced after changing your life? Or, which two are you looking forward to experiencing after you commit to changing your life?

3. Have you given your life over totally to Jesus as your personal Savior? Are you totally committed to giving Him the glory and honor He deserves? Can you accept His free and loving gift of salvation and eternal life?

Chapter 5

ATTITUDE FOR GENERATIONAL IMPACT

What is attitude? We shall look at attitude in different forms, but suffice it to say now that attitude is the true reflection of yourself. Attitude is who you are. It is an inward feeling expressed by outward behavior. Nothing brings a person up or down in life other than attitude. People always project on the outside what they feel on the inside.

No other issues, such as money, location, connections, etc., determine your lifting in life but attitude. What determines your advancement or demotion is your attitude. When you have the right attitude, your life will move forward. Nothing devalues life like a wrong attitude—bitterness, complaining, self-defeating, arrogant, self-righteous, etc. Right attitude is what makes for greatness —being humble, trustworthy, friendly, helpful, forgiving, joyful, etc.

Like I mentioned in Chapter 1, change must happen within you first before it can happen around you. It's just the truth.

A young boy was causing trouble and his mother spanked him and told him to sit down. The boy sat down all right, but looked up to his mother and said, "Mommy, I'm sitting down on the outside but on the inside I'm standing up." One thing about attitude is this: the roots are not seen, but the fruits are visible. I'm saying that the real you is the one on the inside, not the one we see outside. In the same manner, change is not outside, it is on the inside. If there is no change on the inside, forget it, nothing else around you will change.

Attitude is the historian of your past, the secretary of your present, and the prophet of your future. Your attitude is the historian of your past. Whatever you were in the past is because of your attitude. Your attitude is the secretary of whatever is happening now in your life, it is a function of what you did before. It is the prophet; who you are today is a function of your attitude yesterday. And

who you will be tomorrow is a result of your present attitude. For example, the nature of a tree determines the fruit it will bear. The Bible refers to you and me as trees of righteousness and says that by our fruits we shall be known (see Isa. 61:3; Matt. 12:33).

Attitude affects every aspect of your life. If there is no change on the inside and someone gives you a large amount of money, you will still end up poor. If you won't change within, even if you are enrolled in Harvard University, you will still fail! If there is no change on the inside and you have a very lucrative job, you will not succeed because it is not just your environment, it is your attitude.

Now if attitude is that important to a person's life, have you ever thought about your attitudes? How did you get your attitudes? Attitudes that you were not born with? By examining the following facts, most of the wrong attitudes you harbor now will be dealt with by the end of the chapter. Since we're agreeing that wrong attitudes are things we were not born with, where did they come from? How did we acquire them? These are important questions.

WHERE ATTITUDES COME FROM

1. Early Environmental Influences

Most peoples' attitudes are absorbed from their early environments. Where and how you grow up will affect you negatively or positively. For instance, if you were brought up by a divorced parent, it is likely to affect you negatively. In the case of a divorced mother, she may give her child reasons to believe that all men are bad. This mother's mindset can warp reality for her sons and daughters. A young girl may grow up hating the opposite sex because of the many maltreatment stories told about the father. When she reaches the age to marry, she will be wary. Her attitude toward the opposite sex becomes a negative one because her mother gave her an early negative foundation. Likewise, a son raised in that environment may have a negative self-image because of the mother's influence.

Do you know that greed is an evidence of poverty? Some of us grew up in poverty environments. We grew up where the only thing we knew was poverty: everyone and everything around us was poor and reeked of poverty. If such persons change location but they do not change on the inside, they will still have a poverty mentality. This is the primary reason why leaders in Third World countries grab all the money they can and stash it away for themselves. It is the result of a lifetime of poverty. Such people grew up struggling to eat. For many from that environment, from birth to early adulthood, life has been a matter of survival of the fittest. They grew up from childhood knowing that whoever comes back home first gets to eat all. Therefore, when an individual from that environment is placed in a political office, his attitude will be to eat all.

This is why as a Christian man or woman you must work on yourself and get rid of all the negative influences you may have acquired over the years. As believers, we are to change the world and not let the world change us.

2. Other People's Opinions

Our attitudes also come from other people's opinions. Only God knows us intimately—not any particular person. With that understanding in your mind, do not ever take to heart the downgrading opinion of others about you. It's just their opinion and they are entitled to their opinion—but do not allow their opinion to cause you grief or despair. It is wrong to form an opinion of yourself from what others say about you. Perhaps they think what they do because of envy, bias, or outright misunderstanding?

Never allow someone else's opinion to determine your attitude. The only One who really knows you is God. It might shock you to hear that even your parents don't know you—nor your spouse. There are men and women who have succeeded tremendously today, but whose parents never believed they could even do anything for themselves.

Moreover, do not allow even the opinion of your teachers to form you wrongly, because really they don't know you. Sometimes while in school we come under teachers who tell us that we are good for nothing. Interestingly, some such good-for-nothings have today become more successful than others, including the heartless teachers. Why? That teacher could have motivated that

person to prove them wrong. Thank God they didn't allow a careless remark to settle and form a stronghold in them. You can use people's remarks to bring you down or motivate you to move forward.

3. Self-Image

Attitude comes through self-image. If you have a negative self-image, you must change it on the inside; otherwise it will affect your outward actions negatively. For instance, in the Bible, Moses saw himself as a stammerer, while God saw him as a leader. Esther saw herself as a slave, but God saw her as a queen. Gideon saw himself as a nobody, but God saw him as a mighty man of valor. Gideon, because of his background, had a faulty self-image. He told God: Don't you know the background I come from? Gideon wanted God to remember that he was from a poor family, but God said: No, you are a mighty man of valor. That was how God saw Gideon, and that picture was correct and authentic.

Stop looking at your natural, biological family. You now belong to the family of God! You are an important child of God. You should look at yourself often and declare boldly, "I am great." Paint a new picture of yourself by taking your life from Scriptures and determining your future. Don't look at yourself from the world's perspective, but rather from the Word. God has said that you are fearfully and wonderfully made (see Ps. 139:14). That is true! You are not ugly. There is no ugly man or woman. God says you are wonderfully made; so if someone says you are ugly, it is not true. Not even you can say so! Stop painting yourself from a negative perspective. God says, "I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20). Give yourself a good self-image. Walk tall. Think tall. Act tall. Talk tall, and talk big. Stop talking small and feeling short. Almighty God, the Omnipotent, could not have given birth to an impotent child. If like begets like, lion gives birth to lion; then God gives birth to His own kind. You don't look like your natural father or mother, you look like your Father in Heaven.

Tell yourself that you have a great future. That's where attitude comes from!

4. The Company You Keep

The company you keep will either affect you negatively or positively. The Bible says that whoever walks with the wise shall be wise (see Prov. 13:20). The Bible also says, “Be not deceived, evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Cor. 15:33). There are people you walk with who affect your attitude negatively, and before you realize it, you aren’t walking right. Every time they meet you it is all negativity. They have nothing but sad and bad stories to tell. One calamity or another has happened since the last time you saw them. If you associate too long with such people, before you know it, your own attitude becomes negative. Watch the company you keep. Don’t keep company with someone who is going nowhere. Don’t follow everybody without discretion; choose your own company wisely.

5. What You Think

What you think affects your attitude. In Philippians 4:8, the Bible says:

> *And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise* (NLT).

These are the only things you should be thinking about. Anything outside Philippians 4:8—don’t think about it! This passage is the thinking syllabus of life, especially for the child of God. Your life is controlled by what you think. How you think about your life determines your attitude toward it. If you think that your work and where you work is bad, the moment you think that way your attitude shows it. If you think that where you’re working is a place of suffering, your attitude will reflect that of a suffering person.

You won’t realize it right away, but when you begin to think negatively—*this work is too difficult, those people don’t like me, I don’t get paid enough*—everything about your life will begin to experience difficulty. Your attitude in life moves you toward anything you give your thoughts to. If you think that your neighbors are wicked, your attitude toward them will be negative and reflect what you’re thinking in your heart. If you think and look at the government of your country as bad, your attitude toward government is bad. Even when people are doing good, your negative attitude keeps you busy thinking they are bad.

If your attitude toward your parents is that they are bad people, even when they intend to bless you, you will respond by saying in your heart: *bad parents.* Your thinking determines how you act in all directions. Most people who think witches are attacking them are under a kind of attitude. It is because of how they think. Watch what you think! The sum of all your thoughts will determine your overall attitude, therefore you must watch what goes on in your mind. Don't forget—until your inside changes, the outside can't change.

6. Your Choices in Life

Choice is the most complicated thing in life, especially when there is a variety of alternatives that look good. Many times your attitude is a function of choice. When you are presented with two equally good things and you are given a choice to pick one, you are faced with a problem because the two choices are good. Remember, the enemy of the best is the good.

For instance, if I put a large sum of money and wisdom side by side and ask a person to choose from the two options, I suspect the person would likely pick the money. I could safely say that would be the choice for a majority of people.

