A person stands on a long wooden pier extending into a calm lake at dusk. The sky is dark and overcast, with a faint light on the horizon. The water reflects the dark sky. In the foreground, the wooden planks of the pier lead towards the person. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

YOU
ARE NOT A
BONUS

IFE ADETONA

ABOUT THE BOOK

There are about 7.8 billion people on planet earth today but you of all, are not a bonus. You are not a Bonus. God made you as a distinct individual. There are people that could be “parents by mistake” but there is no one ‘born by mistake’. You existed before you existed; you existed in the mind of God, your maker. You are the product of a careful and deliberate plan of God. There was a problem on earth, God said let there be a solution and there was you, yes you. You are here on purpose.

The purpose of a thing determines its make-up. Your purpose is the reason you were born the way you were born. It is the reason you were born into that family and that country. They were not meant to work against you but to work for you.

This book will reveal yourself to you and you will be set on the course of living a meaningful life. Hundreds of our students in the School of Purpose testified that this was the very lecture that changed them into a new person and you are about to experience the same. Congratulations.

May the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ife Adetona is an anointed preacher of the gospel. He is the President of Sons and Daughters of Zion [SADOZ] Worldwide. SADOZ is an interdenominational and discipleship ministry which has seen thousands of people baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues and helped people develop a friend to friend relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit. SADOZ's daily discipleship and devotional manual called Daily Communion reaches and blesses tens of thousands of people daily to the glory of God.

Ife Adetona is also the president of the Koinonia Bible Institute [KBI], an online training academy of SADOZ which offers various courses/schools: School of Ministry, School of Purpose, School of Leadership, School of Business, School of Prayer, School of Deliverance, School of Healing, Masterclass on Sex Education, Masterclass on Courtship and more.

He is the husband of Elizabeth Ife-Adetona and their home is blessed with godly seeds.

You Are Not A Bonus

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptural quotations in this book are from the King James Version of the Bible.

DEDICATION

I'm pleased to dedicate this book to the Director, Mentor and Associate Mentors of the Koinonia Arm of the Sons and Daughters of Zion [SADOZ] ministry for their unmatched zeal and concerted sacrifice towards the prosperity of the Koinonia Arm of our ministry. They have written their names on the minds of thousands of people that we reach out to daily through our Koinonia platform and it can never be erased.

- Mrs. Elizabeth Ife-Adetona- Director
- Bro. Oladiran Oluwaseyi Johnson- Mentor

Associate Mentors

- Sis. Raheem Oluwadamilola Toke
- Sis. Oyewole Oluwaseyi
- Sis. Akinwunmi Goodness
- Sis. Ayelagbe Eriiyanu Grace
- Sis. Oyeleke Mary Iyanuoluwa
- Sis. Adekunle Pipeloluwa Ruth
- Sis. Ayoade Olajumoke
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*KB? ...rightly dividing the word of truth.
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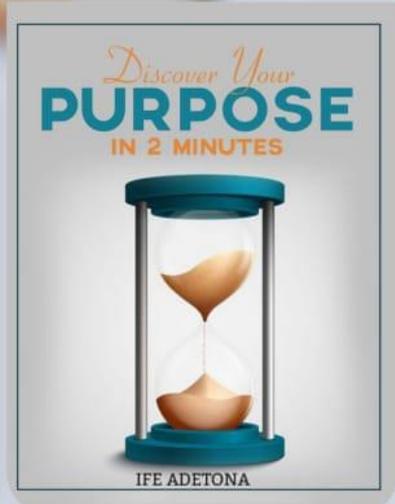
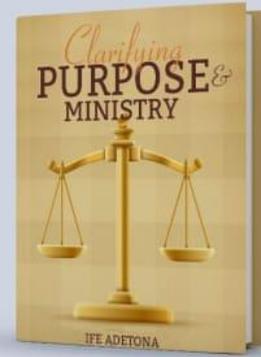
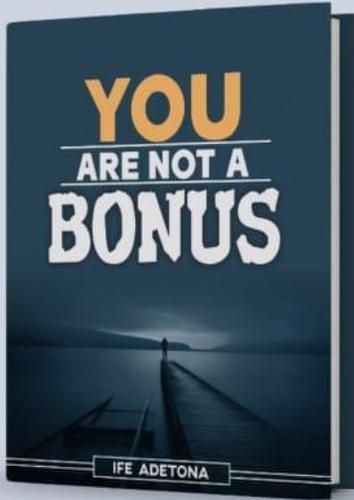
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PURPOSE SERIES



CONTENTS

Foreword

Testimony from School of Purpose

- #1 You Are Not A Bonus**
- #2 Product Of His Thought**
- #3 You Are Not Ordinary**
- #4 Your Background Notwithstanding**
- #5 My Lifetime**
- #6 Greatness Doesn't Come By Comparison**
- #7 Grace + Hardwork**
- #8 Fulfilment**
- #9 Success Is In Succession**
- #10 Destiny Determines Your Destination**
- #11 Placement**
- #12 Don't Be a Civil Servant**
- #13 Contentment And Progress**

