

Kings View

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Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

The use of 'satan' all through this work is deliberate. For the purpose of this book we maintain his fallen status in the use of small letters for his name.

For information, address:

The Managing Editor
Kings View Publisher House,
#5 Atimbo Road,
Calabar, Cross River State
Nigeria

Phone: 087-845148; 087-822708

Mobile: +234-8059139651, +234-8039263652

E-mail: kings_view@rocketmail.com

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to my dear sister, Mrs. Mmomo Ogar Agbor whose courage has spurred my determination.

And to you:

You that have failed miserably and have thought of giving up the challenge, yet willing to overwhelm the negativity and anguish in your life by moving yourself decidedly forward.



Acknowledgments

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and above all “World Changers”. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

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Finally, I am grateful to the hundreds of writers and teachers, both classical and contemporary, who have shaped my thought and helped me learn these truths. Again, I thank God and you for the privilege of sharing them with you.

Basse Anam
Calabar



Foreword

Most times, mistakes are made in life; it becomes boring, cruel and unbearable. There is constant stress, lack of joy and frustration and difficulties. At this verge, many people have given up the challenge of moving forward. It is because the basic knowledge of the intricacies of life is missing. This book fills the gap. The book “Don't Give Up” is a trove of wisdom, and a must read for every family as it covers all aspects of life and addresses ideas for all ages.

It might be misleading to see the author and his age and underrate the book. I almost made such a mistake until I read the book. This convinced me that mighty things do come in small packages. The author can be likened to a gem, diamond precisely. It can look small, but commands great price. This work, like its author is a priceless gem.

Dr. Agnes Antai
Institute of Public Policy & Administration
University of Calabar, Calabar.



Preface

At many times in different years, God led me through several experiences, to help me understand what it meant for others to pass through what He intended that I write about. Severally I have been down, made mistakes, failed, disappointed, frustrated and reproached, but in all, mended and molded again, just to be a blessing to others and I am grateful that finally I am. I have realized that, to be where I am, I needed every bit of where I found myself and all I passed through. It now dawns on me that the experiences were actually character-building opportunities.

Don't give up; Grow up contains time-tested truths that will get you challenge, stay on with the challenge. You have a wonderfully powerful mind. Make use of it. Take it all in, and make your own decisions. Rather than just going along, put some real effort into getting ahead and you'll make a world of difference.

Bassey Anam
Calabar, Nigeria.



Contents

Chapter One

ALL THINGS ARE DIFFICULT BEFORE THEY BECOME EASY

1

All Things Are Difficult Before They Become Easy

Life is difficult; out of that difficulty grows meaning and beauty. In each disappointment is the seed of fulfillment. Learn what it has to teach and you'll be moving yourself forward.

The story is told of a partially deaf four-year old kid who came back home with a note in his pocket from his teacher: *"Your boy is too stupid to learn. Get him out of the school"*. His courageous mother read the note and answered; *"My boy is not too stupid to learn, I will teach him myself"*. And that boy, who was rejected by men, grew up to become the great Thomas Edison. In life, that which hurts also instructs, and the obstacles you go through are agents of instructions. Don't give up, get on and get going.

Pains and adversity increase man's value. The strongest and the greatest character are grown through hardship. Great good often comes out of difficulties. Don't forget, the only way Joseph needed to be promoted from a local to an international champion was via pain. It's just that the road to the palace is through the prison.

It's true that life is difficult; but out of that difficulty grows meaning and beauty. In each disappointment is

the seed of fulfillment. To grow, you have to learn what it has to teach and you'll truly be moving forward.

The main value of any accomplishment often comes from the effort with which it is reached. That's why diamonds, which are rare and difficult to find, are far more valuable than the pebbles which can be found anywhere.

Even in the negative aspects of life, there is positive value. In fact, the distinction between negative and positive ultimately depends not on events or circumstances, but on what one decides to obtain from them. Confront the problem that poses itself. Challenges not only spur men to greater effort but lasting triumph.

Think about it! Nelson Mandela was jailed for 27 years. M.K.O. Abiola was dumped in the dustbin at birth because nobody was sure he would be alive. Today their lives and impact have made history proud. As fire is the test of gold, adversity is the test of strong men. It's

not every calamity that is a curse. An early adversity is often a latter blessing. Just draw from the heart of suffering, itself, the means of inspiration.