However, I can tell you authoritatively that if you picked the money you would still be poor. This fact has been proven many times over by those who have won the lottery—great amounts of money—and in a few years they are broke. But if you choose wisdom, that's where your breakthrough will come from. Why? It is because wisdom will give you money. It will not only help you earn the money but also give you the knowledge to manage it profitably.

In the Book of Deuteronomy 30:19, the Bible says, I lay before you life and death—choose life.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. Attitude is who you are—an inward feeling expressed by outward behavior. Nothing brings you up or down in life other than attitude. Are you satisfied with your attitude about God, life, others, yourself?

2. Of the six reasons for your attitude listed and explained, which one has had the most influence shaping your attitude?

3. Do you follow the instructions in Philippians 4:8? Or do you allow your mind to wander into other territory?

Chapter 6

DEVELOPING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD

You must cultivate the right attitude when it comes to God. Let God be God and you be you. God may use you to help Him accomplish His will on earth. Be open to His still small voice, and with the right attitude you can co-labor with Him (see 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1).

Some Christians are fond of saying that if God does not do this or that, they won't serve Him again. Sorry, the loss is yours. While Elijah complained to God that he was the only prophet remaining who was serving Him in Israel, God shocked him with the information that there were 7,000 others he did not know about who did not bow to Baal either (see 1 Kings 19:18). That gives you an idea how wrong mortals can be about God. You are too small to threaten God. You need to change that wrong attitude because God will remain God even after you die, and people will still worship Him even if you refuse to.

The Bible says, "He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against Him, and hath prospered?" (Job 9:4). This Scripture is telling us that it is useless hardening our hearts against God. He has been God before your great-grandfather was born. He will still be God after you are long gone. God is God forever.

When your attitude toward God is right, then you will be set for making a generational impact. Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord'" (Mark 12:29 NLT). If you won't serve God, countless others will gladly serve Him, and you will be the ultimate loser. Humans are never in a position to threaten God; if you choose not to go to church, God doesn't lose—you do! The Bible says we should seek first the Kingdom of God and that all other things will be added unto us—

this is the correct attitude (see Matt. 6:33).

ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE

Life is the act of living; it is about contribution and not about consumption. God didn't give you life without a purpose. Men and women of impact pursue a life of service. Have you ever bothered to wonder why God gave you life? He gave you life to make contributions to your world for His glory and to increase His Kingdom. No matter your profession, you can contribute through your work to the glory of God. When you stop making contributions, you have stopped living. You are merely existing. Everything God does has a purpose. He gave you life so that you can contribute to your world and His Kingdom.

Life is about service and not status. Life is about sacrifice and not surplus. For example, in the Bible it says, "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption" (Acts 13:36). If you are ready to make a lasting impact in life, then be interested in what you can contribute to your world. If you are contributing nothing, then you are nothing but a mere consumer, not a contributor. After David had served his generation, he died—but he is still remembered today. In fact, some years back they celebrated David's 3,000-year departure in a special ceremony in Israel.

Wouldn't you like that? Wouldn't it be wonderful if you made such an impact that generations later they would still be celebrating your life? Some grandfathers died recently, but even as they were being buried, they were being forgotten. Nobody remembers them today. Why? They didn't live lives of impact. Nobody remembers what people accumulated in life, but everyone remembers what people have done to affect lives.

The world will only remember you for what you have contributed to humanity. Rich people are not remembered because they had so much money. No. The world has always remembered people who have contributed to their generation in positive ways. Lasting impact is not about collection, it is about distribution. Think of what you can do for your country, town, or church, and then you have begun the journey toward lasting impact.

United States President John F. Kennedy, a wise man, once said, “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.” President Kennedy stated that in 1961 and his legacy of that inaugural speech lives on. I saw another impactful statement lately, which I wrote down, “True leadership must be for the benefit of the followers and not for the enrichment of the leaders.” A leader is not defined as a person who holds an elected office or has a CEO title; a leader is one who impacts people.

If you have a good reputation because of the positive things you have done for others, when your name is called, it is with gladness because you have made impact. There are many millionaires and billionaires worldwide who, when their names are mentioned, nobody even knows them or who they are. But if I say Nelson Mandela, a large number of people in any part of the world know who this man is. That is what this book is discussing and encouraging—making a generational impact.

Life is about contribution—not possessions. Most heads of state in Africa today are probably far richer than Mandela, but none of them (dead or living) is so celebrated worldwide. There is even a statue of Nelson Mandela in London, England. The man is not the richest, but he’s certainly the most respected leader in Africa. Money is not what makes an impact, but rather something that generational leaders use to positively affect humanity.

Your first target toward developing the right attitude for an abundant life is not just what you can get, but what you can give. This is why Jesus said it was more blessed to give than to receive. It is not just about money, but everything about yourself that you can give in service to humanity. Always think of what you can do for others in your own little way, not what others can do for you.

ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY

If you want to cultivate a lasting impact for generations to come, do not worship money. If you want to make an impact, do not make money your god—it is a very wicked, unreliable, and mean master. Jesus Himself said it is not possible to serve God and serve money. You will have to choose one, because the one you choose is the one that will take up your time and attention the most.

> *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon* (Matthew 6:24).

Some Christians have taken this Scripture to mean that Christians are supposed to be poor, because Jesus has said we must hate money. No, the Lord never said that! He said we should not love mammon—the god of money. This is the spirit that controls the love of money and drags people's hearts away from the Lord. It is that spirit Jesus said we should beware of, not money itself.

Money is good when you know the purpose of it in your life. As a matter of fact, money is a servant and ought to be treated as such. It is there for you to send it on good errands, instead of you running after money as if it is your master.

Use money to bless humanity and promote the Kingdom of God. Hear this truth: money is a blessing if you have it, but it becomes a curse if money has you. If you have money, it is good—but don't ever let money have you. Don't see money as the ultimate in life, and don't worship it.

Money is like electricity, if you use it improperly, it will shock you; but if you use it correctly, it will serve you well. Money is not bad, but the love of money is bad. The problem with most people worldwide is not money, but the love of it.

Most criminals love money, and the love of money is the cause of the great majority of all crimes. The criminal wants cheap money, and cheap money cheapens destiny. That is not why God wants you to exist. You cannot change people if you are a lover of money. The way it works is this: if you put money first, impacting people will come last, and before you realize it, you will have spoiled a lot of potentially good relationships.

Unfortunately, if you put money before impact, you won't go far. For example, if you are a lawyer and in all that you do money comes first, it means you are not thinking of your client or winning cases. Very soon you will be out of the legal profession because people will talk negatively about you. On the other hand, if you are a good lawyer who cares about clients and doing the right thing with the right attitude, money will come when you win cases. Your concern for people to get justice will compel you to place winning above money.

If you are an architect yet you are not interested in designing fantastic

structures to shake your world, but only money, money, money is your motivation, you have lost it. A time will come when no one will want to hire you for your architectural skills. If you are a pastor and the first thing you want is money, you won't go far. People will be able to tell where your commitment lies. No one wants to follow a pastor who is only interested in how much money he can raise. I can tell you that authoritatively.

A football player who puts money first may find himself playing with a local team rather than a regional or national team. I'll illustrate this particular point with a story. Some years back there used to be a team known as Pan Bank football club, which was owned by a bank. The bank used to pay their football players a salary grade level nine.

There was also the Sharks football club, which used to pay its players something like salary grade level six. All the football players, except one, from the state where these two teams were located decided to play with the Pan Bank team; only one decided to play with Sharks. Now even though this team paid less salary, it was the only team in the state participating in the West African Football Union tournament and other highly rated tournaments. The other team played only at the local level, even though it paid a higher salary.

While this particular player was playing for the Sharks, the national coach for Nigeria spotted him and took him to Brazil. From Brazil, this young man became an international player; and eventually he became a millionaire. While others died professionally at the level nine salary scale on the local scene, the other player became a multimillionaire who made an impact on many. Those former colleagues of his couldn't see far enough into the future—they settled for nearby money.

In everything you are doing in life, you ought to place impact first; and impact will generate the money. Don't settle for immediate gratification at the detriment of your future. A morsel of meal today will only satisfy you for the moment; but the future you can see will go beyond the now. If you are a student, think about passing first. If you are in politics think of impact first.

ATTITUDE TOWARD WORK

I'd like to inform you that your attitude toward work determines your ultimate worth in life. Most people agree that there should be no food for the lazy. Not only do they lack food but honor, too, if they are lazy or lackadaisical in their attitude toward work. Many people don't like hard work. But I contend that the only alternative to hard work is a hard life!

Your attitude toward work should be that work is good. You are either working toward making a generational impact or you are playing. Many have a slavery mentality toward work. What I mean by slavery mentality is that slaves wait to be forced to work and supervised before they can perform. What you tell a slave to do is what he or she will do—no more, no less. But God does not want us to work as slaves. He wants us to live as heirs to His Kingdom. That means we should work for His glory—and do the best we can at all the work before us.

Many retired workers find themselves feeling unproductive. For years they worked hard at their jobs and it was a healthy routine. After they retire, their bodies were so used to getting up each day and going to work that they are at a loss of what to do. This is a good time to start their own business.

