

CHARTING THE PATH TO SUCCESS

*DEVELOPING THE RIGHT MINDSET
FOR EXPLOITS*

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Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh

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Printed By:
Book Writing Crew

Printed in the United States of America

First Printing Edition, 2024
ISBN 978-1-963258-19-6
ISBN 978-1-963258-20-2

DEDICATION

With heartfelt appreciation, I dedicate this book to my family (my parents, Mr. Yaw Boateng and Mrs. Mary Yeboah, and my siblings, Mrs. Naomi Adutwumwaah, Mr. Ernest Oppong Boateng, Mr. Osborn Kwame Nuamah, and Mrs. Grace Boateng). I also dedicate the book to all the families in Overcomers Revival Global Ministry, IL, USA, and Eternal Home Ministries, Kumasi, Ghana. God bless you all for your constant support and encouragement.

Finally, I dedicate this book to all those who seek to tread the path of success to become giants and significant in their generation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Great gratitude goes to the Lord Almighty for His grace, insight, and enablement in making this book a reality.

I also acknowledge all my brothers and sisters in Christ and all my friends who helped me to make this vision a reality.

God richly bless you all!

FORWARD BY REV. SAMUEL H. ADDO

The author of this book, Rev. Bezalel Dickson Kyeremeh, passed through my hand during his Final Year and Graduation to complete his Ministerial Training.

I discovered him through his academic work, regular conversation, and fervent prayer to conclude that he is a "Purpose Driven" Young Minister who needs encouragement to tread the path of greatness.

God's pronounced blessings upon man (Gen. 1:27-31) can't be attained on a silver platter after the fall of man. And that, by God's grace and mercies, has provided a means to achieve it (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 12:1-3; Josh. 1: 8,9; Jerem. 29:10-14).

This book is recommended for everyone, especially young ministers of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ who are trying to find the way of the Lord to succeed with the help of the Holy Spirit. God bless you as you read this book.

Rev. Samuel H. Addo,
Director, Living Word Ministerial
Training Centre, Accra, Ghana.

In a world crowded with self-help books, "Charting the Path to Success: Developing the Right Mindset for Exploits" stands out for its practical wisdom. Through this book, you'll embark on a journey of self-discovery guided by the author's profound insights.

Success isn't just about material gains—it's about aligning your mindset with deeper truths. In these pages, the author unpacks the link between thoughts, beliefs, and destiny and offers strategies for renewing your mind and living purposefully.

Approach this book with openness and a willingness to challenge yourself. Whether you're seeking spiritual growth or personal development, "Charting the Path to Success" provides a roadmap. May it inspire you to pursue a life of fulfillment and divine purpose.

May the wisdom in these pages ignite transformation and guide you toward your destiny. Dare to take the first step towards success.

Book Writing Crew,
Texas, USA.

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INTRODUCTION

Most people worldwide, irrespective of race, gender, creed, religion, education, or social standing, wish to live a life of prominence. The laziest person wishes to succeed one day; the hardworking person dreams that their hard work will pay off in due time; the affluent in society want to maintain their wealth for eternity; the powerful wish to hold on to power, and so forth.

They say life does not give you what you want but what you tactically fight for. If that is a philosophy to follow, we need to identify what we want, know how best to fight for our dreams based on our strengths, capabilities, and skills, and know which factors to pray for to increase our winning chances.

"CHARTING THE PATH TO SUCCESS" is a timely classic exposition that uses theological concepts, real-life experiences, achiever interviews, and logical reasoning to convey its insightful message to the reader. This book is not born out of theoretical and abstract knowledge. Instead, it teaches the reader proven step-by-step ways of reaching the pinnacle of success. It is a

must-read for all and sundry, as it contains a wealth of knowledge and is a great eye-opener.

The eight chapters in the book have been carefully arranged such that each part forms a complete whole, which may, if necessary, be studied in isolation.

Chapter 1 discusses man's tripartite nature and its link to success. It explains man's composition and how the various compositions work to realize and achieve success. Knowing this configuration is imperative to understanding what drives you as a human being.

Chapter 2 picks one of the human compositions, the mind, and discusses how it can be reprogrammed to follow success principles.

Chapter 3 discusses eliminating destructive mindsets. It is a quick follow-up to Chapter 2 to guard the mind against entering the dangerous mindset zone. At the same time, the chapter reveals how to reason effectively toward success.

Chapter 4 presents instilling the right mindset and how correct ideologies can be firmly established.

Chapter 5 closely follows the principles of the elite, giving a real-time appreciation of how the concepts apply in the real world.

Chapter 6 deals with cultivating the right attitude and character, adding to the right mindsets necessary for a successful life.

Chapter 7 focuses on how to develop our skills and potential to succeed beyond imagination.

Chapter 8 concludes the book with a presentation on turning your limitations to your advantage.

These eight chapters crack the success code. I wish everyone reading this book to go beyond the reading stage and ‘graduate’ to the implementation stage to fully guarantee success.

CHAPTER ONE

THE TRIPARTITE NATURE OF MAN AND ITS LINK TO SUCCESS

To navigate the path to success, it's essential to understand the fundamental components of human existence and how they contribute to achieving our goals. These components work harmoniously to cultivate the necessary skills and qualities for success.

Central to this understanding is recognizing man's tripartite nature, which encompasses the spirit, soul, and body. These elements are interconnected within the framework of our beings. As Paul mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV), "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

By acknowledging and exploring the dynamics between these components, we can better grasp their role in shaping our journey toward success. Let's delve deeper into how each aspect contributes to our growth and development.

Although what is seen when one looks at a man with the naked eye is the physical body, the real man is the inner man in the body. The spirit and the soul make up the inner man. Our physical being sustains us in this physical world, while our inner man, particularly the spirit, sustains us in the spiritual realm.

The Spirit:

The term "spirit" encompasses divine essence and human vitality, portraying an entity in motion and action. It represents the inner core of an individual, imbued with the energy necessary for activity and movement. This aspect of humanity facilitates communion with the Creator, establishing a connection with God and accessing the supernatural realm. The spirit can be understood as the animating force instilled in individuals by a divine presence and continuously upheld by it. Terms such as "man of the spirit," "spiritual man," or "inspired seer" denote individuals who possess this special endowment bestowed by God.

The Soul:

The concept of the soul, akin to that of spirit, entails a spectrum of nuanced meanings, including

but not limited to: "living being," "life," "self," "person," "desire," "appetite," "emotion," and "passion." It amalgamates various facets such as the Intellect, which houses cognitive processes like thinking and reasoning; the Emotions, where feelings find their home; and the Will, the agency responsible for decision-making. The soul serves as our gateway to the realm of intellect, facilitating our connection with higher cognitive dimensions.

The Body:

It comprises various elements such as bones, belly, bowels, veins, womb, flesh, and skeleton.

Additionally, the body possesses five senses: sight through the eyes, smell through the nose, taste through the tongue, hearing through the ears, and touch through the skin. Its primary role is to serve as a vessel for the spirit and soul, thereby defining the tangible aspect of our existence. We engage with the external world through the body and establish connections with others.

It's crucial to recognize that while the body is tangible and facilitates our interactions with the physical realm, God emphasizes the inner self more. The inner man, which consists of the soul and spirit, holds paramount importance as it is the

locus of interaction with the divine. The eternal destiny of the inner man hinges upon the deeds carried out during earthly life. As articulated in 2 Corinthians 4:16 (NKJV) by Paul, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day," there exists a perpetual renewal process required to align the inner self with the divine will.

In summary, while the body serves as a vehicle for worldly engagement, the inner self bears eternal significance, necessitating continuous spiritual renewal to conform to the divine purpose.

How Success Relates to Man's Tripartite Nature

The body, soul, and spirit are intricately interconnected, working together to enable individuals to achieve success. Understanding these three components' distinct yet unified functions dramatically enhances our comprehension of success.

When success is mentioned, it's common to associate it with physical or material possessions.

The world often equates success with accumulating cars, wealth, houses, and other tangible assets. While this perspective isn't entirely incorrect, true success transcends material wealth. Believers, especially, should not confine success to such narrow parameters. In the realm of God's kingdom, success is defined by fulfilling the purpose that God has ordained for one's life and contributing to expanding His kingdom, utilizing the blessings and resources entrusted to them.

As children of God, achieving this kind of success becomes feasible when we prioritize the development of our soul, spirit, and physical abilities. God desires not only physical prosperity but also spiritual and soulful flourishing. Unfortunately, many Christians overlook this aspect. They focus solely on leveraging their physical strength and talents to accumulate wealth, neglecting the essential task of nurturing their inner selves for success.

While undergoing the necessary processes to develop physical competence and capabilities is essential, equal attention must be given to cultivating the soul and spirit. By doing so, we equip ourselves fully to fulfill God's will and

accomplish remarkable feats in every aspect of life.

Prospering The Inner Man

In 3 John 1:2 (NKJV), the Bible says, "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers." This verse emphasizes the importance of soul prosperity according to the Master's agenda. Soul prosperity extends beyond acquiring tangible and material possessions; it involves cultivating the soul to align with God's purpose and will, ensuring perpetual divine alignment and desired outcomes.

It's essential to recognize that soul prosperity begins with salvation and requires ongoing dedication to spiritual disciplines, which will be explored further in the following chapter. While the spirit is instantly redeemed upon being born again, the soul's redemption is a continuous process that demands personal commitment to God for spiritual growth and development.

James 1:21 (NKJV) reinforces this concept: "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which can save your souls." This

verse underscores the role believers play in the salvation of their souls. Additionally, it distinguishes between the redemption of the soul and the future redemption of the body, which will occur when Christ returns. This will mark the transformation of believers to be like Him, with mortality giving way to immortality.

Consider these Biblical references:

“⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” -1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NKJV)

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” - 1 John 3:2 (NKJV)

“Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to

*the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” - **Philippians 3:21 (NKJV)***

We need to focus on constantly building the soul, in this case, the mind. By doing this, we shall indeed prosper in life, as we will efficiently tap into all the things God has granted us that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

CHAPTER TWO

REPROGRAMMING THE MIND

After discussing man's tripartite nature and its connection to achieving success, it's crucial to delve into the stages necessary for charting the path to success. Central to this journey is the imperative of mental development and renewal, achieved through reprogramming the mind. This strategic step positions individuals for more extraordinary exploits and streamlines the route to success.

As highlighted in the preceding chapter, managing and renewing the mind is paramount. This process ensures alignment with the divine will and empowers individuals to triumph over life's challenges.

Real-Life Illustration of The Relevance of Mental Reprogramming

Many African countries grapple with profound poverty, not due to a lack of resources but rather a deficiency in effectively utilizing them. Africa harbors a wealth of valuable resources essential for various industries worldwide—gold, silver,

bauxite, manganese, diamonds, and timber, to name a few. However, the crux of the issue lies in the insufficient knowledge among Africans regarding the optimal utilization of these resources.

Consequently, these natural riches often end up being exported to the Western World in their raw form for meager returns. Take the Democratic Republic of Congo, a significant contributor to global cobalt production, which is crucial for the operations of tech giants like Apple and Samsung. Despite this, the lack of technical expertise in resource processing deprives many African nations, including Congo, of the substantial profits their resources could yield.

Real progress begins with a shift in mindset, starting with spiritual development as outlined in spiritual teachings such as the Bible. This spiritual foundation provides a framework for mental reprogramming, paving the way for acquiring knowledge for tackling everyday challenges.

