



THE GREAT ADVANTAGE

C H R I S T I A N I T Y

Emeka Anslem

THE GREAT ADVANTAGE

Emeka Anslem

First published in 2017

Copyright © Emeka Anslem

anslem.emeka@gmail.com

facebook.com/emekaanslem01

Phone: +2349024529639

WhatsApp: +2348065582482

JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...

Christianity does not limit you from being the best you can be; instead, it enables you to be more than the best you can be. Christianity is a great advantage to the life of man; if Daniel could be ten times better than his peers without Christ, imagine the depth and distinction a man with Christ can enjoy. Christianity multiplies our abilities; it makes our eyes see farther, it makes our ears hear better. It gives us the mind of Christ, so that we can think like Christ.

I'd like you to get set, because God is about to break every limitation around your Christian life through the revelation in this book. God bless you richly!

YEAH, YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW THAT...

FAITH WITHOUT WORK IS DEAD

When you see me pray to God about a particular matter, then it means I've exhausted all my options. And from experience, whenever I do pray with that mindset, God responds instantly.

How do we know what God will do when we keep pushing the things we can do to Him? God can do all things, but He's definitely not going to attend classes on your behalf. He's not going to be the husband to your wife or the wife to your husband, He's not going to study for you, He's not going to write those

promotional or professional exams for you, He's not going to sit in your office and do your job for you. He's not going to do those things He has given you capacity to do.

Moreover, the Bible didn't say "***all things are possible to God***"; rather, it says "***all things are possible with God***". And that literally means that there's no restriction to what we can do, as long as we are working with God.

If we read through the scriptures, we'd discover that God mostly intervened on matters that seemed impossible with men. Mark 10:27 says "***And Jesus, looking upon them, saith, with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible***". If it is impossible with men, then expect God to do it. And that also means you don't need to burden God for a challenge that

you can easily solve, whether independently or with the assistance of another man.

A lady once shared her testimony with me on how she was willing to pay a professional to teach her a particular technique in cake baking. Her fee was ready, but the professional didn't seem to have time for her; she stabbed all her appointments. This lady became really worried, because she needed to use that technique. After a while, she prayed to God about it, and God taught her the technique that very moment. That's how this Christian faith works; you must be willing to try something by yourself, then go to God when you've exhausted your options. This way, you'd become more experienced in dealing with the issues of life. God is looking for men like Moses; men who would face Pharaoh with the things they've learnt, then go back to God when they've exhausted their

options. He doesn't like it when people trouble Him with prayers when they still have a "rod" in their hand.

I've seen believers who live with headache for days, only because they refused to take a simple aspirin. If you ask them why they refused to use medication, they'd tell you they have faith that God will heal them. And so a little ache aggravates to fever, and then to typhoid. Before you know it, they'd need intensive medical attention. Most of them will tell you that the headache is a spiritual attack; but from experience, the ache and sickness that many believers experience is usually because of their ignorance on how to live healthy. Even if you take all the anointing oil and communion you have in the house, if you stress your body unreasonably, you'd pay for it. I've had to visit many strong believers in the hospital, and the report was usually the

same, "We had to rush him/her to the hospital".

We need to apply wisdom to our dealings. The bible has already told us that if our strength fails in the day of battle, then our strength is small. The fact that you feel ache on your head simply means that your strength is small, and that's not a time to start claiming faith. Of course, pray about the challenge, but do not hesitate to consult an expert if you need to. If we focus on developing our faith, we'd all get to a point where we effortlessly overcome the world like scripture says; but before we get there, we need to act smarter than the devil. God wants you to be well either way.

Don't get me wrong; even medicine still requires faith to work. I've heard of people

who used really expensive medicines and still lost their lives. Taking medicine doesn't mean you don't have faith. Taking medicine is not even a sin, though it's a weight that is totally avoidable - if you know what to do to stay healthy.