Testimony from the School of Purpose, Koinonia Bible Institute, SADOZ

Thank God I attended the school because I learnt and unlearnt so many things. The school has really changed a lot of things in my life both consciously and unconsciously in all aspect. Now I know I am not a bonus. God's will has a lot to do with purpose in life, I am to make meaning in life, truths were discovered, my eyes were opened, deep thinking occurred, SOPP is nothing but a blessing. **Akinade K.**

I bless the name of the Lord for being part of this great school because I had a great encounter from the beginning till the end. My eyes of understanding got enlightened at every loaded lecture and most especially I was able to look into myself and discover hidden things I never thought of. I have come to realize that the best place to write your name is in the heart of man and purpose is about making meaning. My life is changed for the best. **Adeoye F.**

SOPP made me to understand that I am a product that has a maker and manufacturer and I cannot do anything without my producer. I learnt that I am not a bonus to my generation and there is a seed of greatness in me that must germinate for the benefits of other and me. The greatest testimony was that during the process of lecture in school of purpose, I discovered my purpose and potentials. **Gbadegesin M.**

God has made me to realize that there is more to existence and existence without making an impact in this world is purposeless. Through the help of KBI SOPP, I have gotten to discover my purpose and by the grace of God, I will to live to write my name in the heart of men by making positive impacts. This school has made me understand that God factor is the most important factor if I want to make meaning and fulfill purpose in life. Now I can boldly boast in Christ that I am not a bonus but a purposeful woman (Jeremiah 1:5) and a woman who has something great to offer the world. **Fapohunda A.**

School of Purpose is fulfilling purpose and I prefer to call it life changing experience than calling it a course or school. God bless His vessel for us and the incoming students. **Jacob O.**

During the course of the lectures, I discovered my purpose on earth. I received answers to many questions going on in my heart for a long time. I know who I am, where I am from, why I am on earth and where I am heading to. The lectures motivated me to discover my purpose on earth. KBI has helped me to know why I was made and understand that I am not a bonus but a success. **Adesipo O.**

My life has been transformed tremendously through the teachings. It was when I joined this institution that I knew I was not created as a bonus but God intentionally created, made, produced and baked me to suit His taste. The day I realized this, I stopped comparing my life to others, I am now a person that people look up to for a way out because any advice I give always meet their needs. I wouldn't have realized this if I had not joined the school of purpose. **Abiri O.**

I thank God Almighty for SADOZ. When I started SOPP, I started to see that though I didn't have tertiary education, I can do another thing and be successful thereby fulfilling my purpose. This school helped me to overcome my low self-esteem because I thought I was a failure having not achieved any of my goals after schooling but because of SADOZ, my life is transformed. I can now do what anyone cannot do it in my family. I am starting my small business and I am sure that with God, nothing is impossible. I have also gained more faith in the Lord as my Creator. I was not born again to suffer again. Also, I am happy to be in SADOZ leadership group and I see myself in the way of fulfillment. **Chidemeru P.**

I give God the glory who made me a beneficiary of the School of purpose scholarship. I am now enlightened on purpose. I now know my purpose and I have been exposed to everything on purpose. I was at the point of giving up but COP has really helped me. This course has made me know that at the end of every tunnel, there is light and no matter what I faced, whenever I remember COP, I always rejoice. **Akerele I.**

FOREWORD

There are times when we feel unloved. We feel unwanted. We feel that there is no real importance attached to our existence. These feelings give a sense of unworthiness and in some cases have driven some to the abyss of depression.

I was in a similar situation some months back. I felt unloved and it was as if the whole world was against me. But on one of those nights while praying outside, the Lord spoke to me. He told me to consider the stars in the sky. He said as numerous as they are, He knows each of them. Then He added, “how much more you?” In that instant, it dawned on me that He knows me. He knows my name. He knows the exact number of hairs on my body. He knows what I was passing through. It occurred to me that in the process of my formation, He thought out everything starting from my menstrual cycle to the shape of my face, the exact shade of my complexion, my height, my weight, my temperament and many other details about me. I realized that he understands my hormones even more than I do. And He made everything in such a way that they contribute to the person He wants me to be. None of those things came by chance. I realized that I am a product of His love and thought and that I am unique in my way. I am not mass produced.

This book captures those issues and lots more in simple language. It makes the reader understand that their existence is not a mistake. It exposes them to the issue of fulfilment and challenges them to make meaning in life no matter the circumstances surrounding them.