The Mind as A Battlefield

“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.” - 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (ESV)

Whether literal or metaphorical, the battlefield serves as a poignant symbol of conflict. In the realm of the mind, this battlefield manifests itself as a struggle fueled by divergent thoughts and choices. The decisions emerging from this internal strife significantly shape one's life trajectory, echoing the adage that our thoughts pave way for our words, actions, habits, character, and ultimately, our destiny. Thus, one's worth and destiny are intricately woven into the fabric of mental processes, underlining the importance of nurturing constructive thoughts.

However, maintaining a favorable mental landscape proves to be a formidable task for many. Often, individuals attribute negative ideations to external forces, absolving themselves of accountability. Yet, as articulated in Matthew 15:11, the Bible shifts the focus inward, emphasizing that the true source of defilement lies

within. This principle demonstrates the significance of cultivating virtuous thoughts to safeguard both personal integrity and the well-being of others.

Echoing this sentiment, Colossians 4:6 advocates for grace-infused communication, urging individuals to respond to others with wisdom and kindness. Similarly, Ephesians 4:29 admonishes against corrupt speech, highlighting the impact of words on interpersonal dynamics and moral integrity. These teachings show the transformative power of conscientious thought and speech, guiding individuals toward moral rectitude and spiritual growth.

Our minds hold a crucial role in shaping the thoughts that enter them. How we process these thoughts determines whether our minds blossom into fertile grounds for success or wither into paths of failure. We possess the inherent capability to govern and direct our minds to our benefit. In his message to the Roman church, Paul urged them not to conform to worldly norms but to actively renew their minds. This renewal enables them to discern and fulfill what is good and acceptable and aligns with God's perfect will (Romans 12:2).

Divine Procedures to Employ in Reprogramming the Mind.

The previous scripture, Romans 12:2, suggests that people can renew their minds. Let us consider some divine procedures and methods for reprogramming the mind.

First and foremost, through consistent meditation, which involves pondering and reflecting on God's word, we can transform our thought patterns and imaginations into positive ones. In Joshua 1:8, God instructs His servant, Joshua, to engage in this practice continually. The passage reads: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (Joshua 1:8, ESV).

God understood that by Joshua consistently meditating and adhering to His law, Joshua's mind would align with the divine will, leading him to attract success and prosper in all endeavors. The Word of God serves as the ultimate authority in our lives; when we revere it, we will reap its

benefits. It acts as a spiritual sword, capable of dissecting and purging negative thoughts from the mind while infusing them with positivity.

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” -
Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” -
Ephesians 6:17 (ESV)

In John 15:3 (NKJV), Jesus affirms, "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." This implies that God's word possesses the purifying power to remove any impurities, such as negative thoughts, from the mind. Consistent meditation on God's word liberates our minds from negativity. When the mind is unoccupied, it becomes vulnerable to the enemy's influence, inviting unholy thoughts to take root. Psalm 1:1-2 encourages us to meditate on the law of the Lord Day and night, reinforcing the importance of continuous engagement with God's word to guard us against negative influences.

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, he meditates day and night.” - Psalm 1:1-2 (ESV)

Meditating on God’s word illuminates the eyes for our understanding, guiding our minds onto the right path. The Word of God is inherently Christ Himself (John 1:14), who embodies wisdom (Colossians 2:3). Therefore, as we immerse ourselves in God's word, we gain the wisdom and illumination necessary for right thinking and action. Psalm 119:130 strengthens this truth, stating that the entrance of God's word brings light and understanding even to the simple. We are divinely enlightened through consistent engagement with Scripture, reprogramming our minds for success.

Sometimes, praying for progress and advancement in life without preparing your mind to shoulder the responsibilities of such advancement may not be helpful. Before God elevates you to the next stage, it’s advisable to build your mental capacity so that your mind can handle the duties of such elevation.

Focusing and thinking about good virtues can also help reprogram the mind. In his epistle to the church in Philippi, according to Philippians 4:8, Paul taught us what we must think about as believers. He said we should think about things that are true, honest, just, pure, of good report, lovely, and other good virtues.

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” -

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

The Bible encourages us to reflect on anything possessing these attributes continually. We must persist in contemplating them. Let me ask you: What are your predominant thoughts these days? Are you mindful that your predominant thoughts wield power over you? Indeed, the body is subservient to the opinions and thoughts of the mind.

To embody truthfulness, it is imperative to dwell on true and noble concepts. Likewise, to represent honesty, focus on honest things. Are you striving

for loveliness? Engage your mind with lovely thoughts. Aspire for success in life? Then, dedicate your mental energy to thoughts conducive to success. To achieve success, banish thoughts of failure from your mind, for what occupies your thoughts ultimately shapes your reality. As we've already established, our imaginations and thoughts pave the path to our destiny.

In Romans 8:5-6 (NKJV), Paul asserts, "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." This passage succinctly conveys that individuals guided by the Holy Spirit prioritize spiritual matters over worldly ones. Similarly, 2 Corinthians 4:18 shows the importance of focusing our minds on heavenly realities rather than earthly concerns, showing the transient nature of earthly things compared to the eternal nature of heavenly ones. Colossians 3:1-2 further emphasizes this principle, urging believers to seek heavenly things in alignment with their spiritual rebirth in Christ.

The Scriptures caution against becoming attached to worldly desires. In 1 John 2:15-17, John admonishes believers not to harbor affection for the world or its pleasures. He warns that worldly desires—such as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life—originate from the world, not from God. Loving the world and its pleasures can distort our mindset, diverting our focus from the word of God to the things of the world.

By heeding these teachings, believers are encouraged to cultivate a mindset centered on spiritual values rather than worldly distractions. This entails consciously redirecting our thoughts and affections towards eternal truths and divine principles, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our priorities and pursuits. In doing so, we align ourselves with God's will and experience the fullness of spiritual growth and fulfillment.

While it is essential to cultivate good virtues, it is equally vital to monitor the information that permeates our minds. It is advisable for us to constantly check what we mentally expose ourselves to. As stated in 1 Corinthians 10:23 (NKJV), "All things are lawful for me, but all

things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." This verse stresses the importance of discernment in what we consume mentally. We have the right to allow anything to enter our minds, but only some things are conducive to correct thinking. While certain things may be permissible, we must know that they may not necessarily contribute to our mental well-being or spiritual growth.

In considering the content we expose ourselves to, it's necessary to be selective, prioritizing that which aligns with godly principles. For instance, indulging in pornography can lead to deeper involvement in sexual immorality, such as fornication and masturbation. We must conscientiously assess what we watch and listen to, as these inputs greatly influence our thoughts.

Therefore, we should actively seek sources of enlightenment and inspiration, such as godly music, godly movies, and uplifting messages. By consistently immersing ourselves in positive and morally sound content, we can nurture a mindset that motivates and guides us toward virtuous living.

In Mark 4:24, Jesus revealed to His followers how to be cautious about what they hear. They needed to be careful about what they tuned into with their ears. He wanted them to listen to things that would build their minds up positively.

“And he said to them, ‘Pay attention to what you hear: With the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.’” - Mark 4:24 (ESV)

Before engaging with any form of media, it is essential to assess its potential impact on your mental and emotional well-being. You can engage with it if it promises to bring about positive influences in your life. However, if you anticipate negative consequences, it's wise to abstain.

Another way to reprogram the mind is to seek divine intervention through prayers. Sometimes, despite our efforts to reprogram our thoughts, we may encounter challenges, so seeking divine assistance is very beneficial.

Continuously seeking God's grace and guidance is pivotal in managing and controlling our minds because He is the ultimate creator. Reflecting on Psalm 51:10, where David implores God to create

in him a clean heart, accentuates the power of divine intervention in shaping our innermost being, especially our minds.

By inviting God's presence into our lives, we open ourselves to experiencing a renewal of heart and mind. Through prayer and supplication, we acknowledge our dependence on God to aid us in navigating the complexities of our inner world.

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” - Ezekiel 36:26- 27 (NKJV)

God can help us keep the spirit, soul, and body perfect and in complete harmony because He is the creator of them all. Whenever we fall short, we must approach Him and ask Him to help us.

CHAPTER THREE

DOING AWAY WITH THE DESTRUCTIVE MINDSETS

Reprogramming the mind is undeniably crucial for success, yet it is the foundational step on a broader journey. Success hinges on mental transformation and factors such as personality, behavior, and appearance. These elements collectively represent the external expression of our inner selves. Thus, mastering the art of shaping our minds becomes significant in laying the groundwork for actualizing and manifesting our aspirations. An integral aspect of this pursuit involves shedding detrimental mindsets. In the subsequent chapters, we will explore the mindsets that necessitate abandonment and those demanding cultivation for success.

Mindset encompasses the assumptions, methods, or beliefs individuals or groups hold, shaping their approach to life and guiding their actions. It plays a crucial role in determining whether we choose to act by following moral principles or not. A positive mindset predisposes one toward constructive behaviors, while a negative mindset inclines one toward destructive actions. It's

essential to recognize that every person possesses free will, granted by God, without imposition. However, this freedom comes with accountability, as our choices and thought patterns are under divine observation. Ultimately, we must foster positive thinking and make righteous choices to align with the prospect of experiencing divine rewards. In Deuteronomy 30:19 (NLT), the Lord said, "Today I have given you a choice between life and death, blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life so that you and your descendants might live!".

When we make choices with good intentions, aligning our actions with what is right, it sets the stage for blessings from God. Alternatively, when misguided intentions drive our decisions, they invite negativity and adversity into our lives. This highlights the importance of steering clear of harmful mindsets to foster success.

Negative thought patterns act as barriers to progress, hindering our advancement. Addressing and overcoming these mental obstacles is essential; otherwise, our lives risk stagnation. Often, it's not external forces like the devil that

thwart our progress but our misguided perspectives. It's these flawed mindsets that eventually lead some individuals to failure.

Below are some killer mindsets that must be avoided at all costs lest our lives be ruined.

1. Dependency Mindset

In this state, individuals rely solely on others for survival, failing to take charge of their own lives. This dependency often leads people to place their trust entirely in humanity rather than divinity. As Jeremiah 17:5 warns, there's a spiritual consequence to putting one's trust in fellow humans and making them the sole source of hope.

“Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord.⁶ For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited.” -

Jeremiah 17:5-6 (NKJV)

A dependency mindset can be detrimental to realizing one's visions and goals in life. While it's natural to rely on parents or guardians for necessities like accommodation, food, shelter, and

security during certain stages of life, continually depending on them is not conducive to personal growth and development. While seeking assistance from others is acceptable, we must set boundaries and prioritize our reliance on God rather than solely on human support.

Furthermore, it's not just external dependence that hinders personal development; relying solely on our strengths and abilities without acknowledging God's help can also limit our advancement.

“My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” -
Psalms 73:26 (NKJV)

In 2 Samuel 15, we witness Absalom, David's firstborn son, scheming to usurp his father's throne and establish himself as king over Israel. Seeking counsel, Absalom turns to Ahithophel, renowned for his wisdom and deep insights. Ahithophel, who had long served as David's trusted advisor, chooses to betray him by siding with Absalom in his rebellion. Absalom's misguided reliance on Ahithophel's treacherous counsel eventually led to his downfall.

This cautionary narrative reminds us that placing our trust in fallible humans can have dire consequences. Instead, we are urged to seek divine guidance, as Absalom's misfortune illustrates.

