
EMEKA ANSLEM

7

KEYS TO GAIN RELEVANCE

KEYS TO LIVING A FULFILLED LIFE

7

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JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...

Scripture has it that ***"every believer is redeemed to be the salt of the earth"***. Thank God I cook; I know a little about what salt does to a meal. It has potentials to both preserve and give taste. If I am the salt of the earth, then I'm supposed to be a preservative and add taste to the lives of others. There are many ingredients that make up a meal, but only one ingredient brings on the salty taste. You may ask, how can I be the salt of the earth? Well, maybe you should also ask, how does the salt that is applied to a spot in a pot of soup extend to every other part of the soup? The answer is obvious, you stir it!

Don't lose your salty taste. The reason why many believers suffer irrelevance is mostly because nobody considers a person who doesn't add taste. Why would I want to be with you if you can't make my life tasty? The moment you lose taste you'd also lose your relevance. We should live a life of "conscious contribution"; that's what salt does. In my opinion, if your boss doesn't seek your opinion before he takes major decisions, then you're not as tasty as salt should be. If your school does not choose you to represent them in competitions, check yourself. My point is, people should always feel your presence, no matter where you find yourself.

The world needs you! It's time to consciously add taste and preservatives to the lives of people. If a person forgets to put salt while cooking, he'd surely remember to add it when

he starts eating. And that's why I've written this book; to show you 7 keys that will help you gain relevance in life. Have a good read!

Key Number One

BE AVAILABLE

One of the things I do once I receive inspiration from God is that I suspend everything I was doing before the inspiration came and write down the inspiration. You need to see my countenance anytime I miss an inspiration, totally unappealing. Sometimes it's better to skip breakfast, lunch and dinner than to let an inspiration escape from my mind. I've sat down for six hours just to write everything God was inspiring within me. Many people have wondered how I've managed to write so much in a short time, well, it's because God knows I'm available to Him. Does God know you're available to Him?

I was heading to church one Sunday when I suddenly received an inspiration from God. He wanted me to write it within 10 minutes and post it to my platforms. I could almost tell that someone out there needed that message. I developed the inspiration within that 10 minutes and posted it. Before that day ended, I got a comment from someone who exclaimed that what I posted was her word.

A week before the outburst of the discord on tithing in 2017, God inspired me to write a book titled *"The Tithe is Not Enough"*. Many who read the book experienced great financial shifts in their lives. Considering the depth that was deposited within that book, I knew I wasn't qualified to write a book like that. So I had to ask God why He made me

write a book like that. Surprisingly, He responded saying, *"because you're available"*.

Gift without availability won't take you far in life. You may have all the gifts of men, but if you make yourself unavailable, there'd be very little you can accomplish.

One of the ways you can know a man who is available to be used by God is the position of his heart towards the things of God. Moses lived a comfortable life in Pharaoh's palace, yet he was uncomfortable all through his stay. The comfort in the palace was uncomfortable for him because His heart was with God's people. His heart was constantly on the liberation of God's people. He advocated for them as much as he could, even till he accidentally killed an Egyptian guard.

Though that incident made Moses run away from Egypt, but his heart didn't run away from the people of Israel. His life as a son of Pharaoh and his life as the runaway had no difference, his heart was out for God. That was how he was able to sense the burning bush. He wasn't the only one that walked through that path, but he was probably the only one whose heart was available for God to use.

Availability isn't necessarily the absence of work, it's the presence of a heart for the things of God. I can get really busy, but God knows I'm available for Him. And that's why He won't hesitate to tell me things He'd like to say to His people. Before now, I'd need to ask Him in prayers for what to write, but today, even before I ask, He speaks to me.

Availability reduces your supplication time. There are those who are looking for God, but there are those who God goes to meet. Is it not in your Bible that God went down to Adam in the cool of the day to commune with him? God also branched to inform Abraham on His plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Just imagine God coming to visit you.

While some people are praying to God for jobs and business breakthroughs, God gave Adam a job by asking Him to name all the animals. And afterwards, he paid him with a wife. Adam didn't pray, he was just available. It's painful to know that many things we engage so much rigor to get only require an available heart. Matt 6:33 tells us to seek God's kingdom first, and every other thing shall be added to us. Believers should enjoy addition of things, not struggle for things.

Key Number Two
ADD VALUE

Value is a measure of your usefulness. You can measure your value by who is looking for you. If your absence creates no vacuum, then your presence has no value. Will your neighborhood feel your absence when you travel for a week? Who misses you when you go on a casual leave for just one day? Who calls your phone when you're not seen for an hour? Value is a currency; it can even acquire things that money may never acquire for you.

Pastors, besides the word of faith that you teach your congregation, what else do you teach them? What do they know about

business, career, education, relationship, jobs, politics and so on? If the only thing your members run to you for is for prayer and spiritual guidance, then you have work to do. Even if you're not well informed about business and career, do you have a relationship with people who can equip your congregation with those things you don't know? The church should be an institution where ambassadors are raised and equipped for full presentation and representation of Christ. If you want your members to stop begging for money, then teach them financial intelligence. Equip your congregation with relevant knowledge; that's how the church and the people will become valuable in this 21st century. Remember that faith without work is dead.

**RELEVANCE IS A PRODUCT OF ADDED VALUE.
THINK ABOUT IT; ASIDES THE LOVE OF GOD,
WHAT DO WE REALLY HAVE THAT THE
PEOPLE OF THE WORLD DON'T HAVE OR
EVEN HAVE BETTER? LET'S INCREASE OUR
VALUE.**

It's one thing to add value, and another thing to increase value. And one way to increase value is to improve yourself, your product or service. In this 21st century, once something is good, the only way to make it better is to reduce the time and make it shorter. Phone manufacturers keep increasing phone speeds by adding a higher memory and a faster processor, and that's all to reduce the time it

takes for a phone to process an information. OMO, a washing detergent, recently released what they called "The power of ten hands"; in other words, it washes ten times better than the previous release. Detol must have thought that their "Original Soap" took a lot of time to clear skin infections, so they created "*Detol SkinCare Soap*".

The risk of not improving your product or services is that your competitors will make an improvement on their product that will take yours out of the market in a short time. The best product in the market today may not even stand a test in 2 months' time. The best time to make an improvement is not necessarily when your sales is less but when your sales is best. This has been the undoing of many organizations. Even churches now apply this principle; they reduce their service

duration. Churches that used to spend over 3 hours in one service now spend less than two hours. And of course, the impact now is far more than the impact then. In this century, time is currency.

**IF YOU WANT TO BE RICH, THEN LEARN HOW
TO SAVE PEOPLE'S TIME. PEOPLE
NATURALLY VALUE PRODUCTS AND
SERVICES THAT SAVE THEIR TIME.**

Key Number Three

FIND A MENTOR THAT FITS INTO EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE

Before January 2018, I struggled to advance spiritually for 2 years. I had read all the books written by the mentors I liked. I visited the bookstore every other week until I bought all their books on the shelf. I had access to deep insights through those books, but I still felt a vacuum. I needed something stronger and deeper than I was getting. At some point, I thought something was wrong with me.

My thoughts made me cry to God in prayer - asking Him to help me. Surprisingly, He told me I needed a mentor who would feed me spiritually. Praying for a mentor was my major focus during my 21-Day prayer retreat in January 2018. And Suddenly, God connected me to a man whose depth crashed my knowledge vault. Everything I knew became like child's play compared to the mysteries he taught. If you've observed my teachings since the year began, you'd discover that they sound more compelling than they used to. And that's because I encountered a mentor.