Sarah Obasa

Co-Editor

#1

You Are Not A Bonus

“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.” - Jeremiah 1:5NLT

There is something I wish to tell everyone on earth, I wish to say those words to every new born child, I wish to say it to the old and the young, I wish to say it to the rich and to the poor. Whenever I see a barefooted young man running after a vehicle to sell his goods on the highway, I wish to stop that man and tell him those words. I wish to say it to the poor, tattered and dirty children I see begging on streets. And I wish to say it to you right now. The words are: **You are not a Bonus.**

You are an intentional and deliberate action of God. There are billions of men on earth but the truth is that, ***you are not a result of a mass production.*** You are not *an extra tyre* to humanity. You are a product of God’s intention. It is true that we have people that became mothers and fathers by mistake but no one was “born by mistake”. God told Jeremiah that He “*formed*” him. God was not just talking to Jeremiah here. He is talking to you. God deliberately formed you. He knows you. As far as God is concerned, you are an individual and you are not lost in the crowd.

#2

Product Of His Thought

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”.

- Genesis 1:26

You are not a bonus. You are a product of His thought. Before any producer makes a thing, He would first think about the purpose for which he wants to design the object. Take a potter or sculptor for instance, before he approaches his clay, he must have had a thorough thought about the things he wants to make out of the clay. In the same vein, God thought of you before making you. He is your Maker. He has a purpose in mind for making you. He made you according to that predetermined purpose, your background notwithstanding.

God does not mass produce! If God makes men as mass products, men would look totally alike, but science has clarified that one man is entirely different from another. There is only one kind of you. Your finger print is unique. The colour of your eyes is unique. Your voice is distinct. When you talk, those close to you know that it is only you that talks that way.

There is only one kind of you and that is you.

In Genesis, God said: “let us ‘*make*’ man in our own image”. The Hebrew word translated ‘*make*’ in the passage is ‘*asah*’ which means to fashion or produce. In other words, it means ‘*to invent*’. An invention is a type of a thing that has never been in existence.

In Jeremiah 1:5, God said the same words to Jeremiah. He said that: “Before I *formed* thee in the belly I knew thee”. The word translated

'formed' here is the Hebrew word *'yatsar'* which means the same as *'asah'*. God is saying also to you that even before you got to the womb, He had known you. That is, you have been in existence even before your mother was declared pregnant. And you may want to ask where you were before you got to your mother's womb? You were alive in the thoughts of God. You were already formed in His thoughts. Before I sit to write this book, I have already written it in my mind. I have completed it in my thoughts. Before God created you, you were alive in His thoughts. So, you aren't an accidental product. You aren't a sudden event. You aren't a mistake. **You were consciously, intentionally and deliberately fashioned and sent to the earth for a purpose.**

God had an intention. He had a purpose in mind. He had a plan. He wanted to achieve something. He wanted to solve a problem and so He created you as the solution!

#3

You Are Not Ordinary

“But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”

- 1 Peter 2:9

Stop counting yourself among the masses. Stop categorizing yourself among common people. You are not among the ‘others’. You are uncommon, you are extra-ordinary. You are not just a number in census, you are a distinguished personality. I am not trying to psych you or motivate you; I am telling you who you are. **Until you know who you are, you cannot become who you are.**

Jeremiah looked down on himself as unfit but God told Him that before He formed him, He had thought of him, He had known him; He had sanctified him and had ordained him as a prophet unto nations. Do you think God was fooling around when He made you? Do you think God creates things in excess? Do you think God has room for waste? Oh no! If you are God’s creation then, He didn’t make you as a mere man but as a great man. This has nothing to do with your nationality or circumstances surrounding your birth, it has everything to do with where you came from- God’s thought. **Your original place of origin is God’s mind.**

There was a time I had to ask God. I asked if He created some people as ordinary people and some as great people. He said that there are too many people that He created to become great but they couldn’t attain greatness so He doesn’t need to create anyone as a mere man or as an ordinary man. You are ordained for a purpose, you are appointed to be a prophet, you are

meant for greatness.

#4

Your Background Notwithstanding

“Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase” - Job 8:7

Right now, what you see about yourself does not matter. Your background or past does not matter too. All that should matter to you is what God says about you. You are who God says you are.

When I read the part of the Bible where Jesus said that the poor shall always remain on earth, I knew that it had nothing to do with me. It has never occurred to me that my life will be like that of poor Lazarus who had to feed himself from the rich man's left-over. Don't get it wrong, I am not talking about being rich or poor; I am saying you are not meant to be an ordinary person but to be great. ***If some people are up here, you are not doomed to be down there.*** You are not meant to be poor, battered or tattered. You are not meant to be on the ground. You are not meant to be like the poor Lazarus but to be like the rich Abraham. My focus is not on riches but greatness is associated with riches and poverty is associated to lowliness.

Many people think that their parents, country or background are the factors limiting their success. If only they will look beyond those factors and realize that their creator has positioned them for good. ***Things that are working for you are more than the things that you think are working against you.*** It all starts with a decision. Decide today if you want to be a common man or an uncommon man.

Stop lamenting over external factors that you don't have control over. Stop lamenting about the leadership of your country that has not changed in the past and may not change anytime soon. You can't keep dragging your feet over that, you have to stand up to life and make moves.

