
Matthew

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BREAKING THROUGH LIMITATIONS

**EMEKA
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Just Before We Begin...

The testifier in the picture below finished secondary school in 2002 but couldn't pass JAMB until 2007. He gained admission into school that same year, emerged the best student, but couldn't scale through the first year for lack of finances.



He saved up money to go back to school, but after 2 years of saving, he had only saved up 10 percent of what was required.

He decided to use the money to serve God and His kingdom. He sponsored worshippers to and from church services on Sundays. He had a team of young people who prayed for hours on a daily basis just to see souls saved and drafted into the kingdom of God. They went further to engage in physical outreaches, and their commitment was evident in their house fellowship centre. Between 2016 and 2017, his house fellowship centre had birthed 14 other centres. As at March 2017, the highest attendance in their house fellowship was 57 members.

Then God began to do wonders in his life...

By April, he got a job where he was paid a hundred thousand Naira for teaching just 3

subjects. The same month, a man approached his dad and built a house for him.

That's not all, he got a scholarship with The American University of Nigeria, but he had to forfeit the scholarship because he met someone in the school who urgently needed the money that was raised for him. ***(This one got me)***

Yeah, you guessed right! His benevolence didn't go unrewarded. He got another scholarship to Oral Robert University, alongside another sixteen thousand dollars' worth of scholarship.

Ask me if God has a bailout plan for His people to come out of challenges, I'd confidently tell you that He does, and His plan is ***KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP***.

Perhaps you're wondering why I'm so emphatic, then you should read my testimony which was documented in 2016 below:

HUNDRED NAIRA TO AN IT MANAGER! (MAY 2016)

I lost my job in October 2015, and couldn't get another one until now. I engaged in all the Wonder-Double Evangelism phases, including the on-going operation "Compel Them to Come". My cell replicated, and still counted 26 adults on the last Saturday of Wonder-Double phase 3. I did things I've never done before during my personal outreaches; I even got a divine inspiration to go to Iyana-Ipaja Bus stop to distribute fliers to people who were returning from work in the evening. I felt ashamed, because I wondered what those working-class people would think of me. But I summoned courage, coupled with the joy that came from the greetings I was getting from my church members that passed me.

In February 2016, I decided to start working as a volunteer staff in a Christian organization, since it is unscriptural for a Christian to be idle. I was committed to the job, even to a point that only few of the staffs knew that I wasn't on the organization's payroll.

On Tuesday, the last week of the “Operation Compel them to come”, I went on a morning raid along with my fellowship members. And after the raid, I went to the office - with just 200 naira in my pocket. I wanted to buy recharge card so I could make some calls, but I heard the voice of Bishop David Abioye in my spirit saying, "What you need to have is in what you have to give". I resisted from buying the recharge card; instead, I bought hundred Naira worth of biscuit and distributed to my colleagues. They were unusually happy with it, and even blessed me.

An hour later, I got a message from my uncle that the IT Manager in the company where he works

resigned without notice, and that he had discussed with the directors to meet with me on Wednesday 27th of April, 2016. The interview was more of a discussion, then a little practical to prove that I can do the job. The director told me to resume work on the 2nd of May, but that he had other people he wants to interview before that day. I received a call from my uncle yesterday, Thursday, telling me that they cannot wait till the 2nd of May, that I should come and resume tomorrow - which is a Friday, and the last working day for that month. I have resumed work, with a wonderful salary package and allowances. I give all the glory to God.

Yeah, that is what God did for me. A year after, I revisited the path I used to walk through each time I went on the bus-stop evangelism, and to my amazement, things had really changed for me. Guess what? My life has been a wonder since then.

Recently, the Holy Spirit began to unveil deep thoughts about Matthew 6:33 to me. And the moment I understood them, I knew it had to go

public. These were the things I practiced during the 7 months I was unemployed. Engaging this truth didn't just get me a job, it gave me a life.

Here's my take, if you feel limited or restricted from living the life you really desire to live, then you've just hit a jackpot. Applying the truth in this e-book will give you that life. Have a good read!