If this is your stage in life, consider opening a business and do it with a good attitude. Your attitude to work should be that work is good; therefore, do it heartily. There is dignity in labor. The Word of God says whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with all your heart (see Eccl. 9:10). That's the attitude of the man or woman of impact.

If you have the opportunity, improve your skills. Anytime you improve your skills on your job, you are investing into your future. For instance, people who take courses to improve their writing or speaking skills will be promoted ahead of others who seek no improvement. And sports figures who excel are those who train harder and more than others. All that dexterity they show on the football field or basketball court is coming from hours and days and weeks of hard work, practice, sacrifice, and self-denial. Your attitude toward work is the key to success, and it applies to anything you do in life.

Bring passion into whatever you do and watch the rewards roll in. World changers enjoy what they do as work. Whatever their hands find to do, they do it with joy and zeal. If you are a street sweeper, do it well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If you are even clapping for others, clap well! See whatever you're engaged in as work; don't see it as just coming to play or just leisure. Until you

work with a good attitude, nobody will give you any attention.

There are many famous entertainment people who fade away after some time. Why? They have made no improvement in their trade. They didn't acquire new skills for performing better. They did the same thing with the same pattern, in the same way, and expected increased sales and patronage. It doesn't work that way. It's been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing the same way all the time, and expecting a different result each time. This is insanity.

A person of generational impact, though, is someone who changes things for the better wherever he or she may be. A person of generational impact has a good attitude and improves the work, church, home, or community environment. When you seek to work as for the Lord, your attitude should immediately change for the better.

The Bible's Joseph worked so hard and so well that Pharaoh told his people that there is no one like Joseph (see Gen. 41). This was in the same place where Joseph had been a slave and a foreigner—he became next-in-command to the king. May you be sought in the same way as Joseph.

Many in our society don't like hard work, but please don't be like them! Choose to be different. Our society likes cheap money without hard work. If you get cheap money without hard work, the Bible says such money is not blessed: "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase" (Prov. 13:11).

The New Living Translation says, "Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows" (Prov. 13:11). This is the secret why many rich people you heard of yesterday are poor today. Most of the wealth they gathered was not obtained by honest, hard work. The Bible teaches us that it is the wealth you get by hard work that will remain with you, while wealth acquired by cheap labor will vanish over time.

Foolish people do not know how to sustain money gotten without hard work. Many people I know have handled millions in their lives, but they went broke quickly because they didn't work for it and couldn't manage it properly.

Jesus says there are two musts: 1) you must be born again, and 2) you must work the works of God (see John 9:3-5). Jesus said, "I must work the work of Him that sent Me." This means that work for the Christian is a must. As

powerful as God is, He said, “Let there be light,” and light came. He would say, let there be this or that and it would happen like that. But when it came to the Garden, God did not say, let there be a garden. The Bible says, “And God planted the garden eastward.” The Almighty worked. Jesus worked. Abraham worked. Isaac worked. Jacob worked. To be like Jesus, you must work.

Do you know, my friend, that even satan works? The Bible says he walks to and fro. Even if the work you create is selling water, sell it, and sell well. If you are good at cooking, go and open a restaurant. If you don’t find immediate paid employment, create one yourself. If you create something, you are being the child of your heavenly Father. He’s the eternal Creator.

ATTITUDE TOWARD TIME AND SEASONS

If you want to cultivate the right attitude for generational impact, there is an attitude toward time and seasons that is helpful to understand. Hear this truth and it will humble you—you will not be on earth forever! There is time for everything. You dare not misuse your time here; because if you do, you will regret it tomorrow. Utilize what you have now, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Eccles. 3:1).

Your life is like a season. There is a season of childhood from the time when you were born. There is a season of adolescence when you grow to be an adult. Then there is a season of adulthood. For each of these seasons you must play a part; if you do not, the season will pass. Tomorrow you will regret not sowing the seed for that season. There is time for everything. Don’t play with a time of that season. If you play carelessly with your life, you will have a future of regrets waiting for you.

Let me explain what I mean: the Bible says, “Don’t let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor Him in your youth before you grow old and say, ‘Life is not pleasant anymore’” (Eccles. 12:1 NLT). From the time you are born until about age twenty, you’re a child under the care of your parents. They made provision for you and provided for all your needs.

Then the season changes, and you become a son or daughter, not a child. (Now when that happens exactly is uncertain.) For instance, when Jesus was

born, He was already named Jesus. The Bible says His name shall be called Emmanuel. But then why in Philippians 2:9-10 does the Bible say that God gave Him the name. Now the question is, which name? The point is the first name was the one given when He was born. The second one in question was the one He worked out by going to the cross and paying the price. This is the mention of the name at which every knee must bow. The Bible also enjoins every child of God to work out his or her own salvation with fear and trembling (see Phil. 2:12).

Jesus Christ worked out His own name. He is saying you should also do the same.

ATTITUDE TOWARD SONSHIP

I believe that being a son starts at age thirty. If you are thirty and you are still living in your father's house—pack up and move out! Even if your father is the richest man in town and you think there is no reason to change, move out! Anytime a man lives perpetually in his father's house, he is a boy—not a man. That is why some houses are built with apartments called boys' quarters. But are the people living in such places boys? No! If that is your own arrangement, you are not yet a son, you are still a boy. There are people who by age of maturity have not matured, not by age but by acts. A houseboy may be fifty, yet his abode is still called the boys' quarters. His attitude does not match his age.

Change your mindset, your attitude toward growing up and what that means. Sometimes because a young man is still a youth and in his father's house, he doesn't think he should strive too much to advance in life. Look, if you waste your youthful life today, you will regret your adulthood. I wrote the following statement down by inspiration: *Wasted youthfulness leads to a regrettable adulthood.* This quotation can be ascribed to me—append my name to it because I didn't get it from anywhere other than divine inspiration. I did not get it from a book. God wanted me to share it with you.

As a youth, if you don't change now, you will regret it at age fifty when you realize that there are things you can't do anymore. Realize now that you are energetic and it is time to take charge of your life, or you will regret when you become mature tomorrow. This is why I'm telling you that everyone has their

season, and it’s better you don’t miss yours if you really want to make an impact. Now, when you have your youthfulness, use it for something purposeful and good.

Your attitude is your greatest asset.

Attitude makes all the difference.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. It is vital that you develop the right attitude to make a generational impact. Do you now have the foundation for changing your attitude toward God, life, money, work, times and seasons, and sonship?

2. Which of the areas mentioned in #1 will be the hardest for you to change your attitude about? The easiest? Why?

3. Are you ready to move out of your parents' home and into the lifestyle that God especially designed for you to lead? Are you afraid? Are you excited?

Chapter 7

YOUR VISION FOR LIVING

Ask 95 percent of Christians today why they are living, and they will not be able to give you a reason—simply because they do not know. They have no vision for living. Meanwhile, to live without vision is to live a worthless life and to die in frustration. The Bible says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish…” (Prov. 29:18).

Perish in this Scripture verse does not mean to die, neither does it mean to expel, it means to be stripped of honor and dignity. It also means to lose worth or value. It means where there is no vision, honor and dignity are eroded.

What is vision? Vision is the purpose for living. Many good Christians read and study their Bibles, but they hardly ever apply the lessons and messages they receive. If you ask them, “Why are you on earth? What’s the purpose of your existence?” they would probably tell you it’s just to worship God, die, and then go to Heaven. The very purpose of God for their lives is unknown to them. If you’re reading this book and you’re in such a situation, I encourage you to pray, “Teach me, O, Lord, I want to know why I am here.”

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “A man who won’t die for something is not fit to live.” In other words, if a person has no purpose for living, he is not really living.

A LIFE OF SUCCESS BEGINS WITH A SENSE OF MISSION

Why are you here? The answer to this question begins with a discovery of purpose. You might want to say it begins with a discovery of vision, but that is actually what purpose is—vision. Until you discover why you are here, life has

no meaning. Sweatless success is a function of discovering why you are here on earth. God has created you to live a sweatless life, but you have a responsibility for discovery. When you discover that, you will recover your destiny.

Every Christian is destined to live a colorful life, because it says in Deuteronomy 28:13, "The Lord will make you the head and not the tail." Someone once asked, "What if all of us are the head?" Well, you can choose to be the tail! But I believe that God has said He has room for all of His children at the top. In that sense of the world, all of us can be the head.

There are some Christians who ask, "If all of us are rich, would there be no poor people?" Well, I may not be able to answer their question completely, but I can say if there are any poor, let them choose to be the poor ones, but not me. Life is a matter of choice. As for me, I have chosen to be the head, and I believe you should choose to be one too.

And if anyone asks, "What if all of us are the head?" I will tell him that he can choose to be the tail. For me and you, dear reader, we have chosen to be the head. Begin to look at the colorful destiny of the Christians around you, and you will discover they're people who have discovered their destinies and are working in concert with them.

> *Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array* (Joel 2:1-5).