You may be comfortable because your parents are well to do and you are from a rich background, but may I tell you that there are many rich but common individuals. So, it is not just about money. It was discovered that 95% of the children of rich men in America are never successful. The reason is that ***success is not a function of genealogy and riches is not tantamount to success.*** Besides, making meaning is different from making money, you can make money without making meaning but you can't make meaning without making money.

#5

My Lifetime

“Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth [are] vanity” - Ecclesiastes 11:10

I gave my life to Jesus at the age of 11 but at the age of 13, I began to think about the kind of future that I wanted for myself. I wanted a great and colourful future unlike the ones I saw around me at that time. I knew that there is no one that can help me attain that status except for one person and that is God. So, I decided to talk to God, my Creator.

On a fateful afternoon, I looked up into the sky and poured my heart to Him. I said; “God, I want to become somebody but I have learnt that if you don’t know somebody, you can’t become somebody. My parents are nobody and they know nobody but I believe that if I know you, I have known everybody. Lord, can I know you?” Then, He spoke back to me. He didn’t speak from the sky that I was looking at as I spoke silently, He spoke to my heart but I could hear Him. He replied: “yes, you can know me.” That moment, I felt like a baby tossed into the air. When a mother throws her baby into the air, instead of getting terrified, the baby would give a beautiful smile because he is sure that the mother would not let him down. With that smile, I told God; “whatever it takes to know you, I will do it. If there is a step or ladder to climb, I will locate it and climb it”.

The decision for greatness starts with the decision to dedicate your life to Christ. Believe me, you don’t need to know any man. All you need to know is God. ***Look up to God that will use men instead of looking down to men that God will use.*** If your gaze is on men, you will be

disappointed but if your gaze is upon God, He will never ever let you down.

I love this song:

My lifetime,

I will give God my lifetime,

When I give God my lifetime,

He will take care of me,

He will never ever let me down,

I will give God my lifetime.

Today, He has made a meaning out of my life and that is why you have this book in your hands. He had made me a blessing to many lives. I had no name but He has given me a name. If you turn your life over to Him this moment, no matter who you are, no matter what you do and no matter where you come from, He will ensure that your life has a meaning. He has done that for me. I was a nobody, the son of a nobody but today, He has made me to become somebody.

Do you wish to make that decision: *say: Lord Jesus, I know that you are my maker and saviour, I dedicate my whole life to you this day, make a meaning out of my life. Whatever it takes to know and serve you, I will do it so help me God. Amen.*

#6

Greatness Doesn't Come By Comparison

“But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” - 2 Corinthians 10:12

After seeing our second year result in the university, a course-mate of mine told me that he knew that I was on first class and that he was aiming to be like me. He was making a great mistake to have compared himself with me. The university had a standard for first class, which was 7.0 at that time. I was not the standard. In fact, I was also after the standard. By making me his target, it meant that means if I failed or had a lower point and he scored a bit higher than me, he would feel fulfilled. Whereas, it shouldn't be like that. If he made the university standard his target, I would only be a motivation for him and not a competition.

That's why I say that there should be nothing like competition or comparison in the journey of success. The only competition that is permitted is a healthy competition. Someone said: *“if your friend fails, you feel bad but if your friend passes, you feel worse”*. That is a misplacement of emotion. No matter what you get as a student or make as a trader, your colleague should not be your standard but the school or the market as the case may be. The Scripture says that those who compare themselves with themselves are not wise.

I won't be bothered if my friend's grades are higher than mine, what I would be bothered with is that I have not demonstrated enough strength to get high grades because his own high grades would not stop mine. It doesn't matter if all of us in the department get high grades. Our

competition shouldn't be amidst ourselves but against the school's standard. It is the same for the career world. Bringing down your colleague shouldn't be the goal but breaking old records and setting new ones. If you do that consistently, **you won't need to look around to know who is competing with you, you would only need to look ahead to where you are going.**

John Mason's old school mate told him that every time he hears about his fame and achievements, he feels bad about himself because he hasn't achieved much. John Mason replied; "will hearing about my failure make you feel good?" **Success is not about where your friend is; it is about where you are supposed to be.** After all, another person can't sit on your seat if you are on your seat. No man can take your place if you are in your place

#7

Grace + Hard work

“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord”.

- **Romans 12:11**

It is said that success is 99% grace and 1% hard work. Grace and hard work must be understood in the right perspective. If you think hard labour is all it takes to succeed then you need to take a walk around Nigeria. You need to take a look at the cart pushers and the market women. You need to see those who hawk in the sun on a daily basis. You need to think about those who work very hard all their lives with nothing to show for it.

And if you say that success is all about the grace of God, you are equally very wrong. If you go to university campuses, you will realize that the most fervent Christians are not necessarily the most intelligent students. It is the same in the career world. I know of a very honest Christian engineer who used to repair a gadget for me. As honest as he is, he is one of the laziest and incompetent men I have ever come across. ***Even if success appears in the sleep of a lazy man, he will be too lazy to go after it.***

The Scripture admonishes us not be slothful in business and at the same time, we should be fervent in the spirit. Grace without hard work is *struggle continues* and hard work without grace is *struggle reloaded*.