The Nail Is Already On the Head...

If you want to scale heights in life, then be ready to honour those who possess qualities you don't. In Hebrews 7:7, the bible tells us that, ***"Without all contradiction, the less is blessed of the better"***. In simpler terms, *"This is a principle that cannot change, he who has something you desire has capacity to release the grace to have that thing to you"*.

Satan may oppose your prayer and fasting, and all your efforts to be elevated, but he can't do anything against this principle. The moment you begin to honour or serve those

who have an edge over you, the grace they carry begins to rob on you.

There are many ways to serve or honour a person, but the most efficient of all is to add value to the life of that person. Value can be added either financially or through promoting a cause or purpose. Bishop David Oyedepo has often shared how he sold many books written by Kenneth Hagin - just because he loved his teachings. Today, he has fully replicated the faith movement that Kenneth Hagin carried.

It wasn't hard for Elijah to release his Mantle upon Elisha, because he had followed and supported his cause all the way through. It's quite unfortunate that we live in a world where people talk down those who carry the

breakthroughs they need. Pride and jealousy won't allow them see. Just imagine how much you may have lost to dishonor. I can respect a little child as long as that child has something I need. Don't let your age deceive you, it is grace that makes great.

Most times you don't even need the person to proclaim a blessing on you. The moment you commit yourself to serving his or her interests, you've qualified for the blessing. If Laban understood this principle, he would not have considered cheating Jacob. Jacob served Laban valuably; and even though Laban planned to leave Jacob unrewarded, God's word could not be broken. So long as he had served Laban, he was entitled to the blessing.

Let's relate this idea to God's kingdom. If it works with mere men, how much more do you think you can achieve when you serve God?

Amazingly, God is very emphatic about this system. In Matt 6:33, the bible says ***"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these thing shall be added unto you"***. In other words, *"serve my interests, and I'd add everything you need to you"*.

The needs of an average man are technically endless. If I give you an opportunity to list the things you need right now, we'd both be amazed at the long list that would emerge.

God knows that the nature of man would always compel him to have a need. The house rent you paid last year will need to be renewed this year. And if you happen to own the house, you'd need to pay other utility bills. If you're single, there's probably not so much to worry about, but for those who are married, the list of needs is endless.

Let's do a quick exercise. You don't have to be shy about this. Doing this would broaden your understanding of what I'm about to explain in the next few pages:

- 1. WRITE OUT A LIST OF THE THINGS YOU NEED THIS YEAR ON A SHEET OF PAPER.**
- 2. NOW THINK OF A QUALIFICATION YOU HAVE THAT CAN GET ALL OF THOSE THINGS FOR YOU.**

Please do not navigate to the next page till you've completed steps 1 and 2.

Let me guess, you couldn't find a qualification. Perhaps, even your academic qualification won't help you meet all those needs.

Here's the good news...

No matter how long your list may be, all those things shall be added to you if you make serving God's interest a priority. That's what Matthew 6:33 meant.

Matthew 6:33 King James Version (KJV)

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Normally, you should work hard, save up money, before you can afford a car or a house. But in the kingdom, your commitment

to promoting the cause of God's kingdom can add those things to you. Bishop David Oyedepo paraphrased Matt 6:33 as *"seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things that others are dying to get shall be added to you"*.

BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS FIRST?

It means *"giving priority to the things that are right in God's sight"*. It's about viewing life through the eyes and heart of God. It's about seeing the wounded and helping them, knowing that God would want to help them. It's about seeing the poor and teaching them how to get wealth, knowing that God would desire to do so. It's about loving what God loves, and doing what God will do. It's about saving lost souls and bringing them into God's kingdom.

While Jesus was on earth, He went about doing good, and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil. Peter and John didn't hesitate to heal the crippled man at the Beautiful Gate, because they knew that's what Jesus would have wanted. As a matter of scriptures, Peter said *"I don't have silver or gold, but I will give you what I have. In the name of Jesus, rise up and walk"*. And the crippled man began to walk.

