

MATTHEW
ashimolowo



100%

LIFE IMPROVEMENT

VOL
ONE

"defining the future"

THE SUCCESS ACTIONS OF PROPHET DANIEL
9 KEYS FOR UNLOCKING A BETTER LIFE

100%

LIFE IMPROVEMENT



DEFINING THE FUTURE

MATTHEW
ashimolowo

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INTRODUCTION

The story of Daniel and his three friends has been the subject of inspiration for many saints of God. They came through the back waters of Babylon and rose to be the regional governors. This was only possible because of their commitment to 100% life improvement.

The quality of their decisions reflects the fact that greatness is prepared for; it is not jumped into or stumbled upon. Every destiny is loaded, but requires a discovery of the appropriate steps to enter into it. We do not stand by and watch it manifest, we work it out.

The Hebrew men invested in their future. Through the investment of time, righteousness, fasting, praying, purpose, vision and the pursuit of knowledge, the result was that they became ten times better.

*As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. **Daniel 1:17-20***

Using the mathematical approach of 4 to the power of 10= 1,048,576, the improvement of the four men was really over a million times. We all need change for good. People who resist change lose charge.

The purpose of this book is to put together a concise explanation of my

understanding of the steps Daniel and the friends took to experience transformation. The same principles transcend time and are applicable today.

THE CLARITY OF PURPOSE

Purpose may be defined as the intent for the creation of a thing or as in the case of a human being, God's original intention for creating him.

"But as it is written: "eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which god has prepared for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

God never makes mistakes and His creation has purpose. Everything we see or do not see but which has been created has a purpose.

There is a reason for God creating the seeds that produce the various trees. God knows the reason why He created the earth. In a nutshell, everything was created to fulfil purpose.

Fishes were created to swim so they don't need to learn what they are created for. Birds fly because it is in their purpose, they need not go to a flying school.

The purpose for the creation of a thing was meant to be natural, inherent and particular to that creation. It becomes part of its capability, natural talent or potential. Understanding it will help a person's life to improve, particularly when he begins to apply the whole of his life to the achievement of the purpose for which he was made.

We start by answering the first question:

WHAT IS PURPOSE?

Purpose is the engine room of life. It is what must fill and fuel the whole of the man's existence.

Purpose makes life to be a deliberate act of God not an accident of creation. God had the dominion of this earth in mind when He made man.

"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."" **Genesis 1:28**

It gives man significance and makes man relevant on the earth. It is the purpose of a man that determines his design. We were not meant to fly so it was not in our original design. If we must fly then we will have to conquer gravity by other means.

It is in our purpose to do the things we do. Purpose determines your potential. It predicts your natural ability. When a man knows his purpose then he can understand the capabilities and abilities that are inherent in him.

Purpose fixes a person's natural talents and desires. It gives meaning and direction to where his life must go. So we can only find fulfilment and personal satisfaction in the knowledge of our purpose.

Purpose is the source of what makes a person passionate.

- Mechanics are passionate about fixing cars.
- Pilots are passionate about flying while others are scared to.
- Fashion designers are passionate about how an outfit looks.
- Architects are passionate about designing edifices.

Purpose gives our existence its meaning. It helps you to think strategically,

potentially and generationally.

When a man is confused about his future what he needs to look into is the purpose for which he was created.

Jeremiah was unsure when God called him, he only found meaning when his purpose was revealed to him.

*Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD. Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant." **Jeremiah 1:4-10***

Purpose helps us to fully understand that we are God's creation chosen by Him to fulfil certain assignments.

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

John 15:16

As it is included in our creation, it is part of our person to have dominion and authority.

In effect man is not trying to lead the universe, he is a natural leader. He is not trying to have authority over nature, animals or other creation of God; he has the very nature which conveys the sense of authority.

Man is not trying to achieve, God has already put the seed of achievement in him.

Purpose reflects the fact that we are designed to dominate the earth, so for you to truly be successful the way God wants you to be, you will need to find your purpose.

It will become the measuring rod for knowing the value of your life. Life cannot be measured or quantified by the quantity of days but by the quality of contribution. That quality of contribution is only known when we use purpose as the measuring rule.

Purpose is the thing about the future which you discover and suddenly admit that you either messed up your life or fulfilled it.

When the subject of purpose comes up, many times people compartmentalise themselves and their thinking, and wonder what purpose is in the area of their spiritual life, their work, recreation, school etc.

We must realise that purpose is the total sum of life and the reason for our being on the planet. It is that which gives our life the drive to accomplish, become, achieve, pursue. It is fundamentally the reason for the journey of life.

To do justice to the question '**what is purpose?**', we must realise that it is that which a person sets before himself as an object to be reached or accomplished.

Purpose is the aim to which the view is directed in any plan, measure or design, the resolution of the mind.

When you design a house it is with a purpose in mind. The design of an office is different from that of a hotel. The design of a school is different from that of a church.

Every design is meant to fulfil a purpose. You were designed the way you are because there is a purpose you were meant to fulfil.

Purpose is what something is used for, the function; a woman has a womb because she carries a baby. Men don't have wombs because they were not created to incubate a child and though they carry the seed that becomes the baby, they do not have the incubator that the baby can grow in.

Purpose is the quality of being determined to do or achieve something. It is the determination, the resolution to fulfil a vision.

Purpose is the reason for which something exists. It is the reason why we do things; why some things were made or used.

Purpose is a desired end, an aim, a goal. We will say you are pursuing purpose if we look at your life or what you are committed to and we see design, desire, determination, destination, direction, expectation, goal, object, objective, a plan, premeditation, a projection or a proposition.

So purpose is having a place you are headed to, a reason you are living for. It is the resoluteness of mind, singleness of mind, steadfastness of life, constancy of focus.

When you have purpose, you have a mind made up. All men on earth therefore are driven either by design or default.

Those who know their purpose allow the design to drive them. Those who don't, live by default.

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: Ecclesiastes 3:1

We are either living for the purpose God designed us for, or according to the demands of our schedule and expectation of others.

There is nothing wrong with these things but if they are your whole purpose in life - that is if you are driven by just things; money, fun, popularity - there could be emptiness at the end.

In effect, purpose is greater than money and fun. The greatest source of fulfilment as an individual is purpose. All other things can leave you feeling empty and your life looking meaningless.

A man who sets out to be wealthy so he can retire with enough money may still find himself empty at the end of the journey because he does not have enough purpose. If you measure your life by your status, you could also find that this is not enough purpose.

Purpose however is what gives life enthusiasm; it is the womb in which all that you will become is formed. It gives birth to anticipation and a sense of passion to pursue a dream. It is purpose that makes a man go the extra mile, do the unusual, pursue the toughest dream in order to make a major difference.

Purpose is what gives a man his element of distinction among all of the creations of God. It's what makes you to have direction or pursue a goal. Purpose gives your life a clear and common vision and it encompasses all your life and existence. This brings us to another question:

WHY MUST YOU PURSUE PURPOSE?

The truth is, when people do not know the purpose of a thing, they are likely to abuse it.

Today we hear of spouse abuse, child abuse, this is when people do not know the purpose for which a thing is given.

Purpose is to life what a rudder is to a ship or the steering wheel is to your car. It gives direction and takes you to a place you want to go. So finding it helps your journey to be successful.

Purpose is the compass to your navigation in the ocean of life. Without it you are lost.

Today's world is truly full of opportunities, chances and all kinds of options. The possibility is there that one might settle for the one which he is not cut out for.

Purpose will make you know that there is a destiny you were packaged to fulfil. Interestingly enough, no one else can fulfil their purpose, unless you fulfil yours. That is the reason why you need to know it.

*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: **Ecclesiastes 3:1***

You need to know your purpose because it will make your dormant abilities to be revived. Once you know why you are created, every gift in you gets activated and flows in line with your calling.

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. **Romans 8:28***

Within the remits of purpose even things that seemed like they will work against you begin to work in your favour.

Purpose underwrites the chief reason for creation; if you don't know it you cannot fulfil it. Once you know it, it excites you and provokes you in the direction

of fulfilment.

When a man knows the purpose of his life, it becomes a protection against serving selfish ends or fulfilling other people's dreams for him.

When you know your purpose you could be engaged zealously in it. Purpose protects you from self destruction.

The lack of knowledge of it will make a person live without restraint.

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law. Proverbs 29:18 (NIV)

Imagine the red light district and the young men and women who hang around looking for the next person to engage with in an illegal, illicit, immoral sexual relationship. It probably fulfils a purpose as far as they are concerned, which is to make some money. However, it defeats a greater purpose- the one for which they were created.

Imagine a drug addict who inherently is meant to bless the world by the abilities inside him but without that knowledge of purpose he wastes away as he takes another shot of the drug he delights in - which now has become the demon controlling him.

Failure is birthed through the lack of purpose not the lack of gifting. For when a man finds his purpose, his gifts will emerge.

And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Matthew 25:15

After all it was that purpose that caused the way we were packaged by God. It is so important; it helps you to be protects you from following other people's dreams for you.

It is interesting to know that there are many people on our planet that are

living a life other people meant for them not the one they really desire. Purpose protects you from living your life according to such people's expectations.

Purpose is the best way to operate within the plan of God for your life. Its discovery accelerates your speed on the road to success. It protects you from behaviours that are only of short-term benefit and long-term consequence.

All human beings are looking for a sense of significance and relevance. However this is only found in purpose. The absence of purpose makes life baseless and meaningless.

Without purpose you feel no passion to live, you don't have a reason to wake up every day. There is nothing to live for.

"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

Ecclesiastes 1:2

When a person, people or nation lose their purpose, then confusion, frustration, discouragement and disillusion sets in.

Bad governance and leadership without direction, reveal the fact that the purpose for the which a person is called to lead has not been made clear to him.

Purpose is the reason why a thing was created. It is what gives that thing its existence. Purpose is the expectation of the source, the object of the subject. It is the aspiration which inspires us, the object which you will and resolve to have.

Purpose is your desired result which causes you to go out and produce. If you don't have a purpose you will not be able to produce.

It is the final part of your journey which exists in your mind and makes you to continue against all odds.

But he who endures to the end shall be saved. Matthew 24:13

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 has sat down at the right hand of the

throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

Purpose is the reason you were released to this earth and God did not do so until your purpose was established. You were created to fulfil and to achieve something.

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skilfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

Psalms 139:13-16

So you have not accomplished what you were meant to do on earth until you know your purpose and pursue it. Life is empty until we know that purpose is an integral part of it. It is what begins and ends our lives.

The quest for purpose is the desire to be happy, to make the world a better place or to be blessed. It is why we are here. Your purpose in life determines how you are able to function.

The truth about purpose is that once you find yours, you will realise that you are perfect for it.

A man who is made to fix cars is perfect for it, he is excited about it. People are usually excited when they find their purpose and fit into it. Not all men are cut out to be accountants, doctors, lawyers, some are just cut out to imagine, to dream, to design.

Those who do not like what they are, miss the whole essence of purpose because to remove your purpose would mean to change who you are.

The summary of this argument therefore is that you are just good for your race, height, skin colour, language, physical features, and intellectual capacity.

Certainly there is room for improvement; however, the foundations have been set for the fulfilment of your purpose.

Your parentage was part of the whole essence of your purpose. The beauty of purpose is that it helps you to know that there is a reason for you to be on this planet and you are meant to pursue that reason.

Every man's birth is an evidence of his reason for existence. It is the proof that there is something to achieve.

But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles.

Galatians 2:7-8

Here the word purpose seems to summarise the whole of all that life is. However some of us have many purposes.

Just like the sun, the sun is made by God to fulfil different purposes – to separate day and night, mark the seasons, govern the day, separate light and darkness, give light to the earth, be a source of heat, supply some form of vitamins to the human body.

*Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **Genesis 1:14-18***

You can have multiplicity of purpose, but you will need to find it, follow it and finish it.

Purpose rises above your petty ambition when you allow the Holy Spirit to

lead you into it.

There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand. **Proverbs 19:21**

The beauty of purpose is that when it is found, it is such a powerful force that the mistakes and the mess of our past cannot stop the greatness that lies ahead. Sometimes even the mistakes can end up working for the fulfilment of that purpose.

Purpose informed the way you were formed by God originally.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” **Jeremiah 1:5**

It is the reason for your formation that necessitated your design. Your design influences what you are and what you are here to do. If God didn't call you into talking he wouldn't give you a voice. Everything you do have a reason.

In effect what you have become and how your life is running is determined originally by God. God did not make man to fly, had he made man to fly naturally, like birds He would have given us wings. So we know that we do not find our purpose in flying.

Purpose determines the nature of a thing, by that I mean the particular combination of qualities that belong to you as a human being are not that of an animal, a thing or other creations of God.

Your class, your origin, your make-up is a reflection of your purpose. Purpose informs the reason why God gave you the innate abilities you have.