God did not design us to lean on man but to depend on Him. The more we place our faith in man, the more susceptible we become to failure and disappointment. Conversely, the more we place our faith in God, the more we succeed because God remains steadfast and faithful. Hebrews 13:8 reassures us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, emphasizing His eternal reliability and dependability. Similarly, Psalm 34:5 reminds us that those who look to God will not be ashamed. While humans may change, God's faithfulness endures unceasingly. He has never let anyone down in the past and will continue to be our support if we choose to rely on Him.

“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” - Numbers 23:19 (NKJV)

All the blessings we witness on earth emanate from God. From robust health and prosperity to enduring success, wealth, favor, and other supernatural manifestations, these gifts originate from our reliable heavenly Father.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” - James 1:17 (NKJV)

2. Inferiority Complex Mentality

Inferiority complex is the persistent feeling of falling short of standards, characterized by self-doubt and low self-esteem. As a result, affected individuals often engage in asocial behavior. Contributing factors to an inferiority complex include low socioeconomic status, depression, lack of expertise in a particular field, and unhealthy comparison with others.

Many people struggle with a diminished self-image, perceiving themselves as lacking significance and unable to establish anything substantial for their lives. This mindset poses a severe obstacle to personal growth.

We must know that everyone possesses the inherent potential and the skills bestowed upon them by God. Just as no manufacturer creates a product without performing any purpose, no person is devoid of value or purpose. We are all uniquely equipped to contribute meaningfully to society. Embracing a positive self-image is essential, as we are created in the image and likeness of God, instilling inherent worth within each of us. Consider this scripture: "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 1:26, ESV). It is up to us to discover what we can do, practice it, become a master at it, and use it to our advantage.

It's important to avoid statements that foster a negative self-image and hinder personal growth. Phrases such as "Why did you (God) create me?" or "I have no potential and ability" cultivate a mindset of defeatism and despair. Similarly, thoughts like "I am ugly, so no man will marry me" or "I didn't go to school, so I will not succeed

in life" only serve to limit one's possibilities and potential.

Believing that all men are better than you or you are nobody diminishes your self-worth and perpetuates feelings of inadequacy. Comparing oneself unfavorably to friends or wishing for death due to a perceived inability to thrive further reinforces negative thought patterns. These perceptions create a self-fulfilling prophecy of failure and poverty by programming the mind to expect and accept such outcomes.

It's vital to recognize that self-perception plays a pivotal role in shaping one's future. Proverbs 23:7 wisely states, "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Therefore, viewing oneself as a failure or a poor individual will likely lead to those outcomes. On the other hand, envisioning oneself as wealthy and successful sets the stage for achievement and prosperity.

Fostering a positive self-image and cultivating empowering beliefs are essential for personal growth and development. By reframing negative thoughts and embracing a mindset of possibility

and abundance, individuals can pave the way for a brighter future.

Sometimes, when the adversary realizes they cannot directly harm you or lacks the legal means to afflict your life, they resort to tactics to frustrate you. Their goal is to provoke you into uttering negative words, thereby giving them a perceived justification to engage in conflict against you. As Proverbs 18:21 reminds us, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." It's imperative to exercise control over your speech, as it can either uplift or undermine you and others. Reflect on this scripture in James 3:5-12 which shows the power of the tongue.

“So also, the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it, we bless our Lord and Father, and

with it, we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and saltwater? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.” - James 3:5-12 (ESV)

In the Book of Numbers 13:17-33, Moses and Aaron dispatched twelve spies to assess the land of Canaan. Only Caleb and Joshua conveyed a positive report upon their return, while the others expressed fear and doubt. Despite the land's abundance, described as flowing with milk and honey, most spies focused on the formidable giants' presence, suggesting that conquering Canaan was impossible. Their defeatist mindset stemmed from their perception of themselves as inferior—like grasshoppers—compared to the inhabitants of Canaan.

Caleb and Joshua, however, exhibited a different mindset. They acknowledged the challenges posed by the strong men dwelling in Canaan but remained steadfast in their belief that the Israelites could overcome them. Their unwavering confidence and encouragement motivated Moses

and Aaron to continue their quest to claim the Promised Land.

Without Caleb and Joshua's resolute words, the Israelites might have succumbed to the discouragement sown by their peers and abandoned their divine mandate. Their optimism and faith ultimately propelled the nation forward, ensuring they would not forfeit what was rightfully theirs.

In 1 Samuel 17:34-37, David's firm determination and confidence were critical to his victory over Goliath. Despite King Saul's attempts to stop him, David's self-assurance and belief in the abilities God has given to him propelled him forward into combat with Goliath. He recognized his skill and competence, refusing to be intimidated by Goliath's formidable stature. David's assertion to King Saul that he could slay the Philistine giant demonstrated his conviction and determination.

Furthermore, David's mindset played a crucial role in his triumph. Instead of succumbing to feelings of inadequacy due to his youth, he embraced his capabilities with unyielding assurance. This mindset shift marked a pivotal moment,

transforming him from a mere shepherd boy to a victorious hero. His victory secured his success and resulted in tangible rewards, such as marrying King Saul's daughter and exemption from taxation for his household in Israel.

Overall, David's story exemplifies the power of self-belief and self-confidence in overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges. By embracing a "can-do" attitude because he trusted in the Lord and refusing to be discouraged by obstacles counter to God's promises, David emerged triumphant, leaving a lasting legacy of courage and resilience.

The Effect of Ignorance

One reason many people often devalue and consider themselves inferior is ignorance. Hosea 4:6 says that my people perish for lack of knowledge, and Isaiah 5:13 also shows that ignorance leads to captivity.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have

forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” - Hosea 4:6 (ESV)

“Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.” - Isaiah 5:13 (NKJV)

Many individuals are unaware of the identity and authority bestowed upon them by Christ. Despite His endowment of all necessary for a fulfilled life and spiritual well-being (2 Peter 1:3), their benefits remain elusive without recognition of these gifts. Such revelation is illuminated through acquaintance with the one who beckons us toward glory and blessings—Christ Himself.

Paul's proclamation in Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) resonates with significance: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." In this declaration, Paul encapsulates the essence of empowerment through faith in Christ. He understood that with Christ, he possessed the strength, wisdom, skill, and authority to navigate life's challenges.

However, amidst this empowering truth, the pervasive influence of misinformation orchestrated by Satan has veiled the minds of many (Ephesians 4:18). Through cunning deception, he instills doubt, convincing individuals that they cannot thrive in life. Tragically, countless succumb to these falsehoods, driven by ignorance and accepting defeat.

Yet, as believers, we are called to defy this narrative. God has given us inherent abilities, wisdom, and skills, equipping us to surmount obstacles and achieve our fullest potential. It is essential to recognize and embrace this divine endowment, rejecting the lies of inadequacy propagated by the enemy.

Therefore, stand apart from the crowd. Embrace the truth of your God-given abilities and potential, fortified by the assurance that through Christ, you possess the strength to overcome any challenge and flourish in every aspect of life.

3. Lazy Mindset

Individuals can generally be categorized into two groups: those who proactively make things happen

and those who passively observe as events unfold. Those who fall into the latter category often sit comfortably, expecting others to take charge and cater to their needs. This mindset reflects a dangerous tendency to let laziness dictate one's actions. Being complacent in this manner can result in stagnation in life.

It's necessary not to align oneself with passive observers of life, as they rarely experience true success. Succumbing to laziness breeds many adverse outcomes, including academic failure, financial hardship, and emotional distress. This truth is echoed in various scriptures and quotes, particularly in the Bible, which clearly states that laziness paves the path to poverty.

To illustrate the correlation between laziness and poverty, let's examine a few scriptures.

“⁴He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. ⁵He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.” - Proverbs 10:4-5 (NKJV)

“³³Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest [and daydream],³⁴ Then your poverty will come as a robber, And your want like an armed man.” - Proverbs 24:33-34 (KJV)

Many people have embraced laziness as a lifestyle choice. We live in an era where people seek quick pathways to success, often eschewing the value of hard work. The rapid advancement of technology and the ubiquitous presence of social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, and others contribute significantly to this trend of laziness. Laziness is permeating even in our religious communities.

An American businessman, Robert Half, once remarked, "Laziness is a secret ingredient that goes into failure. But it's only kept a secret from the person who fails." This quote shows the harmful impact laziness can have on one's ability to achieve success.

Similarly, William Feather, an American publisher and author, resonates deeply: "Laziness is the one common deficiency in mankind that blocks the establishment of a perfect world in which everyone leads a happy life." Feather's observation

highlights laziness as a fundamental obstacle to creating a harmonious and fulfilled society.

Overall, it's imperative to recognize the insidious nature of laziness and strive to fight it individually and collectively. By prioritizing hard work, dedication, and perseverance, we can overcome its enticement and work towards building a more prosperous life.

Often, many Christians believe that simply accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Savior will automatically fulfill their needs. Consequently, they may adopt the misconception that hard work becomes unnecessary. However, this belief is fallacious. Christ's teachings encourage us to work diligently with our hands to achieve our goals and aspirations.

It's crucial to understand that while faith in Christ is transformative and provides spiritual guidance, it doesn't negate the importance of putting effort and dedication into our endeavors. Rather than passively waiting for miracles to happen, Christ emphasizes the value of proactive engagement and diligence in pursuing our aspirations.

Therefore, Christians are called to have faith and complement it with earnest labor and

perseverance. By aligning our actions with our beliefs, we can fully realize the blessings and opportunities of spiritual devotion and hard work. Consider these two Bible verses, which admonish us to work hard.

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” - Genesis 2:15 (ESV)

“Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.” - Ephesians 4:28 (ESV)

Upon closely examining the Bible, one can observe a consistent theme: those who faithfully followed God were not characterized by laziness. From Adam to Noah and throughout the Apostles, diligence was a common trait. It's vital to understand that spirituality does not equate to idleness. While Jesus Christ bore our burdens and sacrificed for us, we also have a role to play, and complacency has no place in it.

Achieving success in life mirrors the concept of sowing and reaping. If others are actively sowing seeds and you choose not to participate, can you

expect to reap anything during the harvest? No! Your actions today determine your future outcomes; you cannot expect rewards without investing effort. A promising future awaits those who take decisive actions: attending school, starting a business, writing a book, diligently studying, and following through with their intentions.

According to Proverbs 6:6- 11, the Bible encourages us to learn from the ant, one of the most diligent insects.

“Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep. So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler and your need like an armed man?” - Proverbs 6:6-11 (NKJV)

The ant diligently prepares food during periods of abundance to ensure sustenance during times of crisis or famine. This illustrates the importance of diligence in our endeavors, echoing the divine

expectation that we are proactive and prepared for adversity.

4. The Mentality of Fear

Fear is a pervasive mindset that often serves as a barrier to achieving greatness in life. It causes people to abandon pursuits out of apprehension that things may not go as they desire. However, 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us that fear is not of divine origin but love, power, and a sound mind that God bestows upon us.

This fear can stem from various sources, including past traumas, present challenges, and uncertainty about future outcomes. Its far-reaching consequences hinder the fulfillment of purposes, goals, aspirations, and heartfelt desires. Fear stifles initiative, creativity, and vision and undermines confidence and determination.

Consider, for example, a young entrepreneur aspiring to establish a significant business venture. Despite possessing the necessary skills, resources, and potential, he may succumb to fear when confronted with established competitors or doubts about his capabilities. Consequently, this fear of

failure may thwart his ambitions and prevent him from realizing his full potential.

Regretfully, fear can hold people captive and restrict them from reaching their peak performance. Due to its paralyzing grip, countless destinies remain unfulfilled, and numerous dreams are unrealized. The world is deprived of numerous innovations and initiatives because the fear of failure holds many people back.

Consider these powerful quotes about overcoming fear.