Vehicles traveling long distances would often need to stop-by at a refueling station. This is because, no matter how healthy a vehicle may look, it won't reach its destination if fuel is inadequate. Counselors, mentors and teachers are like refueling stations, it is often

what they say to us that keep us going on the path of life.

Everybody needs at least one of these people. The bible says ***"your ear shall hear the voice of your teachers saying *'this is the way, walk in it'*"***. Many people are not advancing in life only because they don't have a teachable spirit; they think they're too big to be taught by anyone.

God gives us pastors after His own heart; but when it comes to choosing our teachers, it has to be after our own heart. If you don't have a heart to be taught, then you can't submit to a teacher. And that also means you won't advance in life. Every person who teaches me is a teacher to me. Recognize the

position of your teachers; they'd always have something to say.

You should note that mentors are in levels. Find the ones that are at least close to your level. Any one in your field who has gone extremely far from your level isn't a mentor, he's a role model. From experience, people who depend on role models alone rarely go far in life. If you want to go into politics, don't look for the president of the United States to mentor you; look for someone who has recently crossed the level you're currently in. A mentor is a person who has gone at least one level ahead of you in your field. Even if the US president would agree to mentor you, he'd assume that you've been in politics for some time.

As a writer, I won't run to John Maxwell for mentorship; rather, I'd look for young writers who have gone a little bit farther than I have. At John Maxwell's level, he may have forgotten the basic principles required to start; but for a young writer, those principles would still be fresh on him. And relating it would be easy. Trust me, if you miss the basics, you'd live with headaches.

You may grow beyond your mentors, just like David did. But when this happens, maintain gratitude, aim higher, then look for another mentor. You can never go higher than yourself without a mentor. This was why I began to pray for a new mentor.

However, take caution, never despise your mentors; because even though you may grow

to be better than them, you may face God's judgement if you disregard them. Still listen and read from them; give them reports, no matter how well you may have grown. The bible says we should obey them that have rule over us, because they watch over our souls. And the fact that you've grown better won't change that scripture.

This is why I often admonish my old students to always read my write-ups, no matter how experienced they may have become. Also, from time to time, I check on many of them to see how well they are doing.

Life without a mentor will be flooded with errors. In case you still don't have a mentor, do all you can to identify with one. And if you desire that I mentor you, I'd be glad to.

Key Number Four

HAVE VISION FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO

Prov 29:18 tells us that "***where there is no vision, people perish***". This includes people with purpose, passion, callings, divine assignments, people who desire to get married, people who desperately need a job, people who want business breakthrough, people who desire children, and even people who desire academic breakthrough. I've come to discover that what many Christians define as vision is actually a calling or an assignment from God.

Vision is the ability to see into the future of a thing in order to advance it. Vision is a must if progress must be recorded. Though God is the Author of purposes and callings, but you'll need the mind of a visionary to succeed in any of them. Vision is not something you wait for God to show you; rather, it's a tool you engage until your calling or purpose begins to show.

The Bible talks about people who "having sights, but they cannot see". God gave us eyes for sighting, but created vision for seeing. Your eyes may sight what is within, but it is vision that sees what is beyond. God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, more than we can ever ask or think. But the fact that He's able doesn't mean He'd do it without our interest. Many people know what

they lack, but they don't know what they need. And this is why they suffer endlessly.

Many graduates lack a good job; and they consciously pray for one. They've endured for so long in a low salary job - with the same prayer point, "**Lord, change my job**". If you're in that category, then it's time to stop sighting and start seeing.

While seeing visions may be a general virtue, those who have a relationship with God would always have a divine advantage. Because with God, they'd be directed, and would also see farther than a natural man would see. Those who serve God enjoy multiplied abilities. We saw how God added wisdom and understanding to Daniel and

those 3 Hebrew boys; and at the end, they were ten times better than their peers.

People who serve God enjoy guided, directed, and amplified visions. God asked Jeremiah "what do you see?", and what he saw wasn't something he could sight naturally. God directed Abraham to look towards the North, South, East, and West, and that whatever he saw would be for him.

I also believe that God was simply showing Abraham the power of having a vision for the future. Though God had promised him that he would be the Father of many nations, but he still had to see himself fathering many nations. At the long run, it's not your calling or purpose that determines what will happen, it's your vision. God may give you a big

purpose or calling, but if your vision is not big, your big calling or purpose may not even afford you enough profit to buy beans.

The Bible says that eyes have not seen the blessings that God has reserved for them that love Him. You just can't depend on your eyes to see the fullness of God's blessing for you, you need to engage the power of vision. With the eyes alone, Moses could only disarm one Egyptian soldier and still ran away. But with vision, he disarmed thousands of them and still took their goods. Just as you use your eyes to sight anything, you can also use vision to see beyond anything.

Vision is a projection; it's something you see or set, and begin to work towards. After writing for many years, I needed a notable

progress. So I told God that I would love to be the official writer of one of my revered mentors. It was a daily prayer point for me until God finally told me that "eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, neither has it entered the heart of man, the things which He has prepared for me". He continued by saying ***"if being the writer of that great man has crossed your heart, then it means I have something better for you"***.

Honestly, I wondered for months, ***"who or what would be greater than this man?"***. Just a few months back, I was meditating on how the Timely Notes Devotional began. God ordained it; He said He will be the Author, while I will be the privileged writer. That was when it occurred to me that I'm God's writer. No wonder I write so many things in one day, because the Author always has something to

say. Just imagine, I was already writing for God, while I was busy praying to be writing for a man.

My meditation didn't stop at that discovery. I continued by asking God, "if I'm your privileged writer, am I not entitled to a pay?". That was just a question, but it led to a major breakthrough in my life. People started sowing seeds into my life, I started getting more jobs, more speaking and writing engagements. In summary, I started enjoying more favour.

All these discoveries came because I saw a vision of the future. From my experience and many other people, it is clear that true visionaries are people who ask definite questions. Bishop David Oyedepo has often

shared a story of an experience he had with God after God called him. He sat down one day and asked God, "now that you've called me, who pays me?". And God showed him from scriptures that he is on a divine appointment, and a labourer is worthy of his wages. Most of the breakthroughs he has recorded today were birth from visionary questions.

"Why, what, where" should be regular words for people who walk in purpose or people who are on an assignment. This is because, the moment you ask these questions, you start seeing ahead. And that's what vision is about, seeing ahead so that you can move ahead. While purpose and callings may be given by God, vision is required for their progression.

Key Number Five

DEVELOP FOCUS

Anything you focus on will expand. Small things naturally grow big with focus. It's not money that you need to grow a small business, it's focus. Mathematics may be difficult, but focus will make it easy. If you want to see changes in your marriage, then build your focus around it. Focus has power to transform anything, and nothing can resist its transformative effect. Just any man can be transformed if you focus on his transformation.

BUT WHAT IS FOCUS?

Focus is a definite commitment to a cause. And that's why you can't be truly committed to anything without a clear definition.

Focus is not just about committing yourself to something, it's about committing yourself to something with a clear definition. When I started writing, I told God that I don't want to write like every other writer, that I want to write with a clear difference. I told him I want my write-ups to flow with angelic ecstasy. With that in mind, each time I write something that feels ordinary, I'd quickly delete it. There are many beautiful write-ups that I've had to delete, only because I didn't feel the way I defined for my write-ups.