Owls naturally see in the night, spiders create webs, wood peckers make holes in the tree; their beaks are designed to fit what it is used for.

The kingfisher bird has a beak by which it suddenly dives into the river or sea to catch fish. The tiger can climb trees while the lion is unable. Everything

operates within the parameters of its purpose.

You were created to fulfil a purpose so you cannot be junk because God never creates junk. He only demands what He has put in you.

Every time you feel inadequate it must be because whatever was put inside you is now being demanded. A teacher only demands what he has taught you when he sets his questions in a test.

Apple trees grow apples, caterpillars crawl, butterflies fly, so it is time for you also to rise and fulfil your purpose.

It is in the process of fulfilling your purpose that you fully discover who you are. The inborn traits and abilities I have are pointers to the reasons for which I was made.

So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say." Exodus 4:11-12

Those who do not know why they are here end up living below their potential. However, staying within God's purpose gives the warranties to everything you are.

What you need therefore is not your own lofty and great plans but to find the purpose for which you were made and stay in it. When you are in that purpose, God supports you, care for you and provides for you.

He makes His love known to you and upholds you by His mighty power.

Within the remit of the purpose of God for you, you will not fail, rather you will find true fulfilment and joy. You will reach where God intends to take you.

There are those of course who live their life as if purpose does not matter. They lack direction and goals; they have no purpose. They live their life like the tossing of a coin.

They gamble away telling themselves *que sera sera – whatever will be will be*. They drift along in life aimlessly, unknown to them that there is an end result if they were to know the purpose of God for their life.

WHY MUST YOU KNOW THE PURPOSE OF GOD?

The only true happiness that you can know comes from spending your life for the purpose for which you were made.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

It is the antidote to a life that is futile and empty.

One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever. The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it arose. The wind goes toward the south, and turns around to the north; the wind whirls about continually, and comes again on its circuit. Ecclesiastes 1:4-6

But when it is not known, people go on a merry go round. Round and round and never getting anywhere; feeling like the Grand Old Duke of York.

Sometimes we might be able to see the pointers of a lack of purpose in some people's lives. As society changes people surround themselves with things they think will give them ultimate joy.

We move from one colour of television to the other; black and white to colour, from colour to 3D screens. They change their music centres to high fidelity stereo, from high fidelity stereo, MP3, MP4 etc. TVs now have high definition.

Not only have we surrounded ourselves with gadgets, we have become smarter but not wiser, bigger but not stronger. We know much but understand less, we live longer but enjoy life less.

We write more books but fail to read them. We travel fast but to nowhere, we are conquering space but have not conquered our habits. We protect whales and abuse babies; we wander to the moon but know not the next continent. We are preserving nature and killing babies because purpose is lost and once purpose is lost, moral boundaries, spiritual convictions and ethical boundaries become grey lines.

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law. Proverbs 29:18

Purpose must be discovered or else life will become an experiment that is based on assumptions.

Our fulfilment in life is dependent on us becoming and doing what we were born to be and to do. The soul of our life is gone if we do not have a clear purpose to pursue.

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 1 Corinthians 9:26

Secondly, we need to fulfil purpose so that we can have clarity and know where we were meant to be. It is meant to define our success whether as parents, business men and women, husbands or wives.

Purpose is meant to be the desired end of every human being. Without a commitment to it there cannot be a lasting joy or success. Life is an experiment if there is no purpose, a journey that leads to frustration, disappointment and failure.

Life becomes a trial, a game, a supposition, a hypothesis if there is no purpose. It becomes a theory pursued and not a known fact.

Fulfilment of purpose will come once we know where we are going and once the head knows where it is going, the feet will follow.

Thirdly, let's look at how to clarify purpose.

Clarification of your purpose will have to start with a declaration of statement of purpose for yourself, stating clearly what you want to live for based on what you feel in your spirit.

This declaration creates and encompasses the moral fibre of your life, it could be a decision to raise a godly family, have a good future, live a life of a

testimony, and achieve the dreams that have been given to you.

Pursuit of purpose also requires a flow in the blessing of the Lord.

And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

Deuteronomy 28:2-3

In other words, do not allow anything that would clog God's blessing in your life.

Next, you need to reach out to those who can increase you.

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. **Romans 16:17**

Everyone you meet either adds or deducts from your life. It is important to surround yourself with those who add to you. You make purpose your driving force against the great odds you meet by coming up with statements like: *"I am here for a purpose and that purpose is to grow into a mountain, not to shrink to a grain of sand. Henceforth will I apply all my effort to become the highest mountain of all that will strain my potential until it cries for mercy."*

If you must fulfil your purpose you must understand that God has already spoken what He planned for you from the beginning of times.

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. **Ephesians 1:4-5**

With this in mind you need to adapt your life to become whom God called you to be not people's expectations. Do not adapt your purpose in life to the realities around you rather seek to know the mind of God and let that mould your reality.

Fulfilling that purpose may mean that you learn to get in touch with the passion God has placed inside you and realise that everything inside you has a

purpose. This will lead you to live life with a sense of expectation and not an attitude that makes life look like a wastage. There is nothing more sad than a life that is a wasted potential.

Also find your purpose in serving, become a committed person serving the Lord and humanity realising that the ultimate reason for the creation of man is to honour the Lord Jesus Christ and make Him known to the world.

Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:26-28

You will find greater purpose in becoming a servant, a minister of God, serving with all of your life touching people. You don't have to be a fulltime minister to do this; you need to learn the meaning of purpose and how to fulfil it. So that while you are there working as a mechanic, you are a minister in the marketplace touching lives through your handwork.

We are called to serve God in some way because of what He has done for us.

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Your calling is in line with the strength He has given you and particular gifting He has place inside you. God will never demand from you what He has never given you to do.

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; Ephesians

4:11-13

So while you serve and fulfil your purpose, you are fulfilling His purpose.

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10***

Fulfil your purpose by sticking to the plan, the plan of God for your life. As you begin the journey of life you will find God's ultimate purpose for your life. That is what should be paramount in your heart and should drive the way you live. Stay in that purpose; let the Holy Spirit direct you.

HOW DO YOU FULFIL YOUR PURPOSE?

Purpose paints a picture in your spirit. It gives substance to an unseen thing that you feel or know inside you and which you must pursue. It helps you to translate that vision so that you see it in a plan of action.

Purpose helps you to maximise your energy; it gives you something to do. Purpose gives the time you have on your hand some meaning. It projects you from merely being busy to being effective.

Purpose helps you to see a goal that will take you to your desired end. You fulfil purpose by making good choices and those choices are within the remits of the call of God for your life.

The purpose of Jesus predicted the choices He made. He lived a life of righteousness, He was sinless, and He chose to be baptised in order to fulfil the reason for which He came. He willingly surrendered himself to die when He could have opted out. He said 'this is the reason why I came'. When He was offered comfort He refused it because He knew it was not within the remit of the reason why He had come.

for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

Let purpose determine what you make priorities in your life. Not everything you engage in is necessary because you are here for a reason and in order for you to finish your journey well there are things that are priorities to that journey. You must find them, follow them and finish them.

Many people walk our streets and run our governments who do not know the purpose for which they run it. Many run our lives and do things that influence us without a clear sense of purpose.

When the power of purpose is not known it is reduced to frustration. It

takes away meaning from work, it takes away accomplishment even from a life that is busy.

There are people who have so many irons in the fire until the irons are putting out the fire but they don't even know why they are doing what they are doing. Some are burning candles at both ends and yet not burning brighter.

It is important to know the result when we pursue purpose. It will increase our motivation so that we no longer get out of bed without a reason. It will give us a sense of concentration allowing us to focus and keep on track.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

Such understanding of purpose will help us to know we don't have time for everything and we are not called to all things.

Purpose will help you to prioritise life and know that not everything is worth doing. It will help you to know what is to be done at the time it is to be and in the way it should be done.

The knowledge of purpose increases our confidence in God and assures us that we are doing the right thing and once we know why we are created and what we are given by God to do, we become committed and more fulfilled.

Purpose is a great protector of destiny. It is a helper to discover a life that should not be wasted. Purpose will help us to find ourselves and detach from hazardous situations, toxic relationships and meaningless living.

In effect, purpose becomes a great protection against so many things including premature death. Purpose will make us successful. By success we mean fulfilment, accomplishment, satisfaction, achievement and these will come by

reason of us knowing the reason why we are on earth.

The world has several ways of defining success but within the context of purpose, success for us will become reaching the point of joy, happiness and fulfilment because we have carried out God's assignment for our life.

No manufacturer rejoices until a project achieves its purpose. We only gladden the heart of God when we have really lived according to His purpose.

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." **Revelation 4:11**

It is when we are obedient to God's purpose that everything works out well, not when we are compared to other people. Living and fulfilling our original assignment as designated by God will bring the greatest joy.

So success is not when people say we have been successful but when we have fulfilled our original purpose. You are successful when you truly do what you have been purposed to do. Success is not just doing the right thing but doing the right thing the right way at the right time and to the best of your ability.

Success and the pursuit of your purpose must not be confused. You must not confuse the right with the good, the famous with the big, and the easy with the acceptable. So let us allow our purpose to be manifest.

THE PURSUIT OF VISION

The book on life improvement will not be complete without an adequate deliberation on the subject of vision. This is so because only your dream or vision can give you the permission to be the true person you were meant to be; to reflect your innermost conviction.

Vision is so important; to be without it is like a wedding without a bride - missing the very essence of the occasion. Can you imagine an orchestra without the right music or conductor? It would be a collection of talents without focus.

Life without vision is like the torchlight without battery; ready without power. It is like a snake ill focused, spineless just attracted to every warm place. Your life can be meaningful if you can find the vision you were meant to have. Your dreams are filled with blessings and yet they don't manifest because there is an absence of a clearly defined vision.

Vision is a reflection of an inborn creativity and ability to face life's challenges. **John F. Kennedy** said "*we are all idealist, we are all visionaries*".

Vision gives your life guidance and helps its fulfilment. The beauty and glory of the end time Christian will be in the vision they have and the capacity to carry it out.

They do not push one another; every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, they are not cut down. Joel 2:8

Vision is a divine deposit deep inside which distinguishes you and makes you unique. It is the innate eye of your heart awaiting your discovery, embracing and exploration. Vision gives you the access way to fulfilment and joy. It is that which opens the door to the maximisation of life. Vision is an unstoppable force which once it is discovered and unleashed can bring you into the fullness of who you should become.

It changes your life from struggle to success.

They do not know, nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are unstable. Psalm 82:5

There is a light in every one of us awaiting a kindling and this happens by vision. What distinguishes a man with vision is that he goes further than those who rely merely on talent. This is because vision keeps speaking when talent is a mere demonstration for now.

Vision is the key to making your life a distinction. The world in which we live is ruled by visionaries. Vision helps a man to solve problems and it is the discovery of God's original plan for your life and the making of it to become manifest. Your success and joy, your actualisation is hidden in the discovery and pursuit of your vision.

Thomas Carlisle said "*a man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder*". While the **Philosopher Seneca** said "*If a man know not what harbour he seeks, any wind is the right wind.*"

Without vision people perish, with vision people succeed.

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law. Proverbs 29:18

WHAT IS VISION?

It is the unique fingerprint of a person, people or an organisation which makes them unique on an ocean of humanity. It is the picture in the arena of your heart of a preferred destination which once focused on makes your life to change and makes it to reflect who you were meant to be.

It could delay because of time and situations but once it is discovered and implemented; vision makes several things happen by their due date.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. **Habakkuk 2:3**

Vision is like faith; it is the evidence in your heart of the things you are hoping for. It empowers you to see tomorrow and to pursue it. It is what you can use to inspire commitment. Vision helps you to paint a mental portrait of the desired destination.

The necessity of vision cannot be overstated. The most bankrupt person on earth is not the one without money but the one without vision. Vision is the insight you have into God's purpose for your life so to be without it is to live without hope.

In most cases, a real vision that controls and directs life to a 100% improvement is not mere ambition which is manmade. Vision is God given.

Your vision will give you peace and make you satisfied with who you are and not compare yourself to other people. You will not want to be a copy of somebody else once you know the vision of your life.

Vision gives you the drive to go on and achieve. You will be as small or as great as the vision you have in your heart but once you allow it, your vision will speak of your destiny and not lie.

Vision is the doorway to greater destiny; it takes your life from mere explanation to a level of exclamation. Vision is what turns a man's potential to an active force. It will determine how your destiny pans out. Vision is so powerful it underwrites your life and existence and brings meaning to it. Vision is what marks and distinguishes you.

When we talk of the vision that would bring 100% improvement, we refer to something which is not by consensus; it is not other people's opinion. However when your vision begins to produce and result in success; it will also produce consensus.