While we worry about how fast we grow, God is concerned about how strong we become.

Disappointments are not what they truly appear to be but learning opportunities. The chance to learn from every shortcoming and grow out of disappointments is one of the richest opportunities one can ever experience. In fact, the moment a disappointment becomes a learning opportunity, it is turned into a triumph.

Adversity is an effective and highly personalized teacher. The powerful lessons learned in the midst of adversity stays with a man always. When you can bring yourself to be grateful for your problems, you'll eventually begin to harvest their positive value.

Confronted difficulties not only teach, but strengthen the mind for future struggles. Adversity is an instructor,

set over us by One who knows us better than we know ourselves, as He loves us better too. He that wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skills.

Learn that problems are to the mind what exercise is to the muscles. They toughen and make strong. Everything that happens is ultimately for good if we're willing to face it head on and use our adversities as food for the soul. Our antagonist is our helper. The conflict with difficulty makes us acquainted with our object, and compels us to consider it in all its relations. It will not suffer us to be superficial.

The more difficulty there is, the greater the potential for building spiritual muscles and moral fiber.

While we worry about how fast we grow, God is concerned about how strong we become.

The process may need change. There is no growth without change, no change without fear or loss, and no loss without pain. Growth is often painful and scary. Be encouraged!

True! Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here, we should dance.

Just as torches burn most brightly when swung violently to and fro; just as the juniper plant smells sweetest when flung into the flame; so the richest qualities of a man often come out under the north wind of suffering and adversity. The frustrating and difficult efforts serve to create value in the accomplishment that is sought.

That you've failed is not the end of the world, it's just the dawning of a new day. Just remember that no night has ever turned out the stars. Thomas Edison, after fire burnt his laboratory to ashes said, *"There is great value in disaster. Look, all of our mistakes have been burnt. Thank God we can start anew"*. Get on with Ron Kenoly, *"If you catch hell, don't hold it, and if you going through hell don't stop"*.

*Difficulty is the
excuse history
never accepts.*

Bruised hearts often emit the fragrance that God loves to smell. Almost every true believer's experience contains the record of trials that were sent for the purpose of shaking the spice tree. Only those who have struck the deepest note of penitence can reach the highest note of praise. What was hard to bear is sweet to remember. Joy is the will that labors, which overcomes obstacles, which knows triumph.

Friend! Work on with patience. Though the toil be slow, day-by-day, the edifice shall grow. Believe in God and in your own self believe. All that you have hoped for, you will achieve. Ninety percent of all those who succeeded were actually defeated, but they stayed on.

Life is truly easier than you think. All that is necessary is to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable and bear the intolerable. Stay determined, stay focused and get on!

Believe This:

We go through life with a series of God-

ordained opportunities, brilliantly disguised as challenges.

Every adversity contains within itself the seed of an equivalent or greater benefit.

Persistence is to a man's character what carbon is to steel

The power to hold on in spite of everything - this is the winner's quality.

2

Persistence Is To A Man's Character What Carbon is to Steel

The power to hold on in spite of everything - this is the winner's Quality.

War Generals say the greatest challenge in any battle is holding on for the last half hour. Right! Much rain wears down the marble through persistence. Until you press on, you may never impress your generation.

Most people give up just when they're about to achieve success. They quit on the one-yard line. They give up at the last minute of the game, one foot from a winning touchdown. I'm proof that great things can happen to ordinary people if they work hard and never give up. It's not that they're smart, it's just that they stay with the problem longer. They never despair, they keep pushing on.

Consider the postage stamp! Its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to something until it gets there. The more diligently we work, the harder it is to quit. Persistence is a habit, so is quitting. But it is what

Continuous effort and hard work are the only way to accomplish results that last.

prevails when all else fails. Though it appears to be a bitter plant, it has sweet fruit.

Persistence and perseverance are steady and certain advances to a definite goal that engages all the powers of the body, mind and soul. And by succeeding in taking that first step, and then another, one gains confidence in himself. Like Robert Schuler says, *"Inch by Inch, everything a cinch"*.

Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance. It is not a long race; it is many short races one after another. By gnawing through a dike, even a rat may drown a nation. The great element of success: if only you knock long and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to awake somebody.

It may take time to hit the target. Success is merely the natural reward of taking time to do something worthwhile. Keep on, as the chances are you will stumble at success perhaps when you are least expecting it. Remember, drops of rain make a hole in the stone, not by violence, but by constant falling.