Get God in your hard work and success will come to you on a platter of gold.

#8

Fulfilment

“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men” - 2 Corinthians 3:2

I have an unpopular view about fulfilment. Do you know that fulfilment is not really about riches or fame? Let me ask you a question. Where can you write your name that it can never be erased even when that thing is no more? Think about your answers.

I learnt of a white missionary who settled in a village in Benue State, Nigeria. The man was highly anointed with the gifts of healing. He was discovered by a Nigerian journalist who saw the grace of God upon him. The journalist saw it as an easy route for him to make money while the white man would equally make money and fame. He told him that instead of ministering to villagers, they could organize crusades in big cities that will attract lots of people. He told the missionary that all he had to do was to give him his pictures and every other thing will be taken care of by him. The missionary told him to come back for his response. In few days, the journalist was back and to his surprise, the missionary told him that he wasn't led by God to leave the people of the village. The Nigerian journalist was shocked. He said that he thought it was only blacks who are fools; he had never seen a foolish white man.

That white missionary may not be known to you and I but he is as important to those villagers as Pastor E.A Adeboye is to members of The Redeemed Christian Church of God. He is as important to those people as your spiritual father is important to you. That is fulfilment. It is not just

about the fame. I always say that, with the exception of the Lord Jesus, no matter how famous a man is, he cannot be known by everyone on earth. There are men who have ruled your nation in the past that are not even known to you.

That white missionary died in that village and was buried there. He was fulfilled because he wrote his name in a place where it can never be erased by any man or washed away by any storm. He wrote his name in the heart of the people and before they die, they would pass on his name to their children and grandchildren. Those children will also pass it on to their own children and that way, his name will never be erased. I got to know about the missionary from a book written by one of the men on whose heart his name is engraved.

Do you want to be fulfilled in life? Do you want to be remembered even long after you are gone? ***Then the right place to inscribe your name is on the hearts on men.*** In our secondary schools and university campuses, we often see inscriptions like “forget me not”, “I was here”, and “1999 set” and so on. People write these on school walls and lockers. You probably also did the same, you can return to your school today and check if your name is still on those places. It’s all a matter of time before names written on those places will be wiped off. Many of those buildings have collapsed or have been renovated. But the names written on the hearts of men can never be wiped off.

Even names written on currencies and physical monuments do not last forever. I remember a governor in Nigeria who named a building after himself, when another governor was sworn in, he renamed the same structure and turned it into an isolation centre during the covid-19 outbreak.

Read through this extract:

Sixty-six years after Madam Aimee McPherson's (Founder, Foursquare Gospel Church) death, someone has this to say: 'My Grandpa always talked about you. When he was a kid, he and his family moved to California from Missouri, during the depression, and his family was starving and they met you (Madam Aimee) and you gave them a bag of vegetables, and some money, he never forgot it'. -Anonymous.

The grandpa was a child when he encountered the woman. The child grew up to tell his own children and grandchildren. One of the grandchildren was the one who told the story 66 years after the woman died. What better place is there to write your name?

I understood that secret a time long ago and I made the decision to do all I can do to put a smile on the face of every man I meet, and ever since, I have never ceased to hear words like: "I thank God that I know you", "I wished I had known you earlier" etc. I can't count the number of homes where my name is on the lips of even the suckling. This is not to intimidate you, but to challenge you.

When Apostle Paul was going about his ministry, his aim was not to write the Bible. There was nothing like printing press at that time. He was only going about touching the lives of Gentiles and writing edifying letters to them but today, over 1,900 years after his death, his name is still on our lips. Make up your mind now and write your name on the hearts of men. Make impacts in people's life. That is fulfilment.

#9

Success Is In Succession

“But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits” - Daniel 11:32

So far in this book, I have emphasized that you are not a bonus to this generation. Every child given birth to on earth is meant to be uncommon and unique. God never told man to dominate man, he told man to dominate animals and other creatures and not his fellow man. So, you shouldn't be subjugated or be dominated. That doesn't mean you can't serve another man but your service doesn't make you a servant, it makes you a leader in the area of your duty. In places where there is subjection and slavery, it is an abuse to the human nature and that is why man will always rebel against such.

I have also mentioned in this book that success is not about comparing oneself with another. We must understand that we all have our individual destination and targets and everyone is meant to be focused on his own path without being envious of the other person. That is what will make you a success and a leader and not a subject. Life is often compared to a race. ***One of the rules of a race is to never look sideways but forward.*** When you look sideways at your colleagues in a bid to measure your progress by theirs, you begin to lose the race.

Never should you think that by bringing another man down, you will rise. Once a sprinter moves from his lane to another, he is disqualified. In the race of life, you should be focused and run in your own lane. Don't

measure your progress by another man's progress. Break records not people. Set new records and break it again to set new ones. Make your last success your biggest competition. That way, you will always be ahead.