The truth is, you can't truly advance the cause of God's kingdom and not experience advancement in life.

A woman shared a testimony of how she started a fashion business behind her house, after 18 years of idleness. According to her testimony, the only thing they did to advance

the business was kingdom advancement engagements. They prayed for souls to be saved, went out to speak to the souls they prayed for, and probably turned the office to a fellowship centre. And in less than 3 months, the fashion business gained world recognition, that it was even on newspaper. In less than 3 months, they were paying tithes in millions. There is no conventional business strategy that can do that in 3 months.

You read the introductory testimony of that young man who was saving up money to further his education. And after two years of saving, he had not saved up to 10 percent of what was needed. He decided to invest the money into God's kingdom by conveying new members to church every Sunday. He also prayed for souls to be saved and went further to reach out to lost souls from street to

street. According to him, it wasn't long before God began to open doors of favour unto him. Scholarships were just trooping in from different angles.

Seeking God's kingdom is a big time business. It's the kind of business that the 12-year old Jesus couldn't resist. He particularly said to his parents ***"why will you be looking for me? You should know I will be doing my Father's business"***.

However, I should mention that the initial capital you'd need to start this business is love for God. If seeking God's kingdom is not love-motivated, then you will not get any result. If you're helping or praying for a person to be saved, let it be because you love God, and not because you'd get returns from

God. People who seek the Lord with that mindset rarely have anything to show for their engagements. Those who seek the Lord don't expect blessings, they enjoy blessings. Blessings naturally follow those who genuinely seek God.

Jesus never prayed for money, but He had an accountant who followed Him everywhere He went. Blessing-consciousness is what actually releases blessings. It was this blessing-consciousness that made Jesus curse the fig tree. He expected to find fruit in the tree, whether it was fig time or not, all because He was conscious of blessing. Many years ago, something abnormal happened around me which made me scream "what were the angels doing?". I was so blessing-conscious that I expected the angels to fix that matter in my absence.

That said, it's important that I mention various avenues through which we can serve God's interests. While some of those avenues may already be congested with stewards, soul winners are constantly needed. In fact, Matt 9:37-38 made it a prayer point. It says ***"the labourers are few, but the harvest is plenteous. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest"***. Joining ushering or protocol service unit in your church isn't a prayer point in heaven, but enlisting as a soul winner is.

If that's the case, soul winners must have some special kingdom benefits attached to them. John 15:16 says ***"they may ask God for anything, and it will be given to them"***. This reminds me of a guy who entered a soul winning agreement with God. He asked God what would be given to him for every soul he

won into the kingdom, and God responded asking him what he wanted for each soul. He requested for a million Naira for each soul. Humorously, after he won the first soul, God gave him a business deal that yielded a profit of one million Naira. God does not restrict His acts when it comes to matters that concern soul winners.

Soul winning is a great practice of faith. It's a response to a prayer from scripture. There are people who pray to God and expect answers, but soul winners are answered prayers from the kingdom.

As Christians, we probably already know that we are the light of the world, but the question many of us haven't really asked ourselves is, *"if I'm the light of the world, can*

the world see clearly through my light?". For some of us, perhaps even our families are still glutting over darkness. If our families still live in darkness, how then do we illuminate the world? Mysteriously, some of us who are Christians are not even equipped enough to restrict the irregularities of life.

Really, if I'm the light of the world, how do I shine? How do I give light to those in darkness?

The answer is SOUL WINNING...

In Daniel 12:3, the bible says, ***"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever"***. This literally means that Righteous-living

without soul winning will only make you an average believer.

SERVING GOD PAYS

Our national economy may be failing, but the economy of the kingdom of God cannot be affected. The bible particularly says that the kingdom of God cannot be moved.

Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the works of the Lord, for as much as you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Nobody truly works for God and returns with nothing to show. Exodus 23:25 tells us that if we ***"serve the Lord, He shall bless our bread and water, and He will take sickness away from our midst"***.