Talking about spiritual attacks; medicine won't work on spiritual attacks. I once had a migraine that lasted for four days; on the first day, I refused to use medicine by faith. The ache became more intense, even till the second day - when I was eventually compelled to use a painkiller; yet, the ache didn't go away. I woke up with the same ache on the fourth day, with a nudging in my spirit to seek knowledge from God's word. While I was studying, I found a scripture that made me scream "HEADACHE GO NOW!". And immediately, the ache disappeared. I also remember when I had a mysterious bone

dislocation on my right leg. I visited my office's medical centre to explain how it felt, but the nurse only gave me a balm. I called on my colleagues to help me do a massage, but even the strongest hands could not shift the bone. That was when I knew that only God can do it. I prayed a very short prayer afterwards, ***"Lord, they've all tried their best, but they couldn't do it. Now, over to you"***. Five minutes after, I heard a "cracky" sound from the same leg, and that was it. When it's a spiritual attack, you'd definitely know. I also had a strange ache in my right ear that made hearing difficult for me. I got really concerned that I had to ask the Holy Spirit what was happening to me. And He didn't hesitate to tell me that I was exposing myself to too much cold, and that my body was simply reacting to the cold. Immediately, I put on a sweat-shirt, and the pain started reducing until it disappeared. That wasn't a spiritual

attack, but the consequences of my ignorance. Many people are in the sick bed today, only because of their ignorance. Just imagine if I had stayed in that cold a little longer.

EVEN IN CAREER...

I used to encourage job seekers to walk up to any organization in faith to submit their CV. But the question I never asked them was if their CV had an employable content.

I like miracles, but I prefer the one I worked hard to get. I prefer the one I applied knowledge to receive. Unfortunately, many people, believers especially, are looking for cheap miracles. A Christian brother once visited me and asked me to pray for his business. I told him I didn't have a problem praying for him, but does he have a plan to

manage the miracle that he desired? I prayed for him, even though he didn't seem to pay attention to the things I was saying. He made great profit the next day, but only to return few days after to complain that customers were not coming. If only he had listened to my counsel that "***He needed to learn how to grow a business***". Many believers are like that; they run businesses with little or no professional ideas on how to grow a business. All they know about growing a business are the things they learnt in church. Many of them even ignorantly think they are growing; meanwhile, they are performing below average.

This thing is simple; if it's impossible to learn how to grow your business with man, then grow it with God. If it's impossible to build your career with man, then build it with God. But why do we sit on "God will do it" when

we've not explored all the knowledge that man has to offer? If you need a promotion in your career, then do some promotional or professional courses. If you still don't get the promotion afterwards, then go to God. Isn't this why the bible says we should bring forth our strong reason? Is it not even easier to pray when we have all the evidence to show that we deserve what we're praying for? Bishop David Oyedepo has often shared a testimony of how he planned to pray about a particular challenge. But before he commenced, he prepared himself by searching for scriptural evidences on why his prayer must be answered. Just as he was concluding his preparation, he said he heard the voice of God saying "I've heard you". He didn't pray, but God still answered. And that's because he was ready.

This is also relative to physical preparation. Many people won't need to pray about getting a job or a promotion if they would commit to developing themselves enough. You may not agree, but I believe that one of the reasons why God chose Paul was because he was educated to a reasonable extent. Paul was more educated than most, if not all, of the disciples. We must understand that the same way we pray to God for employment in a good organization, those good organizations are also praying to God to give them good employees. And no matter how much you pray, if you're not good enough, God won't refer you to such organizations. Trust me, God won't mind converting an unbeliever who is more qualified just to answer the prayers of such organizations. That's exactly what He did for Paul. The "good spouse" that many singles are praying for are also praying for a good spouse. The good school many

students are praying for are also praying for good students. God will definitely answer both sides, but He won't give you to the school if you're not good, and He won't put you in the school if the school is not good.

I know the bible is against putting our trust in man, but it didn't say we shouldn't use the innovations of men. Come to think of it, every good idea we see in the world today are gifts from God. Career development courses, professional exams, business success secrets, medicine, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and so on. God made them all. And He made them so that we can use them. We may not put our trust in them, but it doesn't mean we should not use them.

AN ADVANTAGE TO DO MORE...

Paul said "I am what I am by the grace of God. Nevertheless, I laboured more than them all".

That's the advantage we have as believers; we have grace to work more than the world can. When the world begins to get weary, we have grace to continue. Grace is God's ability in us to continue the work, even in hard and impossible times. When Paul was stoned to death, he rose up after a while and continued his work. But when the other disciples were caged and slaughtered, their work ended. The other disciples probably didn't understand the function of grace like Paul did. If they did, maybe they would have come back to life, even after they were slaughtered.

