

EMEKA ANSLEM

A Value Adding

Life

...KEYS TO LIVING A LIFE OF IMPACT

A VALUE ADDING LIFE

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“This book is rich in content! I’d say it contains a three-fold cord that will help any man impact his world”

Pst. Edet Bartholomew

Senior Pastor, Winners Chapel Thailand

“It’s a must read book for anyone who desires to discover God’s purpose for his life. Mostly, it’s a book that will lift those who erroneously believe that there is nothing they can do to impact their world – based on their backgrounds or past experiences. Generally, this book can be likened to fuel that helps any man reach his purpose”.

Pst. Lucky Cheta

Senior Pastor, Open Heaven Assembly - Zambia

JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...

I always wanted to be a saviour; someone who would rescue others from challenges. I remember how I'd think of myself as a key player in a football game, also as a chief doctor during a major operation. Actually, I always imagined myself saving the day in almost every field of endeavor. I even imagined myself as a star singer, singing in great platforms. I just wanted anything that would add value to lives. Little did I know that imaginations are only pictures in the mind that will need some efforts to see them manifest. But as God would have it, today, I'm not so far from every one of those imaginations.

In this book, I'd be sharing three (3) keys that will enable you to live a value adding life. These 3 keys have helped me; I believe they'd help you too. Have a good read!

IT BEGINS WITH AN...

ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

Using the Bible as our reference, everyone who had ever added value to lives first had an encounter with God. The life history of many of them wasn't even recorded until the day they encountered God.

Abraham was already 75 years old when he had an encounter with God. Except Abraham tells us, the events of his life from age 1 to 75 was not recorded in scriptures. It can't be a coincidence that we only began to hear of him at age 75, when he had an encounter with God. Though the Bible didn't give details

of his life, but it didn't fail to outline his status before the encounter. Let's see how the bible puts it:

Genesis 11:

27. Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

28. And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees.

29. And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.

30. But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

31. And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the

Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

32. And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

From verse 27, we'd discover that Abraham had two brothers, Nahor and Haran. But Haran died before his father; leaving his son, Lot, to be raised by his family. Abraham and Nahor got married, but Abraham's wife was not able to have children. Did you notice verse 31? Terah, Abraham's father, who was already aged, took Abraham, his wife, and Lot and traveled with them out of the city of Ur. Just imagine, an aged man carried a married man about in that manner. That was the height of hopelessness. He couldn't even get his wife pregnant. I'm forced to believe that they might have even arranged the wife for him.

But things changed after he had an encounter with God. Let's read further:

Genesis 12:

1. Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

The subsequent verses and chapters spoke more of God's promises and blessings upon Abraham. A man who had no child suddenly had children; he had great possessions that could literally cater for many nations. I suspect that was why God made him the father of many nations. Even when Jesus died for us, He reconnected us to the blessings of Abraham. Gal 3:14 specifically says, ***"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ..."***. An encounter with God gave Abraham blessings that transcended a lifetime.

MOSES ALSO HAD AN ENCOUNTER...

His parents had no formal recognition in the Bible; they were slaves to the Egyptians. The only reference they had was ***"a man and woman from Levi"***. Before his birth, the king

had given an order to kill all male babies in Israel. Somehow, his mother was able to hide him for a few months before she devised another means to save his life. She put him on the river, hoping that fate will take him to a place of safety. And yes, fate did smile on him. One of Pharaoh's daughter drew him out of the water and decided to take care of him. She was the person who named him "Moses", which meant ***"something that was drawn out of water"***. His name had a direct connection to his past. And trust me, that wasn't something to be proud of.

Growing up was quite interesting for him until his past began to hunt him. What should we have expected? He was raised in a royal family. But somehow, he discovered that he had a connection with the people of Israel, and he just couldn't stand the afflictions they faced by the Egyptian slavemasters. He

attacked one of those slavemasters and mistakenly killed him. He kept it secret, only to discover that his little secret was already a big discussion among the people he was defending. He fled from Egypt the moment one of the Hebrew people confronted him. Of course, he had to run for his dear life.

He fled across the Red Sea to Midian, which was where he met his wife, Zipporah, and father-in-law, Jethro. He lived in Midian for a long time, serving his father-in-law until he had an encounter with God. Let's read the scripture about his encounter:

Exodus 3:

1. Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert,

and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

2. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

5. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of

Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

7. And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

8. And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

9. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

10. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Before the encounter, all that he could be was a cattle rarer for his father-in-law; but after the encounter, he became a deliverer. Someone who ran away from his oppressor became an oppression to his oppressor.

EVEN JESUS HAD AN ENCOUNTER...