Often we seem to accuse God for not answering our prayers. If God were to answer all our prayers the way we ask Him and with the urgency with which we approach him, many of us would have long died. Some of the greatest pains God allows are opportunities for great gain.

It takes the hammer of persistence to drive the nail of success. Persistence ultimately prevails over most daunting challenges. Strength does not get used up. The more it is exercised, the more it grows. Be strong, be encouraged, and become stronger.

True success often depends on knowing how long it will take to succeed. It often calls for determination and perseverance. Like the mountain climber, he is not intimidated, but he's inspired by it. The determined and persevered winner is not discouraged by the problem, but gets on with unyielding tenacity. To succeed, don't give up, get on and grow up.

Nothing worthwhile comes easily. Half effort does not produce half results, it produces no results. Victory is won only in inches not in miles. Inches make champions. Don't ignore the small steps. *"A kite flies because of its tail. The little things count. Sometimes a safety pin carries more responsibilities than a blank president"* (John Mason).

Be persevering! John Riss says; *"look at the stone cutter hammering away at the rock, perhaps a 100 times without as much as a crack showing on it. Yet at the 101st blow it will split in two and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before"*. Whatever you want to accomplish in life requires persistence. A jug fills drop by drop.

Often, genius is another way of spelling persistence. Patience is a genius. Someone had defined genius as *"intensity of purpose: the ability to wait"*. Persistent people never loose the game; they only run out of time. No one ever finds life worth living, but you must make

*He that can
heroically endure
adversity will bear
prosperity with
greatness of soul.*

it worth living. Continuous effort and hard work are the only way to accomplish results that last. Don't loose heart, get on with the effort.

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talents will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

Never give up. Never ever give up. People of mediocre ability sometimes achieve outstanding success because they don't know when to quit. Most men succeed because they are persistent in the effort. The miracle or power that elevates the few is to be found in the industry, application, and perseverance under the promoting of a brave, determined spirit.

The best way out is always through it. Stay on! Every person who wins in any undertaking must be willing to cut all sources of retreat. Only by doing so can one be sure of maintaining that state of mind known as a burning desire to win essential to success.

Don't forget this! Nothing just becomes great; a little and a little collected become a great deal. The heap up in the ban consists of single grains, and drops of rain make a river.

There is much to life than just quitting. There is a beautiful and powerful meaning to your life under all the noise. Of course, you know that. It pays to remember often. When the details and complexities seem overwhelming, keep in mind that there is much, much more to life.

Give time, thought, value, and expression to those things, which are truly important to you and those things in turn, will bring a depth of richness to your life.

Believe This:

All great achievements require time and tenacity. Be persevering because the last key on the ring may be the one that opens the door.



**No Thorns, No Throne;
No Gall, No Glory;
No Cross, No Crown**

*One way or another, life will
teach you its lessons. When
you're a willing student, those
lessons are pure gold.*

Life is difficult. That in itself makes it all the more wonderful. Whatever happens to a man happens for his good. Most great destinies encounter great oppositions. There may be many trials, but there shall also be many triumphs.

Difficulties are the true foundations of virtue. Each one has the ability to open our eye and heart to a better discovery. He that can heroically endure adversity will bear prosperity with greatness of soul. Don't be disquieted in time of adversity. Be firm with dignity and self-reliant with vigor. All adverse and depressing influences can be overcome, not by fighting but by rising above them.

Now know this! The meaning of life is rarely interpreted at the beginning. Life unfolds and gets beautiful only when there is no quitting. Instead of giving up the struggle, determine to run the race until the finishing line of life is crossed.

Great stars have at one time been down the stage. The ability to bounce back was the difference between Peter and Judas. Listen to the uncommon admonition

of Paul Adams, *“until you are willing to let go, to fail miserably and have another go, success won't happen”*.

To me, I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something; but I cannot accept not trying again. Peter bounced back from failure, Judas buried himself in failure. The Lord of Peter can still restore. Your latter shall be more glorious and greater than your past. You can and will still make it with distinction, hold on.

The past and the present are our means, while our one only future is the end! Don't see what you have lost, see what you have left. See the good in every bad situation. Look for it, wait for it. The allowed trial has a hidden reason and testimony.