Some months after I defined my focus, I started receiving feedbacks from readers. A

lady said *"Emeka, anytime I read your write-ups, it's always like an angel is talking to me"*. Another person said *"Anslem, if you tell me that it is you that is writing these messages, I'd slap you. Because only a spirit can write like this"*. I really laughed when I heard them, but they were clear pointers that what I focused on was expanding. As at that time, the maximum number of "Likes" I received on my write-ups was 10; but recently, it has crossed 150. And the feedback has been the same from everyone.

"BUT ANSLEM, I'VE BUILT MY FOCUS AROUND THESE THINGS ALL THESE YEARS, BUT I'VE NOT EXPERIENCED A CHANGE..."

If that's the case for you, then what you've built all those years may not really be focus.

Focus has some virtues that works with it; let me explain a few of them to you:

- FOCUS BEGINS WITH A DEFINITION

We defined focus as definite commitment to a cause. The phrase "definite commitment" simply means "defined commitment". In other words, you don't just commit yourself to a cause, you first define your commitment.

Focus without definition will often lead to confusion. And when a man is confused, it simply means he has lost focus. If you want to start a business, start by defining what you hope to achieve. Then build your focus around what you've defined.

I've heard people say things like "I'd do everything in my power to make this work". I don't do everything in my power to make things work, I do everything I have defined in order to make things work. I've discovered that people who determine to do everything in their power to pursue a cause usually abandon the cause. And that's because, oftentimes, everything in our power is usually not enough to make certain things work. We need to do things beyond our power. God understood this principle when He said we should "trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding". Ephesians 6:10 says "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might...". The word "finally" was used to signify that our definition has to be totally dependent on God. No man can scale through the diverse

challenges of this world in his strength; he needs a higher power to overcome. If your definition has no connection with God, then you will soon lose focus.

Imagine if I did not define my style of writing, I'd probably be writing anything I like today. People should not just do what they like, but what they've defined. If you focus on a thing only because you like it, then what will happen when you no longer like it? Many people have stopped going to church because the "like" is no longer there. Ninety percent of salary earners want to change their job only because they no longer "like" their job. Divorce is becoming a daily routine only because the couple no longer "like" each other. Students will prefer to sit at home and watch movies instead of going to school, only because they no longer "like" school. Isn't this

"like" perspective the beginning of man's problem?

If your only reason for committing yourself to a cause is because you like it, then you'd probably abandon that cause. Liking a cause is not enough, you need to consciously define the level of commitment you'd give to it.

I like writing, but I've also defined the level of commitment I give to it. And that's because I don't want it to affect any other aspect of my life. I remember how my boss told me that I was not focused in the office; and that's because I was always thinking of what to write, even while I'm in the office. Some people will say it was passion that was driving me, but my boss was right; I lacked focus, I lacked definition. If I had a proper definition,

then my productivity in the office would not have been affected.

So that's it! Focus begins with defining your commitment, and consciously submitting to what you've defined. Definition puts you on check; so that when situations try to pull you out, you'd know how to trace your way back. A student who has defined his commitment to always have an Upper Credit in all courses will naturally sit up anytime he gets a grade lower than an Upper Credit. But imagine a student who doesn't have a defined commitment? He'd probably accept any grade, and do nothing about improving. And students like that easily get confused and eventually lose focus.

The same thing applies to businesses. And that's why most organizations set annual targets for themselves. Having a defined commitment for your business will help you rate your income. For instance, I planned to write 12 books in the month of March 2017; but I ended up writing 9. Of course, I should be excited, but I didn't reach my goal. On the other hand, if I didn't define my commitment to write 12 books, I probably would not have written more than 2 books in that month. Definition has a way of stretching your potentials; and that's why I earlier mentioned that you should not define your commitment based on your strength, but based on the power of God. I really love to write, but all I could write in the month of February 2017 was 2 books, without a definition. But definition increased it to 9. You'd be amazed at how much you can achieve by defining your commitment to any cause.

I heard of a man who committed himself to washing his wife's car. He did that anytime the car was due for washing. And the most amazing thing is that even when his wife offends him, he'd still wash the car and personally hand over the keys to her. *"Darling, I've washed your car, here's your key"* accompanied with a peck on the cheek. Even if the wife was possessed by a demon, she'd quickly apologize for her wrong. Our definitions overpower our weaknesses and enables us to do what needs to be done. Definition is what will make you pay your child's school fees even after you lost your job.

- FOCUS REQUIRES KNOWLEDGE

You can't claim you have focus on something and you don't have details about that thing. For instance, if you have focus on your family, you'd have vital details about them. You'd know your wife's best color, best food, best hairstyle, best gift, best dress, birthday, salary, colleagues, friends; you'd know about her job, the role she plays, and possibly how she plays it. You'd have details about your child's schooling; both academic and financial status. You'd know the numerous talents of your children, and even help them to enhance their gifts. You just need to understand how they operate; parents who do not know what to do for their children have an unstable focus. Because with focus, you would always know what to do per time.

If it ever comes to a time when you don't know what to do to perform your official

duty, then your focus is probably not on the job. Men of focus are always one step ahead; they update themselves regularly, and attack the things that may become a threat to their job in the future. And this is why many people easily get tired of the same job they enjoyed when they began. They give excuses like; "my boss nags at me, I no longer feel the excitement, the pay is no longer encouraging, and so on". What you focus on only expands; and you can't possibly get tired of positive expansions.

When you begin to see reasons why your job is no longer good for you, then you've drifted your focus to something else. Research has it that employees perform better during their first months in an organization. And that's because they put all their focus on the job during that period, and divide their focus

after a while. If only they know that complete focus is the key to excellence.

Don't tell me "business is not moving", because it's actually your focus that is not showing. Progress naturally accompanies focus. Even Jesus referred to this principle in Matt 6:22 when He said "the light of the body is the eye: if your eyes be single, your whole body will be full of light". In other words, if you will dare to focus, you can't experience downtimes; either in your business or in any other aspect of your life. Just as the eye is the light of the body, focus is the light of destiny. Without the eyes, the body will be full of darkness; and without focus, destiny can never be reached.

A man who always have details about his engagements is a man of focus. He'd always know what to do to escape any situation. The essence of focus is to ensure that growth is guaranteed. But focus without knowledge won't lead to growth. Though we have said that "what you focus on will expand", it is a "knowledge-rooted" focus that causes things to expand. People who easily lose their focus are people whose focus is not knowledge-motivated.

- FOCUS IS SUSTAINED BY A VISION

Have a vision for growth. It's not enough to define your commitment and have enough knowledge of the things you focus on; you also need to have a vision for progress. Knowledge is progressive, but it is vision that creates the destination. Knowledge without a

vision will only keep you around the corner. Knowledge gets you ready to go, vision shows you where to go.

Vision is about seeing something better than what you have now, and about seeing a place better than where you are now. Your wife may be earning a great income now, but if you can't see her making even greater income, then check your focus. Focus is visionary in nature; even though the present may be bright, it always looks forward to the future.

People who desire to change their job only because their salary is small do not have a focus. No amount of salary will ever be enough for man. Don't change your job because you need a salary increase, but

because your vision is being ceased. Also, don't stay on a job only because the salary is good, but because the vision you see is achievable. I heard the story of a man who got a job employment in a bank as a security officer. Though he started as a security officer, but he looked forward to becoming an accountant in the same bank. Amazingly, it wasn't long before he became the chief accountant in the bank.

Vision does not have a final destination; because every destination is turned into the beginning. Vision says "the sky is the limit", but when it gets to the sky, it says "the sky is the beginning". With vision, no position is too small to start from; actually, vision likes to start small.