The passage from Joel is talking about the end-time church. The end-time Christian is not a vegetable. We are not the vegetable type of Christian at all. We

are strong and impactful. The Book of Joel says before their faces the people shall be much pained and all faces shall gather darkness (see Joel 2:6). Joel 2:7 says each one will know where he belongs. This means that no matter what kind of job or profession you have, you will stand out. People will say, “This is the good barber,” “This is the honest lawyer,” “This is the skilled tailor,” simply because we shall stand out in whatever field we are in. Every one of us will be standing out. Everywhere people see us, they will point us out and say, “This one is a knowledgeable doctor,” “This one is an outstanding contractor,” etc. Among others, we will stand out distinctly.

That Scripture also says we shall march in our ranks. This means if you sew, it will be with precision, and therefore you will stand out. Even if you are a pastor, you will stand out among pastors. As a teacher, you will stand out as unique. God said we shall march in that manner and none will break their ranks. This paints the picture of a glorious, colorful church. A church of dignity, honor, and splendor.

Wherever you appear they will say, “Of a truth, this is a child of God.” When it says they shall not break their ranks, it means they shall not be living life as if they should die and go home quickly. People will see you and say, “I want to be a Christian.” That is what the Word of God is saying to you. You will excel without sweat.

Now I want you to know that this kind of life takes understanding. Beloved, God wouldn’t have called you from darkness to Himself to frustrate you—that can’t be true, that can’t be God. God wouldn’t have called you to His house and then let your life be uncolorful. Let me ask you: Can you be living with a king and suffer? How can God call you and bring you to Himself but yet you’re suffering? It must be ignorance on your part. The Bible says that those whom He predestined are the ones whom He called (see Rom. 8:29-30). So you are called for a definite purpose—a lifetime of colorful fruitfulness.

CALLED BY PREDESTINATION

> *For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, He called*

> *them to come to Him. And He gave them right standing with Himself, and He promised them His glory* (Romans 8:29-30 NLT).

You are called by predestination. You became born again because somebody preached to you. You were predestined to be born again. The person who preached to you was just fulfilling all righteousness, because you had been predestinated to be born again! You have been called to glorification. You have not been called to shame.

Your ultimate end is sure to be a showpiece for glory. This is called glorification. He called you and brought you out of darkness to show forth His glory. You are facing a colorful future. Concerning Esau and Jacob, the Bible says, "The senior shall serve the younger." This is predestination. That means before you were born, God planned your life. In the case of Esau and Jacob, Esau had been ordained that he was going to serve Jacob. Ask me why it is like that? I would answer you that I don't know. It is a mystery—only God knows. God said, "I've called you to glorify you," (paraphrased from Rom. 8:29-30), so it is a mystery. How or why He does it, we don't know.

Because you are called by God, you are not to live like a person under a curse. If He called you, you are to be glorified. I pray in the name of Jesus that from today, this truth will begin to reflect in your life. God said, "Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as My prophet to the nations" (Jer. 1:5 NLT). This implies that before you were born God had programmed you for something great. God was saying to Jeremiah, and to you in essence, "Before you were born, I already knew who you were. I consecrated you and ordained you a prophet." Imagine: as rascally as Saul (Paul) was, God separated him from his mother's womb for a great assignment. If you were God, would you select Saul? Before his conversion to Paul the apostle, Saul was such a troublesome man. The Word of God said through the lips of Paul:

> *But even before I was born,* ***God chose me*** *and called me by His marvelous grace. Then it pleased Him to reveal His Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus…* (Galatians 1:15-16 NLT).

In other words, Paul was saying, "Forget it, no matter what I've done before, God has chosen me to be His child and share His Good News of salvation with

others.” God chose this man for the cause of the Gospel. So you see, when you discover what you have been chosen for, you will live a colorful life. Some may wonder why, but I am telling you that it is because you have been chosen by God before you were even born to do great things.

God did not create you for nothing. He brought you here for a purpose. When you discover your purpose, you will live a sweatless life. How do you discover your vision? Every believer is chosen for a purpose, and I’ve said that purpose is what we call vision. It is discovery and pursuit of vision that enables you to succeed without sweat. When you’ve discovered your purpose, and you don’t pursue it, you will sweat; but if you discover and pursue, you will never sweat. This tells you, you can succeed without sweat. This doesn’t mean you won’t work hard—you will—but you will enjoy the work because you know you are in God’s will. It won’t be a sweaty, drudgery of toil but a meaningful work with purpose.

Every believer has been created and programmed for a definite purpose. To live a purposeless life is to live a frustrated life.

The following are three ways to discover vision, to find what God has ordained for you.

THREE AVENUES TO DISCOVER VISION

1. Go Directly to the Father

> *But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Vision is a secret in the heart of God, but you have a responsibility to find it. “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29). If you want to know the secret things that belong to you, and wish that they be unfolded to you, you will have to go to the

One who has the secret. And the Bible is saying the One who has the secret is God. You don't go to people to ask about your vision. Out of ignorance people go to other people asking what their vision or destiny should be, but they don't know; not even your pastor knows.

Don't go to people to ask that kind of question because no person knows about another person's God-given purpose. Don't even ask your pastor what your vision is. You have to go to your Manufacturer. It is unwise for you to ask another person, "Please, what do you think I should be in life?" Doing this is foolishness. Are they your Manufacturer? No, the true Manufacturer is God. Others don't know anything about one of God's human creations. For instance, if you go to a Mercedes Benz manufacturing factory today and ask about the products, you will be told everything you want to know. Why? Because they know! But no man knows what another will be or should be except the Custodian of life—God Himself.

When I was a child, in those days I used to see many people going to the agents of satan to enquire from them about what the future held for their children. The agents would tell them all manner of things. The funny thing to me about the whole business was that the fellow would tell one person that his child would grow up to be a doctor, yet he's not able to prophesy into his own personal life! To me, such acts of seeking out others, especially satan's agents, are big, tragic mistakes. How can people who cannot help themselves accurately predict something for you or your children? Beloved, do not be deceived, nobody knows your destiny—not even your parents, and especially not false prophets. To find out anything about yourself, you need to ask God who created you:

> *I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved* (Habakkuk 2:1).

You must go to God in prayer and ask Him where you belong in life. This is not in the hand of any mortal to predict for you. Ask God about His plan for your life, and He will surely reveal it to you. Ask God, "I know I'm a child of destiny. I know You have a great plan for me, even before I was born You set it into motion. Show it to me, Lord. You have separated me from my mother's womb. You have formed me. Please show me where I belong in destiny." If you sincerely pray to God this prayer, rest assured that God will hear—and He will

answer you.

I asked God by saying, “Lord, You called me. What did You call me for?” God answered by telling me He had called me to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth. That is my own purpose for being here. I am not for any other thing but to establish His Kingdom here. I had to ask God to discover what my role was; it did not come by any other person telling me something somewhere. God talks!

In the same manner, God will reveal your purpose to you when you join a true Kingdom-minded church. Life without vision is full of frustration, but Jesus came to open the eyes of the blind. Once your eyes of understanding are opened, you will see exactly what your purpose is. I declare today that as you’re reading this book, the blinded eyes of your spirit will be opened.

2. Discover Your Divine Endowment

> *And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey* (Matthew 25:15).

There is an endowment of God in every person, which is called a gift or talent. Although the passage in Matthew is referring to a sum of silver, I believe God has likewise given every person a portion of talent, a special gift of skill within. Every one of us on earth—believers and unbelievers—has been given talents by God our Creator. It is inside us whether we realize it or not. Jesus said, “Occupy till I come” (see Luke 19:13). This means God has placed something inside us where He is going to occupy.

In case you didn’t hear from Him, hear it now: there is a divine endowment inside you. Matthew 25:15 says He gave some five, to some He gave two, while to another He gave only one. Perhaps you have been waiting to hear from God, and you did not hear from Him, or you missed when He spoke to you about your talents. You can still discover them by reading this book right now. You can discover what is inside you with the help of the Holy Spirit.

There are certain questions you can ask that can help you to understand the

kind of gift(s) you have:

- What do I do effortlessly?
- What do I have flair for?
- What do I do with great excitement?
- What am I productive at?

These are questions you can ask yourself, and they will lead you to discoveries that result in excellence. You can also ask yourself, *What do I like doing?* Things you have a natural flair for that even in mid-flight you will do well are the things you should concentrate on. They're the things that show you who you are. Such things reveal the talent inside of you. You don't need to write an application to anybody anywhere for such things.

I am taking extra time to tell you all these things because of my African background. My father wanted me to study medicine, but I didn't have a brain for medicine. I studied biology, but couldn't even pass! I love business administration. I am telling you this because most people are frustrated, not because of the devil but because of our ignorance. We have taken the wrong path because we're didn't know any better. Some parents want their child to study engineering when he or she doesn't understand mathematics. Some parents think their family must produce engineers or doctors or teachers. But who told them that is how it must be?

Don't frustrate your children. Find out what where their interests and talents lie and then encourage that path. Always consult God for His wisdom.

Christianity becomes frustrating when people don't know where they belong. For instance, if a businessman is made to study medicine, he won't feel fulfilled. And a nurse who would rather be a teacher won't be satisfied or feel compassion for the patients. These people are not cut out for such professions. To them it is just a job; it is not their calling, not their destiny. They therefore have no vision for it.