But here is my point; how would believers work more than the world has worked when a large percentage of them are still "trusting God to do the work for them"" It's amazing how people who were working really hard became lazy when they gave their lives to Christ. They claim to have faith, forgetting

that faith without work is dead. Many believers are clearly operating a dead faith; and that's why they have nothing to show for their Christianity. I studied hard when I was in the world, but when I gave my life to Christ, I studied even harder. Christianity adds joy and peace to you to do things with pleasure; and that's something the people of the world do not have. If that's the case, it means we can be working really hard and still feel restful about it. No wonder Jesus said ***"come to me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"***. Jesus gives rest, even in hard labour, so that we can continue working.

BUT ANSLEM, WHY DO WE HAVE TO WORK THAT HARD?

Let's see an answer from scriptures;

Isaiah 61:

1. The Sovereign LORD has filled me with his Spirit. He has chosen me and sent me To bring good news to the poor, To heal the broken-hearted, To announce release to captives And freedom to those in prison.

2. He has sent me to proclaim That the time has come When the LORD will save his people And defeat their enemies. He has sent me to comfort all who mourn,

3. To give to those who mourn in Zion Joy and gladness instead of grief, A song of praise instead of sorrow. They will be like trees That the LORD himself has planted. They will all do what is right, And God will be praised for what he has done.

4. They will rebuild cities that have long been in ruins.

5. My people, foreigners will serve you. They will take care of your flocks And farm your land and tend your vineyards. (GNB Translation)

Those verses explain the assignment of Jesus and what He came to this world to achieve for us. But verse 4 tells us why He saved us; it says *"... They will rebuild cities that have long been in ruin"*. In other words, if you can still see cities that are experiencing ruin, then you have work to do. Building a house is not child's play, now imagine what building a city will be like. If you're one of those Christians who just wants to sit down and wait for God to favour you with a miracle house, then you may not understand what I mean by "working hard". Joseph had faith in God, but check out his work from his father's house to Pharaoh's palace. Jacob had faith in God, but check out his work from his father's house to Laban's house.

The life of Bishop David Oyedepo inspires me a lot. He is a man who works for about 18 hours daily, sleeps for less than 4 hours, and

still feels healthy. And if you check the results he is commanding, they are great exploits. If you have been to Canaanland, then you'd see the reality of Isaiah 61. That place is a city on its own, which also houses a school that is currently rebuilding the image of Nigeria. All these cannot be gotten with a dead faith, it's faith with hard work. I've not seen a man in his field who has achieved what he has achieved in the same space of time that he did. And the difference is work. Paul worked more, and he achieved more. I've met believers who say they don't want to be really wealthy, that all they want is to be comfortable. That's selfish! And that's not what Jesus saved us for. He saved us so that we can rebuild cities, not to be selfish. Every believer has an obligation to be really wealthy, because we can't rebuild a house, let alone a city, without wealth. And wealth answers to hard work. Ps 1:3 says ***"we shall be***

like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth fruit in its season, its leaves shall not wither, and whatever he does shall prosper". In other words, prosperity is for "doers", if you're not a doer, you're not permitted to prosper.

YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO HAVE MORE...

Do you sometimes feel like what you get from God is too small, and that you deserve more? Well, you are not the first. In Joshua 17:14-18, after Joshua had distributed inheritances among the people, the family of Joseph came to him and complained that the portion of the land that was given to them was too small, considering the fact that they are great people. Great people? Someone would have thought that Joshua made a mistake, and would assign another land to them. But surprisingly, the response was different.

Joshua acknowledged that indeed the family of Joseph were great people, and that he assigned a small portion of land to them. But then he told them that "they were not only entitled to that small land, but all the lands on the mountains can also be possessed by them, if they defeat the oppositions". In other words, they had bigger land space than any other family, except that they had to contend with the enemy in battle. Personally, I have discovered that God does not have problems giving me ideas that will give me plenty of money, but whenever I asked Him for money, He gives me a small portion. When God does not give you as much as you asked for, then it probably means you have what it takes to have more than you have asked for.

Greatness is at a price. If God has put greatness within you, then He will not waste it. Do not always expect him to give you things that the things He has put inside you can give to you.

SAVED FOR SOMETHING...