In other words, people will begin to agree that truly you must have found your purpose and are now pursuing it. Vision is so powerful particularly when it resonates in your heart from a revelation God has given you of what the future will be. In that situation others may not agree but you will know what God has for you and pursue it and it will bring result.

Joseph knew what God's plan was for him; he declared it and there was opposition but because he knew what his vision was it came to pass.

But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Genesis 37:4-11

One might say that as a result of the vision in the heart of Joseph, a characteristic of vision became manifest; that is – a true vision is compulsive in its motivation; it makes you not want to give up because of what you know inside you.

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

1 Corinthians 9:16

Vision is long term in its scope, the demonstration of talent may be for a particular period or work life but vision is for life. A vision can be unique just as unique as our finger print and our DNA.

I am personally convinced that if God has created mankind so that so many things about us is unique to us and there is no other person with that specific fingerprint or DNA; in the same vein He wants our vision to have a uniqueness which distinguishes us.

Vision makes your life an investment in the future instead of expenditure; it produces a great and deep satisfaction.

Every day we come into contact with the product of other people's vision, from the slippers or shoes on our feet, to the design of the clothing on our body; to the bed we sleep on and everything we open our eyes and see are man-made and were all once the product that came out of somebody's vision.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VISION

We have established that vision is an imparted gift from God reflecting your destiny and goal. It is the key to your authenticity in life.

Vision is important because it helps you out of mediocrity or living a copycat lifestyle. Vision is the glory of the end time church. We are meant to do and achieve much more than those who have gone ahead of us by reason of vision. It gives us insight into God's purpose for our life and with its presence we know the peace of God even when things are not yet working out because the scriptures already assure us that visions do speak and they do not stay silent.

*For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith. **Habakkuk 2:3-4***

Vision is important because it gives your life a divine drive so that when you want to be latent, tired and laid back; it propels you to move on. It is the doorway to a greater destiny and achievement.

Vision determines your destiny and marks you out for distinction. Today the people we celebrate have reached and attained success because of the vision they carry in their heart. Life finds meaning where there is vision. It turns potential into an active force. It makes a person an achiever. Vision is your key to a worry free life because once you know what you want to achieve you feel the burden is half lifted.

Its entrance assures you that tomorrow will be alright.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future

It is that sense of knowing which helps you to say NO to good ideas, things and offers because they do not align with where you are going. If a man does not have vision; he will be easily swayed and carried away by other people's opinion. However, the one with a vision loves to stay and fulfil what he sees and feels in his heart. This makes vision important.

Vision is important because it gives your life a lift so that you live beyond one generation. As you fulfil a dream, a vision, it becomes what others can come and plug into. The unique calling on your life which no one else could achieve becomes a reality.

Imagine the men who first conceived the thought of producing motor cars or airplanes; today they are long gone, however their visions have changed how the world operates. They have given motion to our vision so that we can be in places quicker than they used to be in their time.

Vision is our eye into the future; it is that which gives our life a sense of compulsion. Vision is important because it creates desire to achieve and the passion to make it happen. It is so powerful because it helps one to have a sense of satisfaction.

Many things you do today will never outlast you; the clothing, the places you live in but your dream and vision is able to live beyond you.

Visions are life satisfying; they bring a dividend and not a liability. When a man finds a vision for his life he is able to focus his energy and with the focus of energy you are able to stand tall in tough times because you know that tomorrow will be better.

Vision therefore gives hope and increases your faith level and with that assurance that tomorrow will be okay, you are always able to move on.

Vision seems to always inspire provision; in effect provision goes where

there is vision. A man who complains of lack will not need to check anything else but the vision in his heart and the tools he has with which to make the vision happen. If a man wants to change his income level, it may be additional education he needs or better contacts; whichever way he still requires vision to know which step to take.

Vision helps you to live in the future before the future manifests; knowing truly that only those who answer tomorrow's questions today can see a significant change in the future.

Vision is important and the capturing of it must be in the context of our unique calling. Once you know what your unique calling is you need to know who your competition is and who your colleagues and co-workers are. Vision can be frustrated if you have the wrong people around you so it is important to know who is with you in the fulfilment of your vision.

There is limited information available on vision and it has resulted in many people struggling perpetually. Our schools have courses on several subjects but not on the core things that make life to really find fulfilment and that is the power and importance of your vision.

Vision really is the compass you have on the oceans of life so that you are not lost but directed to where you should go.

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. **Psalm 37:23**

It helps you to stay within your area of gifting; how many people have wasted their time and energy doing another man's work before, in the latter part of their life, they begin to re-engineer?

Vision is necessary because it is the key instrument to see you through tough times. Why do two people go through a tough time and one come out strong, focused and even better, while the other is totally crushed? The difference often times is in the absence or presence of vision in the person's heart.

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing

seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Psalm 126:5-6

Vision would also help you to live a selective life; there are places you would not want to go and people you would not want to relate to. There are nations you might not want to live in no matter how good and pleasant they seem because they do not align with the greater vision you see.

Vision provides purpose to the action we take. It creates the atmosphere for the fulfilment of dreams. It is the cord of unity which binds a people together for achievement. That is why nations suffer and waste time when there is no defining of vision.

Vision enhances leadership; it is the chief sustainer for business or ministry.

Having said that there is not enough to deal with the subject out there; there is now a lot of deliberation on the subject within the body of Christ but because it is popular does not mean it is done properly.

It is important for you to set out and achieve your purpose in life by pursuing what is the right vision for your life. So you have got to have the right vision; the vision will be right if you are not caught in the trap of copycat and mediocre living. In other words, not repeating what others have done but getting to know what God has in store for you which may exceed people's opinion of you.

Vision is what authenticates your life; it takes you from being a mere copy or living a synthetic life, to being an authentic person. Your vision may not impress someone else but it would be your all consuming desire.

George Mueller had a desire to build a home for orphans in the city of Bristol at the beginning of the 20th Century. He was a success.

Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin had a strong passion to teach people faith; that simple commitment to a vision turned many people's lives around. **Dr. Oral**

Roberts had a vision to build a Pentecostal charismatic university and succeeded. **Benny Hinn** is turned on by the sight that provokes him to minister to the sick.

A vision is right when it triggers a desire to fulfil what God has planted in your heart. It is the right vision if it operates as your inner eye into the future calling, you to see beyond the natural and into the supernatural.

While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2

Corinthians 4:18

It would be the right vision if it increases your hope and faith level so that with the things that seem daunting and unachievable you come to the understanding that step by step everything is within reach.

The right vision will help you to locate your calling and pursue it so that you are not fulfilling the call other people have for you but what God wants you to be.

It is important that your vision rests within what is the mind of God because if God did not say it then you can't have it. However a vision that rests upon God's divine plan is easier to achieve. It is therefore important to locate such a plan and to stay in it.

Your future breakthrough and testimony lies in God's commanded blessing.

It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore. Psalm 133:3

The right vision is always connected to the right place. When God called Elijah He told him where to go on occasions. In order to bless a widow He told him, "Go to **Zarephath** for there I have commanded..."

The source of the right vision is the source of all things; God Himself is the source from whom all blessings flow and once you have him in your life and He is directing you, it may look like you are going to the wrong place but because He is behind it; it will find fulfilment. You must check it is in agreement with what

you think that God is asking you to do for the rest of your life.

Every vision has timing, don't miss yours. Once you secure God's master plan for your life you have also attained His aid to make it happen. When you access the programme of God for your life then your own plan will be workable.

When you discover God's master plan for your life your own plan will fit in. However until you do so you will labour in vain.

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1

The right vision creates the pathway to purpose. It creates the pathway to self discovery and leads to fulfilment.

You are a summary of your vision. Vision presents to you new possibilities, enlarged horizons and great hopes ahead: It is the indispensable step to get to the things you want out of life because it helps you to decide clearly what you want and where you are going.

Vision gives you the ability to see the future. It provokes changes and requires hard work in order to make the change happen. Vision demands perseverance until there is an achievement. When your vision is right it will be consistent with the environment God shows you that you belong to.

One man with vision is greater than a hundred people who are just passive. Visionaries make history, others study it.

So what are you waiting for? Wake up, locate your vision and begin to manifest it. When you do it you take away stress. Don't be part of those who live in danger because they cannot see beyond their nose.

THE POWER OF VISION

Vision is a powerful tool in the hand of the right person. It will open doors beyond measure.

Firstly because it is inspiring, it is a bold reason for living; it is a badge of purpose.

It may not be from God if the vision does not excite. Life cannot be improved if your vision is not exciting and big enough to make you want to walk away from certain things in order to fulfil it.

Vision is impacting because it also brings change. It is change oriented. Things cannot remain the same in the presence of vision. It is challenging; a good and powerful vision will stretch you to break away from your old and into the new. It is empowering.

When a man casts a vision, other people come into it and find their fulfilment. That is why a person will start a business and one day it becomes an organisation which hires tens of thousands of people. It all started as a vision in the heart of the founder.

It is long term; from the Hudson Bay Company in the United States that was officially registered more than 500 years ago, to companies that were registered today; there are visions that can last for so long.

Vision is customised to fit who you are. God carefully created you, deliberately engineered you to be unique with your own prints and DNA. He knows you intimately; He has therefore created a personalised vision which fits your personality.

Vision is people oriented; in other words it would be impactful if your vision focuses on people. The end of everything we have or do is to reach people; to

touch their lives, to make a difference in the world. If this is to happen then certain things will need to be corrected.

Vision cannot impact if we have an approach that seems to only manage crisis like the fire brigade. This kind of vision may restore what has been damaged but it does not build with the future in mind.

Vision will not be impactful if we have an attitude that says we are good enough. Too many people carry themselves as if there is no more room for improvement. Just like the sign in front of certain hotels or motels that already says NO VACANCY.

Vision may not make progress and may not make impact if we are measuring ourselves by comparing our lives with that of friends, colleagues or contemporaries. When you pace yourself according to your colleagues, you run the risk of ending up as a local champion.

Vision may not be impactful if we allow things to get in our way. It is very important to be a person whose mind is clear and who knows what they want so that, once that it is established, obstacles are not big enough to stop you from reaching where you are going.

Just making the effort to meet present need is also another reason why many people's vision is not impactful. They live a subsistent life as long as their present need is met, they do not bother or worry anymore.

Vision will not be impactful if all we are trying to do is repeat what others have achieved or the good old times; if what we call a vision is "I remember what others have done" and trying to repeat it.

A vision that will be impactful must not be carried away by side attractions. Distracted vision will not work, it will get you off-track and a train off- track will never arrive at its defined destination.

The worst reason for some people not making impact in life is that they suffer from the **HIV** of vision; **H**aving **I**nsufficient **V**ision.

They conclude that there is no more world to conquer; inadequate vision will cause you to be restful and at ease in Zion.

*Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, and trust in Mount Samaria, Notable persons in the chief nation, To whom the house of Israel comes! **Amos 6:1***

Many have had visions that are not impactful. They become discouraged because they launch out without a clear blueprint, neither do they know what they want. So every road seems to lead in the direction of where they are going and in the end they became confused.

HOW TO MAKE VISION WORK

Solomon advises us that for a vision to work we must first put pen to paper.

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law. Proverbs 29:18

Remember vision is the ability to anticipate and prepare and make provisions for the future. It is that which brings together your hindsight, insight, foresight, far sight and imagination. It uses them effectively to coordinate a desired goal and a method of arrival. To be without it is to be a slave of other people who have vision. So progress is made in life by the picture we see and it is retarded because of the picture we do not.

For this to happen, it must be clearly written so that it empowers the visionary to pursue a desired goal. It is that which will help us to hope and dream and pray for the things which are yet to be within our reach.

We need to WRITE our vision because it is our key to authentic living. A man who has not written it enough for him to pursue it becomes mediocre and a copycat. You will end up following others and only making progress by using your friends to determine where you should be.

Vision is the unique calling of the believer to fulfil his life and it is that which helps him to achieve it; it is the eye into the future.

Vision is what will keep you from living a bankrupt life; vision is what will make you grow in this kingdom because God himself is a visionary. So you need to write it down. A man who cannot see beyond his nose has jeopardised his destiny and that of the generation that will come after him. How many people are trapped in poverty today because their fathers had opportunity but their opportunities were not backed by vision?

Vision is your basis for living a focused life because there is no progress

without a clear focus. So when you write down your vision it helps you because it becomes your focus – a preview of a coming attraction.

God instructed the prophet **Habakkuk** to write his vision and to make it plain.

*Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith. **Habakkuk 2:2-4***

So many people would say that they have the vision at the back of their mind. However what you have at the back of your mind may never manifest before your eyes; so if the vision is that major write it down because it will help you to paint a mental portrait of where you are going. It will help to determine your destiny so that you are not carried off track by the immediate and the temporary.