My friend, it is not enough to be born again, but more importantly, you have to discover why you are born again. I prophesy into your life as you're reading this book that today you will discover it!

The Bible says a person's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men (see Prov. 18:16). What is your gift? It will bring you before the high and mighty, and it will create for you the future you've been dreaming about.

Many people are busy with things they're not gifted for, and this is why they're not shining. However, it is interesting that when you're called into the work of God, you will not need a gift, but grace. For example, Moses was a stammerer and yet God called him to do the work of an orator! Surely such a man needs lots of grace. In ministry, you need the call and the grace for it. Ministry is the only area that is different because God specifically calls a person into ministry. As an individual, you need to discover your innate gift and then use it to your satisfaction and His glory.

I remember that in 1998, when I preached this message on discovery of purpose, one of my sons in the faith had a breakthrough. He said before hearing the message he had been unemployed, but as he listened to what I was preaching, he discovered that he could draw. With just a small amount of money and no parents or relations to support him, he bought paper and pencil and began to draw. The first image he drew was that of my image. I took it and paid for it and prayed for him. I still have the drawing. Today he is paying his tithes in large sums of money. Do you see how it works? This young man would have died a poor man waiting for someone somewhere in the blues to employ him. Now he can even afford to send money to his parents. A person's gift makes room for him. You are gifted on the inside, don't die a wretched person! Some folks are dying in blue as well as white collar jobs when they have gifts that can turn them into millionaires.

3. Make a Choice

Sometimes it is necessary for you to make a choice about your path in life. If you're not sure of your gift or talents, if you haven't heard specifically from God, it is up to you to decide to "choose life":

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

You need to choose what to do. God will respect your choice. You can choose a particular career, and by following the principles of God, you will see yourself prospering tremendously. I am telling you, beloved, no other person will or can choose for you because God respects your choice. Nobody should choose for you.

In my own case, I wish I had been born again long before I was! I like to tell parents, and dear reader, if you're one, hear me: don't choose for your children what they should study. They don't belong to you, but to God. God gave them to you as gifts, "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him" (Ps. 127:3 NLT). It is contrary to Scripture for you to impose your own desires on them, rather you should guide them with the principles of God. Allow them to choose what they want.

For example, if a child is not good in mathematics but his parents insist that he study civil engineering, he will struggle and sweat to cope in college. But when it comes to storytelling, he is excellent! Tell him four different stories, and he will keep them in his mind and can easily relate them—that is a historian. The Bible says to teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it (see Prov. 22:6 NLT).

If you want success without sweat for your children, allow them to choose by themselves what they're sure they can do without struggle. Every child has been born with innate abilities. Permit your children to develop theirs, and you will see them excel and bring you joy and comfort.

When God calls people and they have already chosen a profession, the call of God supersedes personal choice. When God calls you, your chosen profession becomes irrelevant because His call is superior to any other profession. Paul was a trained lawyer, but then God called him and sent him to the uncircumcised people outside the shores of his Jewish territory; he had to abandon the law profession and become a preacher. He said he obeyed the heavenly vision:

> *And so, King Agrippa, I obeyed that vision from heaven. I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do* (Acts 26:19-20 NLT).

What I’m saying here is that if and when God says “Come,” you have to leave whatever else you’re doing and obey. That is your vision for success. That is the way of prosperity and peace.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. When you have no vision, you are stripped of honor and dignity; you lose worth and value. Vision is your purpose for living. Do you have a clear vision for your life?

2. Of the three avenues to discover your vision, which one will be the easiest for you to implement? Which one will be the hardest? Will you use these three ways to find your purpose and fulfill your God-given destiny?

3. Were you coerced into a job that doesn't suit your innate skills and talents? Are you strong and motivated enough to make a change in your life right now toward the career that will fulfill God's vision for your life?

Chapter 8

SETTING YOUR FUTURE

Many people have made the mistake of leaving their future blank. They have no goals, no dreams.

What would happen if a team was playing a soccer match and there were no goal posts? No direction to move the ball toward? Playing good soccer means knowing where the goal posts are. The goal posts drive players toward the target. When a person's life is without a dream or goal, the person is doomed. To be dreamless today is to be down and out tomorrow.

It is time for you to have an expectation for your tomorrow. This means that when you have discovered what you will be, you need to see it through. Paint a mental picture concerning your future according to God's Word. It will set a pace for an experience. I have showed you already in this book that the reason a lot of people are not making it is because there is no dream in their lives. But I will now show you from God's Word what a dream is:

> *After Lot had gone, the Lord said to Abram, "Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession"* (Genesis 13:14-15 NLT).

When God said to Abraham to look as far as his eyes could see, that is a dream! God assured Abraham that all his eyes could see He would give to him. Seeing in the scriptural sense does not mean physical sight, but using the eye of understanding—your mind. What you see of your future becomes your expectation, and that expectation is known as a dream.

Dreams are very powerful. A time came when some people came together (see

Gen. 11:6) and said they wanted to build a tower that would reach up to God—they imagined! And God said, “nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them!” I believe that meant because the people envisioned the tower, they imagined and dreamt it, nothing could stop them.

Whatever you dream that is according to God’s Word will actualize, and God will make it come to pass. Nothing can stop you from dreaming. It is the picture in your mind that determines your future. What you dream is what you become. What you don’t dream, you don’t become.

Let me ask you a very simple question: what do you see in your future? Actually I don’t need an answer. If I randomly sample people and ask them about their future, it might shock you to discover that they don’t have anything in mind for their future. Their lives consist mainly of going to and from work. After about forty years, an average worker retires. So what next?

I ask you, what do you see? If you see nothing in your future, you’ll get nothing. What do you see ahead of you? Is it just to retire and go home to die? That is not good enough! What else do you see? Are you looking more closely into your future as you are reading this book? Can you see something beyond the ordinary? If you’ve never seen anything, I prophesy that you’ll begin to see because you are reading this book and believing in Jesus’ name!

VISIONS AND DREAMS

The difference between visions and dreams is that while a vision tells you where you belong, a dream determines your vision’s existence—it tells you what you have to be in life. A dream takes you to a point where you want to actualize the vision—these two go hand in hand. Let me paint a clearer picture, so that you will further understand and get the picture vividly. I don’t want you to be confused.

God has called a pastor to preach—that is a vision. But this pastor has never thought of having more than three hundred members. His dream is narrowed to three hundred. Do you know that God cannot take that pastor beyond his three hundred congregation limit? If you ask the pastor why his vision is so narrow, he will likely tell you that he’s content to exist and live small. That is his dream;

therefore, God will not take him beyond his dream level.

I'm saying that it is as far as your eyes can see that God will take you. If you see a great distributorship, even if you presently operate from a small kiosk, God will take you to that level. Why? You have seen it! It's only the road to get there you don't know yet, but God is able to get you there. But if you don't see, you will remain a small player.

It is what you see that you become. God will dream for you, but He wants you to dream and see the wonderful plans He has for your life. Do you wonder why many Christians are not making it? This is the reason—no dreams. Yes, they are praying and asking God for great things—but they are not dreaming! Dreaming is where the secret of success is. When a Christian prays fervently, "Oh, God, prosper me," but the person doesn't have a dream, God can't help him or her. This is because God cannot prosper anyone beyond the person's dream level. God will not make you successful beyond your dream level.

God said to father Abraham, "Lift up your face, look northward"—here God was talking about the mind. You know you can't travel from London to New York City without leaving London. When God tells you to dream, He's asking you to travel in the Spirit. Leave where you are and see other places. Go beyond! God took Abraham, told him to look in all the four directions of the wind and to see. And as far as he could see was his. Whoa!

As taught in the school of success, what you see is what you become. God is not able to take you beyond what you see. Many have not seen anything, yet they want to prosper and become successful. They only see working in factories and then retiring. But I insist that anything you can see and dream is what God will prepare you to become. You must keep your spiritual eyes wide open so you can see where God wants to take you.

Mind you, eating, sleeping, and flying are not what I'm talking about. Please don't be mistaken. I'm saying that you can see yourself not only as an owner of one little kiosk somewhere, but also owning several others over time and eventually becoming the CEO of companies worldwide. You have discovered from the Word of God that whatsoever you lay your hands upon to do shall prosper, so you say to yourself, *From this small kiosk I see a big supermarket being established.* In this way, you are dreaming big and not narrowing yourself to just one small thing at the corner of the road.

I once read the story of a man named Innocent, but who preferred to be known as Inno-the-nonentity. I'm sure this fellow had no idea what nonentity meant. Otherwise, why would a normal person introduce himself as a nonentity? Who wants to be addressed as a nonentity? Many people are not growing, not because God does not want to bless them, but because they are not dreaming, or have not dreamt anything.

To live a life of sweatless success, you must discover your purpose for living and be a committed dreamer.

The way to paralyze a vision is to be dreamless. If you are dreamless, your vision will be useless. One thing that dreaming does is give drive for accomplishment. You are moved to want to achieve. It helps you to establish an expected end.