1. "I have learnt over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes the fear; knowing what must be done puts away fear. " - **Rosa Parks**
2. "One of the greatest discoveries a man makes, one of his great surprises is to find out he can do what he was afraid he couldn't do." - **Henry Ford**
3. "Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." - **Marie Curie**

The Story of The Prisoner

The story takes place in a prison, where one unlucky prisoner faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life behind bars. During his long imprisonment, his eyes always fixated on a specific closed gate, unopened by anyone. Inquisitiveness consumed him, urging him to inquire the warden about its continuous closure and what existed beyond its imposing entrance.

With a puzzling expression, the warden permitted the prisoner to open the gate and step outside. However, with this liberty came a serious caution: once unlocked, the entrance must be traversed, with no chance of returning. The prisoner, shackled by fear and uncertainty, hesitated. His spirit lacked the audacity to seize the unknown. And so, he resigned himself to a life spent in perpetual anticipation, fixated on the captivating mystery beyond his reach.

Two decades had elapsed, and the prisoner's earthly journey had ended. After his death, the

janitor at the prison, responsible for cleaning the hallways, thought about the deceased's constant fascination with the mysterious gate. His curiosity was aroused, and he looked for answers from the warden.

The warden, a repository of secrets, revealed to the cleaner the truth concealed behind the gate. With a sense of urgency, he beckoned the cleaner to follow him, leading him to the long-locked portal. When the gate opened, a cleaner was captivated by conflicting emotions upon seeing the path leading to a prosperous town and potential liberation.

The warden sadly explained the importance of the gate: any daring prisoner who passed through it would be freed and released from their past life.

The cleaner was filled with deep sorrow over the chance the prisoner had missed. Had he summoned the courage to embrace the unknown, he could have exchanged his shackles for the boundless possibilities that awaited him beyond the gate, embracing a life of prosperity and fulfillment.

Like this prisoner, most of us are held back by the fear of uncertainty—a yolk we must break.

In the Bible, the statement "fear not" is found 365 times, meaning in each 365 days a year, we are encouraged not to fear. In the book of Isaiah 43:1-2 (NKJV), the Lord said, "But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine. 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".

This shows that God delights in our fearlessness and boldness. Take bold actions. Never allow fear to prevent you from doing what God has called you. Again, in Isaiah 41:10 (AMPC), God said, "Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice".

5. Entitlement Mindset

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, entitlement is the belief that one inherently deserves certain privileges or benefits. People with a sense of entitlement exhibit an arrogant attitude towards these privileges. The notion of a "culture of entitlement" implies that a significant portion of society holds unreasonable expectations regarding what they believe they are entitled to.

Consequently, individuals within this culture often lack initiative, as they assume they deserve to be provided with various aspects of life without exerting effort or taking responsibility.

In the book of Joshua 17:14-16 (NIV), the people of Joseph said, "Why have you given us only one allotment and one portion for an inheritance? We are many people, and the Lord has blessed us abundantly...the hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have iron chariots, both those in Beth Shan and its settlements and those in the Valley of Jezreel."

On our spiritual journey, a sense of entitlement often manifests as a hindrance, fostering complacency in our faith. There exists a subset of individuals who desire a relationship with God

devoid of effort. Rather than actively seeking spiritual growth, they passively await divine encounters. Also, some erect churches and expect congregants to flock to them without performing duty. Some pastors resort to only pre-packaged sermon programs or online content, neglecting the personal preparation integral to effective ministry. Even in personal devotion, convenience trumps depth, with scripted emails replacing the timeless wisdom of scripture. Our prayers have become mere soundbites, rushed amidst the busyness of life. This desire for intimacy with the divine without the corresponding commitment reflects a pervasive attitude of entitlement.

Similarly, in the material realm, entitlement often surfaces as expectations of unearned privileges or resources based on familial connections or societal status. Many presume that familial affluence or associations with reputable institutions entitle them to certain advantages, overlooking the necessity of personal endeavors. They lean on the assumption that someone will invariably meet their needs within a world teeming with over eight billion individuals. However, this mindset fails to acknowledge the universal struggles inherent in

human existence and the inherent uncertainty of life.

Furthermore, the entitlement fallacy becomes apparent when considering the transient nature of human relationships and the uncertainty of relying on others for sustenance. Unforeseen circumstances can abruptly disrupt the relative prosperity or stability provided by family or acquaintances. Moreover, the possessions and assets of others do not inherently belong to us, and expecting entitlement to them is both unrealistic and unjust. Despite one's familial background or current support system, true success necessitates personal initiative and resilience.

This sense of entitlement hampers spiritual growth and impedes personal development and financial independence. Children born into wealth often fail to attain financial prosperity themselves, as the comfort afforded by familial affluence breeds complacency rather than ambition. In essence, the entitlement mentality undermines the principle of self-reliance and perseverance essential for genuine achievement.

“¹¹ that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own

hands, as we commanded you, ¹² that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.” - 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NKJV)

You must equip yourself with the skill of fishing, metaphorically speaking so that when those who provide for you are absent, you won't be left helpless. Relying on family connections or circumstances as excuses for not actively pursuing self-sufficiency is futile. Life is unpredictable, and situations can change in an instant. Therefore, it's crucial to cultivate the ability to strive for personal success autonomously.

Instead of passively observing others' achievements, it's essential to emulate their work ethic and dedication. Many members of society need support, and it's incumbent upon everyone to contribute positively rather than be dependent on others. Strive to be a pillar of strength, offering assistance and resources to those who require it rather than be a burden or a parasite to others. Adopting a proactive mindset, taking responsibility for your well-being, and contributing positively to society fosters a culture of mutual support and empowerment.

CHAPTER FOUR

INSTILLING THE RIGHT MINDSET

Once you've overcome any detrimental mindset, the subsequent step to success involves cultivating and nurturing the appropriate mindset. These positive mental frameworks are essential for aligning our thoughts with success principles, facilitating achievement with greater ease. Let's explore some of them directly.

1. Entrepreneurship Mindset

An entrepreneur is an individual who identifies a problem and endeavors to find a solution for it, with the dual aims of generating profit and positively impacting lives. The prevalence of unemployment in various regions can often be attributed to inadequate business management practices and a shortage of entrepreneurial skills. Many people usually prioritize securing traditional white-collar employment opportunities upon completing their education rather than considering entrepreneurship a viable path.

¹Invest your money in foreign trade, and one of these days you will make a profit. ²Put your

investments in several places — many places, in fact — because you never know what kind of bad luck you will have in this world”. - **Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 GNB**

Many heap insults on governments, accusing them of failing to address job scarcity and high unemployment rates. While the government bears some responsibility for creating job opportunities, it is suitable for us as young people to shoulder this responsibility. Primarily, the government's role should be to foster an environment conducive to business growth. This could involve offering interventions such as grants and startup tax exemptions, providing us with a solid foundation and reasonable opportunity. However, we must learn how to initiate and manage small-scale businesses to capitalize on the government's support to pursue our aspirations and contribute to societal betterment.

A study once sought to uncover the secrets of wealthy individuals. It revealed that many of the world's most influential figures weren't confined to traditional white-collar jobs or government employment. Instead, they had found their paths through entrepreneurship and investments, leading

to immense prosperity. Take Bill Gates, for example, who founded Microsoft and revolutionized the software industry, propelling himself to the pinnacle of wealth. Similarly, Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook initially as a platform for social connection among friends, but it swiftly evolved into a global phenomenon. Through Facebook, Zuckerberg has amassed considerable wealth and earned widespread recognition as iconic.

2. Visionary Mentality

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he”. - **Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)**

Vision keeps us focused in life. Our lives are constantly directed and shaped by our visions. Additionally, God is not against us thinking big, dreaming big, and having great visions and aspirations. He desires that we have visions and dreams (Habakkuk 2:2).

Li Ka-Shing, a renowned Hong Kong business magnate and philanthropist, once stated, "Vision is perhaps our greatest strength; it has kept us alive to

the power and continuity of thought through the centuries; it makes us peep into the future and lends shape to the unknown." Throughout history, individuals like Jesus Christ, David, Abraham, and Joshua exemplified the power of vision in shaping their destinies and impacting the world around them.

Jesus Christ's vision transcended the challenges of His time, as He came to the world to sacrifice himself to save humanity (Luke 19:10). His commitment to this vision transformed the course of history.

Similarly, David's vision of bringing liberty to the Israelites motivated him to face formidable adversaries like Goliath. Despite the odds, his determination and faith in his vision led him to victory (1 Samuel 17:36-53).

Abraham, guided by the promise of becoming the father of many nations (Genesis 12:2-3), held steadfast to his vision, eventually realizing its fulfillment through future generations.

Joshua's vision of possessing the Promised Land (Numbers 14:6-9) drove him to lead the Israelites to victory, overcoming numerous obstacles.

Reflecting on these examples, it becomes evident that vision is not merely a concept but a powerful force that shapes our actions and propels us toward our aspirations. This truth is reverberated in the scriptures, where a clear vision is emphasized as a key to achieving greatness.

“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.” -

Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NKJV)

One significant reason many individuals remain committed to a purpose is their possession of tangible dreams and goals. Consider someone aspiring to become the next president of their country. Such a person would not passively idle away their time. Instead, they would actively engage in activities conducive to their ambition, such as diligent study, attending pertinent institutions, and allocating their energy and

resources toward their goal. Similarly, for those envisioning wealth acquisition on a global scale, diligence, adherence to principles, and sustained effort are essential components for realizing such aspirations.

Understanding that having a vision sets you on a deliberate path is significant. A clear, compelling vision or dream serves as a guiding force, ensuring that you direct your time, energy, and resources purposefully rather than squandering them on endeavors inconsequential to your ultimate objectives.

God established a deal with Abraham that the level of perception and vision would determine his results. This meant that his vision and dream were a factor in his prosperity and success. In Genesis 13:14-15 (NKJV), after Abraham's nephew (Lot), was separated from him, God said to Abraham, *"Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are — northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ¹⁵ for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever."* What he saw was what God gave to him. Considering Abraham's experience, it's evident that the scale of his vision determined the extent of what he

received from God. This illustrates a fundamental principle: your vision intensely influences your life's trajectory.

Dreaming expansively is crucial. When you dream big, you align yourself with the vast potential that God offers. However, belief alone isn't sufficient. It would be best to devise a strategic plan to translate your vision into reality. Having a vision is the first step. Proactive steps and diligent effort must accompany it. Sitting back and waiting for success to materialize is not an option. Action is essential to realizing your dreams and aspirations.

Therefore, cultivate a vision that stretches your boundaries, have faith in divine guidance, and diligently pursue your goals through strategic planning and decisive action. This synergistic approach will propel you toward the realization of your dreams and the fulfillment of your vision.

3. An Ever-Winning Mentality

In the journey of personal development, individuals ought to believe in their ability to succeed continuously, mainly through their connection with Christ and the power bestowed

upon them by God through Jesus Christ. Nurturing a mindset of perpetual victory is essential to walking in a state of dominion. Those who embrace this ideology possess unwavering assurance in their inherent capacity to triumph; they refuse to succumb to defeat, recognizing that Jesus has already paved the path to success for them.

As William S. Gilbert aptly remarked, "Losers visualize the penalties of failure. Winners visualize the rewards of success." This statement emphasizes the apparent contrast between those who dwell on the negative consequences of failure and those who focus on the bountiful fruits of achievement. Winners fortify their determination and resilience by aligning their thoughts with visions of success, propelling themselves forward with unhesitating optimism and purpose.