- FOCUS REFLECTS THROUGH PERSEVERANCE

There is no vision that is impossible to attain. However, pursuing a great vision requires great perseverance.

Perseverance means to continue in a course of action without regard to discouragement, opposition or previous failure. Matt 24:13 says "he that endure till the end shall be saved". Persevering towards the fulfillment of a vision means to endure all the hardness and difficulties until you see the manifestation of the vision. Jesus, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross and despised the shame. That's the example we should follow. If you ever abort a vision because of

the difficulties on the way, then you don't have a focus.

A man with true focus will never abort a vision; he would press towards the vision until he sees the manifestation. Aborting a vision is like aborting a baby; and the pain of abortion is far more tormenting than the pain of perseverance. People who abort their babies live to regret it; but people who persevere unto delivery live to celebrate their victory. The vision in your heart is like the baby in the womb; you need to carry the vision like a woman carries the baby for months before delivery. Of course, the discomfort and pain will come, but the delivery of the vision will also come, only if you would persevere.

Key Number Six

EMBRACE DILIGENCE

According to 2 Pet 1:10, the way to the top is diligence. Diligence has a way of upgrading your association. Prov 22:29 tells us that *“a man that is diligent in his business shall stand before kings”*. Notice that it didn't say *“king”* but *“kings”*. Which means, with diligence, your association will strictly be top level.

If your desire is to enjoy the beauty of relevance, then you must of necessity embrace diligence. Gal 6:7 emphasizes that diligence leads to change, no matter how small. Many communities and nations suffer pain only because their leaders are slothful in

their assignments. Though our Christian life is a call to live by faith, but faith without diligence won't make you a name. In 1 Cor 15:10, Apostle Paul acknowledged the place of grace, but he didn't fail to mention that there's not much grace can achieve for man without some level of diligence.

Diligence is the relentless commitment you give to a cause or assignment until your desired result is obtained. For clarity sake, **LET ME SHOW YOU A FEW AVENUES TO ENGAGE DILIGENCE...**

1. Diligence in Prayer

1 Thess 5:17 tells us that men ought always to pray and not to faint. Daniel enjoyed praise and fame, but he was first a man who engaged diligently in prayer. Jesus's fame

went abroad, but He also engaged diligence in prayer.

2. Diligence in word study

In Josh 1:8, Moses told Joshua not to allow God's word depart from his eyes. He went further to tell him to meditate on it day and night. Many people are looking forward to live a good life, if only they know that diligence in word study gives them the good life they desire. David became wiser than his teachers through diligence in word study. Jeremiah ate the word until it became a source of joy.

3. Diligence in studying relevant materials

The 21st century is an information age. Eat food as much as you want, but your survival will not be in view except you commit to

rigorous study of relevant materials. The most insignificant vocation can make a millionaire in this 21st century, but only by relevant information. Daniel understood certain things by books. Paul who wrote $\frac{1}{3}$ of the new testament read books.

4. Diligence in kingdom advancement

According to Mal 3:18, we understand that God creates a difference between those who serve Him, and those who don't. Those who diligently seek His kingdom enjoy additions, while those who don't may have to pray and engage faith some more.

Nothing can stand as a substitute for diligence. If experiencing praise and fame is your goal, then you must begin by changing your work. The testimony of a lazy man will

never create opportunities. The bible says "a diligent man will stand before kings and not before mean men". In other words, our association will be upgraded as we engage diligence in our daily pursuits.

Finally, on this point, diligence took Joseph from the prison to the palace overnight. He had prison mates the previous night, but by morning he became second in command to Pharaoh. Diligence is like a software upgrader; it scans through your life and performs upgrades in your career, business, job, family, marriage, health, intellect, and so on. You may not have anything, but if you can still embrace diligence, then you'd soon have everything.

Key Number Seven

BE DISCIPLINED

Discipline is the cost price for growth. If you want to grow in life, discipline is what to pay. Discipline takes you out of your comfort zone and makes life temporarily uncomfortable for you. Trust me, it's better to suffer temporal discomfort than to live an uncomfortable life.

I once decided not to eat until I've read at least one chapter of a book in my library on a daily basis. It's probably the most difficult decision I've had to make for myself, but improving my intellectual power at the expense of feeding myself was a tradeoff that I was willing to make. That also means that I'd prefer to lose weight than to lose worth. I

struggled to keep up when I began; but today, I comfortably read a chapter even before 6am, every day.

Phones with low graphics and lesser functionalities hardly consume battery life. But if you want improved graphics and functionalities, then expect a lesser battery performance. Come to think of it; if I chose battery life over functionality, then I may not have maximized my writing potentials. I'd probably be writing down my ideas in a diary, hoping to show someone every day.

I perceive that the reason why many people are not growing is because they're not willing to tradeoff their comfort. The demands of growth may affect your beautiful moments

now, but they would definitely create beautiful effects in your future.

**GROWTH IS NOT EASY. IT'S A PAINFUL AND
EXPENSIVE PROCESS. THE EARLIER YOU
SUBSCRIBE TO IT'S DEMANDS, THE BETTER
YOU GROW.**

Having said all of that, you must know that self-discipline is not self-wickedness. If you've become so addicted to watching movies every day, then instead of torturing yourself from not watching at all, you can cut it down to watching one movie per day. Then slot other productive tasks into those saved movie hours.

As I conclude, while discipline may not be self-wickedness, it also means being hard on yourself to get what you desire. If you find it difficult to read daily, be like me, don't eat till you've read.

I TRUST YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED BY THESE 7 KEYS. PLEASE PUT EACH KEY TO WORK AND YOU'D BE AMAZED AT HOW MUCH RELEVANCE YOU'D GAIN. GOD BLESS YOU RICHLY!

BUT HEY, I'M NOT DONE YET. I FEEL LIKE DOING MORE. SO PLEASE, NAVIGATE TO THE NEXT PAGE.

The season where your uniqueness will be celebrated has finally come!

To secure victory in any situation, first secure God's presence. Moses understood this principle in Exodus 33:15 when he told God that *"if your presence will not go with us, then don't send us..."*. In Ps 114:3, the bible tells us that when the Red Sea saw the people of Israel coming, it hurried out of their way, and the water of the Jordan River turned away. The Contemporary English Version says, *"When the sea looked at God, it ran away, and the Jordan River flowed upstream"*. If you remember the scenario at the Red Sea, it never divided until Moses introduced the power of God. Situations will only remain as long as you've not engaged His presence in

those situations. When God arises, enemies scatter.

When they reached Jericho, they were faced with a wall that was impossible to be brought down. But God told Joshua that all they needed to do was to engage His presence again. So Joshua arranged for some priests to carry the ark of God round the wall for 7 days and 7 times on the 7th day, as God instructed. At the 7th time of the 7th day, they all shouted for joy, and the wall fell down flat. That wall was an impossible case, but God's presence must have softened it within the first 6 days. When Jesus was told that Lazarus was dead, He stayed back for some days to secure God's presence. And when He finally went to honour their call, He raised Lazarus back to life. He spent two days securing God's presence, and spent just a few minutes

raising Lazarus from the dead. God's presence softens complex situations.

“When God is in your midst, the opposition may be seeing you, but they'd be feeling God. That's what happened to the Jordan river.”

Many people religiously believe that singing praise and worship to God is the only way to secure God's presence. Personally, I've been a victim of that religious fantasy. There are many other ways, even more potent ways, to secure God's presence. And God has inspired me to share 4 of them in this book. Trust me, your life is about to experience a definite transformation.