You are as great or as small as the vision you define for yourself; so when you write it down and make it plain your life becomes a success and not a waste.

Vision helps you to locate your place in the programme of God; it helps you to innovate without waiting for problems. Many never act until there is an issue, a problem, a challenge. That kind of a lifestyle is what I call a fire brigade mentality; no action until there is a problem.

However the importance of writing your vision cannot be overemphasised because it is the vision you elevate and the idea you talk about that will become the reality of your life and what you build the whole of your destiny upon.

An ordinary man with a clearly written vision will make history while the one who seems to have the opportunities and even great education but has no defined vision, will end up achieving very little.

A man who seems to be outstanding but has no clearly written vision will

only read it when it happens in other people's life. Once you are able to set one goal, you develop the skill for setting many goals.

Start today, write the vision, you don't have to write everything you want to know or do in your life. Start with choosing the vision, a goal; writing it down and sticking to it. Once you begin to do that you will be flowing in the right direction and you will get there. So it is about having the vision and placing it in front of you by writing it.

Then you must READ the vision, it is not enough to have one's vision written, nicely tucked away in a diary; it is important to keep it before you and remind yourself of where you are going so that you become an achiever in the affairs of life.

Written visions that are from God are revelatory in nature; they expose to you the programme God has for you. The amazing thing about life is that once you begin to carry the visions out, they seem to explode and expand and you see wider and greater things.

The conquest of one vision encourages you to attempt greater things. The knowledge vision brings informs your decision. If there is no vision your decision is informed by people's opinion, the temporary and the needs around you become the reason why you do things.

People who run around looking for several counsellors to make an input into their lives immediately mirror a life without a vision.

Vision helps you to fulfil the law of sight; the ability to see and possess what you have already understood in your heart. If nothing is craved, nothing is supplied. A vision clearly written and read regularly means you are on your way to achieve the purpose of God.

Reading your vision will open your eyes; when your eyes are open the destiny you have will open too.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope

of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. **Ephesians 1:18**

Until you read the vision, the discovery and fulfilment of it becomes difficult. Your place is in God's revealed plan, the word of God; read it and run with it.

In other words your vision must be fed by the word of God and also by your chosen field.

Vision that is not within the remit of knowledge will result in frustration.

The labour of fools wearies them, for they do not even know how to go to the city!

Ecclesiastes 10:15

The time you spend locating your destiny or vision is not wasted but invested because it eventually brings forth fruit.

"I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."" **Habakkuk**

2:1-2

Once it is written, your vision can become your inspiration. One single great vision can transform into a million realities. Once it is written you will find out that it is wise to follow the dream from your heart than the logic of your mind.

In the words of **Oscar Wilde** *"a dreamer is one who can only find his way by moonlight and his punishment is that he sees the dawn before the rest of the world"*.

When you read your vision you see it when others have not even woken up.

Then you must RATE your vision; your vision is not big enough until it shocks your peers.

There was a beggar sat on a bench in the park one day, dirty and unkempt having slept rough almost all of his begging life and just beside him was his dog,

which was just as dirty as he was.

Not long after an artist came and started drawing an image of the beggar, he drew the beggar and in the end he showed him. It was not exactly as the beggar thought it would be because the beggar said “*that could not be me*”.

The artist had drawn the beggar in a nice well cleaned suit, his dog cleaned up and looking nice. The beggar was wearing the best of clothes that money could ever buy. So he asked “*who is that?*” and the artist replied “*that’s the you I see in you.*” The beggar of course responded that “*if that’s the me you see in me, I choose to be what you see in me*”.

You need a vision that will increase your speed in life; not one that will just see you playing catch up and trying to keep up with the Joneses.

You need the vision that will make you live beyond your natural ability, one that will cause you to run and do things beyond what you have done before. A vision that will rate in the sight of God is the one that can shape the destiny of your children’s children and great-grandchildren.

Rating your vision is important because it will determine the distance you make in the race of life; if you do not rate it highly you will settle for a lesser thing than you could have achieved.

The scriptures cannot be broken, it says many run but only one obtains. Have the vision that will make you obtain what you were sent to this planet to achieve. The only way to reach your long range goal is through achieving your short range objectives.

You must know what the essential the ingredients of happiness are and make them the vision of your life. Happiness is not a vague dream; it comes by reason of the pursuit of your purpose in life.

The benefit of vision is that it reveals what is worthwhile and what needs to

be discarded. Such vision will help your mind to see your future as bright as God sees it. That is the reason why we need to rate our vision highly and know that it is worth living for. Until your vision rates highly, you will be encumbered by the unnecessary.

Visionaries and dreamers of the day are more dangerous than the dreamers of the night. Those who dream at night do it on the dust and recesses of the previous day's experience in their mind but the dreamers of the day have their eyes open to the possibilities of life. They see what can be achieved. They know the race of life is not to the swift; it is by the dictates of the Holy Spirit.

Life will be colourless if it is visionless; don't wait until the end of your journey and find out that you have been chasing shadows and mistaking it for vision.

Having said that you must rate your vision, this is not an attempt to say that starting small is wrong; Rome was not built in a day and God often starts a thing small in order to give it a great end.

Though your beginning was small, yet your latter end would increase abundantly. Job 8:7

Your plans and ambitions pale in the face of what God has for you.

The next step is to RUN with that vision; to write and rate your vision without running with it is like having a good idea and doing nothing and hoping that it will work. Nothing works until somebody makes it work.

It is important that you run with your vision. It is yours and nobody else's. Nobody owes you any responsibility to make your life happen. So you need to turn your vision from potential to an active force by reason of your own activity.

Until the man by the beautiful gate stood up, his healing was never completed. Until the man by the pool of Bethesda picked up his bed and walked; he could have stayed there beyond the 38 years. Until the woman with the issue of blood took action, her haemorrhage did not cease. So work out your vision; nothing

works until you act on it.

Dreams come true when you make it happen. If a man dreams of eating the best meal on earth; he needs to wake up and cook it. If you do not do something about your vision; all you will have is regrets. So be committed to your vision.

Running with your vision makes people read your actions and follow as far as you lead them. So let your vision make your life unstoppable. Let it increase your speed.

The difference between a man who is breaking new grounds and the one who seems to be encumbered lies in the vision they have and their commitment to run with it.

When days of discouragement come; let the mere thought of what life could be like when you fulfil that vision, cause you to run and not be weary.

If you fail to run with the vision, your anointing and the calling upon your life will be frustrated. It is not enough to be anointed, it is important to have direction. Running with the vision is acknowledging what God has placed in you and not letting it die.

It is not enough to catch a vision; it is important to act on it.

A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men. Proverbs 18:16

Run with the vision because it makes your life unbeatable, it breaks every curse and helps you to focus on the cause of your life. There is a path marked out for you by God. Once you find it, follow it and finish it. Your future greatness is guaranteed.

But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. Proverbs 4:18



Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the

good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.

Jeremiah 6:16

Your vision or dream could become a nightmare if you do not wake up and make it a reality. Nothing on earth should be big enough to stop you from running with your vision.

"Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." **Acts 26:19**

However, once you miss your purpose in life you will also miss your prosperity. So do not sit down asking so many questions about life; wake up and start doing something in the direction of your vision and watch results follow.

Even a mole hill transforms into a mountain before the man who has not really found and followed his vision. Delay is the death of dreams.

Running may mean starting small because if you wait until you are big enough you will never start.

For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth." **Zechariah 4:10**

Running may mean taking risks; the man who is afraid to throw the dice will never throw six.

Les Brown had said *"give yourself to your dream and follow it wherever it takes you in glorious pursuit"*.

So do not abandon your vision that has grown with you from childhood. Keep adjusting them as you grow in age and keep adjusting them as the abilities come. Make visions happen as they come to you. Stop the postponement, tomorrow may never come.

Very active visionaries like performance and are also great dreamers. You may only be able to live one dream at a time; at least you lived it.

When Daniel and his friends got into Babylon through the back waters; what must have kept them is the vision they had in their heart. That purpose and vision made Daniel to rise from a slave to Prime Minister.

One of the most devastating things in life is the realisation that you had a vision but did not pursue it until somebody came along and made a mega success of the same idea.

Zig Ziglar said *“if you do the things you need to do when you need to do them, then someday you can do the things you want to do when you want to do them”*.

Running may mean little effort but the little effort carried out every day is what constitutes success. The lack of time is not the problem of many people as they often claim; it is the absence of direction in the pursuit of their vision.

HOW FAR DO YOU RUN WITH THE VISION?

I will say as far as your feet can take you and the light that is available to you. When you arrive where you think you should stop there will be more light to take you further. You don't make it big by wishing or arriving there by fear; it happens by having clear daily objectives and putting them to action.

Visions are the dreams, which if properly and realistically planned will bring you fulfilment in the end.

Once you start running with your vision; the next major thing is to be rooted in it.

Every good thing will be opposed; your vision has enemies. Satan wants to frustrate your climb in life; you must understand that it is part of the pain, the problem or persecutions you face.

Your vision has possibilities and opportunities. Do not let what you are going through stop where you are going to. Rather, you should refuse to let temporary setbacks shift your focus. It is time to break the barriers to see your destiny.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Do not let the enemy abort your vision, if that happens you have already condemned the future. Stay focused. This will make you move further ahead of tomorrow than you are today. When a man's focus is broken he sets himself up for accidents.

Be ROOTED in the vision as you get the vision straight and pursue it. Twisted vision makes you want to be somebody else. When you are not rooted in what God says you are and what God wants you to be; you will walk in jealousy and become envious of what other people are.

So you need to be rooted in the vision and the calling of God for your life

because your vision will re-focus your life from panic and crisis to success orientation. This will help you and give you the ability to stay and say NO to what God has not led you to. It is time to resign from the company of those who moved from one career to another, from one place to the other, from one spouse to another.

Do things by vision and your life will be stable and fulfilling. Do not let the winds of ambition that are not in agreement with your vision blow you off the plan of God for your life.

So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

Romans 9:16

So if you must beat frustration, you will need to stay rooted in the original plan of God for your life.

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **Ephesians 5:17**

Life is too precious to surrender to fate; you need to seize the moment.

Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested. **1 Chronicles 4:9-10**

Trains cannot move fast unless they are on a track; stay rooted. Your journey is slowed down when you leave the road and drive on uncharted road. Humiliation follows when you leave the right cause or course of your life.

"When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" Acts 21:11

Operating from the centre of the will of God makes you invincible to the weapons of destruction.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they

shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west;" **Isaiah 43:2-5**

We all have our areas of primary calling; it is that vision that speaks in your life. When you are within it you will excel. Operate outside of your vision and you could end up looking like a fool.

Life shines and sparkles like a star when you are correctly positioned in the purpose of God.

Stay therefore dedicated to your vision. Though it may take time to manifest, be rooted in it then your vision will speak as the prophet has said.

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." **Habakkuk 2:3**

If you are rooted in your vision, it will be your refuge when you are unhappy, your pleasure when you are afraid, and your passion when it is time to run.

Vision is a way to keep your hope alive when everything around you is still negative. Do not stop yourself from pursuing vision because the biggest obstacle is not someone else but you. Being rooted means that you have a strong objective and commitment; as a result your chances of reaching and achieving your goal becomes better.

So do not wait to arrive at the shore of fulfilment before you know the possibility of vision. Being rooted in it should be enough assurance that you will get there.

Merely deciding does not mean that you are rooted in vision. A goal casually set and lightly taken can be easily abandoned so you need to focus. Once you focus

then you can reach where you are going in life.

In the journey to the fulfilment of your vision and dream there are those who will say it is impossible but these very people are often always bypassed, by those who end up doing it.

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR LIFE THROUGH VISION

Reach the Vision.

Having written, rated, read the vision and taken all other actions, it is important to reach the vision. The beginner is not the one who succeeds but the one who endures to the end according to the scriptures will be saved.

There are many people who begin good things in life but few finish. You will be one of those who finish.

It is very important to reach your vision and complete it because it does not take a lot of people in your life to bring out your destiny. All you need is to have the right people around you then you will reach it. You need to reach your vision because the future which you are pursuing will only respond to you if you are ready to go all the way.

How many people have launched good things but did not have the strength, boldness and grace to complete it? Reach your vision, it is a tragedy when visions are aborted or prematurely born. It is even worse if it results in being still born.

Reach your vision my friend, you are responsible for finding and following what God has destined you to become. So it is time to stop blaming your father for being poor, your mother for not being rich, your teacher for frustrating you in Mathematics class.

It is time to know that with God you are now more than a majority.

Reach your vision; your future and function depends on it. There is no future in jobs or certificates; it is not in the new career or the name or a new kind of innovation. It is not in lottery or gambling; the future is in vision.

ARE YOU STILL ASKING HOW?