Victory is not far from us as children of God. It is part of our spiritual DNA because we are born of God. The book of 2 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) states: "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." Christ has made us triumphant in all things. Never look

down on yourself. Instead, have it at the back of your mind that you are always victorious and triumphant by God's grace.

“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” - Colossians 2:15 (NKJV)

Arthur Ashe once wisely said, "Regardless of how you feel on the inside, always try to look like a winner. Even if you're behind, a sustained look of control and confidence can give you a mental edge, resulting in victory."

A person with a perpetually winning mindset is rarely defeated by failure. If you perceive yourself as destined for success, you're more likely to achieve it; on the other hand, if you harbor thoughts of failure, you're bound to fulfill them. This principle shows the impact of our thoughts and beliefs on our outcomes.

Embracing this perspective, we understand that cultivating unwavering confidence aligns with God's intention for us. We're called to approach life with the assurance that God's power is at work within us.

In God's original design, victory and success were integral to human existence. In the ideal setting of the Garden of Eden, God's provision and fellowship with humanity ensured abundant blessings. However, the narrative shifted with Adam and Eve's disobedience, leading to the loss of their prosperous state. Yet, through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, God has graciously restored the path to triumph. Thus, we're invited to reclaim the life of victory that was always intended for us.

Be assured and know that the one who has called you is faithful (1 Thessalonians 5:24). He will work out things in His own time for the betterment of your life. Your task is to rely on and trust Him perpetually.

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” - 1 John 5:4-5 (NKJV)

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have

tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world". - John 16:33 (NKJV)

4. Focused Mindset

Maintaining focus has become increasingly challenging for many individuals in today's contemporary world, where distractions abound. Despite the plethora of diversions such as social media, television, radio, and social engagements with friends, it is vital to cultivate a spirit of concentration to stay on course. While these distractions may constantly compete for our attention, we must resist their temptations.

Numerous examples exist of individuals who consciously decided to remain steadfast in their focus, ultimately propelling themselves to greater heights. Many find themselves caught up in the hustle and bustle of daily life, neglecting to prioritize what is truly important, according to their faith and beliefs.

One compelling narrative illustrating the consequences of losing focus can be found in the story recounted in 1 Kings 20:38-42.

*“³⁸ Then the prophet departed and waited for the king by the road and disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes. ³⁹ Now as the king passed by, he cried out to the king and said, “Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and there, a man came over and brought a man to me, and said, ‘Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.’ ⁴⁰ While your servant **was busy here and there**, he was gone.” Then the king of Israel said to him, “So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it. ⁴¹ And he hastened to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. ⁴² Then he said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Because you have let slip out of your hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.’” - 1 Kings 20:38-42 (NKJV)*

Like the servant in the above biblical illustration, who couldn't stay focused on the assignment given to him but was busy here and there, so many people are not focused on their purpose. They are busy here and there. This also reveals a truth often overlooked in contemporary society: the indispensable role of focus in achieving our purpose and assignments.

Indeed, attaining significant accomplishments becomes challenging without dedication to one's chosen path. Unfortunately, modern times are rife with the pitfalls of imitation and comparison, wherein individuals may forsake their true calling in pursuit of others' paths. This could lead to personal and professional setbacks.

Consider, for instance, the aspiring musician who, influenced by societal or external pressures, abandons their musical aspirations to pursue a career in an unrelated field, only to suffer personal and professional setbacks, resulting in missed opportunities and unfulfilled potential. Similarly, individuals meant for political leadership may find themselves in medical fields, or those called to serve as ministers of God may veer into commerce. This lack of focus often contributes to the failure of many individuals to fulfill their true purpose in life. Jesus once said, "The light of the body is the eye: **if therefore thine eye be single**, thy whole body shall be full of light" (Mathew 6:22, KJV)."

Bishop David Oyedepo, the President of Winners Chapel International and one of the wealthiest pastors globally, once shared, "I dedicate eighteen

hours of my daily schedule to the ministry entrusted to me by God, remaining steadfast in my focus. I refrain from allowing friendships or materialistic pursuits to divert my attention. Even if invited by a fellow preacher for an engagement that lacks divine guidance and may disrupt my focus, I respectfully decline." Here, we witness the disciplined commitment of a revered spiritual leader who recognizes the importance of focus, a quality instrumental to his exceptional success in ministry. He stands as a respected figure, embodying the understanding that focus is paramount for success, which is evident in his remarkable achievements in ministry.

CHAPTER FIVE

FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ELITE

Let's explore the journey to success by examining and following the principles followed by biblical figures and individuals in contemporary society. While we've dealt with the harmful mindsets to avoid and the beneficial ones to cultivate, examining and embracing the principles and habits of successful individuals is indispensable. The Bible encourages us to avoid laziness and instead emulate those who achieved their goals through faith and perseverance.

“So that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” - Hebrews 6:12 (ESV)

Through my research, I've delved into the paths to greatness and wealth, uncovering the distinct methods and patterns followed by persons who have achieved greatness in life. Every social class exhibits its mindset and lifestyle. The thought patterns and behaviors of the impoverished often perpetuate their poverty, while those of the affluent tend to sustain their wealth.

One key factor contributing to the scarcity of great and successful individuals globally is the failure of many to adhere to fundamental principles of success. God has designed a system wherein access to His blessings is contingent upon adherence to specific rules. Let's proceed by acquainting ourselves with some of these guiding principles.

1. Diligence (Hard Work)

“Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor.” - Proverbs 12:24 (NIV)

Many people who have achieved greatness and wealth have done so through diligence. If you observe many successful persons closely, you'll notice their dedication and seriousness about their pursuits. They invest their utmost effort into their work. Consider this scripture in Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NKJV): "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."

It's essential to acknowledge that no one is inherently born with wealth. No individual emerges from the womb clutching bars of gold or nuggets of diamonds. Every luxury or wealth

someone enjoys is either earned by them or inherited from previous generations. Commitment and dedication to what God has called us to do or what we are doing give us placement in life.

In 2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV), Peter challenged us to be more diligent. He said, "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent in making your call and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble." Also, in Paul's first pastoral epistle to Timothy, he encouraged him to give himself wholly to the things entrusted to him so that his profit may appear to all (1 Timothy 4:15).

Developing success demands unwavering dedication and perseverance. Merely drifting through life, swaying aimlessly like a pendulum, won't lead to greatness. Success requires focused commitment and diligent effort. Remember, almost every achievement is born from hard work. The Bible declares in Proverbs 22:29 (KJV), "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men."

Warren Buffett, a prominent billionaire known for his belief in diligence, famously remarked, "I'll

give my children enough money so that they would feel they could do anything but not so much that they could do nothing."

While it's true that one can pray and have faith for success, merely wishing for it without taking action will not make it a reality. God grants each person twenty-four hours a day, yet how we utilize this time differs significantly. Some dedicate four hours to work, while others devote ten hours. Unfortunately, some choose not to work at all. This discrepancy in work ethic is one of the factors contributing to the division between success and failure, leading to varying socioeconomic statuses: some belong to the upper-income class, others to the middle-income class, and some fall into the low-income class.

Even Jesus Christ, considered the greatest man to have ever lived, understood the importance of diligence. He imparted this wisdom to His disciples, emphasizing the necessity of hard work while one still has the opportunity. He told his disciples, "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work" (John 9:4, NIV).

He was deeply committed to the ministry entrusted to Him by his father, as reflected in his statement, "My Father is working until now, and I am working" (John 5:17, ESV). Jesus tirelessly traversed the cities and villages of Capernaum, Galilee, Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem to spread the gospel, highlighting the urgency of his mission. He demonstrated diligence on His earthly journey, devoting most of His time to prayer, healing the sick, and teaching His followers matters of the kingdom of God. His greatness emanated from His steadfast commitment to His divine calling.

In a similar vein, Moses exhibited remarkable diligence in his ministry. He would spend entire days mediating and resolving disputes among the people, showing his dedication to his role.

“¹³ The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. ¹⁴ When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?” - Exodus 18:13-14 (NIV)

Moses' commitment was so intense that his father-in-law felt compelled to advise him to delegate some of his responsibilities to others. This diligence extended beyond his ministry; Moses was known for his faithfulness in managing his household, a quality that led the writer of Hebrews to draw parallels between him and Jesus (Hebrews 3:2).

God does not show favoritism based on individuals; instead, your commitment to your work determines the level of success you may achieve, regardless of your status as a child of God. Christianity should not be used as an excuse for laziness but rather as a motivator for hard work. In essence, diligence is one of the fundamental principles leading to success in our spiritual and worldly endeavors.

2. Saving (Gathering)

“The habit of saving is itself an education; it fosters every virtue, teaches self-denial, cultivates the sense of order, trains forethought, and broadens the mind.” - Thornton T. Munger.

The principle of saving is a fundamental concept embraced by many successful individuals. By consistently setting aside funds over time, one can

accumulate wealth, echoing the wisdom of Proverbs 13:11 (ESV), which states, "Whoever gathers little by little will increase." Saving builds financial reserves and provides a safety net during times of need.

We can draw inspiration from practicing the habit of saving from the behavior of ants as described in Proverbs 6:6-8.

“Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.” - Proverbs 6:6-8 (ESV)

Develop the habit of saving a portion of your earnings. Establish a personal bank account to provide a secure avenue for saving for the future. Resist the temptation to exhaust all your funds on material possessions. Recognize that indulging in extravagant spending is akin to paving the path to financial instability.

Contrary to the endorsement of lavishness, Jesus Christ exemplified prudence with resources. He comprehended the consequences of extravagance, foreseeing its potential to lead to financial turmoil.

He demonstrated stewardship by utilizing resources judiciously and ensuring their preservation. An illustrative example of this mindset is when He directed His disciples to collect the remaining fragments following the miraculous feeding of over 5,000 individuals with just five loaves of bread and two fish. His instruction to gather and conserve the surplus emphasized avoiding wastefulness and planning for future needs.

“And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.” - Matthew 14:20 (ESV)

Never compare yourself to someone in terms of spending. Buy things you can afford, eat food your money can buy, and don't spend more than your salary. Never spend your money before you have it (Thomas Jefferson). Spend so that you will not incur debt by spending less than you earn. Cut your coat according to your cloth. This attitude will leave you with something for the future and improve your life.

3. Investment

In the lives of influential individuals, particularly billionaires and millionaires, a crucial aspect lies

in their inclination toward investing for the future. They exhibit a propensity to acquire shares, insurance policies, and real estate or engage in commercial ventures with the anticipation of yielding profits down the line. Many demonstrate proficiency in the principle of sowing and reaping, conscientiously committing to input efforts to secure future outputs.

“Invest your money in foreign trade, and one of these days you will make a profit. Put your investments in several places - many places even - because you never know what kind of bad luck you are going to have in this world.” - Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (GNB)

To embark on the adventure toward success and wealth, one must master the art of investing. However, it's essential to acknowledge that investing inherently involves risk. Yet, confronting and managing this risk is far more advantageous than remaining idle. Fear of failure should not paralyze you; instead, it should serve as a catalyst for action. Even the most accomplished individuals sometimes experience setbacks. Remember, the magnitude of the risk often correlates with the potential rewards. A billionaire investor, Mark

Zuckerberg, aptly stated, "In a world characterized by rapid change, the only surefire strategy for failure is avoiding risk altogether."

Begin by educating yourself on intelligent investment practices and strategies to mitigate the likelihood of failure. Embrace learning as an ongoing process to ingrain these principles into your mindset. Take decisive action now; even if you stumble today, view it as a valuable learning experience. A brief exploration of great men revealed that many iconic figures faced failures on their path to success. Their resilience and refusal to surrender propelled them to greatness despite numerous challenges.