Alright, let's begin...

First Way

KEEP GOD'S WORD IN YOUR HEART

According to scriptures, you can't separate God from His word. Anywhere His word is, He is. In Jn 1:1, the bible tells us that, ***"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God"***. Notice the fact that it says ***"The word was with God..."***. We saw this reality play in Mark 16:20 where the bible says ***"the disciples went and preached every, the Lord was working with them, confirming the word with signs following"***. What they preached was the word, what worked with them was God. And since God worked with them, signs had to follow them. God can't be working

with you and leave you without a sign to show.

In Isaiah 65:8, the bible paints a picture of what happens to a person who has God's word within him, it says ***"this is what the LORD says: As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes and people say, 'Don't destroy it, there is still a blessing in it,' so will I do in behalf of my servants; I will not destroy them all"***. The bible used grape to signify that a person's sojourn may have gotten to a point of scorn and intense bitterness, but if there is still God's word dominating within him, then he cannot be destroyed.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE WORD A LITTLE...

I believe the era of *“fleshy”* knowledge has come; knowledge that can instantly be felt, and immediately compel you to do the needful. I get upset when I hear people make remarks like *“Wow, Anslem, I heard a powerful quote today...”*. They heard powerful quotes, and even powerful teachings, but there just wasn’t enough power in those quotes to transform their lives. What is the use of a powerful quote that has no powerful effect on my life? *“Hmm... hmm... hmm..., that’s really powerful”*, but that’s where it ends.

I believe God applied this principle when He sent His only begotten Son to die for the world. He had sent powerful words to His people through prophets and kings, but those powerful words only brought little results. And then He sent the *“fleshed”* word, Jesus

Himself. John 1:14 says that ***“the Word was made flesh, and it dwelt among us”***. It is the ***“fleshed”*** word that has prospered Christianity, even till this day.

If the knowledge of God is all that you possess, then you know too much already. Because that’s the true knowledge that adds ***“flesh”*** to everything we do. Daniel 11:32 says ***“they that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits”***. Other words may motivate you, but God’s word will add life to you. John 6:63 says ***“it is the Spirit that quickens, the flesh profits nothing; the word that I speak unto you are spirits, and they are life”***. God’s word has a spirit that adds life to people and things.

Things may be down, the economy may be tough, but God's word is always sure. Matt 24:35 tells us that ***"Heaven and earth may pass away, but God's word shall not pass away"***. Anything is free to happen, but whatever happens won't change the fact that God's word will not pass away. No matter how complex a challenge may appear, it will surely pass away for God's word.

Now, Let Me Show You a Few Attributes of God's Word...

- IT GIVES YOU CONTROL OVER POWERS

In this kingdom, you must have something greater than material things to gain access to material things. The devil uses money as a defense, God uses His wisdom as a defense. Ecclesiastes compared money and wisdom

when it said "the excellency of wisdom is that it gives life to them that have it". God's word is God's wisdom; being a Christian without applying God's word or wisdom to your daily life won't give you life. This is why many Christians suffer ache, lack and want.

The devil may have taken charge of the money, but according to scriptures, God has given you the word that controls the money. Being in charge doesn't necessarily mean being in control. The devil may be in charge, but you can take control by the word. Heb 1:3 says "He controls all things by the word of His power". Apostle Joshua Selman called this system "True Riches"; a system that controls a system in charge. This also means that you need to worry less about the devil and worry more on how to access revelation of God's word.

**THE DEVIL IS NOT THE REASON WHY YOU'VE
NOT RECEIVED WHAT YOU NEED, YOUR LACK
OF CONTROL IS.**

The full verse of Heb 1:3 reads ***"who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power"***. In other words, it is clear that God controls all things by the word of His power.

We also understand from scriptures that ***"The Word"*** signifies the personality of Jesus. All power belongs to God, but He controls all things by the word section of His power. This means the word is God's remote controller to the affairs of life.

Now God has given you the same remote controller so that you can control the affairs of your life. I believe that scripture is emphasizing the importance of God's word in our daily lives. Witches may have powers, demons may have powers, but all power belongs to God, and all things are controlled by the word of His power, including occult powers. This also means, no matter how many devilish powers are working against you, you have the remote controller to stop their operations.

If you can understand this, then the end has come to all those torments around your life. All you have to do is locate a word that relates to the challenge you are going through, then begin to control it. How can you be having the remote controller to the

affairs of your life and yet you still lack many things? If you get to your sitting room, and you don't like the station that is broadcasting, all you have to do is change it with the remote controller. That is the same way you should change the things you don't like around your life. No one will force you to watch a channel you don't like, and that's the same way the devil cannot force you to be afflicted. If you're lacking anything in life, then you've not been using your remote controller.

Bishop David Oyedepo has often shared a story of how his daughter was afflicted. All medications on her proved abortive. Then he said to himself “Lord, there must be a way out”. He took his bible and began a deep search from scriptures, and according to him,

he found the words that restored the health of his daughter. That is how it should be!

No economic situation is strong enough to make you unemployed. People who have the word naturally gain control. Any MD of a company may tell you there is no vacancy, but when you have the word, you can create the vacancy. When you are working with the word, MDs don't have the final say, it is you that have the final say. Your lecturers may tell you that you will not graduate if you don't sleep with them, but as long as the word is concerned, that's not the final say. A lecturer threatened a Christian sister that she will not pass his course until she sleeps with him. She went back to her hostel and began to speak God's word on the lecturer's name, and by the time the lecturer saw her again, he said "I have been looking for you, please come and

collect your result". Don't compromise your Christian faith because of what people have said, what they have said won't count if only you will say God's word.

- IT EMPOWERS YOU FOR FAME

In Isaiah 60: 1-2, the bible says, ***"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee"***. You are probably very familiar with that scripture. Who doesn't want to rise and shine? I have often heard that the presence of light is the absence of darkness, but why is there so much darkness in the lives of many believers? Does it mean they have not received the light of Christ? Let's find out...

In Luke 5:1-8, Jesus, the light of the world, was present in the same place where Peter had struggled all night but couldn't catch a fish. Jesus even stayed for a while to preach to the people that followed him. And through those times, Peter still couldn't catch a fish. Then after a while Jesus said to Peter, "launch out into the deep, and let your nets down for a draught". Peter responded by saying "I have tried all night but caught nothing, nevertheless, 'at your word', I will let down the net".

That's the key! ***"At your word"***. You can't rise or shine until you respond to the demands of the word of God. God is Omnipotent, He is with you right now, and that also means your Light has come to you. But you cannot rise nor shine until you apply His word to your

situations. If Peter did not apply the word that Jesus spoke, He would not have caught any fish. The light was present, but Peter did not shine until he rose up to the demands of the word. So the “Arise” in that scripture means “to engage the word”, and after you’ve engaged the word, you’re sure to “Shine”, and that’s because your Light has come. The fact that God is with you gives you an assurance that the word will work for you.

Ezekiel was also in the presence of God - The Light, in the valley of dry bones. Light was present, but the bones were still dry. I often pity people who say things like “God knows my needs”; true, God may know your needs, but He won’t act until you speak His word concerning the need. It was something similar that happened to Ezekiel; God asked him if those bones could live, and he responded

saying “only You know”. Which means only God knows if the bones can live. But God further made it clear that even though He knows that those bones could live, He still needed Ezekiel to speak His word to the bones. See how Ezekiel described that scene in Ezekiel 37:4,7, ***"Again He said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone"***.