Life is in stages and men are in sizes. There are two things that are certain in the journey of success. They are: where you are and where you are going. A son of a senator may aim to be the president of the nation and a son of a carpenter may also aim to become the president of the nation. It is very possible for the two of them to become presidents even though they are starting at different levels. In marathon races, everyone that runs does not start from the same point but it doesn't mean that the person who started from the first lane would be the winner of the race. You are not at a disadvantaged position. All you need to do is to measure your progress per time. You know where you were yesterday and you know where you are going, the question to ask is whether you have made any progress. If you have made any progress at all, that is a stage of success recorded. What you need to do is to ensure that every step you take daily, brings you closer to your destination.

Meanwhile, there would be challenges on your way. Even those who you think are very lucky have something working against them. ***Our challenges are unique to our paths.*** You may think that the son of a senator is better positioned to become a president than the son of a carpenter, but I have seen a man who became the president in my country just by telling people that there was a time when he had no shoes. He had what you may call 'sympathy' vote. Another man became president by telling people that he was not materialistic and that in fact, he was very poor. And many people have also become presidents and

gotten positions they desired because of their rich background despite competing with those with poor backgrounds.

What I am saying is that, **where you are starting from is not the issue; it is the moves you take that matters and there is no cheap journey to success.**

In movies, when actors plan a mission, no matter how perfect their plans would be, unforeseen circumstances would still arise. How will you handle those unforeseen circumstances on your journey to success? How will you navigate the hardest part of the route? You may know where you are and where you are going to but what if the route is not clearly known to you? You have not have taken that route before but there is someone who knows the route perfectly. There is someone who has the roadmap of your journey to success. And that person is your creator. If you allow Him to lead you through, you will surely come through. You may not have the influence, you may not be able to commit fraud or compromise your faith but once you have and know Him, He will bring you through. The book of Daniel states that those who do know their God shall be strong and do exploits. Once you do the knowing, the exploits is a certainty.

“Your future is God's past”- Anonymous

#10

Destiny Determines Your Destination

“And the LORD said unto her, two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger”. -Genesis 25:23

Do you remember the primary school prayers: “I shall be the head and not the tail”? That prayer gave us the mind-set that we must always emerge as number one or lead in all we do. Those days, when you get home at the end of the school session and showed your parents that you emerge second in your class, you would be asked questions such as: “is it not a child who got the 1st position? Does he have two heads?” This made us feel that we were into a competition with our class mates. To our parents, it did not matter if we didn’t have very high grades as long as no one got better grades than us. The situation would be worse if the child that scored higher than you is the next door neighbour. This interpersonal competitive mentality was instilled into us and it never helped. Instead of pitching a child against another child, why not challenge such child to break the school jinx and get the highest score possible in his subjects.

Let us think outside the box. It is good to take the first position in your class but do you know that ***as far as your career is concerned, being the second in Command may be the BEST for you?***

Don't get into the rat race, be composed and get settled. I am not talking about school exams right now; I am talking about the career world. For long, people have viewed the prophecy over the life of Esau and Jacob from the wrong perspective. God told their mother that there were two nations in her but the younger shall be greater than the older. Don’t forget that they were twins born

within the same hour. There is no big deal if the older is the president of a nation and the younger is the vice president. There is no big deal if Esau becomes a nation like France while Jacob becomes a nation like the United States. What matter is the individuals involved getting to their destination, which is becoming great nations.

It doesn't matter to me if my youngest sibling becomes the president of the nation and he appoints me as a minister. I don't know why people have problems with these things. There are many people who are honourable drivers and chefs to governors and ministers and they have no problem with that, but the problem comes in if that minister or governor is their younger brother. For God's sake, which one is better, to serve your younger brother or serve an unknown person?

Since I grew up, I have never prayed that I will be the greatest in my family; my prayer has been that I will fulfil my purpose in full and reach my destination and that they (my siblings) will fulfil theirs. It will be my joy that my younger ones fulfil their purposes even if it means that they will be richer and greater than me by human standard. It doesn't matter to me if my spiritual children become more famous or that God uses them mightier than He uses me. There is no way a man can be the greatest that ever lived; another person would appear that will be greater than him. My prayer and desire is that my spiritual children and mentees should be among those who will attain greater heights than me.

After all, Aaron and Miriam were far older than Moses, yet, Moses was their leader, but Aaron was also a leader and Miriam was also a leader. That I serve you doesn't mean that I am no longer a leader, and that you serve me doesn't mean that you are no longer a leader; we are both leaders in our purposes. **A leader somewhere is a follower elsewhere and a follower somewhere is a leader elsewhere.** Every father is a son to another father.

#11

Placement

“Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel [sat] in the gate of the king” - Daniel 2:49

There is this feeling people have, they feel that when they serve someone they are fulfilling the person's purpose not theirs. That is absurd. There is another negative mentality that people have; they all want to be the ‘oga’. What they don't know is: ***everyone is number one somewhere and everyone can't be number one everywhere!*** The location where God places you at a point in time cumulates to what your purpose is at the end.