His case was even far worse than the others, and that's because a prophecy had been given about His coming. He had no biological father, which almost made his birth a shameful thing. When his mother finally gave birth to him, his first bed was a Manger, a place where goat feeds are kept. It was almost like putting a new born baby on a grass to sleep. His supposed father was a carpenter, which automatically made the “Saviour of the world” a carpenter's son. Though his intellectual power and spirituality

was questionable, even from age 13, but His fame only went abroad when He encountered God at 30. Let's see how the scripture puts it:

Matthew 3:

16. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17. And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

After this encounter, His life and ministry took a great turn. The prophecy which was spoken about Him began to find expression. He began to preach everywhere he went, healing the sick and delivering the oppressed. His

fame went abroad; actually, He is still famous till today. That's the power of one encounter with God.

So we'd see from all these examples and the examples of others we haven't mentioned that, a value adding life begins with an encounter with God. To add value to lives, you'd need value in your life. You can't give what you don't have. Jesus came into this world to add value to the life of man; but first, value had to be put inside Him. The bible specifically says **"... *His life was the light of man... And that light gives light or value to every man that comes into this world*"** (emphasis mine).

HAVING AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

In the Old Testament, having an encounter with God was direct. God could visit anybody He chose to visit. He visited Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jeremiah, Gideon, David, and so on. All those people had direct encounters with God. They didn't need to give their lives to Christ. But in the New Testament, things changed; God gave us an intermediary in the person of Jesus. Now the only way to have an encounter or connection with God is to pass through Jesus. The bible says concerning Jesus, ***"I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life"***. So Jesus isn't just the Truth and Life of God, He's also the Way to and of God. You can't possibly get through to God without

Jesus. And that also means you can't pass through Jesus without first accepting Him as your Lord and Saviour.

I remember it was just few seconds to midnight on the 31st of December 2009, when I felt a touch that woke me from the bed, the sick bed. While other people were in the church, making their new year resolution, I was at home lying on a sick bed. Though I didn't know who touched me, but I heard a voice that told me to check the time. And behold, when I did, it was 12 midnight. The voice asked, **"What is your new year resolution?"**. **"I want to be closer to God in the new year"** was my response. After all, what else could a young boy who had experienced sickness all through the year 2009 ask for?

To be honest, if anybody had told me back in 2009 that I'd become an inspirational writer, I would have denied it. Maybe the person would have even become my worst enemy. But see what an encounter with Jesus has done. I didn't know much about God. I was a Christian, but I wasn't a practicing one. In February 2010, I found myself in Living Faith Church Worldwide, where I also responded to the call of salvation after a teaching by the pastor. I got baptized in the Holy Ghost in the cause of the teaching, but because I didn't know what it was, I tried to control it until I was officially baptized in the month of March. Since then, I've consistently developed zeal to be a blessing to humanity. Being a blessing has been the only thing that keeps me happy, because I only feel blessed when I've poured out the blessings that God deposits inside of me.

Since 2010, I've never had a better last year. It has been from one level of change to another.

THE NEXT THING IS TO...

FIND PURPOSE IN JESUS

Before I met Jesus, people called me a talkative; and to be candid, I talked too much. Talking was a natural talent for me. I performed better at jobs where I worked as a teacher, no matter how little I was paid. I guess I enjoyed working with my talent than any other acquired skill.

Talking about teaching, I was the best in every place I taught. I remember how a particular set of students didn't complete their course because I resigned from the school for another job. When I asked them what

happened, they said all the teachers available couldn't handle the class with the same passion, so they refused.

Finding your purpose is as easy as finding a cause where your talents can be applied. I knew how to talk, so I went into teaching; and that made teaching a purpose for my talent. If you like singing, find something to do with your singing talent that would impact lives. That's how to discover purpose! Once you can discover your talents, then finding your purpose becomes easy.

However, finding purpose in Jesus is different and far greater than any purpose you may find for your talents. Salvation amplifies your talents and makes you fit for greater accomplishments. After I gave my life to Christ, I was still a talkative; but my words

now carried power. Speaking too much for me today is like releasing too much power; and who wouldn't want power? Humorously, people who said I talked too much now think I talk too small. Even after I've spoken for a long time, they'd still want to hear more.

The process is still the same, except that Jesus will have to give you a purpose for your talent this time. In the secular world, we find a purpose for our talents; but in the kingdom, Jesus gives you purpose for your talent. April 7, 2013 was a defining moment for me; that was the day that Jesus gave purpose to my talent. He specifically said "*add value to lives by bringing knowledge to the people*". Before that time, I brought intellectual knowledge to pupils; but after the encounter, I started bringing knowledge to people. I've seen myself talk about things I've neither heard nor read anywhere. That's the power of an

amplified talent. Many people wonder how I access so much revelation; it's nothing but the power of an amplified talent, or if you like, call it spiritual gifts.

JESUS GIVES US PURPOSE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HIS CHURCH...

Paul, formerly called Saul, was a man who added so much passion to any assignment that was given to him. He'd travel far, no matter where his targets are, to execute his task. He had a special talent to zealously handle matters. Before he encountered Jesus, he was a law enforcer; that was more like a purpose for him. But after he met Jesus, he received a different purpose; he became a gospel preacher, even to a point of preaching by force. Someone who could kill for the law became someone who could die for the gospel. His purpose in Jesus has added great

value to the lives of believers; you can't actually teach about the New Testament without referencing at least one of Paul's epistle.