Reach your vision by starting with what you see and hear - that is why we are sharing this about life improvement. What you hear affects what you see and what you see becomes what you get.

Break the barriers of life that say you cannot receive certain blessings. The fact that you were born on the 'wrong side' of the city does not mean you will die there.

Make up your mind and endeavour to break free from comfort zones. It is so easy to look for warm places like reptiles do, and hide yourself and wait for easy food, easy breakthroughs; it is important to reach out and break free from every comfort zone.

Then appoint mentors to your life; people who will help signpost the road to success; those who will point you in the right direction. They do not have to like you; you just need them to help you to be whom God wants you to be.

The next truth is that you need to put your life's goal in one clear concise statement and commit yourself to it. If you do not, you will be a wandering generality. So stay away from those who hate your dreams and make no investment in your life and yet they make a demand on it.

It is important if you must reach where you are going, to know that you cannot surround yourself with the people who are called **VNPs** and **VDPs** – **Very Needy People** and **Very Draining People**. These are people who always drain you.

Look for and surround yourself with vision builders, vision makers, mentors, healthy friends; loved ones and families who sow good seed into your life; who fill your emotional cup.

You must know that you cannot make it alone; you need people to reach where you are going. There is a place of fulfilment, success and domination.

Vision will take you there.

It is not enough to be zealous or full of power. It is important that the power takes you in the direction of your calling.

Vision is what breaks the chain and turns your life around from being of a struggler to being an achiever. Reaching your vision would make you stand out. Once you are in the plan of God, you are bigger than anyone. The obstacles of life cannot be so big as to outweigh or overshadow God in your life.

“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it.” **Ezekiel 2:8-9**

If God sent you, how can you say the devil stopped you? Who is bigger and who is greater? So there is a throne for you to occupy. The access way to it is by vision. When you get there, everyone will know you are there. To be outside of the vision of your life is to be outside of fulfilment.

When **Elijah** was by the Brook Cherith, in the house of the Widow of Zarephath, he was in the will of God. Vision made Elijah more comfortable before a Widow than in the presence of Kings. No association must be allowed to stop you from reaching your destiny.

You must reach your vision because it is your access way to excellence. Frustration, suffering, pain is in the way of those who have not found the vision and plan of God and pursued it.

Do not complain about failure if the vision you have is not accompanied with action and passion. You simply will not arrive at your destination.

In effect, you must do something. Reach your vision. Reaching your destination is important because until you move, nothing works. To reach your destination, it must be one of your objectives to honestly make an effort to improve your previous service.

Do not complain about obstacles. **Booker T. Washington** said “*You must*

measure the size of the accomplishment by the obstacles you had to overcome to reach your goals.”

Once your vision is set, your journey is half reached. The reward of reaching your destination isn't nearly as important as the result of making it to your destination. If you take your eyes off your goals, you will be frightened by the obstacles which your eyes will focus on.

So visions are like stars. You do not succeed by touching them; but if you were lost on the ocean, the one thing that helps you find your way back would be the stars as you choose them to guide you; as you follow them you will reach your destination.

Maximise the power of your vision. Let your vision be the springboard. The only person who can put a limit around your dream is you; so don't be afraid to see great visions.

Vision helps you to stretch the limit beyond the present. It takes you beyond the boundaries of what is merely possible.

Robert Browning said *“A man's reach should exceed his grasp or what's a heaven for?”*

It is not a disaster to die with vision unfulfilled but it is a big disaster to have not had a vision at all. It is not a disaster to have not been able to reach the stars. However, it is a disgrace if you had no stars in your imaginary skies.

THE RESULT OF VISION AND THE BENEFITS

We have clearly established that vision is a necessity for 100% life improvement. In other words, whatever wants to limit your sight and your climb in life must change when you get a vision.

Let me share with you some of the results that will manifest by reason of vision.

Firstly, through your vision, you can access the provisions God has for you and not settle for the left-over the enemy says you deserve.

Secondly by vision, you are able to make quality, godly and clear decisions that will lift your level of performance and playing field.

By reason of vision, you will come into a realm of productivity beyond you have ever done. It was vision that helped Abraham to move from being a man who was left alone by his nephew, to becoming rich in cattle and gold.

The possession of vision is the end of all struggles. Struggle ends where your vision takes over. When you allow your vision, as God has given you, to begin to shape the decisions and pursuits in life, all the stresses you know begin to depart and the peace of God that passes understanding replaces them.

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:7**

The presence of vision also takes you from being a reader of history to a maker of it. When your vision is in your heart, it fires you up to solve problems not gather them.

You do not run around seeking who may counsel you. You become enthroned in the blessings of God and an answer to many peoples' questions. The presence of vision increases your confidence in God as you see Him make the

vision come to pass.

Vision is your reason for being able to travel straight in a clear direction when others are confused at the cross roads of life. Vision takes your life from explanation to exclamation. You become a testimony to your friends and foes.

When vision informs every decision of your life, new habits are formed and a new atmosphere is developed around you. By reason of the vision that is from above, you are able to focus on the invisible God who can do incredible things that were said to be impossible.

Let your vision speak and blessing will be loaded in your future. Allow your vision to speak. Success will then be manifest for people to see.

Vision truly makes life authentic and not synthetic: fulfilled not full of fear. You will not die even in the winter of life. Your vision will remind you that spring is around the corner.

Do not let those who steal visions, kill dreams and abort goals negotiate you out of what God is speaking in your heart. Focus on the promises of God and the vision He has shown you for life.

In your weak moments, keep the vision alive. Keep bringing up the picture of your victory on the screen of your mind. Let the vision of victory you see in your heart, shape your future, reject and refuse every attempt of worry to steal your future.

Make yourself focus on what God has already said; and I pray with you that your eyes will be blessed to see great things.

“Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see;” **Luke 10:23**

So excellence and dominion respond to the man who pursues his dream. You belong on the throne. Vision is what takes you there.

Your level of productivity is possible and accessible as you stay in the pursuit of your vision. Vision makes you enjoy the back-up of God in everything you do. It will take you places, open doors and go ahead of you.

Vision produces rewards and confers upon you results. You are guaranteed a future because of vision. The pursuit of vision will bring you into the remit of making a success of your life. The manifestation and reality of a man's destiny is always in direct proportion to the vision he pursues.

The pursuit of vision is what results in a new world of breakthroughs, wonders and testimonies. Vision helps you to find hope in a hopeless world. When you begin to walk in it, it will influence your life and turn it into an investment.

It is not very easy to pursue your dream in the face of adversity; but once you do, you will meet with success in unimagined and uncommon places at uncommon hours.

Your vision will create pathways where others see nothing. It will take you to a destination which you mapped out in your spirit.

Every dream, vision and joy that was saved up inside you will then become reality as you begin to work out and walk in your vision. Success will therefore become the product when vision and hard work tangle up in love.

Every choice we make in life has end results. The end result of pursuing a worthwhile vision is a breakthrough which is worth the while.

THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The World English dictionary defines righteousness as *a lifestyle characterized by proceeding from or in accordance with accepted standards of morality, justice or uprightness.*

Virtuous – *it has to do with being morally justifiable, right; it carries along with it the elements of honesty, integrity, a commitment to judgement, justice and being upright.*

Daniel and his friends were committed to purity. This was a watchword for them as they came through the back quarters of Babylon. Their experiences were later to show that Daniel made the right decision by committing himself to living a life of righteousness in a culture that was so different from the standards of the word of God.

Righteousness is a force which triggers the blessings of God to manifest. A force in itself is any power or energy lodged in an individual agent that can exert compulsion, constraint or coercion and can force an action to take place.

The Bible for example says go and announce to the righteous man it shall be well with him.

“Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.” Isaiah 3:10

This in effect means that once a person chooses the path of righteousness he has put a force of wellness and blessing in motion. Once this force is put in motion, it provokes a supernatural result.

Righteousness controls the future of the believer; it is not a curse to be righteous, rather it is a blessing. All of God's blessings are tied to the choice of obedience and righteousness.

It is difficult for one to continue to work in blessing if he chooses to operate in disobedience.

The beauty of our salvation in Christ Jesus is our righteousness which He proffers. Righteousness is the act of being lawful, honest or right; it is God's standard of ethics and morality. If life is going to improve then we will have to choose God's standard because it is able to sustain us through all seasons and ages.

Righteousness is part of the nature of God and He wants it to be part of our life. It is the mark of God on those who follow Him.

The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26

It is the clothing which we wear and is described as the beauty of holiness. This is different from self-righteousness. It is also not to be considered as being sinless but rather it is the state of our being in right standing with Christ.

Nothing satisfies like righteousness according to the words of Jesus.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33

We are told that it exalts a nation and makes the nation to make progress.

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34

This was what Adam lost when he sinned; however when Abraham exercised faith in God it was calculated for him as righteousness.

Righteousness is a true glory, the beauty and product of living for God. It is the access door to the power of God. If you want to know and experience the power of God on a day by day basis, you will have to choose the paths of righteousness.

Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. Psalm 110:3

Righteousness is the ability to stand in the presence of God without a sense of sin, guilt or inferiority because of the finished work of Christ on the cross of

Calvary.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 5:1

Such truth helps us to have a sense of value and not to feel inferior. It is not to be confused with holiness; righteousness is a free gift which God gives us as we know Him and receive Christ into our heart.

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Romans 5:17

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous

Romans 5:19

While holiness is the continuous work as we surrender ourselves in God, righteousness has two parts – the inputted one and the one you work to make happen or manifest.

When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary and paid for the transgression of Adam, what God restored back to man was righteousness.

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

1 Corinthians 1:30

Christ had to die because righteousness had to be provided for on legal grounds.

Who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Romans 4:25

Honour comes by it.

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34

People get promoted when it's in their life.

And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; and Your right hand shall teach You awesome things. Psalm 45:4

True glory and true beauty is a product of living right. If you want to see total improvement in your life, if you must know the power of God then you must be pregnant with a life of purity.

Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. Psalm 110:3

Righteousness is necessary because it is the nature of God and God wants it to be part of our lives.

When it is there it brings a sense of satisfaction, commitment and direction.

When we walk in it the prosperity of God flows to us.

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Psalm 92:12

Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight. When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them. Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the unfaithful will be caught by their lust. When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, and the hope of the unjust perishes. The righteous is delivered from trouble, and it comes to the wicked instead. The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. Proverbs 11:1-11

Our consideration is 100% life improvement. If this must be then the standard with which we measure our ethics and morality is the righteousness of

God, not the standard which some individual would establish. Righteousness helps us because it comes from God.

To have the righteousness of Christ you must become a new creation; you are not some old remodelled building but a new one and the reason for the new creation is the fellowship that has now been restored between God and man through the instrument of righteousness.

You are not just a forgiven sinner but a new being that never existed before and now exists because of the righteousness of Christ.

*And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **Colossians 2:13-14***

It cannot be made possible by the power of man but inputted into us.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **Colossians 1:12-13***

When righteousness finds its place in your heart, there will be a manifestation of great glory.

*When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory; but when the wicked arise, men hide themselves. **Proverbs 28:12***

You will be able to express good governance just as we saw in the life of

Daniel.

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan. **Proverbs 29:2**

There will be right reasons to celebrate.

By transgression an evil man is snared, but the righteous sings and rejoices. **Proverbs 29:6**

A person who walks in the path of righteousness is committed to the pursuit of justice.

The righteous considers the cause of the poor, but the wicked does not understand such knowledge. **Proverbs 29:7**

It has a way of establishing your position.

It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness. **Proverbs 16:12**

It releases the crowning of glory on the one who walks in it.

The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness **Proverbs 16:31**

Righteousness opens the doorway to supernatural wealth and increase.

Better is a little with righteousness, than vast revenues without justice. **Proverbs 16:8**

It can guide you until you walk in the ways of God.

Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, But wickedness overthrows the sinner. **Proverbs 13:6**

It helps you to live a life that is full of joy in a world that is full of sorrow.

The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out. **Proverbs 13:9**

A man who walks in righteousness finds that the virtue by which he operates

makes him think deeply about the value of his words before he speaks it.

The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil. Proverbs 15:28

Righteousness helps you in the choice of your friends so that you surround yourself with those who are committed to the same values.

The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26

Righteousness imparts life.

In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death. Proverbs 12:28

It raises you above a life of falsehood.

A righteous man hates lying, but a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame. Proverbs 13:5

Life truly improves when righteousness comes into you because it imparts into you the ability to discern the difference between what is right and wrong.

The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered. Proverbs 11:9

It helps you watch out for the welfare of other people.

A righteous man regards the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. Proverbs 12:10

It helps you in the management of your words so that they are choice words which bless people who hear them.

The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is worth little. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of wisdom. Proverbs 10:20-21

Daniel and his friend became leaders in the realms of Babylon. This is majorly because of their commitment to serve God and walk in the path of righteousness.