So often we look at a calendar of days, as merely a symbol of the passage of time. We forget why we are on this earth. We forget that there is a season for all the pain and the entire struggle. We forget that we were put on this earth to learn something. If everything were perfect in this life, we would never learn any thing new.

If there is a purpose in life at all, then there is a purpose in the suffering.

Don't forget! The pain you go through may turn out to be the breaking of shell that releases the sweet savor of the kernel. Show me someone who has done something worthwhile and I will show you someone who has overcome adversity. No man has ever worked his passage anywhere in a dead calm.

Let's hear a friend talk: When things seem to be at their worst is the ideal time for you to be at your best. When the outlook is decidedly negative that's the time you need to be aggressively positive. When the situation is difficult and getting worse, there's no need to deny reality or hide from the truth. Neither is there any need, however, to get pulled down with the negativity. The greatest opportunities come from the most difficult problems.

Don't forget, a leaf that is destined to grow large is full of groves and wrinkles at the start. If one has no

Listen! Don't ever give an excuse to what you have to get done. Ninety nine percent of failure is recorded by people who had excuses for what they needed to do. Excuses have never changed circumstances for the better; rather they nurse its effect like a newborn baby that grows older as it's daily fed.

patience and wants to smooth off hand like a willow leaf, there is trouble ahead. Kites rise against, not with the wind. Great men rejoice in adversity, just as brave soldiers triumph in war. Therefore, the good

tidings adversity brings are to be admired.

When you're hit with the hardest blow, stay positive. Reacting negatively to negative situations only serves to put you into a downward spiral. For every bit of bad experience you come by, challenge yourself to take at least three positive actions. Overwhelm the negativity and anguish in your life by moving yourself decidedly forward.

There is a strong sense of purpose and direction, which comes when one pursues a challenging objective. That positive influence takes hold the moment he commits to reaching the objective. Challenge gives to each day, each moment, and each action an energy which would not otherwise be present. Indeed, working diligently toward a future objective, despite odds adds real value to the world today.

So what are you waiting for? Don't settle for the defeat.

Set your sights on an ambitious goal and start right now to reach for it. The reaching, the striving, the discipline and the effort are

When you excuse yourself, you give up the power to change. That something happens to you is of no importance to anyone, even to you. The important thing about you is what you choose to make happen your values and choices. Just accept the blunder, get up and get on.

There may be several reasons to be angry if you choose

their own rewards. And they serve to make the goal; when it is indeed reached, it becomes more valuable than you ever could have imagined.

Rev. CEK also encouraged: *"It is when heaven's breakthrough is in full view that the gates of hell are the most persistent."* Yes, just before great miracles, you may have to experience great obstacles. Without thorns, there is no throne; without gall, there is no glory; and without the cross there is no crown.

Life is yours to live. Excellence is yours to pursue. Focus not on what is left behind neither beyond your control. Instead, exercise control over your own thoughts and actions and harvest a sweet fulfillment from the vagaries of life.

Keep going. Keep moving steadily forward, especially when circumstances seem to be working against you. Remember, that's when you can make the most meaningful positive difference!

Believe This:

People are not remembered by how far they failed but by how far they often succeeded.

- Thomas Edison

4

Disability Is Not Inability: Accept No Excuse

There are several reasons to throw away the precious moments of your life in complaint. Several reasons may also account for wasting time and energy with anger, worry, envy or other distractions. Yet even the best reasons do not give value to such empty pursuits.

The life of Mr. John Foppe, a 34-year old American who was born without arms and seven other birth mistakes or defects confirms this! He cooks, eats, drinks, drives and operates his computer all with his legs. A Master's degree holder, Foppe is the author of an inspirational and personal growth book titled, "What's your excuse? Making the most of what you have". An interesting fact is that Mr. Foppe has been honored in the USA as one of the 10 outstanding young Americans. Circumstances rule the weak, but they are the instruments of the wise.

To many people life is boring and cruel. There is constant stress, lack of joy and frustration. As had been earlier noted, 10% of what life is, is what happens to a man. 90% is decided by how he reacts to what happens to him. Nothing can stop the man with a right mental attitude. Happiness is an attitude. One makes himself miserable, happy or strong. The amount of work is the same for all. Develop one!

Obstacles are up starters! Set backs are stepping-stones! Though Moses stammered, he shook his generation. Though David was the last born, he excelled. Ross Perot the American billionaire started with just 2000 dollars...! Difficulty is the excuse history never accepts.