Because there are goal posts on a soccer field, all the players play toward their team's post. That is another way to look at dreaming. If there are no goal posts, there are no dreams of scoring or winning, so the soccer match itself will be meaningless.

Because the thoughts that God thinks toward you are good not evil but to bring us to an expected end and give us a hope and a future, you can dare look at yourself and declare, "Even though I am not the best I can be today, I know I have a future better than this present condition." When you talk like that, it's obvious you're a person of dreams. You're going somewhere.

But to a person of no dreams, such a situation is not acceptable at any time. It must always be rosy at all times. The minute a little problem shows up, he or she becomes discouraged and abandons any thought of a dream that could change the person's world for the better forever.

WHAT DREAMING DOES FOR YOU

1. Dreaming Brings about the Dawn of a New Day

Most successful men and women are constant dreamers. Do you know that Nelson Mandela became president not by prayer but by dreams? At the age of twelve he saw himself in the church being the president of his country. He sat in the church that day and said, “One day I will be the president of this nation.” That was a vision. The dream he had about what he was to become created an indelible vision before him such that even when he was sent to jail, he couldn’t die. All other people imprisoned with him died.

Nelson Mandela was tortured, but he told his torturers that he could not be killed—because he had a dream. It looked impossible and almost improbable, but at an advanced age of more than seventy, Mandela did become the president of South Africa! If he had been dreamless, he would have long given up because of the intense suffering, and surely he would have died.

To be dreamless is to be vulnerable to cheap death. This is because a person without a dream has nothing motivating him. Nothing is moving him, so he can easily get tired and give in without a fight. This is why we hear some people say that they don’t even know why they exist. There’s no meaning in their lives. Some even say they would prefer to die than to continue living without meaning. The way out of this kind of situation is to start dreaming.

2. Dreaming Positions You for Rulership

It was not written concerning Joseph that anywhere in the Bible that he would head or rule over his brothers. Does that shock you? Let’s examine it together. The Bible says Joseph dreamt and saw some certain things (see Gen. 37:5-10). I have told you before that whatever one dreams is what God confirms. Joseph’s experience here is a confirmation of this fact. In the Tower of Babel story, God said whatever they imagined, nothing could stop them. So as Joseph dreamt it, God made sure that all of Joseph’s siblings bowed before him. Whatever you dream cannot be stopped from happening if it is according to the Word of God.

3. Dreaming Motivates

A person without a dream has nothing motivating him. I started dreaming

when my church was just in its humble beginnings. I renew the dream quite frequently. I change, and I increase. I have dreamt that I will be more than a local champion right from the day when we were still under a canopy. I have decided that I will never be a local preacher. No. Never! God forbid! Stop dreaming local dreams.

My own dream is that I'm going to be a preacher that the whole world must know. It's a dream! I know from my dreams that people from the United States will come to my church to hear me preach. It's a dream. I dream these things because I know that God is not a respecter of persons. And beloved, I am not just dreaming and praying, but I'm seeing these things. I have seen that among pastors, I will never be a washout. I will stand out. I've seen this work in my own life already—when I dream it, it comes to be, God will not dream for you. It is you who must dream it by yourself.

There are some people who are already content with what they have and where they are, such that no matter what we say about dreams they are not really moved. They just want a small space and they already have it, so whatever else is being said does not touch them.

Some people pray that God should just bless them with something small, which is OK for them. Thank God for starting small but that shouldn't be your dream. Have a big dream, because God will never take you beyond your dream. Many believers have been limiting God. Look again at what God said to Abraham: he was to look as far as his eyes could see.

I want you to dream also because as far as your eyes can see is what God will give you. I am not saying you should covet what does not belong to you, but I'm saying you should expand and enlarge your coasts.

When you have found a vision, you must now propel that vision with a dream and then couple the dream with pursuit. While pursuing, however, make sure the pursuit has purpose. Purpose of pursuit is pursuing the vision. When vision is coupled with dream plus pursuit of purpose, you will achieve success without sweat.

PURSUIT OF PURPOSE

What Is Purpose?

> *And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry* (Habakkuk 2:2-3).

I wrote down my vision when God gave it to me. It was because I wrote down my vision that my ministry and church exist today. We have been called to establish the Kingdom. If I didn't write down the vision, no one would know what it is. So, please learn to write down your vision. From the Scripture in Habakkuk 2, I want you to underline the word *run* in your Bible because that is the way to pursue a vision—run after it with determination. That is the meaning of pursuit of purpose. Don't sleep on your vision, run with it! If you want to have good success, don't just talk about the vision, don't dance with the vision —*run* with it.

Paul says in First Corinthians 9:24, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." You might meet someone who says to you, "I am going to become a wonderful, successful lawyer," but if they're just talking or dreaming alone, nothing will happen. The person must get to work or else nothing will ever become of the statement. Many Christians know where they are going, but they are not ready to give what it takes to actually arrive at the destination.

Many people will tell you that they've been called by God to establish a fantastic, glorious, fabulous church worldwide, but they are not ready to give what it takes to make that church a reality. Some will even say God has shown them a vision of being a big trader, the biggest distributor of this or that product, but they cannot give what it takes to achieve and carry out the vision.

Like I've repeated several times in this chapter already: after you have the vision and the dream, you must pay the price to arrive there. In First Corinthians Paul further says, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air," (1 Cor. 9:26). I am saying, be ready to pay the price for your vision.

I would like to give you further understanding with this example. A young

woman says, “I want to be a lawyer.” This is a vision. But this same young woman must learn subjects that are relevant to the study of law—that is now the dream. The woman now knows that she has to sit for the entrance admission exam to enter law school and pass the requisite subjects. She has a dream because there is something that has moved her. First she had a vision to become a lawyer. The dream is that she really wants to be a lawyer. Then she must pursue her purpose, she must work hard and pay the price to reach her goal.

STEP OUT

Tell yourself today as you’re reading this book, “I must do something about my vision.” Please step out and be counted on the side of your vision. Until you step out, you cannot stand out. When you step out, you will stand out. One wise man said, “If you cannot fly, run. If you cannot run, walk. If you walk, crawl! But by all means—keep moving!” Make sure that thing that you’ve been shown is being attended to by you. Do something! Don’t fold your hands and remain still simply because you’ve been shown a vision.

That young woman I told you about must be prepared to give it her best shot by studying hard for the necessary exams—that is pursuit. If she doesn’t add this pursuit aspect to it, her dream will not become a reality. Beloved, many dreams have not become realities because they have not been given what it takes to make the dreams come true. Success without sweat means you are following covenant details by not struggling like the world. You are doing it, and God is confirming it. People of action are people of distinction. When you are a person of pursuit, you achieve success without sweat.

I’ve told you that when I received my vision I wrote it down—every detail. When I came to Port Harcourt to start Salvation Ministries, some people told me that someone else was already using that name; but I had never heard it before from anyone. That was the name the Lord gave me. When I came to town, the Lord said to me, “Son, I am giving you a mantle. It is Salvation Ministries.” The Lord gave me the insight, and everything He showed me I wrote down. Then they told me another church had been using this name since the year 1991, whereas we started in 1997, and registered at that time. But you know what? Those other people had not registered in 1991! See it? You must step out after you have received the vision.

When I heard that this other church was also in Port Harcourt, I wondered because I'd never heard about it, but God said to me, "Vision is not enough." If you have a vision and you don't run with it, God can transfer the crown. If God shows you something and you fold your arms and do nothing, God can give it to another person. The time has passed when God keeps waiting until men move, like in the time of Jonah.

You see, my dear reader, it means in essence that the person who started that other church in 1991 would have been doing what I am doing now. God does not wait for anybody, so don't sleep on your vision at any point! It is time for you to locate your place in destiny. Beware because crowns can move from head to head. God Himself follows this principle I am sharing with you. In Genesis He said, "Let us make man"—this is the vision. After the vision He said, "Let them have dominion"—the dream. In Genesis chapter 2 God molded man—that is pursuit! God did not fold His hands and do nothing after the vision. If God did something about His own vision, do you think you can do any less? It means you need to do something about that dream of yours.

People from other countries are not superior to you; neither will going to the United States or another country solve your problem, as long as you want to bypass the process. If you can do what is necessary, God is no respecter of persons. If you discover your vision in your own country and you give it the needed pursuit, foreigners will come to look for you.

In your lifetime and in the ministries of seasoned men and women of God, Americans and others have come to learn the secrets of the Gospel. They come and they marvel openly at what God is doing with a Nigerian. Why? It is because a people are at the center of their God-appointed assignments. They are on a mission. They have a dream. For example, Bishop David Oyedepo of Winners Chapel worldwide said he had a dream of building a fifty thousand seat cathedral in the 1980s. This dream was actualized in 1999. This man of God was doing something, he didn't just sit down and wait.

When you have a dream, you don't get tired because the dream moves you. Friend, you are in a dreamer's world. But you have to do something to join the train. You can get to the topmost point if you follow these principles I've been sharing with you.