David talks about the paths of righteousness.

He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm

23:3

Our total makeover and improvement is not complete if we do not move away from the wrong paths. There is often the desire in our flesh to choose that path which does not honour God. The consequence is that it draws us away from the will of God.

When a man is on the wrong path certain things happen. He ignores the word of God, he does things that violate his conscience, he goes against good advice, he disobeys the commandments of God, he feeds on the wrong spiritual food, and he searches for the wrong goals and follows ungodly friends.

The Bible describes the right path as the path of righteousness. Following someone else's path is not the right path, neither is the popular path the right one. Following the path which worked yesterday is not the right path.

WHY DO WE NEED TO APPLY OURSELVES TO WALK IN RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Firstly, when we walk in righteousness the light of God shines to give us perfect direction.

But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. **Proverbs 4:18**

You cannot afford to take your leading from other people because they may be walking in the wrong path.

Walking in righteousness releases protection from all kinds of issues of the past and it helps you to have a memorable remembrance.

The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot. **Proverbs 10:7**

It is the key to answered prayer. The best way to distance yourself from evil or bad association is to operate in the integrity which righteousness produces.

The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them. **Proverbs 11:3**

Righteousness delivers from the crooked path.

The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. **Proverbs 11:5**

So this is not the day to compromise but the time to live right so that we can get the right answers from God. We can become the persons He wants us to be and projects a life with total improvement.

WHY SHOULD WE WALK THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?

When a man decides to walk in righteousness, he sets himself in motion for the favour of God.

A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but a man of wicked intentions He will condemn. Proverbs 12:2

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East. Job 1:1-3

Righteousness is our key to shining in life. It is your key to be a star where others are walking in darkness.

The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out. Proverbs 13:9

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:3

It is what we become when we come to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

If God could not make man righteous and as free from sin consciousness and condemnation as he was before sin entered the world, then satan's work in Adam was more effectual than God's work in Christ.

However Christ's righteousness blotted out our unrighteousness.

Choosing to live the life of righteousness helps to assert our rights as believers and helps us to manifest the privileges of being born of the Spirit.

As a child of the King of all kings, the rights and authority of that King is in

us and is meant to manifest.

Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:5-6

If we know fully what God has done for us, it will help us to change. Particularly because the righteousness of Christ in us should re-write our thinking, our mindset and life; so that our consciousness of being righteous, is greater than our level of sin consciousness.

The Blood of Jesus remitted sin so that we should not have a sin consciousness but a righteousness consciousness.

Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. 1 Corinthians 15:34

What we are saying in effect is that the law of sin in man makes him conscious that he is a sinner.

Now that we have the righteousness in Christ we should be conscious of what we have; we should therefore develop a righteousness consciousness to the point that you don't have to stop to think about it you just simply react as Jesus did because of His right standing with God.

Jesus knew that satan could not put sin, sickness or shame on Him because He was the righteousness of God. In the same vein, we are the righteousness of God in Christ and we need to develop that kind of consciousness.

Since satan could not put sickness on Jesus Christ; righteousness consciousness makes us to realise it is ridiculous for us to think the devil has a right to put his property on us.

This privilege of right standing with Jesus was what made Him authoritatively speak to the dead body of Lazarus and command him to come alive.

When we become conscious of who we are in Christ, our confidence in

God will rise and we will break out of a low self image but the contrary too is true; a sin consciousness will produce defeat while a righteousness consciousness will produce victory. Paul was aware of this when he said:

Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one. 2 Corinthians 7:2

In this verse, Paul was referring to our new creation nature. This position makes a man who walks in righteousness to know that his prosperity is guaranteed.

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree; He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Psalm 92:12

And he is a candidate for promotion.

And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; and Your right hand shall teach You awesome things. Psalm 45:4

We have established that life will truly improve as we walk in righteousness but we need to know how to do this.

Firstly, we must know the power of the prophetic word. As we speak God's word into our lives on a day by day basis the living word of God begins to shape our lives.

The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.
Proverbs 10:11

The world will listen to your word because it commands attention when you begin to manifest righteousness.

The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is worth little. Proverbs 10:20

The words which you speak will bring deliverance to other people.

Secondly, we must learn to walk by the divine insight provided by the word of God.

Beyond this we need to sow the seed of righteousness, goodness, serving the Lord, the seed of purity, as a way of enforcing righteousness in our life.

The wicked man does deceptive work, but he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward. Proverbs 11:18

To increase in righteousness, we should pursue to grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. We also need to be committed to living our lives in the way that honours the Lord by choosing the right friends who affirm the faith we hold in Christ.

We are God's workmanship created onto good works.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

You are the person whom Christ has done His work for and in, you can now form the habit of being righteousness conscious.

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.

Hebrews 10:1-2

Not only should you be conscious of this, you need to declare it on a day by day basis. Letting your spirit and mind reach the place where it knows the new life you have in Christ.

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:10

This daily confession is also a way of bringing your tongue under the submission to the Holy Spirit and once your tongue is controlled by Him (*Proverbs 15:28*) the rest of your life will be in submission to Him.

The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil. Proverbs 15:28

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF ALL THIS?

The beauty of choosing to have our lives made over totally by righteous living is that while others are subjected to defeat and challenges, we will begin to reign in life as kings.

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Romans 5:17

We will enjoy a worry free life.

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **Philippians 4:6***

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7

We will become conscious of the fact that in Christ we are new persons and the old life is gone.

We will know that we are planted in the house of the Lord and that we cannot be moved by the things that happen around us.

*The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth. **Proverbs 10:30***

The beauty of this kind of lifestyle is that instead of folly and error, a man who has chosen to allow a righteousness conscious life will flow with wisdom and understanding.

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

Proverbs 10:31-32

Choosing the path of righteousness will make us find freedom from trouble.

The righteous is delivered from trouble, and it comes to the wicked instead. **Proverbs 11:8**

It will make us find blessing and favour.

Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. **Proverbs 10:6**

The defence of the Lord will be around us at all times.

He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known. **Proverbs 10:9**

And our expectation will be crowned perpetually with gladness. In other words, God will fulfil our desires and exceed our dreams.

The hope of the righteous will be gladness, but the expectation of the wicked will perish. **Proverbs 10:28**

The result truly is that when a man chooses to walk in righteousness, blessing and favour will follow and overtake him.

Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. **Proverbs 10:6**

The chain of bondage will be broken and the things that used to hold us down will no longer have power over us.

The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the unfaithful will be caught by their lust. **Proverbs 11:6**

The righteous will find freedom from all troubles because righteousness will guard and protect him.

The righteous is delivered from trouble, and it comes to the wicked instead. **Proverbs 11:8**

The beauty of the lifestyle of righteousness is that it brings deliverance from failure and helps one to succeed in everything one lays one's hands on.

He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage. **Proverbs 11:28**

The outflow of such a life is that it will produce life itself everywhere it goes and upon everything it touches.

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. **Proverbs 11:30**

There are certain troubles that go with the ungodly but these troubles can no longer come to the abode of the righteous because of the lifestyle he has chosen.

The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous will come through trouble. **Proverbs 12:13**

No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, but the wicked shall be filled with evil.

Proverbs 12: 21

Everywhere the righteous man goes, he finds promotion because he has chosen to glorify God with his life.

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. **Proverbs 14:34**

God answers his prayer and make tremendous power available.

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. **James 5:16**

This makes righteous living a major key to answered prayer.

The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous. **Proverbs 15:29**

Righteousness is a key element of prayer. We see this from the words of the Lord Jesus Christ when he taught us to pray that we be delivered from the evil of this world.

*But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. **John 17:13-23***

We have made several references to righteousness consciousness. It is about time as a believer that you begin to apply this new divine nature to get what belongs to you.

By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:4

God doesn't want us to wait until we get to heaven to be used to the rights of the Kingdom. He already promised that for those who are His, He will supply all their needs.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

So today we can stand without any fear or condemnation in our heart.

*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. **Romans 8:1-2***

We can lift our hands and pray to God because the righteousness of God inputted in us through Christ Jesus also gives us the power of prayer along with the

power of attorney; Jesus gave us this and He told us to pray using His name.

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.” **John 16:23**

If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. **John 14:14**

This power of attorney is not given to all men but to those into whom the righteousness of God have been inputted.

Furthermore this righteousness of Christ gives us access to the Spirit of God.

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” **Luke 11:13**

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. **1 John 4:4**

It gives us access to the wisdom of God.

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. **1 Corinthians 1:30**

The blessings are enormous when we begin to live and operate by the righteousness of Christ. We have the father’s protection guaranteed to us.

Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” **Amen. Matthew 28:20**

For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. **Psalms 91:11**

We are guaranteed the fact that Jesus will pray for us.

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **Hebrews 7:25**

He will be our lawyer arguing our case before the Father.

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **1 John 2:1**

We will have the place of sons in the royal family of God.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 1 John 3:1

We will come into the inheritance of the righteous as sons not as slaves.

Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Galatians 4:7

Blessings will perpetually remain upon us.

Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. Proverbs 10:6

And our remembrance will always be righteous and good.

The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot. Proverbs 10:7

The blessings of the righteous are almost endless. Remember, it is a force which when we apply it to our lives, triggers off all of the blessings of the Lord.

This includes promotion.

He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly. Proverbs 13:24

Treasures.

In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble. Proverbs 15:6

The love of God.

The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness. Proverbs 15:9

God becoming our eternal refuge.

The wicked is banished in his wickedness, but the righteous has a refuge in his death. Proverbs 14:32

Satisfaction.

The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the stomach of the wicked shall be in want. **Proverbs 13:25**

A trouble-free life.

No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, but the wicked shall be filled with evil. **Proverbs 12:21**

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TAPPING INTO HEAVEN'S FAVOUR

The story of Noah is a clear indication of the fact we are often confronted with a flood of challenges as we live in this world.

Some of these challenges are external and motivated by other people who want us to go through things which make us lose the peace of God. We could also be confronted with the floods of challenges that come our way because we have missed the will of God and have chosen to do our own thing.

This was the case in the days of Noah, when the people chose to oppose God's counsel and therefore had to face the consequence. The resultant effect was an influx of demonic spirits in the world which left mankind behaving outside of their purpose and calling.

Whenever we are confronted with life's floods of challenges, whenever we go through battles, the intention of the adversary is to sabotage our progress, abort our vision, stop divinely ordained projects in our life, mess up our purpose, destroy the relationships that are intended to help us reach our destiny and eventually make us miss God and His will for us.

Heaven's favour on the other hand is always available so that when things seem as if they are beyond our control or ability, God is able to give us a new beginning, a new start, just as He did for Noah when the floods were over.

Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

The challenges which provoke favour could also be when someone is trying to sabotage your potential, destiny or your business. This kind of attitude or sabotage will stir up some kind of jealousy against you and resentment against who you are. It will ferment suspicion against you; it is a vindictive spirit which comes against anyone who seems to have a manifestation for a great future.

However, just as the ark of God lifted up above those floods, God is able to

lift you above the challenges you face and bring a promotion in and out of the worst trouble you ever face. This is a manifestation of favour.

For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. **Psalm 75:6**

Noah's story shows us clearly that the favour which leads to a deliverance out of difficult situations and help from above is purely by the grace of God.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. **Genesis 6:8**

In the middle of a lost world where no one survived, Noah's family found salvation and help.

The Old Testament is a type and a shadow of the New; what happened in the days of Noah is a mirror of what God can do today. So when we are confronted with the floods of challenges, God brings His salvation.

It was not only salvation that Noah found, he found safety. We are told that the ark was designed by God and built by Noah. It was designed for safety, sealed for safety and God Himself shut the door.

When the favour of God is on your life, He does not only give you salvation, He gives you safety.

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. **Psalm 91:1**

So the floods which destroyed others could not touch Noah and his family. The very flood that destroyed others rather brought blessing and peace on him and his family. Favour also for Noah brought succour.

In the middle of the flood, God gave this man succour. That is a place of support, sympathy, encouragement, alleviation from trouble and comfort in the middle of troubles.

The compassion of the Lord has a way of surrounding you with the favour

of the Lord. When God is involved in your 100% improvement, happiness and promotion is what you find in the things that destroy others. You become a champion out of a mess. You become aided by the Lord.

The fourth thing Noah found is the future. So he found salvation, safety, succour and the future during a flood that rocked the world and destroyed all that was known to be on earth at the time. It was the same flood that carried the ark which held the future of Noah and mankind was.

That is how the favour of God works, that God can cause favour to surround you in the place where you were meant to be destroyed. The very flood that was meant to destroy him carried him to destiny, purpose, his calling and the grace of God and it still happens today.

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. **Jeremiah 29:11***

*If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. **Job 14:14***

The fifth thing Noah found in the middle of all this trouble was that his future was sealed.