In summary, embrace risk as an inherent part of the journey towards success. Continuously educate yourself, persevere through setbacks, and remain resolute in your pursuit of excellence.

4. Time Consciousness

One notable distinction between the affluent and the less fortunate, or the accomplished and the unsuccessful, is how they manage their time. Remarkable individuals are consistently mindful of their time. As Steve Jobs famously said, "My

favorite thing in life doesn't cost any money. It's obvious that the most precious resource we all have is time." Successful people grasp the concept that time equals money. Those who adeptly manage and harness their time are poised to achieve heroism or prominence. This is because such people prioritize important tasks, thus consistently delivering exceptional performance in their pursuits.

“For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, Like birds caught in a snare, So the sons of men are snared in an evil time, When it falls suddenly upon them.” - Ecclesiastes 9:12 (NKJV)

God desires that we utilize our time effectively to contribute value to Him and humanity. We must not squander our time on endeavors that won't aid us in fulfilling our divine purpose on Earth. Each of us is endowed with twenty-four hours a day. Effective time management is critical to achieving incredible feats in our respective callings, as success in life is intricately linked to our utilization of time. The better we organize and manage our time, the closer we move to success. Alternatively, mismanagement of time leads to failure.

Renowned author Alan Lakein, on personal time management, suitably notes that time equates to life. Therefore, wasting time equates to wasting life, while mastering time equates to mastering life.

We must schedule our time to ensure we're consistently engaged in meaningful tasks at the appropriate moments. Time lost is irretrievable, and treating time with the same importance as money is crucial, working with it accordingly. Every task has its opportune moment, and failing to seize it can diminish its significance. Have you ever missed an opportunity simply because you didn't act on it? Neglecting small opportunities can have detrimental consequences. Price, scarcity, needs, wants, opportunities, and even God's interactions with humanity all evolve with time. Each thing has its time, and once that time passes, its value diminishes.

Consider and ponder upon this biblical reference:

“To everything, there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck

what is planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.” - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NKJV)

Often, the enemy's first target is your time. He understands that by controlling your time, he can influence your entire life. Thus, you must be vigilant and refrain from allocating your time to activities that align with the adversary's desires.

Ephesians 5:16 urges us to make the most of our time considering our challenging era. Reflecting on this wisdom, King David prayed for guidance in managing his time wisely, acknowledging the importance of utilizing each day wisely (Psalm 90:12). He understood that achieving success in life would become difficult without prudent time management.

“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” - Psalms 90:12 (ESV)

Seek guidance from God to grant you the wisdom required for effective time management. Allocate most of your time to pursue your calling and assignments and devise a daily schedule to structure your life. Maintain discipline in adhering to this schedule. Practice the art of politely declining requests for your time that do not contribute positively to your goals, and steer clear of procrastination. Know that procrastination is the thief of time (Edward Young). By implementing these strategies, you'll be well-equipped to navigate your success journey fruitfully.

5. Giving

There is a well-known saying that "Givers never lack." Indeed, givers never lack. The concept that the more one gives the more one receives has intrigued me for years. I've often pondered why affluent persons continue giving generously while seemingly amassing even greater wealth while those more reluctant to give are stagnant. It wasn't until later that I understood the wisdom behind this principle, encapsulated in Proverbs 11:24 (NKJV):

"There is one who scatters, yet increases more, and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty."

This principle operates as a spiritual law, consistently yielding results for those who embrace it. Consider the numerous influential figures who have profoundly impacted the world through their generosity.

Take Bill Gates, for instance, whose philanthropic works have transformed countless lives. His initiatives have incentivized pharmaceutical companies to develop life-saving drugs, thereby preventing the premature deaths of millions.

Similarly, Oprah Winfrey's boundless generosity knows no bounds. Despite not having children, she has devoted herself to caring for numerous orphans and disadvantaged individuals, particularly in South Africa. Her commitment to giving back has only enhanced her wealth and financial stability.

Jeffrey Skoll, the former CEO of eBay, has leveraged his resources and influence to raise awareness about climate change through film and the media. His support was instrumental in

producing Al Gore's Oscar-winning documentary, showcasing the power of utilizing one's gifts and resources for good.

It's common to see affluent people donating to children's homes, hospitals, prisons, and other charitable causes. These acts of kindness are not merely gestures but manifestations of a deeper understanding of the principle of giving and receiving.

In essence, we must adopt a mindset of open-handedness, recognizing that giving creates space for abundance to flow into our lives. As the scripture says in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it shall be given to you." Let us cultivate the habit of giving generously, knowing that in doing so, we invite prosperity and blessings into our lives.

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” - Luke 6:38 (ESV)

In Galatians 6:7 (NIV), it is written, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps

what he sows." This verse demonstrates that one's actions will result in corresponding consequences. Similarly, 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NKJV) highlights that generosity leads to abundance: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." By embracing the divine formula of sowing generously and obeying God's principles, we can expect to reap bountifully in various aspects of our lives.

God's impartiality and justice are reflected in the divine principles outlined in these passages. When we adhere to this principle of giving, we can experience success. Throughout the Bible, there are numerous examples of persons who gave generously and were rewarded abundantly. For instance, God Himself gave Jesus Christ (John 3:16), and through this sacrifice, many were reconciled as His sons (Romans 5:10-11).

Abraham's offering of Isaac caused God to swear to make Him father of all nations, as recounted in Genesis 22:1-14. This was a demonstration of his faith and obedience to God. Similarly, the widow of Zarephath's selfless gesture of sharing her last flour and oil with prophet Elijah, as depicted in 1

Kings 17:13-16, represents a display of trust in God's provision during a time of scarcity.

Moreover, the sacrificial giving of the Church of Macedonia, as described in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, serves as a testament to their devotion and surrender to God, resulting in abundant blessings bestowed upon them.

These instances, among countless others, show the timeless principle of giving generously and sacrificially, trusting God's faithfulness to provide abundantly in return.

CHAPTER SIX

CULTIVATING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND CHARACTER

To succeed, one must recognize the indispensable role of attitude and character. A solid character is fundamental to translating our aspirations into tangible achievements. Attitude holds such significance that success attained without it is precarious; it risks squandering one's gains or alienating crucial allies providentially placed in one's journey toward fulfilling one's ultimate purpose.

Numerous examples abound across various spheres of life—be it in the clergy, entrepreneurship, academia, or politics—of individuals who, despite initial promise and potency, were relegated to mediocrity due to deficiencies in their attitude.

It must be noted that success isn't merely a matter of acquiring skills or amassing resources; it's equally about embodying the right mindset and values. Without the proper attitude, even the most promising prospects can crumble, leaving one with

a hollow victory and a trail of missed opportunities.

Consider the scripture below about Jesus Christ, our perfect role model. It perfectly explains the exemplary character and attitude we need to succeed.

“⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” -

Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV)

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul guides the church in Corinth, urging them to emulate him as he imitates Christ. This directive highlights the importance of aligning our actions with the teachings and example set forth by Jesus Christ. It emphasizes that in all aspects of life, our conduct should be guided by the principles and values exemplified by Christ.

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” -1
Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

Examining the scripture in Philippians 2 reveals five fundamental attitudes demonstrated by Christ that enabled Him to fulfill His purpose on earth. Understanding and incorporating these attitudes into our lives is vital for our spiritual growth and effectiveness in fulfilling our purposes.

1. Put Aside His Dignity and Reputation

*“Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but made Himself of **no reputation.**” - Philippians 2:6-7a (NKJV)*

Although Jesus is recognized as divine, He humbly relinquished His equality with God upon descending to earth. Instead, He embraced the servant role, setting aside His renowned status. His purpose was clear: to restore humanity's connection with God, a mission He pursued steadfastly.

Questions often arise about why the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords would give up His exalted status to assume a human form. The answer lies in the prevalent human struggle with ego. People frequently are preoccupied with concerns like,

"What will others think of me?" or "How will my actions be perceived?"

To progress in life, it's expedient to shed this ego-driven mindset and focus solely on one's journey and the responsibilities necessary for reaching one's goals. Often, individuals are hindered by their preoccupation with ego and reputation, fearing the judgment of others. The desire for societal approval can be a stumbling block, but seeking validation from God alone is paramount.

2. The Bondservant Attitude

*“Taking the form of **a bondservant**. ” - Philippians 2:7b (NKJV)*

The term "bondservant" traditionally denotes an individual in servitude through coercion or voluntary commitment. Within the kingdom of God, it signifies persons who have willingly devoted themselves to Jesus Christ as their sole authority.

The essence of servitude permeated Jesus' life, as evidenced by His words in Mark 10:45, where he stated His purpose: "not to be served, but to serve." This ideology of service was demonstrated in His interactions with His disciples, as He humbly

washed their feet, embodying the humility and selflessness that characterize true servanthood.

“Rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” - John 13:4-5 (NKJV)

Rather than asserting authority as the son of the Living God, Jesus embodied the humble role of a servant. We must adopt this attitude of humility and service towards others, dedicating ourselves wholeheartedly to serving God. Such an approach not only enriches our lives but also propels us forward toward growth and success. The path of service elevates us, allowing us to rise steadily in our adventure through life.

One day, the disciples came to Jesus to inquire from Him, the one who is greatest among them. Jesus answered them, saying, "Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mathew 18:4, NIV). Greatness always emerges whenever an individual humbles himself to serve God and others.

Elijah and Elisha

In the biblical narrative in 2 Kings chapters 1 and 2, Elijah emerges as a prominent prophet, accompanied by his devoted servant, Elisha. Elisha's loyalty and submissiveness to Elijah depict his character as a faithful attendant. When the time came for Elijah's ascension to Heaven, he gave Elisha a double portion of his prophetic anointing, representing a transfer of spiritual authority and empowerment.

This account holds valuable lessons applicable beyond its religious context. Whether in governance, ministry, or any profession, cultivating a spirit of service marked by dedication and love towards superiors and subordinates is essential. Elisha's exemplary submissiveness to Elijah is a timeless model for integrity and devotion in any role or relationship.

This narrative encourages people across all walks of life to embrace service as a path to growth and fulfillment. By expressing the qualities of servanthood and submissiveness, one can't only excel in their duties but also foster an environment

of trust and collaboration conducive to collective success.

In Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV), Jesus said to his disciples, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

3. Love and Compassion for Men

*“And coming in the **likeness of men**. And being found in appearance as a man” - Philippians 2:7c-8a (NKJV)*

Christ's relatable, human-like aspect facilitated a sense of approachability for people, removing the barriers of fear, as they could connect with Him. Christ, the Son of man and God embodied both a human and divine nature. His purpose on Earth wasn't solely to dwell in His divine essence; according to spiritual principles, spiritual beings are meant to manifest through human form when interacting on Earth. Thus, Jesus incarnated as a

human, born to the Virgin Mary, and experienced the full spectrum of human existence.

“For verily he took not on him the nature of angels, but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.” - Hebrews 2:16-17 (KJV)

He did this because of the love and compassion He has for humanity. He loved the world so much that He offered Himself as an atoning sacrifice (1 Timothy 2:5-6) for the remission of the sins of the whole world.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

Moreover, driven by overwhelming love and boundless compassion for humanity, He orchestrated the reconciliation between God and humankind through His ministry. This reconciliation fostered a newfound harmony between divinity and humanity, paving the way for enduring peace.

“⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation”. - **Romans 5:9-11 (NKJV)**

He traversed the ups and downs of life much like any other individual, showcasing sympathy for His followers. He shed tears upon witnessing the death of Lazarus (John 11:35), a poignant moment that culminated in Lazarus' miraculous resurrection (John 11:43-44). His heart went out to the masses, likening them to scattered sheep in need of a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). He performed acts of philanthropy and healing, attending to the sick (Acts 10:38) and liberating people from demonic oppression (Matthew 8:16). These instances show His deep understanding and empathy towards human frailty and vulnerability, echoing the sentiment expressed in the book of Hebrews.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in

every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” - **Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)**

As Jesus Christ, described as the image of the invisible God in Colossians 1:15, descended from His divine realm to embrace human existence, experiencing the intricacies of earthly life, and cultivating compassion for humanity, we are likewise encouraged to have the same attitude. By adopting Christ's compassionate attitude, we can extend love, empathy, and mercy to others.

Reflects on these scriptural references about love.

“³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” - **John 13:34-35 (NKJV)**

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” - **1 John 4:7 (NKJV)**

“Let all that you do be done in love.” - **1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV)**

Compassion and love are foundational pillars on the journey to success, as they inherently draw people towards us. Devoid of these qualities, winning the hearts of others becomes an arduous task. The essence of compassion and love compels us to extend kindness to the less fortunate, offer forgiveness even in the face of wrongdoing, and demonstrate affection and care towards those around us. Moreover, through compassion and love, we convey messages of salvation and eternal judgment, seeking to guide others away from the path of loss and toward redemption.

“And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.” - Jude 1:22-23 (NKJV)

Contrary to popular perception, Jesus did not advocate for a mentality focused on asserting our rights. Instead, He emphasized the importance of relinquishing our rights for the more significant cause of spreading the gospel and caring for others. Rather than accumulating possessions, Jesus instructed us to give generously to those in need. His teachings did not center on demanding from others but rather on selflessly giving of

ourselves to serve others. He affirmed that true joy does not stem from material possessions but from finding solace and fulfillment in Him.

4. The Spirit of Humility

**“...*he humbled Himself...*” - Philippians 2:8
(NKJV)**

Jesus Christ displayed deep humility in all aspects of His life. His ability to offer Himself as a ransom for others (1 Timothy 2:6) and to live among sinners originated from this humility. Despite His divine nature, He willingly followed the instructions of men, showcasing an unparalleled level of humility.

Humility serves as one of the divine keys to unlocking supernatural blessings, as indicated in James 4:6 (CEV): "In fact, God treats us with even greater kindness, just as the Scriptures say, "God opposes everyone who is proud, but he blesses all who are humble with undeserved grace." This biblical principle depicts that humility is essential for spiritual elevation. God's favor and blessings abound for those who embrace humility (Proverbs 22:4), while pride leads to spiritual stagnation (Proverbs 16:18).

Unfortunately, some individuals misuse their positions of authority to assert dominance over others. Such leaders create artificial social hierarchies where wealth, power, fame, and educational status dictate one's worth. This behavior reflects pride and arrogance, contrary to the teachings of Jesus, who called attention to servanthood and humility (Mark 10:42-45).

Jesus consistently showed humility by treating everyone with dignity, regardless of their social status. He humbly interacted with the sick, the poor, children, the elderly, and even those who opposed His teachings, such as the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes.

The following story shows the importance of humility in leadership and the need to treat subordinates respectfully and kindly.

The Humble Manager

In Kumasi, Ghana, a company faced the imminent threat of eviction due to overdue rent, prompting the need for negotiation with the landlord. Despite

their financial constraints, the company sought a loan to extend their lease, only to be discouraged by exorbitant interest rates. Relocating posed risks of losing valued clientele, leaving the management in a dilemma. With just two weeks left on their tenancy, the manager, feeling desperate, confided in a trusted cleaner, seeking unconventional advice.

Though initially skeptical about the cleaner's potential insights, the manager explored the possibility, realizing there was little to lose. During a lunch break the following day, the manager candidly conversed with the cleaner, sharing the impending relocation dilemma. Surprisingly, the cleaner revealed a connection to a close associate of the landlord, offering a glimmer of hope.

Together, they arranged to meet the landlord's acquaintance, who facilitated a meeting with the landlord. Through skillful negotiation, they secured an impressive 40% reduction in rent—a significant improvement over the initial hope for a 25% discount. This success, which came partly by the cleaner's intervention, underscored the potential wisdom and resourcefulness in unexpected places.

The experience served as a reminder of the value of acknowledging and leveraging diverse perspectives, regardless of perceived status or position within an organization. Had the manager dismissed the cleaner's input, the outcome may have been vastly different, stressing the importance of openness to unconventional solutions and the potential hidden talents within every individual.

A cleaner facilitated a negotiation that seemed impossible for the top management. We must appreciate and acknowledge everyone, regardless of race, creed, status, or religion, and treat them with respect and dignity.

An actual demonstration of humility lies in our ability to align our will with God's. We walk in divine alignment and obedience when we prioritize God's will over our desires. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus faced the temptation to stray from the Father's will, yet He submitted Himself, saying, " Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39c, NKJV).

Many individuals endure numerous challenges because they fail to humble themselves, allowing pride to overshadow their actions. Let go of

arrogance and cultivate a spirit of humility. It's one of the keys to success and elevation in life.

5. The Attitude of Obedience

*"....and became **obedient** to the point of death, even the death of the cross."* - **Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)**

A key aspect of Jesus Christ's character that guides us toward success is obedience. His obedience to the will of God enabled Him to fulfill His divine purpose. Jesus showed complete submission to His Father's will, stating, "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" (John 5:30, NKJV). This reveals His unchanging commitment to carrying out the directives of His Father, illustrating that His actions were guided solely by divine guidance.

Even unto death, Jesus remained obedient, enduring the crucifixion on Calvary. Consequently, God exalted Him above all, bestowing upon Him a name that commands reverence and adoration—every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:9-11).

Obedience is a conduit for divine guidance, favor, and grace, opening doors to blessings. We need to

learn to submit and obey the authorities placed over us. This includes adherence to governing authorities within our communities and honoring our spiritual and earthly parents and other leaders, as instructed in Romans 13:1 and Ephesians 6:1-3.

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” - Romans 13:1 (ESV)

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” - Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV)

Consider these three biblical examples of the effects of obedience and disobedience.

Abraham’s Obedience to The Word of God

God told Abraham to move from his father’s house and among his kindred to the place he would show him in Genesis 12.

“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. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ 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. ” ⁴ So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ” - Genesis 12:1-4 (NKJV)

Abraham exhibited steadfast faith and submission to God, even when faced with seemingly illogical directives such as relocating from a thriving city to an unfamiliar small village. Without complaint, he faithfully followed God's instructions. While some of God's commands may appear irrational to us initially, obedience leads to blessings. Scripture recounts how Abraham's obedience resulted in immense blessings, to the extent that even his enemies feared to dwell in his vicinity. This narrative reveals the notable impact of obeying divine guidance.

Adam And Eve's Disobedience to God's Instructions

The initial transgression committed on Earth following the creation of humanity was

disobedience to God's command. Upon completing the creation of Adam and Eve, God placed them in the Garden of Eden and explicitly instructed them not to partake of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). Unfortunately, they succumbed to the deceitful tactics of the enemy and acted against God's directive. Genesis 3 vividly illustrates how God cursed them and expelled them from the Garden of Eden, thereby forfeiting the dominion mandate bestowed upon them and the privilege of God's presence. This disobedience has continued throughout history, manifesting in the crises many face today.

Peter's Obedience to Jesus' Direction

"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."⁶ 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." - Luke 5:5-7 (NKJV)

Jesus taught by the Sea of Galilee as usual, and afterward, He instructed Peter to launch out into the deep. Peter, obedient to the Master's voice, experienced the desired result. Despite toiling all night prior, they had caught nothing. The story shows the importance of following God's guidance when making decisions, a crucial factor for success in life.

We must emulate Christ in our speech, actions, thoughts, and behavior. Proper alignment with Christ's mindset necessitates adopting His lifestyle. Christ has laid the foundation for us, desiring that we mirror His way of living. This aspiration is achievable through diligent study and application of the Word of God.

CHAPTER SEVEN

DEVELOPING YOUR SKILLS, TALENTS, AND POTENTIAL

*“¹⁴For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵And 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.” - Mathew 25:14-15 (NKJV)*

Understanding the essential attitudes necessary for success is a crucial first step. Moving forward, let's explore the process of cultivating and nurturing our skills, talents, and potential. This adventure is pivotal in navigating towards a successful life. Moreover, this serves as a compass, guiding us to regulate the influences entering our lives, thus minimizing distractions and creating space for sharpening our abilities and realizing our full potential.

Inside every individual lies untapped potential and abilities God bestows, awaiting discovery and

refinement to enrich life and contribute to the betterment of humanity. Regretfully, many are unaware of these innate gifts, while others fail to invest in refining them. Consequently, most find themselves unable to accomplish much in their journey.

Our achievements hinge upon our capacity to recognize our intrinsic nature and diligently cultivate the skills and talents bestowed upon us by God. Proverbs 22:29 admonishes us to acknowledge and nurture our abilities, as proficiency in our endeavors paves the path to standing in the presence of influential figures and leaders.

*“Do you see a man **skillful in his work**? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.” - Proverbs 22:29 (ESV)*

We must recognize that before individuals embark on their earthly journey, they are endowed with unique gifts and capabilities tailor-made to fulfill their divine purpose. Hence, it is inconceivable for the divine creator to create a person devoid of potential or talent.

The Bible reveals in Jeremiah 1:4-5 (AMP) that the word of God came to Jeremiah saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you [and approved of you as My chosen instrument], and before you were born I consecrated you [to myself as my own]; I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations." The concept that God saw a need for a prophet in Israel before forming Jeremiah and bestowed upon him the gift of prophecy to fulfill that need among his people showcases a profound concept. Individuals are not accidental creations but intentionally endowed with unique abilities to serve a purpose. Before forming a person, God identifies the need and equips them with the necessary grace and potential to address it. Thus, every person has a purpose on this earth, revealed by their inherent gifts and potential, though many fail to recognize or nurture these qualities within themselves.

Regardless of one's background or circumstances, everyone possesses inherent talents and abilities waiting to be discovered and cultivated. Investing time and effort into developing these gifts is essential for success. Indeed, our abilities attract others to us, making skill development a

prerequisite for meaningful engagement in any endeavor.

For instance, these iconic footballers: Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. Their success in the sport, marked by numerous accolades such as the Ballon d'Or, is not solely attributable to their innate talent but to their relentless dedication to honing their skills through rigorous training. Their success in soccer is a testament to the transformative power of deliberate practice and skill development.

Moreover, wage disparities among workers often reflect differences in the value they bring to their respective roles. Those who command higher salaries typically possess a combination of education, skills, talent, experience, and networking capabilities, making them indispensable assets to their employers. By continuously refining their skills, many people enhance their efficiency and effectiveness in their chosen fields, increasing their marketability and potential for advancement.

Considering these principles, discussing key strategies for nurturing and enhancing skills, potential, and talents becomes necessary.

1. Master Your Skills and Potential

I used to ponder this question: "Why is it that God has endowed all of us with potential and skills, yet many fail to utilize them for the betterment of humanity or personal success?" Through my studies of the Bible and various Christian literature, I've come to understand that the root cause lies in the inadequate development of these skills and talents, leading people to linger in poverty and mediocrity.