SPEAK OUT

Joseph said something when he saw his dream—he spoke out what he could see himself becoming in future. Joseph made declarations about his dreams to his brothers; he didn't keep quiet, and this is why he had victory over all opposition that came his way. With his mouth he had proclaimed what was going to happen. With his own confession he decided the outcome of his own life story. Joseph did not keep quiet.

As you come to the close of this book, I want you to agree with God concerning your destiny, declaring what you see in your future. Agree with God that there is glory in your future. What Joseph said came to pass, and so shall your declarations. You will not end in frustration.

THE POWER OF COMMITMENT

Joseph was committed to his dream and this was why he ended up in the palace in Egypt. Be committed to your dream, friend. The fact that his brothers even hated him did not matter. Hatred was not a problem with Joseph because he was committed to the dream. He showed this by running away from sin and being busy and diligent with whatever he was given to do. He always stood out because he was hard working. Laziness had no place with him. Hatred and opposition could not cancel out God's purpose for Joseph's life.

So if someone hates you today, but you're pursuing God's purpose for your life because of the dream, their hatred should not stop you from attaining your vision. Dare to dream beyond where you are now, and see how God promotes you to your next level.

The enemy will never find your habitation in the name of Jesus. You are a blessed child of God. God has blessed you, and no man can curse you. You will fulfill your dream in the name of Jesus!

POINTS TO PONDER

1. Are you running around life without having any clear “goal posts” at which to aim? Do you have a picture in your mind of your future? The picture in your mind determines your future. What you dream is what you become. What you don’t dream, you don’t become.

2. Like Abraham, have you looked as far as your eyes can see—to see your dreams come true? When God tells you to dream, He’s asking you to travel in the Spirit. Leave where you are and see other places. Go beyond!

3. Are you ready to pursue your purpose, to make your vision a reality? Are you ready to step out and speak out? If God did something about His own vision, do you think you can do any less?

Chapter 9

THE CALL OF GOD

The call of God is always the call of excellence. We are never to think that God called us for anything less than a life of excellence. God has not called us to settle for mediocrity. Never! As a result of this, you cannot settle for mediocrity. Your attitude should be: if anything is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well. If you can't do it with excellence, then do not bother doing it in the first place. God is a God of excellence.

Someone has said, "If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?" When compromise is allowed in one area, it always leaks out and begins to affect other areas. I know people who have turned from the Lord completely who used to love the Lord and serve Him. What happened? Their trouble started when they first compromised in one small thing. And before they realized it, it began to grow and soon became bigger. It wasn't long before they completely yielded and compromised totally. Consequently, their lives, their homes, everything was shattered.

Don't allow compromise to creep in and destroy your destiny. Fight it now. Don't say it doesn't matter. It does matter, because the Bible says "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (Gal. 5:9). Don't say, "Well, I will only compromise in this one area, and everything else will be OK." That's a deception of satan—there is no such thing as a little compromise; a compromiser is a compromiser. Once compromise has a foothold, it grows and spreads.

It's better for you to be a person of integrity. Guard your reputation, the reputation of Jesus Christ, and that of the Church of Jesus Christ. If the only way others can tell that you are a Christian is by showing your identity, then show it by loving them! However, if there is anything in your life that makes a person question your commitment to Christ, the more quickly you remove it, the better. Avoid ungodly things that will affect your Christian lifestyle. Remember, you are

an example for others.

We are to make a positive, lasting impact because that is what the Church of God on earth has been called to. The Bible says we are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill that cannot be hidden (see Matt. 5:14). Now unless we are sharing life-changing words, we will not be someone others will look up to. It follows, therefore, that if we are the light of the world, the world must be in darkness while we are in the light—and we are the ones to make the difference. We are here to make a lasting impact in the world.

In your business, do not compromise. For example, if you're a fashion designer, don't sew just any kind of thing, otherwise you won't last in the fashion business even though you are a big Christian brother or sister. As a spare parts dealer, don't carry fake and substandard goods to sell to your customers. You won't last in that business regardless of how much you fast and pay tithes. You have compromised the standards of your calling. Don't bring down the standard; rather, raise it up.

People who look for shortcuts and fast lanes in business, and thereby compromise on standard and quality, truncate their destinies. Their businesses don't go far. Something, the deceiver, makes them think it is quick money, but it's all a lie. They won't go far. If it seems to be working for a while, it's just for that while. In a short period of time everything will fizzle out and crash and they are back to square one, if not worse.

When you live this kind of life—a life of compromise—you can't make an impact for the Kingdom of God or for the people around you.

The Coca-Cola company, makers of Coke products that are known worldwide, was founded in 1892. You may wonder at the secret of such a feat and why the product still exists today. It is simple—the company's standards have been maintained over the years. While we make products here in Nigeria and label them with different foreign names, the person looking for impact will not do that. Some make similar products and label them Panasonik (for the original Panasonic of Japan), or Sunny (for the original Sony of Japan). Is that the way to make an impact and become a world brand? No!

While Panasonic was started in 1918, Sony was founded in 1946. You can imagine how many decades it took these electronics companies in labor,

research, and facing various challenges of development before they reached the point where they became world leaders in electronic products and their other allied services. Yet there are those who have not even bothered to put bolts and nuts together neatly who want to cut corners and arrive where these companies are by using similar-sounding names—as if that is where the secret of success is. No, these other reputable companies have paid a tremendous price by not compromising their set standards. They know how to critique themselves and take into account the feedback of competitors and customers alike. You can't succeed alone, you always need others who have the same goals in mind.

Harvard University is a private university in the United States of America, established in 1636. Harvard University is still reigning while many other institutions of higher learning have long been dead and gone. It is interesting that the institution's motto is VERITAS, which in English means truth. The university is still waxing strong because of the standard from the beginning which has never been compromised.

Always insist on and maintain a godly standard—in your spiritual life, your business, and your relationships. Do not compromise your standards. Maintaining standards as a Christian does not require prayers, it only requires a decision:

> *But Daniel* ***purposed in his heart*** *that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself* (Daniel 1:8).

Eventually when the results of this kind of quality decision by Daniel began to play out, the whole world began to marvel at the exceptional brilliance and abilities of Daniel. But you and I know that the secret lies in his decision not to mess up his life eating food and partaking of wine that had been dedicated to idols in Babylon. Daniel separated himself because he had made up his mind to excel and make an impact. He had to pay a price to get there.

How many of us Christians can be that disciplined?

If you are a politician, you can set your mind to keeping godly standards in your decision-making. It only requires making up your mind about delivering quality service to the people who have voted you into power. If you are a

student, you can set a standard for yourself such that on campus you are known as a no-nonsense student. The bad boys will always say, “Look at that fellow, he’s not among us”—they will know you because of your integrity and honesty! And the same if you are a laborer, ticket taker, accountant, horse trainer, or any other profession.

Sinners know those who live right. They say things like, “See that woman? Don’t go near her—she is clean.” When you live your life with godly standards, sinners will tell others that you are clean and uncompromising. Why? Because they know you! They will tell their bad friends not to chase you because if they do, they know you will not be receptive. Your attitude of no compromise delivers you from evil.

Compromising believers, however, will seek attention and try to get people to notice them any way they can. Why do they do that? It is because they have set no standards in their lives.

In all that has to do with us as believers there should be a standard, a godly standard, a biblical standard by which the world will be made to realize that we are a different species, and we belong to a different Kingdom from theirs. In the office, there should be a standard set that when you arrive, sinners should notice the difference and want to be like you—someone who exudes the love and righteousness of God. The one who is a smoker will hide his cigarette and even warn others to behave themselves just because you are around.

This is how to take charge for God and for His Kingdom. This is what it means to have dominion and rule on the earth. God has declared in His Word that we are a Kingdom of kings and priests. This is the way for us to make that Scripture seen by those who do not know our God. You may not talk, but your lifestyle of Christianity reflects in your environment. You may be a clerk, but everyone in the office knows that you are an uncompromising Christian. When they have problems, it is you they will consult.

Fellow ministers with Daniel did not feel comfortable with him around. Even just his presence made it hard for them to practice corruption and enjoy it. They didn’t feel free doing things that contradicted righteousness as leaders, so they tried to set him up, despite that he was often the one who bailed out the whole kingdom from confusion and trouble. However, God did not allow their conspiracy to consume Daniel. God fought for him in Babylon and the name of

the Lord was glorified. This also shall be your portion and experience as you strive to maintain the standard of the Kingdom of God wherever you find yourself.

However, it is imperative to realize that no one can set up this kind of high standard in the energy of the flesh. If you're a compromising Christian, you have to change your ways, and if you are an unbeliever, an ungodly man or woman, you have to give your life to Jesus. You must be born again to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

BENEFITS OF DISCOVERING GOD'S PURPOSE

There are certain things you stand to enjoy when you recognize the purpose of God for your life and you respond to it. However, just as there are things you enjoy, there are also things you will endure in order to fulfill that purpose. We shall examine some of these issues as follows:

1. Your Purpose Enhances Your Focus

It's important to discover your purpose because this is the only life you have; and if purpose is not discovered, you may regret it for ever. I pray you will have no regrets, in Jesus' name.