Organizations may guarantee you healthcare, but it is only our service to God that guarantees divine health. Organizations may put food on your table, but it is only our service to God that guarantees blessing on the food. Many believers earn fat salaries, but because they don't engage in kingdom service, their fat salaries only bring fat problems. Great income without kingdom focus will attract locusts, and locusts won't hesitate to eat.

But do not worry; in case you are already suffering the torments of locusts, the bible tells us that God is able to restore to you the years that the locusts have eaten up, all you have to do is serve the interests of God's kingdom. I heard a testimony of a brother who lost everything he had and was operating at "Ground-Zero" level. He heard about

kingdom service and plugged into it. He prayed earnestly for the salvation of souls and even went out to minister to them physically. Then God showed up and changed his story. He was even restored in multiple folds.

Among other things, serving God guarantees blessings, divine health and healing, longevity, protection, and fruitfulness. Those benefits are clearly noted in Exodus 23:24-25. Come to think of it; your organization may put you under a life assurance, but they cannot prolong your life. They may give you access to riches, but they cannot bless you; they may provide medical insurance, but they cannot give health and wholeness.

Organizations will prescribe a solution to health challenges, but only service to God guarantees healing. Do not be deceived by "my company has a good health insurance", the only group of people that enjoy true health insurance are those who keep company with God and His works. Arming yourself with all the security officials in the world is not a guarantee for your safety; the world may give you security, but they cannot guarantee your safety.

How much are we even able to accomplish with our monthly income? It's all pointing to the fact that our various organizations may pay us salaries, but they cannot give us fruitfulness. It is service to God that adds fruitfulness to our lives and causes our incomes, no matter how little, to be useful.

Of course, there are several other ways to serve God, such as church service groups or units. In the church where I worship, we have different service groups, which includes Ushering, Choir, Sanctuary Keeping, Hospitality, Crowd Control, Security, Traffic Control, and more. However, soul winning and seeking the advancement of God's are goldmines, and they cannot be compared to any other form of service to God.

This is vital, serve God with joyfulness and gladness of heart. In Deut 28:47-48 the bible says ***"the LORD blessed you in every way, but you would not serve him with glad and joyful hearts. So then, you will serve the enemies that the LORD is going to send against you. You will be hungry, thirsty, and naked, in need of everything. The LORD will oppress***

you harshly until you are destroyed". That will not be your portion!

However, be sensitive; when you start seeing unusual hunger, thirst, and shame, then you should check if the joy of service is still working in you. It is better not to serve God at all than to serve Him without gladness of heart. It is better to live as an average believer than to suffer the wrath of God. That said, never forget that serving God truly pays.

WHEN IT COMES TO EVANGELISM OR REACHING OUT TO THE UNSAVED, LET'S BE BOLD ENOUGH TO MENTION JESUS IN OUR CONVERSATION... ***LET ME TELL YOU A SIDE STORY...***

It's about a certain man who we tried so hard to invite to church.

Life on earth was rosy for him; so he never saw the need to go to church.

Though he wasn't a Christian, yet we insisted many times that he'd come to church. Of course, he didn't hesitate to say ***"I'm not a Christian"***.

He thought he was living a wealthy life, if only he knew that all his wealth without divine security would soon land him below the well.

It wasn't long before he passed on. I got upset when I heard the news, ***"Ah! This is a man we have been inviting to church oooooo"*** played a major role in my mouth.

Don't get me wrong; he had a good behavior. But I needed him to be saved more than I needed him to behave. He always said "hi", but I never said **"Jesus loves you"**. I think my sight scared him, because he knew I'd probably bore him with **"will you come to church tomorrow?"**

But that's the point; I never really told him about Jesus Christ. I wanted him to come to church and encounter Jesus, which of course has always worked for me. And that's why I was bent on inviting him to one church service. But I never told him about Jesus.

He knew about the church, but I wonder if he knew anything about Jesus. And how would He have believed in Jesus if he never heard of Him. Rom 10:13-14 tells us that ***"whosoever***

shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

In those days, evangelists would first introduce you to Jesus. And after you've received Jesus, they'd recommend a church for you. But these days, it's the other way around. And many of us are guilty of this.