It is actually one's disabled attitude that determines his disability. I love the courage of Roger Bobson, "*When we are flat on our backs, there is no way to look, but up*". Even in failure, be positive. When life knocks you down on your knees, refuse to lie there, turn to your praying position.

The race is not won at the starting line. Though it can help to have advantages going in, what really matters is not the going in but the going through. If you wait for the perfect situation, or the perfect job, or the perfect business opportunity to come along, you'll be waiting an awfully long time for something that really is not worth waiting for. Rather than holding out for the

perfect situation, work with what you have right here and now.

What is it you have and feel it's too small to start with? Remember, nothing ever stays small and ends big, rather they get started and are used before they become big. What you have, make use. What you make use of will end big. The more fully you make use

Friend! When you feel you've pushed life to the limit and you can't go any further, give that obstacle one last push because that might be the one that gets you through that heavy door to success.

of whatever you have, the stronger and more effective you become. Whatever you have is more than enough.

A friend also added: for there is a very real path from where you are that

leads all the way to where you would most like to be. The first step on that path consists in making full, positive use of what you now have. When you've taken that first step, you'll have what you need to take

the next step. Keep on going, step by step, making use of whatever you have at the time. Make use of what you have, right here, and right now. And you're solidly on your way up.

While others wait for what they'll probably never have, you can be moving ahead using what you already have available to you. The best resources are the ones you can effectively utilize in pursuit of your goals and dreams. And the ones you can utilize are the ones you have. Though what you have is far from ideal, it is precisely what you need to move forward. Make use of what you have, and you will move yourself surely toward whatever you desire.

Listen! Don't ever give an excuse to what you have to get done. Ninety nine percent of failure is recorded by people who had excuses for what they needed to do. Excuses have never changed circumstances for the better; rather they nurse its effect like a newborn baby that grows older as it's daily fed.

_When you excuse yourself, you give up the power to change. That something happens to you is of no importance to anyone, even to you. The important thing about you is what you choose to make happen your values and choices. Just accept the blunder, get up and get on.

It is better to fail at an effort than on the side of fearing. Maybe you've failed or you've watched a friend blunder in an effort, learn that to fail is a natural consequence of trying to succeed. Never let the fear of striking forward keep you from daring to take a step. Men who succeed never fear to fail, they move from failure to failure until at last success becomes theirs. Be one!

Never give up no matter how many times you tried, or how many times you've blundered. Take the challenge and take life by the horn. Challenges, you should know, are supposed to be speed boosters and not speed breakers.

There may be several reasons to be angry if you choose to be. There may also be several reasons to worry if you want to do so. There are several reasons to throw away the precious moments of your life in complaint. Several reasons may also account for wasting time and energy with anger, worry, envy or other distractions. Yet even the best reasons do not give value to such empty pursuits.

Whenever you find yourself drawn into some kind of negative or destructive behavior, ask yourself a simple question: What good will ever really come of this? Consider what your negative thoughts and actions will bring you. Sure, they will bring you nothing of value. It will do no better to the situation, neither will it show the path forward.

Life is very precious to burden your days with useless complaints and excuses. Use that energy instead to really live, to make a positive difference in the world, and to reap the many rewards, which come from doing so. Among several reasons, there also lies within your reach the reason to be positive and productive. That reason is your beautiful, precious, unique and irreplaceable life. Walk

away from those unnecessary complaints and excuses that drag you down, and live each moment to the fullest.

Be also informed! Most of the things, which may hold you back, do so with your assistance. Some things stop you only because you've decided to let them stop you. That's a sobering thought, and yet also a very liberating situation. Those things, which you allow to stop you, can just as easily push you forward, when you decide to let them.

For every excuse that has the power to stop you, there's an equally compelling reason to move on forward. Challenge yourself to transform the excuses into reasons to succeed. It can be comforting for a while to sit back and tell yourself that someone or something else is preventing you from moving ahead. But that comfort soon fades into regret and despair over all the missed opportunities.

Even the very best, most reasonable excuses will add no lasting value to your life. That's your job! Success and accomplishment will happen when you forget about what might hold you back and focus on how to

move ahead. Don't squander your efforts on propping up the excuses. Instead, give power and energy to your possibilities. Let the reasons you keep at the front of your mind be reasons to succeed (Anonymous).