So you see, it was the word of God which Ezekiel declared that caused those bones to rise.

The reason why many people are so close to challenges is probably because they are too far from the word of God. James 4:8 says “draw near to God, and He will draw near to you”. Jesus further elucidated in John 15:7 when He said “If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you”.

- IT MAKES YOU TOO TOUGH TO BE DEFEATED

A certain man was diagnosed with a terminal disease, and was told he'd die in 3 months. The more he heard the report, the more “sickly” he became. He decided to start going to church; and each time he did, he returned with excitement from what was preached. After some weeks, he decided to stop visiting the hospital, since he was going to die

anyway. He focused on going to church, which was the only place that gave him joy.

12 months passed, he had even forgotten that he was scheduled to die 9 months before. When he finally remembered, he rushed to the hospital to confirm what had happened, and to his amazement, the terminal disease had been supernaturally removed from his body.

Every time you study God's word, virtue flows from the word to you. Remember what Jesus said when the woman with the issue of blood touched Him, He said "virtue has left me".

You just can't remain the same with consistent study of the word. That man kept hearing the word, and what was programmed

to kill him found him too tough to kill. God's word in you makes you too tough to be defeated.

God's word places a mark of exemption on you. Gal 6:17 says "let no man trouble me, for I bear the mark of Christ in my body". No wonder the bible also says "destroy him not, for there is a blessing in him".

- IT'S USED FOR MAINTENANCE

Our lives constantly need maintenance. According to 2 Tim 3:16, the word of God is our life's maintenance tool. It has capacity to run both preventive and corrective maintenance on an individual.

Some years back, I was diagnosed with brain tumor. I had headaches every day, and I couldn't stay in environments that were too illuminated. They recommended medications for me, which I refused to use. Surprisingly, the more I studied the word of God, the healthier I became.

A friend once told me how he escaped the plague of insanity. During his ordeal, he couldn't identify anyone nor read anything. But surprisingly, he could read a copy of my book. He even read the words aloud such that everyone that were in his ward with him could hear.

When he finally recovered, he told me that "my book was what hastened his recovery". He further said he could feel the words

correcting his mind. Develop a habit of studying the word of God daily. Doctors may run check-ups on you, and may even prescribe a medication, but only God's word prevents and corrects.

NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT REVELATION, RIGHT WORD, AND SENT WORD...

God's word does not delay, it works instantly. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that "the word of God is quick and powerful...". However, the reason why God's word does not work "quickly" for many Believers is mostly because they don't know how to apply the word.

Revelation of God's word may cause you to wonder, but it is the right word that turns you into a wonder. Many believers are busy

wondering about the amazing power of God, while many others are experiencing and manifesting that power. 1 Cor 2:4 makes it clear that "the gospel that we preach is not meant to entice people, but to demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit". If you can't see the demonstration of God's word in your life, then you've not applied it in the right way.

Revelation that is not a right word or sent word will only motivate you. People have stopped looking for words that motivate, they're looking for words that transform. An encounter with right words and sent words would definitely transform any Believer.

“OKAY ANSLEM, WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REVELATION, RIGHT WORD, AND SENT WORD? “

Revelation is knowing the truth of scriptures; and it is the truth you know that sets you free. The difference between distinct believers is the level of revelation they operate with. Don't be deceived by the saying that "God will show mercy upon who He will show mercy", revelation will attract God's mercy at any time. Even if God does not want to bless you, your access to revelation will change His mind. That's probably why Isaiah 65:8 says "destroy him not, for there is a blessing in him". When you have true revelation, destruction can't come to you.

Revelation from God's word means having a divine understanding of the scriptures. It means seeing the word how God sees it. But seeing the scriptures how God sees it is not a guarantee that you will be delivered from

your challenges. People get revelations every day; from preachings, from books, and even from the Holy Spirit, but not all revelations are fit enough to fix the challenges we go through.

Don't get me wrong, right words and sent words are also revelations, because they are revealed by God; but it is not all revelations that are right words or sent words. And what we really need to resolve the challenges we encounter is not just revelation, but right words or sent words. Many people have gotten plenty of revelations on why they should get married, but why are they still single? Many students have not gained admission into the University, not because they don't have revelations from scriptures that promises academic success, but because they don't have the right word. Many

unemployed graduates have declared all the scriptures they know about getting a miracle job, but why are they still jobless?

RIGHT WORD...

Even though God's word may be true, not all true words from scriptures are right for all situations.

Many years back I developed a mysterious migraine that lasted for many days. I attacked the migraine with all the scriptures I knew, but it seemed like the more I declared those scriptures, the more intense the migraine became. I woke up on the fourth day and picked my Bible, with the understanding that "there must be a way out". Meanwhile, I had tried to use medication, but it didn't work. I began to study, and it wasn't long before I

found John 8:32 "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free". I then said to myself "but I know the truth, that by the stripes on Jesus I have been healed". After that discovery, I screamed "MIGRAINE, GO NOW!", and it disappeared instantly.

Right words must be found. Prov 24:14 says "so shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto your soul: when you have found it, then there shall be a reward, and your expectation shall not be cut off". If your expectations are still cutting off, then it means you've not found the right word. You may have found the true words, but you need the right word to activate the true words. The reason why that migraine lasted for days is because I was dwelling on the true words I knew, instead of searching for the right word that will activate the true words. If you've been believing God

for a miracle marriage, job, career breakthrough, academic breakthrough, health restoration, or anything at all, and you've not seen the manifestation, then it means you've not found the right word yet. You can't find the right word and not experience the manifestation of your desire. It said "when you have found it, there shall be a reward, and your expectation shall not be cut off". In other words, the proof for finding is the reward, and the reward is usually your expectation. So don't tell me that God has not answered your prayers, have you found the right word?

SENT WORDS...

While a right word must be found, a sent word is usually sent to an individual by God Himself. Ps 107:20 says "God sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from

their destructions". Ps 105:19 explains to us that until the time that Joseph's word came, the word of the Lord tried him. So while we may go after right words, we have to believe God for a sent word.

It was a sent word that Jacob received that influenced the whole of Israel. Isaiah 9:8 says "The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it lighted upon Israel". There is a difference between what is read, what is heard, and what is sent. From experience, God sends a word to His people to deliver them or help them overcome what is coming. It was a sent word that Jesus gave to Peter in Luke 22:31-33 when He said "behold, Satan has asked permission to tempt you all, but I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail you".

Believe me, if Job had access to a sent word from God, maybe he would not have suffered the afflictions he suffered. People who enjoy sent words are people who are always in the spirit; it was Apostle John who said "I was in the spirit on the Lord's day when I heard". Job was serving God, but he was not in the spirit. He lived in fear all the days of his life; the bible particularly says that "the things which he feared came upon him". You can't be living in fear and still be in the spirit; the presence of fear declares the absence of your spirit. 2 Tim 1:7 tells us that "God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind". If God has not given you the spirit of fear, then the presence of fear in you indicates the operation of a wrong spirit.

One evening, I had a very unpleasant argument with the family I lived with in Lagos,

Nigeria. I consciously took a walk outside the house so I could ease off the pain I was feeling. Then I asked God "now that I am weeping over this matter, what are You going to do about it?". Surprisingly, I heard His voice saying "My son, don't worry, the sufferings of this present time is nothing compared to the glory I'd reveal to you in return". It was a year after that I found those exact words in Roman's 8:18. And truly, today, I can't compare the sufferings of that time to the glory that God has revealed and still revealing to me.