I remember a time I told God: "why are you always making me a supporter to the head". I was never a *head* leader those times even when everyone believed that I was qualified. Let's take it from the beginning; even though, I was the best student in my primary school, I was always given the second position and never made the class captain. The problem was that our proprietor's son was in the same class with me and so he was always awarded the first position and class captain. I was the best student in my secondary school classes but was never the class captain. I was always awarded the best student all through my senior secondary school classes yet, it took the grace of God for me to be made the punctuality prefect.

Of all the units I partook of in my childhood Church, I was always made an assistant. I was the assistant prayer coordinator and assistant evangelism coordinator at a time. On campus, I was part of a number of

ministries besides my school fellowship, but never was I made the president. There were events where almost everyone believed that I was the best for the position but for some reasons, I was appointed to another role.

So, one day, I took a stock of my life and I was forced to ask the Holy Spirit why I was never made a president or the *head* leader all my life but was always placed in a position and asked to ensure that I assist the president succeed in his tenure. I have gone through places where those appointed were my mentees or juniors. That day, God did not give me an answer and the truth is that, it never affected my work for God in any way. In fact, many mistook me for the president before they realized that I was not the president.

Those times when I was serving people, it never appeared to me as though I was serving them. For me, I was fulfilling my destiny and purpose. I was not desperate to head a ministry or be a chairman somewhere. All I wanted to do was to affect lives and anywhere I got the opportunity, I laboured as unto the Lord not men. I remember working with a minister friend who actually wanted me to serve under him. I was ready for it. We were praying together one day when he started prophesying. God spoke through him that at that point of my life, I was not meant to serve under any man.

Today, I head a ministry by the grace of God but the irony I have seen around is that, there are men who aren't meant to be presidents of ministries who want to be and there are those who are meant to be but never thought of it and are gladly serving God where they are placed.

All of us will not be presidents, general managers, general directors, general overseers etc. Some would be vice, assistants, associates etc. If everyone is the general overseer, who will be your local church pastor? And if everyone is the president, who will be the commissioner?

Life is in phases and men are in sizes, live your stage per time. Wherever you work, be diligent and don't cheat your boss in the service you render to him. Many of us are victims of unmotivated teachers especially in public secondary schools; we all need to reactivate our services as unto God. See God as your employer and not the government or whosoever. Give in your best wherever you are serving today, it will accumulate to your greatness tomorrow. Discharge the best in that office. Discharge the best in that role. ***The position you are today is a qualifying exam for your future aspiration.*** Let your focus be on making meaning and affecting lives, then greatness will come to you on a platter of gold.

“And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?” Luke 16:12

#12

Don't Be A Civil Servant

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do [it] with thy might”.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

At the first meeting I attended as an Associate Travelling Secretary in the Scripture Union, my boss; who was the Travelling Secretary, preached a message. The title of his message was “Don’t be a civil servant”. That title got my attention. I was wondering what he meant by saying we shouldn’t be civil servants when He went on to explain to us the attitude of civil servants at their workplaces.

Using my own environment as a case study, majority (not all) of civil servants demonstrate a high nonchalant and negligent attitude in the discharge of their duties. Those who attend public primary and secondary schools can attest to that fact. Those who have been to public hospitals and health centres can also testify to it.

Let me cite an example of my experience at two post offices. I needed to send some of our publications to South Africa and so I walked casually into a government owned post office to make enquiry. The attendant was eating and was on a phone call at the same time. That was around 10 am in the morning. The plate of food was on his desk and I had to stand there for some time. The other person seated behind him didn’t pay attention to me. Eventually, when he ended the call, I asked few questions but he found it very difficult to answer. It was as though I asked him to vomit his throat. It wasn’t as if he didn’t know the answer but he wasn’t ready to answer. I felt as though I was troubling him. I simply walked out and went to a privately owned post office that was on

the other side of the road. In that place I met an attendant who attended to me enthusiastically. She answered all my questions and gave detailed explanation.

When you demonstrate the attitude of a civil servant in the places you serve or work today, you will reap the fruits sooner or later. And when you work actively, you will also reap the fruits.

My wife told me about a school mate of hers who was appointed as the secretary of a fellowship for two years. At some point while still in school, he decided to start his own ministry and to my wife's amazement, the young man was going about looking for who would assist him to draft a letter. My wife said she wondered what he did as a fellowship secretary for two years if he couldn't write a letter. I do tell the leaders serving in our ministry that there is no one who serves well in the ministry that won't be able to manage great enterprises or personal ministries in future.

The problem of many third-world nations is that the persons who rule those nations cannot even manage grocery stores successfully. I know some leaders in our ministry who will surely succeed if they decide to start their own ministry and I know those who may not readily succeed. It is not because they are not spiritual or holy but because they are not diligent and faithful in the little they were asked to manage.

One of the things that worked in the favour of Barrack Obama when he was contesting for the presidency of the United States was the community service he engaged in as a youth. I used to say that anyone who leads well in the things of God or in services that attract no gifts or rewards will easily succeed in many secular leadership positions.