Giving your life to Christ also means giving everything you have to Him, including your gifts or talents. I like a particular song by William McDowell that says, "I give myself away so you can use me". That's what salvation is about. It's about running your life through Jesus' point of view. I'm not saying you should short down your business; rather, I'm saying you should be open minded to God's direction. Peter was a fisherman; he caught fishes to make a living. After he encountered Jesus, Jesus made him a fisher of men, someone who saved the lost. His former purpose added value to lives, except that he could only feed a few people with his fishes; but his new purpose adds value to the world,

even till this day. Whatever you were before you met Jesus will be nothing compared to what you'd become when you find Purpose in Jesus.

DO YOU WANT JESUS TO GIVE YOU PURPOSE?

When it comes to discovery of purpose in Christ, it's not about what we want, but about the impact we desire to make in the lives of people. If you'd be selfish about the purpose that He'd give to you, then He'd rather not give you. Like I earlier mentioned, He gives purpose to us for the advancement of His church; and anything outside that may not catch His interest.

Of course, we'd definitely profit from His purpose for our lives, but our priority must be to impact and add value to lives. Profit

naturally follows impact. If you impact lives long enough with your purpose, it won't be long before they start paying for your services, even if you do them for free. People have often asked me why I give my books out without a price. Well, I discovered that the impact was usually low whenever a price tag is placed on my books. That's why I made them free; so that more people can be impacted. "So how do you make money?". Of course, God gave me ideas on other ways to make profit. Surprisingly, people who get blessed by my free books now send me seeds. Many of them go as far as giving me projects to handle for them. Some of them give me books to edit or write for them. And to be candid, it's been highly profitable.

FINALLY...

CREATE VISIONS FOR YOUR PURPOSE

What do you see about the purpose you've found in Jesus?

Having a vision is simply about seeing beyond what you are or what you have. God does not expect us to be stagnant in our various purpose and pursuits; that's why He gave us the ability to see visions. The bible says *"the path of the just is as a shining light that shines brighter and brighter unto the perfect day"*. The purpose you've found in Jesus may look small now, but it has potentials to give you a perfect life through the power of vision.

Bishop David Oyedepo has often said that *"if you can't see a future in your future then you have no future"*. Vision helps you see ahead.

People say things like "*we don't know how tomorrow will be*"; but with vision, you can create your tomorrow. As a young writer, I was already seeing myself speaking to a great audience. And because I saw it, I prepared myself towards that time. I'm not surprised that I write and speak to a great audience today, they're things I saw before now. Vision helps you live in the present; it patterns your lifestyle to match up with the demands ahead. People who live reckless lives are mostly people who care less about their future; they don't see what is ahead, and so their end doesn't bother them.

The bible says we shouldn't despise the days of little beginning; seeing a vision of your greater end is the only way to do that. Though your beginning may be small, but the vision will keep motivating you to press further. For over 2 years, I had less than 10

followers who acknowledged my write-ups. Many times, my posts will not even be "liked" by anyone. Nothing can be more frustrating than not having someone to appreciate your good works. But the things I saw ahead kept me going. Today, the story is far different; they don't only like my posts, they also share with friends and family.

DON'T WAIT TILL GOD SHOWS YOU A VISION...

God shows people visions of the future; but you really don't have to wait until He specially shows you one. According to scriptures, He has already put this ability inside us. Let's see how the scriptures put it;

Joel 2:

28. And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

Did you see that? As long as you have the Spirit of God in you, then you have the ability to see vision. Seeing a vision of the future is so important because it will keep you going when the journey begins to appear impossible. The truth is, as long as you can see it, then you can have it, the situation of things notwithstanding. God explained this principle to Abraham when He said, "look towards the north, south, east, and west; as far as your eyes can see, unto you will I give it". When it comes to impacting lives or adding value to lives, the only thing you cannot have is the thing you cannot see. The only height you cannot scale is the height you

cannot see. If you can see it, then you can have it. All you have to do is keep pressing till you get there.

LET ME CONCLUDE WITH THIS...

Just anybody can impact their world or add value to lives if these three steps will be followed. Remember that first, you must have an encounter with God. Secondly, you need to find a purpose in Jesus. And thirdly, you need to have visions for the purpose you've found in Jesus.

My prayer is that you will begin to add value to lives in greater dimensions, in Jesus precious name!

God bless you, I love you, and don't forget to send me your testimonies.

- 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
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EMEKA ANSLEM



I am Emeka Anslem, the privileged writer of Timely Notes Daily Devotional, Founder of In-spirited Writers Training School, and President of The Solutionists. I 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 His grace, I've committed my life to this assignment, and I'm always willing to add value to lives.

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