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TRUE CHANGE BEGINS FROM HERE

FOCUS

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JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...

Never mind, let's begin...

YOU DON'T HAVE A 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 THIS 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; and I'd be explaining some of them in this book.

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.

LET'S TALK ABOUT KNOWLEDGE...

Every believer is ordained to be at the top. And according to scriptures, they're expected to pull those who are not on top to the top. But you'd need a ground weight to make a great pull. Knowledge is the ground weight of every believer; the more knowledge you have, the more people you pull. Knowledge has capacity to both give you weight to pull and a push - in case you're falling.

There are many people who never have downtimes, because they sustain their uptimes with knowledge. Knowledge is never restricted; its access is unlimited. The reason why many people are so limited in life is probably because they are limited in knowledge. Knowledge is a major life-support factor; without it, the issues of life will drown you.

The presence of knowledge will make an enviable difference in any life. We honestly need to make it a habit to learn something new every day.

KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY...

I'd prefer to give you a key than to give you a gift. Some people often think that you are a

greedy person when you give them good counsel instead of the request they made. They forget that every purpose is established by counsel.

Knowledge is key to everything. Jesus received riches, power, glory, honour, and many other good things at His resurrection; but instead of handing them over to us directly, He took them to heaven - which obviously is a more secure location. The psalmist confirmed it when he said "in God's right hand, there are pleasures forevermore".

In Matt 16:19, Jesus told Peter that He'd give him the keys of the kingdom of heaven, so that whatever he needs on earth will be supplied from heaven. 1 Pet 1:3 further tells us that "God has given us all things that pertains to life and godliness through the

knowledge of Him that has called us". Everything we would ever need is available, but only through knowledge. In Luke 11:52, Jesus referred to knowledge as the key, and He accused the lawyers for taking away the only key that would grant people access to blessing. If knowledge is the key, why do people wait long hours for who to help them? Knowledge is always willing and ready to help you. All you need to do is sit down and study.

SEE WHAT KNOWLEDGE CAN CAUSE...

God didn't put us here just to learn about His word, but also to learn about the world.

Adam wasn't reading any bible; neither was he studying about the Garden of Eden. He

had supernatural knowledge of everything; and that's why he could name those animals.

But man lost that supernatural intelligence after the fall. And that means man has to go through the process of re-learning things about the word, and things about the world. But unfortunately, many Christians study the word alone.

After you've studied the entirety of God's word, where are you going to apply it? I know, God's world! "But Satan is the prince of this world", yes, but he is not the owner. It's still God's world; and if it's God's world, then it's only natural that God's children study about it.

God's people are destroyed, not because they lack knowledge of the word, but because they lack knowledge of the world. They know God's word, but they don't know where to apply it in the world.

Don't ignore the events of this world as if they don't concern you. Study them, and get back to the word to find a solution. Believers should be more informed; I believe Paul did better than the other apostles because he was more informed.

Knowledge should be a priority to every believer. God can use anybody, but I'm not sure how much He'd use a man who will not develop himself. Ecc 7:12 says "the excellency of knowledge is that it gives life to them that have it". In other words, the kind of life that

knowledge will give to you cannot be compared to any other kind of life.

Companies learnt how to employ workers from God's word. They employ the most qualified. Whenever God wants to fix a particular sector in the world, He'd first check the profiles of His children, and pick the most qualified. And if he doesn't find, He'd pick a qualified person outside His family tree. That's probably why he picked Saul, who later became Paul.

Don't get me wrong; God can pour knowledge upon anybody. But why will He do that when someone who already has the knowledge He needs is available. I don't pray to God to use me; I just prepare myself to be used. God uses the prepared! And it might interest you

to know that He still has a lot to do with you; but study to show yourself approved.

INCREASE YOUR SPEED...

Knowledge is fast! If you need to increase the speed of your accomplishments, just increase the rate at which you acquire knowledge. Knowledge is the only thing that has every other thing. In 2 Chro 1:8-12, Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge to lead the Israelites properly; and surprisingly, God literally told him that it was impossible for knowledge not to be accompanied with wealth, possessions, and honor. Knowledge is never alone; that is why people with good knowledge always feel heavily guarded. No wonder Elisha told his servant not to worry because "they that are with us are more than

they that are with them". Knowledge makes you more than any opposition.

Knowledge has the secret to everything that pertains to life and godliness; that is what 2 Pet 1:3 tells us. Bishop David Oyedepo has often told us how he went up to the mountain to study about the secret to Kingdom prosperity; and when he found it, he screamed "I can never be poor". And truly, everyone who knows him also knows that he can never be poor. Prov 24:14 says *"so shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto your soul, and when you have found it, there shall be a reward, and your expectations shall not be cut off"*. Everything you expect to have in life is in knowledge, you just need to find it.

Life is in phases; men are in sizes. Knowledge is what determines the size of every man.

BACK TO FOCUS...

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. I've discovered that 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.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO FOCUS...

Start applying everything you've learnt from this little book. What I've shared in this book is what has helped me as a social media writer. I almost aborted the vision in 2013, but I received a mail from a lady who complained that she had not received my messages for some days. I was humbled; I wrote the next day, and then the day after, and I have not stopped writing. You don't need to be like me; I believe God compelled that lady to send that mail just to tell me that every vision is deliverable. It may take time, but it will surely come to pass.

My prayer for you is that you will not lose your focus, in the name of Jesus!

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