I've discovered that most people who go out on evangelism don't even have details about Jesus. They go out to share their experience with Him in a church, but rarely say a single word about Him. **"I went to that church, and**

Jesus healed me" is what you'd often hear. But then, who is Jesus?

Maybe we don't know, genuine zeal to preach the gospel comes by our true knowledge of Jesus. Many people even feel shy to preach, and that's because they don't have plausible details about Jesus. Preaching Jesus is a delightful experience; you can't have a good knowledge of Him and not preach him to the world.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying you shouldn't invite people to church; rather, I'm saying while you stretch your hands to give them your tracts and service fliers, also open your mouth and tell them that Jesus loves them. The purpose to which you're inviting them to church is to meet with Jesus, so it's

only appropriate that you tell them that. Moreover, you can't be so sure that they'd make it to the service day. But a single mention of the name "Jesus" would activate the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and you'd be amazed at the feedback you'd get from that individual.

Here is something you should always say to yourself, ***"I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation"***.

EVANGELISM IS A RESCUE MISSION

No matter how intense you preach to a chicken, it can't reason with you. I'm not even sure it would listen to you; but even if it does, it can't understand you. If you need a chicken to surrender to you, just supply its need.

Every chicken is naturally hungry; all they need is food to stay alive. A chicken wouldn't need to cross a highway when it has food by its side. Whenever you see a chicken wandering about, it's looking for a place where its need would be met. A chicken would do anything to get anything. They are what they eat and what is eating them.

God saw this chicken-like character in man after the fall of man. Man did everything to satisfy his body and soul, forgetting that he is supposed to be a spirit. Come to think of it; fornication and every sexual immorality is just to satisfy the body and soul. Food is just to satisfy the body and soul. Malice and bitterness is just to satisfy the body and soul, hatred and slandering is just to satisfy the body and soul. And that's exactly how the chicken lives - to satisfy its body and soul.

Anytime you desire a thing just to satisfy your body and soul, then you're thinking like a chicken. And this is why God destroyed man and everything He created. The reason why He made the earth was for man to live in it, and since man was malfunctioning, He destroyed man and the earth. But He was merciful enough to restore man through Noah's ark.

God swore never to destroy what He created again. But man grew more chickening. God used a lot of means to get man to his senses - to know how he is supposed to function. But man continued to search for a place where his needs would be met. Finally, God sent Jesus, our Savior, who preached with so much conviction. And man started to regain consciousness. Jesus went about "doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil". He did good by turning water into wine

when wine was needed, He did good by feeding five thousand people. He also healed many sick people. He was able to recover man from his chicken nature to his original nature. He made them understand that "they don't need to go places to have their needs met, they just need to seek the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all those things they are running after would begin to run after them". He practically showed them how to receive from God. That is the root of evangelism!

Evangelism is not just an outreach program; it is recovering man from his chicken nature to his original nature. So whenever you're on evangelism, please understand that you're on a rescue mission. If Jesus did not feed those five thousand people, I wonder how many of them would continue following Him. But it's

not the fact that He fed them that mattered, it's how He fed them! He referenced God first. That singular act practically proved what Jesus was preaching. Even though the bible didn't say it, I'm sure they were asking questions. And questions would naturally lead to surrenderedness.

I'm not saying you must carry money and food during evangelism, no! I'm saying that "as long as that man is not saved yet, then he has a need, you just have to be sensitive to that need and meet it in Jesus name". Peter and John met a crippled beggar at the beautiful gate; they could have easily prayed to God to give the beggar money, but they were sensitive to his actual need, and Peter said "silver and gold I have not but that which I have I will give you, in the name of Jesus rise

up and walk". And that was it, the crippled beggar started walking.


Remember! Everything Jesus preached was based on the current need of the people. Don't preach out of context, determine their need and meet it. God will help you in Jesus name! May God give us understanding!

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!

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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).