*So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. **Genesis 7:16***

God sealed the ark, He shut the door Himself. He put Noah in a place where there seemed to be no external or physical door because God Himself was the door of entrance.

He is our door into favour.

*"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. **Revelations 3:8***

And when He opens that door no man can shut it against you. So we have been sealed into the favour of God, not for one day but until the day of

redemption.

The book of Isaiah calls this year the year of the Lord's favour. An interesting thing is when you open that passage next year it will still be there.

*To proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, **Isaiah 61:2 (NIV)***

Having looked at the story of Noah, let us now consider what the reasons for the pursuit of heaven's favour are and why we should pursue it.

Favour is important because it helps us to discern God's time of working in our life.

*You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come. **Psalms 102:13***

It is one of the greatest harvests you could ever reap from God. When God delights in you, He opens the floodgates and gives you His divine help. It is that anointing that can determine your level of income, increase, progress and deliverance.

Favour shows up when you are with the right kind of people and in the right place. It is God's endorsement and proof that you are the apple of His eye, the crown of His glory and you are a person of His honour.

Favour is the currency of the Kingdom of God for the advancement of His work; when the favour of God is on your life, everything you lay your hands on works.

God did not intend for it to be a one-off experience but a continuous one - something in which you can increase

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. **Luke 2:52***

It starts as a seed but increases to become a harvest field. However the increase is congruent upon you learning to celebrate the place of favour in the

improvement of your life.

“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

Matthew 25:24

It is the proof of God’s presence and the reward which He gives not because you have stewarded for it but because He chose to bless you.

Favour is the anointing from God which can determine your level of income. It shows up in your life and everything else begins to work for you. Doors open when it has been shut on others. Blessings flow when people are complaining of a dry period.

Having favour on your life is like entering an elevator and pressing the button to go up. It lifts you not by your power or might but by the favour of God. Favour is the mark of God’s favourite children, when it is on you it makes you an esteemed person.

By reason of it you have undue preference before God. It may not be fair to other people but that is God’s method of lifting and blessing His own people. He said ‘I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and compassion on whom I will’.

Favour makes you the apple of God’s eye, the crown of His glory, the person of His honour. It distinguishes you as a person of dignity and royalty. It gives you the character and status of a king while He is the King of kings.

It is not a one day experience neither is it confined to one area of your life; it permeates everything you do. It shows up in your family; it manifests at work and comes upon your interaction with neighbours.

When you are in the marketplace it shows up and tilts everything in your favour. When you travel it goes with you and practically works with you.

When you are under the canopy of divine favour you are marked out for His glory and by His glory things work. Favour is greater than money; while money can buy many things, favour itself can bring you money, opportunities, open doors, honour, dignity etc.

It can restore to you all that you have lost for many years and it can do this in one day.

Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. Job 42:12

One day of favour is more than years of labour, so when you have a divine encounter with this grace, a 30-second breakthrough can restore all that was stolen from you for years.

Favour can turn an evil report around when God shows up to prove Himself in your life.

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
Isaiah 53:1

You can give it, you can also receive it. You can show people favour and you can also be given it. The levels to which you release it determine how much is sown into your life.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
Galatians 6:7

What you give out is what increases for you. Divine favour is necessary for access into all that God has for you. It is important to pray to learn to wait on God in fasting.

However it is even more important to realise that divine favour is the key to breaking through from the zones of limitation and it is the reason why we experience the blessings of God.

*May the LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you! **Deuteronomy 1:11***

All that Adam got or received from God was by reason of the favour that was pronounced upon him (*Genesis 1:28*) and not what he solicited or qualified for.

You cannot work enough for it, neither can you serve enough to receive all of the favour you deserve. However, your actions can provoke it and when it comes upon your life, it makes your life improve dramatically.

One act of favour can take care of your need for many years. It is your stairway to heaven; it is your access to the top

*So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. **Genesis 39:4***

We see it lift Joseph in a strange way in the land distant from his father's house. It is that thing which God puts in your hand and which, as you use it, will make you one of the makers and builders in the Kingdom of God. Not everyone gets excited when you are favoured, however because it is from the Lord they cannot stop it.

If favour is all of this, let us consider the dynamic power it contains.

Favour turns your emptiness to fullness; that is why you need to desire it as a source of improving your life.

*And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. **Exodus 3:21***

When it is on your life people will bless you without even knowing it. They will find themselves moved mysteriously to put into your hand all that you need to make your dreams happen.

*And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. **Exodus 12:36***

Favour is an unusual grace from God. When it is upon a man, his enemies will reconcile with him, turn around and begin to bless him and they will have no power to stop what they are doing.

*But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. **Genesis 39:21***

When it rests on your life it will cause people who hate you to turn around and bless you.

*And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people. **Exodus 11:3***

Favour delivers from destruction.

*I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now—if I have found favor in Your sight—and do not let me see my wretchedness!" **Numbers 11:14-15***

It satisfies your life with the goodness, grace and blessing of God so that you stand out and possess the land that used to be in someone else's hand.

*And of Naphtali he said: "O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, And full of the blessing of the LORD, Possess the west and the south." **Deuteronomy 33:23***

It is a powerful gateway to the comforts of God.

*Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. **Ruth 2:3***

It orders your step so that you are in the right place at the right time and once you get there the doors begin to open for you - some of them without you even having to press for them.

*Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." **1 Samuel 16:22***

It is God who owns the hearts of kings and he directs it like a river. When favour is upon you, kings look for you to show you favour and to bless you.

Favour has the capacity to preserve your life from danger and keep you from destruction.

You have granted me life and favor, And Your care has preserved my spirit **Job 10:12**

The potential power of this grace is seen in the fact that it made God prefer Jacob above Esau. It made Jacob in turn prefer Ephraim above Manasseh who was older, and favour caused God and Jacob to put the blessing on the ones who came later.

When favour rests upon your life, these are the blessings you receive. He gives you undue preference before God and man. This preferential treatment of which I speak raises your life as far as you can see, for it comes from the one who sits above.

God vests upon you the benefit of heaven's royalty and makes you to be recognised and respected wherever you are.

A harvest of favour is the best gift you can ever receive from God. It is like what happened to Mordecai; when the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai and also committed to Mordecai the entire household of Haman.

So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman. **Esther 8:2**

By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to gather together and protect their lives—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions. **Esther 8:11**

It will commit into your hands what you could never achieve by your own power in a lifetime. It has the capacity to break you free from all limitations.

Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?" **2 Samuel 9:8**

It will restore in one day what the enemy stole for a lifetime.

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested. **1 Chronicles 4:10**

Favour builds a wall of fire around you and protects you. Not only does it do this, it also releases upon you the grace of a long life.

With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation." **Psalms 91:16**

Favour turns the opposition to a new position. All through scripture we see that even when people go through intense challenges in life, favour can come upon their situation and they end up being promoted - just like the three Hebrew men.

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon. **Daniel 3:30**

Favour has a way of changing your position from being at the back of the crowd to going straight to the front.

Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

1 Kings 18:46

It is your ladder to lift you to the highest level you could ever climb; just like it lifted Joseph from the dungeons to the palace. It was un-stewarded neither was it something he laboured for, and more so this was a strange land whose culture and method was different from the land of his fathers.

So this grace has no geographical boundaries but only boundaries of favour and boundaries within their own mind. If you can believe God for it, you can make it happen.

Favour is the highest power God will initiate when people rise against you in opposition.

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the LORD. Isaiah 54:17

Favour has a way of taking a man from the pit to the palace just as he did for Joseph and for Daniel when he was thrown into the lion's den. He went from almost becoming the breakfast for lions to being a man promoted in the realms of Persia.

Favour is the golden key to smash the lock of the enemy. It is also the finder of everything stolen from you. It brings back that which you have lost.

Favour is the key to coming out of the prison of indebtedness. When the widow who met Elisha was left broke, busted and disgusted it was favour that in one day wiped out all of her debt.

MANIFESTING THE FAVOUR OF GOD

It is the desire of God that His favour manifests in your life not once or twice but everywhere you are and wherever you go. God wants you to walk under the canopy and cloud of His divine favour.

He wants it to be that which creates his shadow over you so that you are protected from the evils of this world. It comes as you associate with the right people and choose to bless other people.

DECLARE IT WITH YOUR MOUTH

Favour rests on you when you learn the power of positive confession.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 18:21

It is important to recognise and realise the words of your mouth are powerful and you can use your mouth to release and increase the level of favour that rest upon your life. The manifestation of favour also follows a lifestyle of prayer.

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” **John 8:32**

Once you learn to pray, the truth begins to set you free. Prayer is a place of intimacy, it is a place where you learn to be close to God. The place of intimacy is where relationships are strengthened and reproduction takes place.

PURSUE THE PATH OF EXCELLENCE

A man who commits himself to excellence has made himself a candidate for the manifestation of favour.

Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.” **Daniel 5:12**



And over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. Daniel 6:2

God will not cast pearls before pigs. He judges and sees the heart of men yet He is committed to the man who has made excellence his watchword.

PROTECT YOUR FAVOUR

You must do all you can to realise that favour is an opportunity from heaven; a gift which God has given you, so therefore if it is not protected it can be lost in one day.

Esther 1:12 gives us a picture of a queen who disregarded her favour. In *Esther 1:19* we see the result in the life of Vashti, when she did not protect the favour that was given to her.

WATCH OUT FOR THE WRONG ASSOCIATION

Wrong association destroys the presence and power of favour in your life.

God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

Psalms 68:6

On one hand while wrong associations destroy favour, yet the hidden ingredient for the restoration of relationships and love is favour.

And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men. 1

Samuel 2:26

The favour on Samuel made him a bridge for the restoration of favour and the voice of the Lord into the life of the priest Eli. The manifestation of favour is one of the proofs that one's life has improved.

Joseph went through various levels of challenges. However, when favour

began to work for him, he became so outstanding that even when he served as a slave in the house of Potiphar, he was in charge because favour could not be stolen by his brothers. They could only take the coat of many colours they could not take his favour.

As a result favour went everywhere with him. It followed him to the house of Potiphar so that this great general handed him the keys to everything. The cars, the credit cards, the cheque books and practically said 'run the house'. It is my sincere hope and prayer that as your life improves 100%, favour will rest upon you and those who make contact with you will have some of it rubbing off on them.

Favour has a manifestation when it enters a place where there is trouble there is a conversion of everything to peace.

*And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper. **Genesis 39:22-23***

It's activation in the life of Joseph moved him from the prison to the palace within a 24 hour time frame. Favour will make your life move so fast that your destiny will manifest.

People assume that almost everything in life will require a certain time frame. However, when favour is upon you it has a way of fast tracking everything and pulling you from the back of the crowd, placing you in front.

The manifestation of favour means that in the days of your improvement favour will make you find God and when you find Him He will lift you. It is a powerful tool that will lift you up and never let you go down. It will release promotion and prosperity upon your life.

Favour can build a wall of protection around your home; it can change your life forever. It has the capacity to create the platform for your expression of gifts and provide the elevator for lifting you up.

It has the ability to accelerate your life so fast that people who saw you a few months back will be surprised at what favour has done.

Favour can make divine healing manifest in your life so that God does what medical science says is impossible.

To manifesting favour you must be at the right place and with the right people in order to come into it.

Joseph was in Potiphar's house that was the right place to begin to position him in the direction of God's promotion. From there he went to the royal prison and he was there at the right time.

The seed of kindness he sowed in solving other people's problem became the trigger of his own favour.

It is possible to come into the favour of God by your verbal declaration on your family; speaking your desires and expectation on a daily basis into their lives.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 6:45

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. **Proverbs 18:21**

There is power in our mouth and as we pronounce favour on our spouses and children, God establishes it and makes it manifest.

He also expects us to declare favour on our daily outgoings and coming in.

In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. **Psalms 91:12**

Once this declaration has been made there should also be the expectation

that such favour will come to pass. The declaration of favour must also be extended to all our relationships so that if anyone meant evil it turns around for good. In the words of Joseph to his brothers, what they meant for evil was turned around for good.

Declare favour everywhere you are - work, neighbourhood, home etc. Expect it to go with you when you enter that job interview and even trust that it will influence people.

Walk in obedience – if we really want to see the manifestation of favour in our lives we must recognise that obedience is pivotal to the release of all of God's blessings

*If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; **Isaiah 1:19***

You must recognise that favour's tap is only turned on for a flow as you walk in hourly obedience. That is because the degree of obedience we subject ourselves to determines the flow of God's blessings into our lives.

*If they obey and serve Him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures. **Job 36:11***

Favour is a reward of walking in obedience so if it is not flowing there is an obedience problem. God's promotion always follows obedience and our obedience to God's instruction is the proof that we respect and love him. When we obey Him the favour will flow. God will protect and cause the doors to open for us. When we obey God He rewards us.