Back on the 26th August, 1987 while Bishop David Oyedepo was away on a mission trip to the United States, God suddenly visited him and said, "Get back home and make my people rich". Today, I have no doubt that several thousands and perhaps millions

around the world have been delivered from the shackles of poverty and brought into realms of financial fortune through that sent word.

Sent words can come from any dimension. It could be a simple word, or a word from scriptures. By "simple" I mean God can speak through anybody or anything. Sent words can come as instructions, directions or prophecies. The word that Jacob received was a prophecy, He said "your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed". The word that was sent to Jehoshaphat was instructional, He said "You shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you.... Fear not nor

be dismayed; tomorrow, go out against them, for the Lord will be with you".

Sent words can come at any time, but you can only receive them when you are in the spirit, in the presence of God. Bishop David Oyedepo has often shared a story of how he received a sent word in a toilet "The harvest of Africa is now overripe, rush in, and preserve the harvest". The word that is shaking Africa today was received in a toilet. You may be in the prison, but if you're in the spirit, then you're qualified to receive a sent word from God. Sent words should be prayed for from time to time, whether in a church service or on the road - traveling. A sister shared a testimony of how God gave her a word before a particular affliction came upon her. The affliction lasted for weeks, but the

word she received was what helped her through.

Finally, we can't afford to live outside the spirit, the devil is not friendly. The reason why his attacks tarry long on many believers is usually because those believers were not sensitive to the sent word that must have come for them. Bishop David Oyedepo has often told this story of how he instructed two of his pastors not to go on a particular journey, because he received a signal from the spirit that the journey will be for their hurt. Those pastors were obstinate, they traveled. But before they could go 20 kilometers, they had a ghastly accident then took their lives. If they were also in the spirit like the bishop, perhaps they would have heard for themselves.

Now, this is a defining moment. Wherever you are, ask God to send you a word that will empower you to break out of whatever situation you may be going through.

Second Way

LIVE BY FAITH

Faith takes you to God. In Heb 11:6, the bible tells us that ***"without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him"***. Did you notice ***"He that cometh to God must believe"***? In other words, if you want to go to God, then you must have faith. God is never far from faith; the moment faith appears, God appears. When you find faith, you've found God.

LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT FAITH REALLY IS...

Many people claim to be waiting for God, when in actual fact, God is waiting for them. In Isaiah 30:18, the bible says "And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious

unto you, **and therefore will he be exalted**, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him".

Did you notice those bold lines? God is waiting for you to exalt Him before He can become gracious unto you. The word exalt can scripturally be used to replace "**please**". In other words, God is waiting for you to please Him. And we all know that without faith, it is impossible to please God. Let me rephrase, ***God wants to be gracious unto you, but He's waiting for your faith.***

It's important to mention that God's timing overrides nature's timing. Naturally, it may not be your time to be promoted or favoured, but with faith, it's acceptable that you have

them now. In John 4:1-11, the bible shares a story about the first miracle that Jesus performed at Cana.

It was a wedding where guests were invited as usual. But coincidentally, the wine was exhausted, and the chairman of the occasion was still on his table. Wine had to be available as long as he was still around. When the servants told Mary - who also happened to be the wedding planner, she turned to Jesus hoping that He'd perform a miracle. Jesus immediately told Mary that it wasn't time to perform a miracle. But with faith, Mary insisted. She directed the servants to Jesus and said "whatever He tells you to do, do it". It wasn't time to perform a miracle, but faith made it time.

Naturally, it may not be time to receive that miracle you desire, but with faith, you can have it now. God loses His negotiation power when faith is at work.

According to Hebrews 11:1, faith is not a "later" force, it's a "now" force. If you don't want the blessing now, then there's no need to put your faith on the line. Someone once asked me how I know that my faith has worked, I responded saying "when I see the miracle". Faith is not something you "hope" will work, faith is something you should be "sure" will work. Faith is a 'Now' force, it gets things done immediately. If God's accepted time is now, then it is only wise to engage faith, which also works for immediate matters. Let me share a few testimonies with you.

Sometime ago a member of my fellowship called me and said "Pastor, please o, my wife left home since morning, and all she said was 'I am coming'". I left the dinner I was preparing to have and rushed quickly to his place to pray with him. I got to his house at 7:25pm, and prayed till 7:30pm. I particularly declared that "in 30 minutes, his wife must return from wherever she was". After the prayer, I sat down with him in his sitting room - with an assurance that his wife would return. At exactly 7:59pm, his daughter called him. After they exchanged pleasantries, he began to report the matter to his daughter when I grabbed his hands and said "No! We have seen your wife, stand up, let us go and open the gate for her". He followed me to the gate, and as we opened the padlock, we saw his wife standing right in front of the gate, about to knock.

Stop waiting or looking for material evidences, faith is the evidence. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "... Faith is the evidence of things not seen". Seeing your spouse is not an evidence that you will marry, faith is the evidence. Gaining admission into school is not an evidence that you will go through school, faith is the evidence. Conception is not an evidence that you will have a child, faith is the evidence. I sat down with the man for 30 minutes because I already had the evidence. Material evidences may fail you, but the evidence of faith will never fail you.

A lady once approached me and said she needed a job. I prayed about it and told her that before the 21st of that month, she was going to be gainfully employed. She came to my office on the 20th of that month and told

me she just got a job. While I was exalting God, she expected my reaction to be more than I was doing. When I asked why she was gazing at me with surprises, she said I told her that the job will come before the 21st and it was so.

Faith sets a target and hits the target. Hope waits till whenever it will happen, faith works towards the set time for it to happen. ***Watch out, if you're trusting God for a miracle job, within the next 21 days, you'd be gainfully employed, in the name of Jesus!***

A certain woman approached me and said that God asked her to share her situation with me. She said her daughter would be 28 this year and no man had ever asked her out, let alone propose to her. I prayed for her and

declared that within 6 months, God will visit her daughter with marital laughter. Just a Sunday into the sixth month, she came to testify that a man proposed to her daughter a day before.

Christians don't live by hope; we live by faith. The bible says "faith is the assurance of things hoped for". In other words, we no longer have to hope for things, because we now have an assurance of those things in God's word. Heb 10:36 tells us that "we have need of patience, that after we have done the will of God, we will receive the promise". We don't have need of hope, but patience. And the reason why we need patience is so that we can complete the will of God that releases the promise we desire. When you see someone who is waiting on God, ask him if he

is doing the will of God that guarantees the release of the blessing he is waiting for.

God's promise does not manifest in our lives "one-day one-day", it manifests after we have done the will of God. Some people have complained that they've completed the will of God but they've not received the promise; that's not true! Moses also thought that he had completed the will of God, yet, God continued to harden Pharaoh's heart because He still wanted to do something. And until Moses really finished God's will, the promise to set Israel free from Pharaoh didn't come to pass. The truth is, if you can finish the will today, then you should also receive the promise today. If you've not received the promise, it's either you've not completed the will of God or you're just ignorant of this truth. You don't have to hope, have faith!

A lady was already 2 years into her marriage and no sign of conception. Her in-laws were already threatening her. She shared the challenge with me and I asked her if she was ready to have a child. When she said yes, I told her to have it in six weeks. Barely six weeks after, she told me she was pregnant.