#13

Contentment And Progress

“But godliness with contentment is great gain” - 1 Timothy 6:6

Contentment they say is the best virtue. I told God several times that if my purpose is to serve Him as an assembly pastor or village pastor, He should let me know because I don't want to do more than that. And if it is for me to be a general overseer or president of a ministry, I don't want to do less. I remember saying to God at a point that I don't mind serving in a certain ministry for life. I was already a staff there and I wouldn't mind to continue with them. It took the burning bush experience for God to call me out of the place.

A survey was taken at a time and it was discovered that there are about three reasons ministers of God fall sick or die untimely. One major reason is what I call “*oversize*” and “*under size*”. For instance, a person that is meant to be a mission pastor but launches out into the city is an example of *oversize* and a city pastor who ends up in a village is an example of *undersize*. In the same vein, someone whose purpose is to become a classroom teacher but becomes a lecturer would find it frustrating and someone who is supposed to be a lecturer but goes into the classroom would equally be frustrated. Oversize is not good and undersize is not better. ***You must get to understand where you belong and go for it.*** Even then, you shouldn't be a mediocre. Don't settle for less. ***Contentment in some cases can be a vice instead of being a virtue.*** That you are a shoe maker doesn't mean that you should be poor or tattered. How about being ‘the shoe maker’ and not just ‘a shoe maker’? How about being ‘the lawyer’ and not just ‘a lawyer’? Be the best in what you do. Be the best you can be. That is fulfilment. From the knowledge and passion you have caught from reading this book, it is time to take the bull by the horn and go fulfil purpose and destiny.

Who Pushed Me?

There was a story of a king who wanted to marry off his princess to a brave man. The king organized a contest for all the suitors. On the D-day, he announced that they were to swim in his Olympic-sized swimming pool and the first to make it out would be given the princess as well as wealth. The young men were excited but before they could begin to swim, they saw a crocodile lifting up its head and before they could blink, they saw the second and the third crocodile. They all ran back but a man was already in the pool already. They all watched him swim past the first crocodile in amazement and then the second, then the third. He came out breathing heavily! The king was happy and the princess was equally excited that she found a brave man. The king congratulated him and asked him to take the princess. The man said he didn't want the princess. Everyone was surprised. The king told him to take the wealth which he also rejected. By then, the king was angry and demanded for what he wanted. He said that: "Show me who pushed me". "I want to know the person who pushed me into the pool."

Until you are pushed, you cannot know the potential that lies dormant in you. I believe that with this book, I have given you the needed push. Take the bull by the horn and go fulfil purpose and destiny.

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying...be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land...only be thou strong and very courageous. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Joshua 1:1, 6-9

INDEX

Receiving Salvation

You were born a sinner condemned to hell but Jesus Christ died for your sins, gave you power to sin no more and to enjoy life here on earth and hereafter. All you need to do is to believe and accept His works by declaring Him as your LORD and Saviour. Did do you believe this? Say: Lord Jesus Christ, I accept that you died and resurrected for the remission of my sins, I declare you as my LORD and Saviour. Amen.

Steps to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

1. You are not to ask or beg God for it, just expect it.
2. Believe He has given you and you will manifest it.
3. Don't hate tongues. That some people misuse it doesn't mean it has lost its power.
4. Don't pretend not to need it. Holy Ghost baptism is not just about tongues, it is about empowerment but tongues is the initial sign that you are baptized.
5. Clear your minds of doubts. God will give you but if you that think any sin can hinder you, ask for forgiveness now and now. (**Isa 1:18** *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*). And forgive everyone in your heart.
6. As I pray for you, you will be baptized and you will speak in new tongues.

7. As I pray for you, the Holy Spirit will give you utterances and you will speak it out. Note that utterance means any sound produced with the mouth. That means the utterance could be one syllable or two. It could be one word or more. Understand that you are the one that will pronounce the utterance in anyway it comes to your mind as the Holy Spirit gives you utterance.
8. When I pray for you, the utterance would come. Don't think you are the one thinking it, it is not you. Don't think you will be unconscious or lost, it is not so. Don't be bothered if you don't know the meaning just speak it. And keep repeating whatever comes to your mind.
9. Daddy thank you because you are a faithful God, you always hear me and you are eager to give us more than we are eager to ask. I pray for you: receive the Holy Spirit right now in Jesus Name.
10. Open your mouth and began to speak those tongues.

Steps to Receive Healing

1. **1Peter 2:24 says:** *He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. **By His wounds you have been healed.***
2. You have been healed. You have been healed even before you had that illness, what I'm about to do by praying with you is to proclaim your healing.
3. As I do that, the pains and symptoms will be no more.
4. After I pray for you move that part of your body just as though it was healed already because it is an instant healing.

5. I proclaim you healed and whole right now in Jesus Name. The last time you had that illness is the last you will ever have in Jesus Name.
6. Check it out and share your testimonies.

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