Since the time God called me and I answered His call for my life, I have ever been focused. When God's purpose for your life is discovered, you become extremely focused. As for me, no one can distract me from my assignment. Because I have discovered my purpose, I am not distracted by anyone or anything. You, too, need not be distracted when you have embraced God's call for your life.

Many people do what they do presently because others are doing it, yet it's the wrong thing for them to do. There are qualified lawyers who have never won a single case since they graduated. This is an indication that they are not cut out for law; however, when this same person sits down to compute his taxes, he enjoys every minute of it. So what does this tell you? These individuals need

careers that best uses his innate abilities. That's where our rewards come from—working in positions that bring us satisfaction and no-sweat success.

2. God's Purpose Infuses Energy

Purpose will infuse you with the kind of energy that will drive you to achieve the purpose for your life, thereby eradicating waste of time. This is the advantage of knowing why God created you. I am sure God has opened your understanding in the course of reading this book. You will not die in frustration.

Remember the young man who began to draw after listening to my message on purpose? He had been looking for a job as a clerk, but God opened his eyes and he began to live and make money and pay great tithes. None of his friends with more educational qualifications is earning what he's earning. He would have died in frustration and poverty if he hadn't pursued his vision and made his dream a reality. What released his energy? It was the discovery that he had what he needed to make it in life within him, not somewhere else or with anybody else. This realization broke the deep waters within him, and the young man sat down and began to draw.

Now many are commissioning work from him, and he is in his own class of artists. If the young man wants to go to school and improve himself educationally, he very well can! This is how Christianity should be. We ought to be practical and proactive, not going about without direction or looking endlessly for work that doesn't suit us. We have more than enough within us.

When you keep going around in circles, then something is wrong somewhere. It means you have not located your talent because that is where your energies and innate strength get naturally released. If I was not preaching, for instance, there's nothing else I would have done and succeeded. I don't need encouragement to go on, because my energy gets released naturally, simply because I've discovered that this is my purpose. Because I've discovered my purpose for existence, there is a zeal that moves me. That's how it works.

If you wake up in the morning and you're angry and already tired, it is because you say, "Oh, it's just another terrible day of work." My friend, that is not your place. You should start looking for another career—one that you dream

about, one that God has given you the skills and talents for already. Until you get there, your energies and creativity will not get released to their fullest potential. You ask me why? It's because what you don't have flair for, you can't make a mark there.

People who love their jobs with a passion are those who have discovered their flair and followed it up—whether they're doctors, bakers, teachers, civil servants, stay-at-home mothers, etc. You can see the love and passion in them. They're the ones who excel because to them the job is not a burden, but a pleasure. They don't grumble or get angry with clients on the job, but rather they do everything willingly. This is how it ought to be with you, too, as you discover your purpose in the name of Jesus.

3. God's Purpose Brings Fulfillment

If I had not discovered purpose, I would have been frustrated throughout my life journey. It is never too late to discover your purpose; because after all, Abraham discovered his at age seventy-five. When you are out of purpose, life is full of frustration. Many people are struggling not because the devil is so powerful, but actually because they are out of purpose.

I was reading in the book *In Pursuit of Purpose* by Myles Munroe, the story of a seventy-five-year-old man who almost drowned. What happened? Though a quite rich old man, he was going to drown because he didn't fight to stay alive. He was frustrated because he said he had not been able to fulfill the purpose and destiny of his existence.

As he was drowning a young man with whom he had been swimming saved him from drowning. After being rescued, the old man asked why he didn't allow him to drown. The old man wished to drown! A man who had everything!

The young man who rescued him told him he had always admired him and often desired to be like him. Interestingly this rich old man told his young admirer that he had actually been fulfilling his father's purpose and not his own, thus the reason for his unwillingness to live.

This rich old man was so wealthy that he even made his children wealthy, but

still he felt unfulfilled. You could say his life had been a waste despite his wealth. He told his young admirer that he was unfulfilled because he had not been allowed to carry out his purpose. He had done what his father wanted him to do and not what he would have loved to do.

I pray that this will be a lesson learned for you. To make an impact on your generation and in the Kingdom of God, you must:

1. Overcome the force of compromise.

2. Realize that sacrifice is part of a righteous life.

3. Develop a godly attitude about others and your life.

4. Discover your vision and pursue your purpose.

5. Set your future firmly before you.

6. Determine to fulfill your calling from God.

POINTS TO PONDER

1. When you live your life with godly standards, sinners will tell others that you are clean and uncompromising. When you walk into a room, do people stop telling dirty jokes or in some other way show respect because they know you are a Christian?

2. The call of God is always the call of excellence. Are you willing to settle for anything less than a life of excellence? Is it your attitude that if anything is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well?

3. What are the three benefits of discovering God's purpose for your life? How energetic are you about the potential of this discovery? How will this discovery change your life?

Chapter 10

TESTIMONIES

One of the secrets to making a generational impact is by recognizing your calling and divine endowments. Over the years, in ministry, God has lifted me from one level to another. It is amazing how God anointed me to operate sweatlessly in the healing ministry.

Thousands of diverse forms of miracles happen during our Salvation Ministries services, our outdoor programs, and our crusades.

The following testimonies are for your edification, which prove that God is still a God of miracles. As you read through these testimonies, whatever may be your challenge, God Almighty will heal and turn your expectation to manifestation in Jesus' name.

SENSATION HEALED

Pastor, you were talking through a word of knowledge about someone with sensation on the leg. For the past three months, I had been having that sensation. Now I am completely healed. As you can see, I am walking freely now.

ANKLE PAIN HEALED

I had an accident seven years ago, and my ankle region became infected. My ankle gave me so much pain. But now the pain is completely gone.

SPINAL PROBLEM GONE

Pastor, you gave a word of knowledge about someone with a spinal problem. For the past ten years I've had a spinal shift. I came here with the pain. I could not bend before, but now I am completely healed. I can do everything now. I can bend, jump, twist, and all that I couldn't do before. Jesus has healed me.

PARTIAL DEAFNESS HEALED

Pastor, I came here partially deaf. I had been like that since I was eight. But as you were ministering, the power of God touched me. Now I can hear very well. Glory be to Jesus.

STRANGE ILLNESS GONE

Pastor, you gave a word of knowledge about the woman with a strange illness or problem in her stomach. I am the lady. It used to come every two weeks; I came here even with the prescriptions from the doctors. But now I am healed. I've been believing God for this healing. They told me it was an attack, and any time it came I wouldn't be able to sleep. When you talked about it, I confessed and pleaded that God would not pass me by. I started pressing my stomach in response to your instructions. In obedience to that, I felt the pain leaving, and now I am completely healed!

SWOLLEN LEG HEALED

Pastor, I came to this place with a swollen leg. I was born with this problem, and it gives me excruciating pains. But as you were ministering, the power of God touched me. I'm completely healed now. I couldn't wear shoes for over two weeks, but now I am completely healed with the pains gone. I can wear shoes now.

NECK PAIN GONE

Pastor, by word of knowledge you mentioned those who have problems with their neck. This man was attacked by robbers and has machete cuts on his ears and neck; you can see the physical signs. As you mentioned his case, he can now swallow and move his neck, which he couldn't do before.

PARTIAL BLINDNESS NO MORE

Pastor, this man came here partially blinded. He's been so for the past seven years. He couldn't see clearly. He had blurred vision, but while you were preaching, the power of God touched him. His eyes are clear, and he can see clearly now. He is healed. Here's what happened in his own words: "One night I was sleeping in my mother's room, and at around midnight something came down on me and I was struck on my head. I couldn't explain what it was and what happened…all I know is that my eyes became divided into two, and I couldn't see anything with my left eye. I had been having eye problems since then till today. But it is now healed."

SURGERY CANCELED

Pastor, you gave a word of knowledge concerning a woman booked for surgery. This woman was operated on three years ago, and she developed pains around her pelvic region. But while you gave a word of knowledge, she felt the excruciating pains around her abdominal region. As the word was coming out from you, she felt the power of God hitting her. Now she is completely healed; the pains are gone!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Ibiyeomie is a minister of the Gospel who has become a household name within and outside the shores of Nigeria. His experience in ministry spans more than a decade. He is the senior pastor of Salvation Ministries, Home of Success—one of the fastest growing churches in the Niger Delta.

David Ibiyeomie is known for his expository teachings on the Kingdom of God with a great zeal and zest for the salvation of people's souls. His television program, "Hour of Salvation," is televised throughout Nigeria as well as Europe.

As a dynamic preacher and practitioner of the Gospel, David Ibiyeomie is undoubtedly one of the most respected authorities in financial prosperity, success, and healing.

He is a prolific writer and author of several books which include: *Time to Make News, How to Come Out of Debt, See You at the Top, Touch of Excellence, Power in the Name of Jesus,* and *Six Steps to Multiplication,* among others.

His church, Salvation Ministries, holds five services each Sunday and two on Thursdays with thousands of worshipers in attendance both online and physically.

He is married to Peace Ibiyeomie who has been a strong support in the ministry, and they are blessed with a son, David Junior.

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