The next truth is to seek God. Seeking God means finding him and finding God means provoking and releasing the favour of God.

*"Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD" **Proverbs 8:32-35***

Seeking God is done in the place of drawing close to Him, in spending time

in His word and praying in His presence. God's word is our roadmap to take us to the place of His blessing. We must read it before starting every journey of the 24 hours in a day so that we do not miss the way, take the wrong turn or keep stopping at every traffic light of life.

Finding God means talking to Him in prayer; but not just in a season of prayer; it must continue so that even after we have prayed, we stop frequently to hear Him speak to us for surely we will find Him.

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

Every time you form intimacy with people it becomes easier for favour to flow between the two of you. In the same way our level of intimacy with God determines the flow of His blessing upon us.

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries. **Proverbs 8:17-21**

Somebody has to see the proof of our closeness to Him. Whoever you are close to rubs off on you. So when we draw closer to God the proof of that intimacy is the manifest favour of God on our life. The only limitation is you limiting your knowledge of His word.

Excel – when we excel favour increases. God will turn the tap of favour on if you choose to excel in everything. We may not say much here since we have a whole chapter on this subject. However there is a lot of traffic on the journey of life but only few travel the other mile called *extra* and it is this extra mile that pushes us to the place of excellence. Going beyond what others go for, putting the extra behind the ordinary.

Love work – how can favour flow if a man is lazy, those who love what they do must get ready also for favour to flow to them.

Jesus was a worker and he said his father is too. Jesus said “*my father works and hitherto I do*”. So as we follow in the footstep of our father and give ourselves to do the things we do at work. God then puts his favour on us; favour with the employer, for the business, with associates, customers etc.

It is this kind of commitment and the release of favour that provokes an increase and release of blessing.

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. Ecclesiastes 9:10

Be a solution centre. Joseph, whilst in the prison heard of two men who dreamt. They saw a problem, he saw solutions. That ability, to be able to put aside his own cries and woe, made favour increase for him and made him a problem solver.

The problem you are willing to solve determines the degree of favour you will come into. That is why you were created; to be a solution to somebody's problem. We are all gifted - we are meant to be a solution not creators of problems.

Solve the problem better than anyone else and people will beat the path to your doorstep. Solve the problem faster than anyone has been able to. Solve the problem with joy and gratitude.

Sow a seed - one of the fastest ways to provoke favour and make it manifest is to learn the power of the seed. A gift will increase favour.

A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men. Proverbs 18:16

These scripture talks of accessing the presence of great people through the gifts we have. Many kings and queens may have been turned away when they came to visit Solomon. However the Queen of Sheba had access because she came with such great gifts.

A material gift will promote you and cause favour to find you and you will also find favour.

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

So favour must be a seed before it can become a harvest. You cannot concentrate on others and bless them and remain a failure.

A man who would experience and manifest the favour of God must also learn to be faithful in natural things. Blessings don't come because we deserve more; it comes to those who have learnt to be faithful in the natural in order to provoke the supernatural.

Many of the people who we see in the scriptures who experienced favour did things in the natural that show they positioned themselves for it.

The widow who had abundant food in the time of famine went for firewood and water to get ready to prepare the meal for the man of God.

David too was faithful in the natural; he was a shepherd before God brought prosperity. Elisha was busy farming before he was called to serve. Joseph was taking care of birds.

Let me conclude this chapter by writing of the things which favour will produce.

THE PRODUCT OF FAVOUR

When God releases favour, it will provide a shield around your life.

‘For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favour. You will surround him as with a shield.’ Psalm 5:12

He will cause joy to come into your life after all you have been through. Sometimes the night seasons seem long and forever but one minute of favour can take away all the pain and release the joy of God.

‘For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.’

Psalm 30:5

Your joy will be glorious and your life victorious. So it is important for you to discern the season of your favour.

Joseph had his youth stolen from him, he almost lost his mandate. His brothers took his coat; they gave him up for dead. His father believed their story but favour turned it around.

Favour is the master key for getting back what the enemy stole. It is the golden key for opening the door which the devil thought he could shut permanently.

Favour is the key to coming out from the prison of the challenges of life. So get ready for favour to cause your life to move so fast in the direction of your destiny. Because of favour the day of salvation comes and no one can stop it.

It is a powerful tool for your 100% life improvement; it makes your path clear and causes light to shine on it. Not everyone is excited because you are favoured. Favour is never fair and has a way of taking the last and making them the first. It has a way of promoting the person thought to be the most unlikely.

However, because God is the one who places it upon lives, no one can fault God on what He has chosen to do; whom He has blessed, no man can curse.

Not everyone is excited or overjoyed because you are blessed. We see this in the life of Joseph: the source of his problem was his own brothers. However, the anger of man cannot stop the blessing of the Lord.

So from today be ready for 100% life improvement; not only will your life improve but through you people will experience the favour of God.

100% LIFE IMPROVEMENT – DEFINING THE FUTURE

INCREASING YOUR CAPACITY

Our text for this subject is 1 Kings 4:29-34.

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about. And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five. And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes. And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom. 1 Kings 4:29-34

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the east, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

1 Kings 4:29-34 (NIV)

Prior to the enthronement of Solomon, not much was expected of ancient kings. They were only required to govern, handle state affairs and go to war.

Solomon however redefined kingship in his time by increasing his capacity. The scripture above tells us that, among many things, Solomon was a:

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1. Horticulturist

2. Botanist
3. Poet
4. Marine engineer
5. Animal biologist
6. Creative artist
7. Dramatic artist

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In his time, Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,500 songs. The scripture specifically says: “he had largeness of heart.” This was not a description of the natural heart of Solomon; it is also not a description of the state of his emotion; neither is largeness of heart a physical condition. This term was indicative of a heart that had reached new boundaries of achievement through God.

The NIV translation describes “largeness of heart” differently. It calls it: “a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.”

Solomon's life was reflective of the truth in Philippians 4:13, which says: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” **Philippians 4:13**

Today many of us are underperforming. We are not increasing our capacity and are thus operating below our full potential. Our failure to increase capacity is an indication of our under-achievement. In the Body of Christ today, there is a reckless abandonment to:

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1. Little performances
2. Little results
3. Little achievements
4. Little visions
5. Little godly ambitions and breakthroughs

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100% LIFE IMPROVEMENT – DEFINING THE FUTURE

Previously, when there was a corporate, local or national event, it was viewed that pastors were only good enough to say the opening and closing prayers. However, these are the days when pastors should increase their capacity to be multi-disciplined.

In these last days Christian leaders will preach, heal the sick, and they will go forward to open banks, schools, universities, corporate companies and so much more. This will occur as they increase their capacity.

WHAT IS CAPACITY?

Capacity is the ability to receive or contain; it is the maximum amount or number that can be received or contained. Your capacity is an indication of what you can receive, hold or absorb.

It is a measure of ability, a measure of performance. Your capacity reflects your innate potential for growth, development or accomplishment.

Other words which reflect capacity are Measure, Resourcefulness, Dexterity, Aptitude and Skilfulness.

Increasing your capacity is therefore:

1. Taking it beyond the ability to receive or contain and making it greater in number, size, strength or quality.
2. To augment your gift to become greater in the things you are called to do.
3. To multiply by propagation.
4. The ability to perform a given task with the highest intensification, magnification and sharpening.

The problem with our performance is that what we are doing today is a fraction of what God can enable us to do. This is the reason why we need to believe God to increase our capacity.

God Himself has no problem increasing our anointing and capacity; the problem lies in our ability to receive what we are asking for.

Let's look at the following illustrations:

The widow in 2 Kings 4:1-7

"A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, 'Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves.' So Elisha said to her, 'What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?' And she said, 'Your maidservant has nothing

*in the house but a jar of oil.” Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones.” So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, “bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “there is not another vessel.” So the oil ceased. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest.” **2 Kings 4:1-7***

Peter in Luke 5:1-11

“So it was, as the multitude pressed about him to hear the word of God, that he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then he got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When he had stopped speaking, he said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” But Simon answered and said to him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at your word I will let down the net.” And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed him.”

Luke 5:1-11

In these two illustrations the problem with capacity was not in the supply but in the container to receive it. God never runs out of the supply to increase our capacity. It is man who always runs out of the container to receive what is being supplied.

For example, before he became an Apostle of Christ, Peter functioned abnormally. We often ask for a double portion of God’s anointing; however the container is already full with what we received previously and have not used. A jug

full of water may be available but when the glass is full, even if you pray for a double portion, it will not be given because it does not have the capacity for retention or good use.

WHY INCREASE YOUR CAPACITY?

When your capacity is already reached, anything else poured into you goes to waste. Once you have reached your capacity, every new thing received replaces what was there and what was needed. Your capacity to receive is determined by you, the receiver.

To prevent wastage, an increase in your capacity becomes inevitable. God wants you to receive all that He has but you must make room. It is the duty of men to develop their capacity.

Everything God gives is in hidden form:

“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.” Proverbs 25:2

We must develop the capacity to reveal what God has already given in hidden form. The scripture above tell us:

The glory of God is to conceal	The glory of kings is to reveal
The glory of God is to cover	The glory of kings is to open
The glory of God is to give a mystery	The glory of kings is to bring an explanation
The glory of God is to give a riddle	The glory of kings is to bring an answer

All of the answers to the world's challenges are in the Bible but we must go into deep mining to find the answers.

AREAS OF INCREASED CAPACITY

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:1-3

Prepare for the coming wealth transfer! This wealth is for us to:

1. Use in global evangelism.
2. Bring solutions to the challenges around us.
3. Heal the pain of the worlds around us.
4. Be missionaries and not a mission field.
5. Control the educational system.
6. Influence the nations.
7. Become change agents in the world.
8. Transform the community.
9. Raise godly leaders.
10. Operate on a global level.
11. Influence corporate decisions.

HOW TO ACQUIRE CAPACITY

On an elementary level, Jesus teaches us in the scripture below how to increase our capacity

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” **Matthew 7:7-8**

1. **To ask is:** To inquire, desire, request, demand and call for.
2. **To seek is:** To endeavour, require, investigate, ransack, search out, explore, and track down.
3. **To knock is:** To persist, hit at, swipe, and strike.

There is a sequence of intensity in what Jesus said. True value is acquired through exploration and discovery. However, there is a more violent, persistent, stronger sense of increasing capacity.

It comes by challenging your current situation and expanding your perspective. This requires seeing things differently. You cannot change what you are comfortable with. Where you are stationed determines what you see.

To change your perspective you must change your location. A change of location means you will have a different experience. You also need to:

1. Have the eye for discerning the genuine from imitation.
2. Set new models and accept that some of your old models may be faulty.
3. Develop significant relationships.

“If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?” **Jeremiah 12:5**

There is a season to run with footmen. There is a season to contend with

horses.

We must start at the footmen level. Capacity building for a higher level of success is determined by victory at the lower level. In order to increase capacity, a deep and not surface search is required.

An example of this kind of search is seen in the relationship of Elisha and Elijah:

“And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan...” 2 Kings 2:9-13

Elisha here reflects a man of intense focus, capacity building and of being able to withstand discomfort.

He had the power of **Sacrifice** (he gave up all he had), **Humility** (he served with joy) **Ambition** (he wanted more).

This grace of combining humility and ambition is a unique source of power; a unique source of increasing capacity. He also exhibited **Determination** (he overcame opposition) and **Focus** (he kept his eyes fixed).

As we face the rapid changes of the 21st century, the world is being redefined. Science is changing things. The church cannot stay silent; neither can it run as if it is hooked into the past. For you and I to make a global difference we will need to:

1. Increase our capacity
2. Cross the boundaries allotted to us

3. Teach our people to think and become giants for God
4. Get them ready for achieving dominance in our world
5. Teach them to own businesses, airlines, banks, universities

The result of course is that:

1. We will break the boundaries.

“I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron” **Isaiah 45:2**

“For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.” **Psalms 107:16**

2. We will break forward.

“Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.” **Genesis 2:10-14**

3. We will break out.

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CONCLUSION

Life indeed can be a work in progress, an abandoned project, a disaster or masterpiece. Whichever we choose to be has a biblical precedence; Daniel, Samson, Solomon, David etc. The names are many and endless; however we have seen that we can truly improve. The pathway has been defined and the method for making it happen has been shown.

More so we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses; those who got it right and became 100% better. Babylon was just as morally bankrupt and ungodly as the cities of our days. However, Daniel and his friends have left us with the cloud of witness that we can be holy, happy, successful and progressive in today's world.

Let us start the journey with every little step we can, not minding too much where the journey might take us. Let us be hungry for more because that is the virtue of those who grow, because if a man has a desire, distance will not matter to him. The road to 100% is always under construction but let us not stop at 50%.

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