Cultivating one's skills and talents demands discipline and dedication. We must acknowledge that nearly all successful persons invest significant time in self-improvement. They devote considerable effort and resources to sharpening their craft. For instance, bestselling authors dedicate years to refining their writing skills, while accomplished motivational speakers invest extensive time perfecting the art of public speaking. Similarly, finance and business innovators immerse themselves in reading and studying before formulating accurate financial projections. Success is not instantaneous; it necessitates the training and development of the

talents bestowed upon us by God before we can effectively utilize them.

The Disciplined Footballer

A prominent American footballer once shared a compelling testimony detailing his journey to success in his career. He recounted a pivotal moment from his childhood when, at the tender age of seven, his father asked, "What do you aspire to become in the future?" Without hesitation, the young boy responded, "I want to be the best footballer."

The following morning, at 4:00 AM, his father roused him from his slumber and urged him to begin training. Bleary-eyed and reluctant, the boy protested that it was too early and that he desired more sleep. Yet, his father, unwavering in his commitment to his son's dreams, gently reminded him of his lofty ambitions and emphasized the importance of early preparation for a successful football career.

Moved by his father's words and vision, the boy acquiesced, understanding the significance of this early dedication. Thus, his journey began, marked by rigorous training sessions initiated at the tender

age of seven. Over the years, his commitment and perseverance bore fruit, culminating in his emergence as one of the world's premier football talents at eighteen.

In a later interview, reflecting on his incredible trajectory, he humbly attributed his success to his father's support and the foundational training he received during his formative years. "I owe it all to my father," he said. His early guidance and commitment to my development laid the groundwork for the achievements I enjoy today."

2. Educate Yourself

*“**Study** and do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling and skillfully teaching the word of truth.”*
- 2 Timothy 2:15 (AMP)

Education is pivotal in nurturing talent and refining skills across all fields. It is an indispensable component of personal development, providing essential knowledge and guidance for unlocking potential, sharpening abilities, and cultivating talents. Therefore, it is expedient for us to devote much of our time to educational pursuits.

There are three primary forms of education: Formal, Informal, and Non-Formal. Each pathway equips us with the tools to navigate life's complexities, enhancing skill levels, productivity, and enlightenment while addressing various life challenges.

Education broadens the mind's horizons and facilitates the seamless execution of daily tasks. People need proper education to unearth methodologies for fully realizing their potential, skills, and talents. The absence of foundational knowledge impedes the development of abilities, constraining personal growth and achievement.

Through their educational journey, many people acquire diverse skills that catalyze further advancement. These include proper communication ability, time management strategies, suitable resource allocation methods, and proficiency in information technology, among others. Education is one of the cornerstones for continuous enhancement, empowering individuals to unlock their full potential and excel in their chosen endeavors.

3. Set Boundaries and Limitations for Your Life

Establishing clear boundaries and limitations is necessary for personal growth and development. You can focus on sharpening your abilities and skills by defining these parameters. History shows us that many great and successful individuals maintained a small circle of close friends. This doesn't mean isolating oneself but rather being selective about the company you keep. Success often requires prioritizing your time and energy, which may involve politely declining requests that don't align with your goals. Surround yourself with people who support your aspirations and contribute positively to your life.

Also, focus on things that will help you improve your life. Oprah Winfrey once said, "It's better to hang out with people better than you. Pick out associates whose behavior is better than yours, and you'll drift in that direction."

While we may be able to engage in various activities, we must discern their value and relevance in our lives. Refraining from allowing anything to consume our time and attention without contributing to our growth can impede the

development of our skills and innate talents. Avoid being trapped by trivial distractions. Reflect on the wisdom conveyed in the following scriptures:

“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.” - 1 Corinthians 10:23 (NKJV)

“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” - 1 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV)

Certain types of friendship can contribute positively to your personal growth at various stages in life, while others may negatively influence you. Therefore, it's vital to continually evaluate the friends in your circle and ask yourself, "Which of them is conducive to my personal development?" Choose those who support your aspirations and distance yourself from those who hinder your progress. By doing so, you'll likely find yourself making strides toward achieving your goals. While love may be a natural inclination, friendship, and association remain choices that require careful consideration.

Living without clear boundaries can lead to unhappiness and dissatisfaction. Establishing boundaries by surrounding yourself with supportive individuals and keeping negative influences at bay is very important. I refer to this practice as the "Life Regulatory System," where you take charge of shaping your own life.

4. Compliment Your Skills and Talents with Passion

We often need to develop true passions for what we are doing. Once we've discerned our potential, it's necessary to develop a genuine love for them. When we wholeheartedly embrace and engage with the talents and gifts God bestowed upon us, they ignite a hunger that fuels our efforts to refine and harness them to our advantage. By cherishing what we've been blessed with, we can dedicate ourselves fully to their cultivation.

Our passions become a focal point for investment, drawing our time, energy, resources, and finances. This commitment is one of the most potent methods for nurturing our talents and harnessing our skills. Why is this so powerful? Love beckons

attention, commands focus, consumes time, and imbues us with energy.

This is one of the principles I've gleaned from my spiritual journey. We will likely flourish with genuine love for our endeavors, whether in business or any profession. One of the key distinguishing factors among great and successful individuals is their profound passion for their work.

Reflect on your current pursuits: Do you harbor genuine love for them? If not, it's time to cultivate that affection, which is vital to fulfilling the divine trust in your hands.

CHAPTER EIGHT

TURNING YOUR LIMITATIONS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

The final stage in mapping out a journey to success involves harnessing our limitations for our benefit. Our weaknesses and limitations often impede our progress and hold us back from pursuing our goals in life. Thus, it becomes expedient to understand how to manage them effectively to thrive in life.

Here are several strategies to leverage your limitations to your advantage:

1. Know Your Strengths and Weaknesses

It's often said, "To err is human." Each of us has challenges and areas where we may stumble or find difficulty. Yet, just as we have weaknesses, we also possess strengths that define us.

Understanding both is needed for personal advancement and growth. So, what are your strengths and weaknesses? Conducting a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of your life can provide invaluable insights.

One notable trait of successful individuals is their keen awareness of their strengths and weaknesses. They excel at managing their weaknesses while leveraging their strengths for various endeavors. While specific weaknesses may impede their progress, their strengths empower them with a "can-do" attitude, enabling them to navigate obstacles effectively. They refuse to let their weaknesses overshadow their strengths. Achieving greatness often hinges on recognizing one's weaknesses and addressing them head-on.

2. Develop the Attitude of Encouraging Yourself

*“And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but **David encouraged himself** in the Lord his God.” - 1 Samuel 30:6 (KJV)*

In moments of great challenge, one must draw upon inner motivation and resilience to overcome adversity rather than allowing it to dictate one's path. In 1 Samuel 30:6, David stood firm and encouraged himself in the Lord regardless of the difficulties and problems he was going through.

Also, Jesus encouraged His disciples in John 16:33 to be comforted and cheerful, no matter their tribulations.

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33 (NKJV)

Self-motivation is an undeniable force that empowers and ignites our drive. It's crucial to develop a mindset where you affirm to yourself that you possess the resilience and determination to succeed, regardless of the challenges that come your way. In moments of adversity, we must encourage ourselves, reaffirming our belief that we can overcome any obstacle. Remember, the most potent source of encouragement and motivation lies within yourself.

“Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” - Matthew 6:25 (NKJV)

Self-motivation is needed for personal development. On the path to self-improvement,

many individuals may doubt your capabilities, believing you won't succeed. However, it's beneficial to recognize that these individuals cannot envision your destination until you've arrived there. Therefore, it's unwise to rely on their discouragement. Instead, focus on your aspirations and disregard negativity from others as you ascend the ladder of success. Keep pushing forward relentlessly towards your goals. Take inspiration from the words of Paul in Philippians 3:12-14.

“¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

- Philippians 3:12-14 (ESV)

3. Learn to Turn Your Challenges and Problems into Success

Refine your capacity to transform failures into triumphs. Embrace the challenge of converting the seemingly impossible into the achievable. Every accomplished individual will attest to encountering numerous setbacks, yet the key lies in their

response to failure. Instead of succumbing to defeat, they muster the resilience to persevere until their goals are realized. Recognize that every experience, whether positive or negative, holds the potential to contribute to your success.

“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 (NKJV)

Problems can arise from any facet of life - business, marriage, personal relationships, or even within religious communities. Despite our best efforts to navigate carefully, challenges are inevitable. Consider the inspiring story of a remarkable individual who lost everything - his businesses and immediate family - yet managed to rebuild his life after weathering the storm. Similarly, there's another tale that saw a lifetime of investments vanish only to rise again. Yet another faced crippling debt instead of profits, yet eventually triumphed. These narratives underscore the universal nature of adversity, but more importantly, they offer hope, demonstrating that anyone can emerge from setbacks to achieve success.

Inevitably, we encounter trials at various junctures in life, whether we welcome them or not. Our response to these challenges is important; we must resolve to persevere, regardless of the obstacles we encounter. Indeed, adversity often serves as a litmus test, assessing our dedication, resilience, and passion for our pursuits.

CONCLUSION

Congratulations! You've just completed a journey through eight meticulously crafted chapters designed to guide you toward achieving and maintaining success. Each chapter brings you closer to your goals, offering insightful discussions, logical reasoning, and invaluable knowledge transfer.

Now, my friends, it's time to implement that knowledge. No matter how much you know, fundamental change will only happen once you apply what you've learned. While the path ahead may be challenging, know that the rewards awaiting you at the end are nothing short of glorious.

From this moment forward, every decision you make should be evaluated regarding its contribution to your goals, dreams, and aspirations. Be discerning with your time, energy, and attention, avoiding distractions that do not align with your vision as much as possible. Remember, there is always time to course-correct and live a life that inspires others to follow.

Never underestimate the power of your thoughts. Cultivate a mindset of optimism and possibility, expecting miracles to manifest daily. Remember that life responds to your perspective, desires, pursuits, and battles you're willing to fight for what you believe in. Embrace this truth and watch as the universe conspires to support your journey towards greatness.

Most of us know what to do but need more commitment and consistency to complete the process. Take solace in the words of Apostle Paul: I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me!

EMBRACE JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR

If you are reading this book and you have not yet placed your faith in Jesus Christ, I humbly invite you to do so. Salvation is free for everyone because Christ has already paid the price on the cross. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) declares, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

All you have to do is embrace the Lordship of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV) says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Kindly pray this simple prayer from your heart.

Lord Jesus,

I invite you to come into my life today. Be the Lord and Savior of my life. I believe You died for my sins and resurrected triumphantly again for me. I seek forgiveness for all my wrongdoings through your blood shed on Calvary. I turn away from all

my sins and have decided to follow you for the rest of my life. Lord, I give you all my anxieties, fears, infirmities, hurts, frustrations, etc. I received total liberation and healing today. Write my name in the Book of Life. I am a new creation in Christ Jesus from this day forward.

Thank you, Lord!

ABOUT THE BOOK

"Charting the Path to Success: Developing the Right Mindset for Exploits" offers practical guidance for unlocking the power of the human mind. Exploring the vital connection between mindset and success, this concise guide emphasizes the importance of renewing the spirit and soul to manifest tangible results.

With straightforward insights and relatable illustrations, the author challenges readers to assess and adjust their mindset, aligning it with divine principles. By confronting limiting beliefs and external influences, individuals can break free from mediocrity and embrace an attitude conducive to fulfillment and purpose.

This book provides actionable steps for believers seeking to transcend conventional thinking and embrace their full potential in Christ. Join the journey towards success by transforming your mindset today.

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