Hebrews 10:35 says "cast not away your confidence, which has great recompense of reward". In other words, faith is always compensated with a reward, or your expectation. The proof that you had faith on a matter is the reward that you would see at the end. So do not tell me "I had faith, but...", faith has no "buts". If you have not seen the reward, then continue in faith until it comes. Faith always speaks at the end; though it may tarry, wait for it, just like I waited for 30

minutes, because your blessings will surely come.

Third Way

MAINTAIN JOY IN YOUR HEART

Joy is another virtue that attracts the presence of God. In Heb 13:5, the bible says "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, ***I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*** I once mentioned that joy is a state of contentment derived from the promises of God. Your expression of joy is a retainership fee to God. It keeps God with you.

The bible tells us that there's fullness of joy in God's presence. While that may mean what

happens in God's presence, it also prescribes what to do to secure God's presence. If you find any man whose joy is full, God is never far from him. If you're looking for God's residential address, just check the house of the man with fullness of joy.

LET ME SHARE A LITTLE MORE ABOUT JOY...

Joy is like a pay check that we use to withdraw blessings from God. Isaiah 12:3 tells us that "with joy, shall we draw water out of the Wells of salvation". Joel 1:12 identifies the absence of joy to be the root cause of man's suffering.

Joy is a proof of faith. If you have faith, it will show in your countenance. Faith that comes with a "frowny" face usually takes time to deliver results. Faith is actually a joyful force;

any pastor who preaches faith without expressing joy is only causing more pain. Likewise, any person who expresses faith without an accompanied joy is only expressing his feelings.

Faith is most efficient when accompanied by joy. Just as faith works by love, joy is the thrust behind faith. Your faith declarations would only be wishes without joy. Joy is the strength of faith, and that is why faith needs joy to draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Love is the parent of faith, while joy is an alia. Faith alone would never take you to your destination. It got to a point when Jesus had to look up to joy in order to endure the pain and torture that was coming to Him. He had

faith, but He needed joy to strengthen His faith.

Faith comes by meditating on the word of God. Joy also comes by meditating on the word, but most times, it comes at the remembrance of the promise of God - even in the presence of storms. When Jesus remembered the promise that was set before Him, to sit at the right hand of God and judge His people, joy came alive in Him. Faith is never far away from joy. If you lose your joy in battle, no matter how powerfully you make confessions in faith, you'd still lose the battle.

The operation of faith is automated when joy is located. Before you cry over a situation, try to laugh over it first. If Satan cannot stop your

expression of joy, then he cannot stop your faith from winning.

YOUR JOY IS NOT FOR SALE...

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, just like an orange is a fruit of the earth. If you cannot plant its tree, then you might have to buy it each time you want it. Everybody likes orange, a person that does not like orange is probably not of this age. Everybody loves joy; even the devil rejoices when he destroys the souls of men. Everything we do is to rejoice at the end, whether what we do is good or bad. The fact that a person is a "kill-joy" does not mean he hates to be joyful. Joy is the proof of man's existence. If the fruit of joy is thus sweet, then anyone would go any mile to buy it.

If your joy is within you then you must guard it with all diligence, because outside it is a huge market containing the issues of life. Joy is the supernatural neutralizer of circumstances. Joy is within, do not ever allow circumstances get into you; rather, allow joy to go out to meet the circumstance. Joy is the home within your heart, it is not safe to invite trouble into a joy-filled home. You cannot sell your joy until you have completed the transaction in your heart. Anger, grieve, malice, pain, regret, jealousy, envy, covetousness, deception are all currencies that are used to purchase joy. And you would find out that all these originates and functions from the heart.

Scripturally, the only time you are permitted to trade your joy is when you lose someone that is very dear to you. The bible says in

Mathew 5:4 "You are blessed when you feel you have lost what is dearest to you. Only then can you be embraced by God, the One dearest to you". At that point, God understands your grief and so He would ensure you are comforted on every side.

I beg you, never trade your joy; your joy is not for sale.

Fourth Way

PRAISE AND THANK GOD CONTINUALLY

God's habitation is an atmosphere of praise. The bible says ***"He inhabits the praises of Israel"***. If you want to introduce God to a situation, praise Him. For Joshua, the problem was never the wall of Jericho, it was the absence of praise to God. As they completed their praise around the wall of Jericho, the fall fell down flat. Obstacles always fall flat when praise goes up to God.

A certain man was declared dead, but for some reason, his family members won't accept the report. They took his body to a

pastor's house, and everyone, including the pastor, began to praise God around the dead person. After 7 hours of praise, the dead sneezed and jerked back to life. Jesus thanked God for Lazarus who had been dead for four days, and after one instruction, Lazarus who was already embalmed in the grave came back to life. It's amazing how God introduces God to situations.

Thanksgiving means appreciation. And appreciation connotes increase in the business world. And if we observe scriptures closely, we'd discover that appreciation to God is more like an application for increase. In Jeremiah 30:19, God made it clear that the only way He'd release more blessings to His people is if they appreciate Him for what He has done. God had led Joshua and the people of Israel on till the wall of Jericho; but He

didn't bring down the wall until they praised Him.

If praising or appreciating God brings increase, why do many believers suffer lack and want? In my opinion, any believer that has difficulty in advancing his life is not an appreciative or praiseful believer. Ps 67:5-7 explains that everyone who praises God naturally experience increase. So if you're not increasing, despite on your commitment to kingdom principles, then you're not praising.

In conclusion, if you want to experience increase in any area of your life, then engage the sickle of praise.

I TRUST YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED BY THIS BOOK. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO SHARE IT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. AND YES, I LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR TESTIMONIES. CONGRATULATIONS!

- PUTTING GRACE UNDER PRESSURE
- HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR DESIRED
MIRACLE
 - COLOR IN WILDERNESS
 - THE BAIL OUT PLAN
 - WHERE ARE THE YOUTHS?
- HE BLESSES OUR BREAD AND WATER
 - WHERE THERE IS NO VISION
 - FOCUS
 - ACADEMIC DRIVE
- LEARN HOW TO FIND YOUR PURPOSE
 - MOTIVATING RIGHT EDUCATION
 - THE TIME IS NOT ENOUGH
 - A NEW CONFIDENCE
 - INTO THE DEEP
 - OVERCOMING DEPRESSION
 - TIMELY NOTES 30-DAY DEVOTIONAL
 - I COULDN'T FIND A SILVER SPOON
 - ANSLEM'S FAITH BOOK
 - NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN
ENTHRONED
 - THE GREAT ADVANTAGE



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KEYS TO GAIN RELEVANCE



Emeka Anslem is the 'privileged' writer of Timely Notes Daily Devotional, Founder of In-spirited Writers Training School, and President of The Solutionists. He's an ICT Expert who studied Microsoft Certified System Engineering (MCSE) with National Institute of Information Technology before he moved to Lagos State Polytechnic for a Computer Science course. Having lived in Lagos all his life, though from an origin in Delta State, he has developed a sound relational skill in Yoruba language.

He received a divine call to be a teacher in April 2013, with an assignment to "Add value to lives by bringing knowledge to the people". By God's grace, he has committed his life to that assignment, and he's always willing to add value to lives.

Through his passion for his assignment, he's been privileged to author over 30 e-books, which are downloadable for free at the E-BOOKS section of his website (www.emekaanslem.com.ng). His rare teaching gift has attracted several public speaking engagements in seminars, conferences and the likes. Considering his track record in writing, God inspired him to convene a yearly writers conference, which has been a medium of transformation for many writers.

He also runs a documentation business, where he operates as a ghost writer. He has written for great men within and outside the country; and with the permission of his clients, he can show you some of his finished works (books).