God does not only save us from something, He saves us for something. Salvation is not only a move to deliver us from going to hell; it's also the platform where we can secure the posterity of many generations. Salvation is not a one-time confession, it's a long-term profession. The bible says we should work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Every believer is supposed to be known for a good work. In Eph 2:10, the bible says we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance

for us to do. I feel very sad whenever I meet idle believers, because there's no room for idleness in God's salvation agenda. John 15:16 also makes it clear that God saved us so that we can be fruitful in life. Many believers don't work, only because they've not found what they like. Well, before you find what you like, do what you find. It's not really about the kind of work you do, but about the glory of God that shows. I've heard of shoemakers and domestic cleaners who built a house with the little they earned. The glory of God is mostly expressed by working; so find a place to work, even if it is for free.

Let the salvation of your soul become a joyful thing to the people around you. Do all you can to discover the good works that God has prepared for you, and work in them.

BEFORE YOU FIND WHAT YOU LIKE, DO WHAT YOU FIND?

A certain brother completed his MBA and searched for a reputable job for many years. When a job wasn't forthcoming, he decided to buy a "Shoe Polishing kit". He polished shoes for a living until he bought a wheelbarrow which he used to haul goods for market women from one location to another. One day, while he was pushing goods for a customer, he noticed a job opening in a bank. He quickly went back to his Park to change to a more corporate outfit. Meanwhile, every time he left his house in the morning, he dressed corporately. And when he gets to his work space, he'd change to a work cloth and hang his corporate cloth somewhere. He got to the bank and joined the other people who also came for the interview. Miraculously, out of over 100 people who came for the

interview, this brother got the job as the chief accountant for the bank.

You may have read Law, but if you don't find a platform to practice, do what can easily be found. That brother had a good degree in accounting, but before he got an accounting job, he did what he could find. The undoing of many believers is that they often think that they deserve more than what is available, unknowing to them that what is available creates room for what is obtainable.

I remember how I looked for a job in the year 2016. And when I couldn't find one, I offered my skills as a volunteer service to a bible school. I worked with them for about 3 months without pay; and sometimes, I even had to trek from home to the bible school, all because I couldn't afford the transport fare.

But just at the end of the third month, God gave me a job. I'm convinced that the reason why many believers don't have a job is because they are not working. I was working, even though I didn't have a job, and then I got one. Even the bible tells us that ***"the desire of the slothful kills him because he refuses to work"***. It didn't say because he doesn't have a job, but because he refuses to work.

LET ME CONCLUDE WITH THIS...

While you wait on God to do a miracle, if you can still think of a good work to do, go ahead and do it. Ecc 9:10 says ***"whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it..."***. Phil 4:8 further explains the things to do when it said ***"finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be***

any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things".

While you're trusting God to give you a good life-partner, build yourself into someone that deserves a good partner. Trust me, it's far better to learn how to fix certain errors before you start a relationship than in the relationship. While God is working on giving you a career breakthrough, do what you can to be on top of your career. Take professional courses, and even do professional exams to gain more qualifications. While you're trusting God for a huge capital to run your business, do the little work you can to start the business.

Sometimes, it's not our goodness that qualifies us for God's blessing, it's our preparation. Jesus needed to feed 5000

people; He found a boy with 5 loaves of bread and two fishes, which obviously would not be enough. But despite the insufficiency, He continued His preparation for God's intervention. He made them sit down in groups of 50. Right after that, He thanked God for even providing the 5 loaves and 2 fishes that were available. At that point, God didn't have a choice but to perform that miracle.

You may not have what it takes to get the big thing, but if you look around you, you'd find what you'd need to get the big thing started. I remember the story of a poor man who wanted to start his own business, but had no money. It was during the times of consistent blackout; he looked for a job but couldn't find one. It suddenly occurred to him that he could supply candles to the retailers who also travelled long distance to buy them. He didn't

have money to implement this idea; however, he negotiated with all the retailers around the community to pay him the cost of buying the quantity of candles they needed and a subsidized amount for transportation. They all agreed, considering the fact that it was cheaper and easier for them. Amazingly, because he was buying in large quantities, he paid a wholesale price for the candles, and also enjoyed free transportation. That's how he became rich enough to start his own business.

Christianity is a great advantage to us who believe. We just need to learn how to make the most of it.

My prayer is that your life will become a true example for other Christians to follow.

God bless you, I love you, and don't forget to send me your testimony!

- 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



More Inciting
Books By
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.

I'm very accessible. So please do not hesitate to connect with me through the contact details listed on the copyright page. God bless you with multiple promotions!