The bee that has a sting in its tail also has honey in its mouth.

Friend! When you feel you've pushed life to the limit and you can't go any further, give that obstacle one last push because that might be the one that gets you through that heavy door to success.

Believe This:

There is no mistake as great as the mistake of backing out. If you can't fly, run. If you can't run walk, crawl, by all means keep moving for when it is dark enough soon, you will see the stars brighter.



**The Greatest
Test Of Courage
On Earth Is To
Bear Defeat
Without Losing Heart**

Those who are called "successful" today have been called "successful failures". They had at one point or the other experienced pressure, frustration and ruin, but turned the experiences into leisure, fortune and triumph.

How do you react when something doesn't go your way? Do you agonize, complain and bring yourself down by feeling sorry for yourself? Or do you even make the situation worse by letting it stop you in your tracks?

Have you had a bad day? Have you had a bad month? Smile. It's over, move forward. The past does not equal the future unless you allow it. Have you tried your best and failed? Smile. That's history. Look up. Look forward. Set an even more compelling goal and start moving positively toward it.

Get encouraged! A negative experience is no reason for negativity. In fact, a negative experience is all the more reason to remain resolutely positive. That you are down is no good reason to stay down, but to get back up. Rise above it and move swiftly forward as you surely can.

When all life holds seems challenging, difficult and unbearable, again, you can smile, but don't quit. God may be intending that you learn from the experience.

It may lead into thorny paths; sometimes he may strip off a load of luxuries; but that only would help us travel the freer and the faster lane to a greater level.

Hear this! It is not by regretting what is irreparable that true work is done, but by making the best of what we are. It is not by complaining that we do not have the tools, but by using well the tools we have. Life is just a series of mistake, and he who makes the fewest faulty steps of mistakes is not the best. He who wins the most splendid victories by the retrieval of mistakes is the best.

God would have kept Joseph out of jail, kept Daniel out of the lion's den, kept Jeremiah from being tossed into a slimy pit, kept Paul from being shipwreck three times, and kept the three Hebrew young men from being thrown into the blazing furnace, but He didn't, He did! He let those problems happen to make every one of them draw closer to Him.

I agree with a friend! The world lies in great turmoil, full of slim expectations, sadness, uncertainty, and

retarded effort; it's burning with a fever far worse than that of Peter's Mother-in-law. It is stricken with a disease far more infectious than the leprosy of Naaman. It is crippled with lameness far exceeding than that of the helpless man who waited for long at the pool of Bethesda, and it is suffering from a hunger far greater than those of the 5,000 before they were fed with miracle loaves and fishes. But then, this is the only world we have and we must live in it and make a difference.

Bill Gates draws our attention here. It is surprising to know that what is known as Sony Corporation, a world leader in business electronics and in the music/movie industries, was a failure story. To succeed, you may have to keep trying. Don't dwell on regrets. Those who are called "*successful*" today had been called "*successful failures*".

Every simple moment is a golden opportunity. Get on with the commitment to get things done then you'll enjoy rich rewards as a result.

They had at one point or the other experienced pressure, frustration and ruin, but turned the experience into leisure, fortune, and triumph.

This has been my life creed! There is no way I can foresee how many steps it will take me to reach my goal. I will move a thousand steps, with failures as bumps on the path. Where I may have to add another step that I will do until I get to Success Avenue. Success is never final and failure is never fatal, it's courage that counts.

There is no defeat, no failure in life, it is only a feedback. The law of feedback states: "*there is no failure; there is only a feedback. Successful people look at mistakes as outcomes or results, not as permanent or personal experience; a consequence of trial and error. An experience that must be learned from*". Dare to learn from your defeat.

While learning from the experience, hold on firmly till the score sheet is released. Napoleon Hill showed

much wisdom here, “when defeat comes, accept it as a signal that your plans are not sound, rebuild those plans, and set sail once more toward your coveted goal”. It's truly a college for obtaining B.Sc. Hons. in “Faillogy and Successism”. Get on with the experience, register in the college and get ahead with the studies. You'll only be a failure when you give up the power to learn from the experience.

Have you failed? Ask yourself, what did I learn from the experience that will help me in the future? How can I use the experience to improve the situation or myself? What was the mistake? Why did it happen? How could it have been prevented? How can I do better next time? Learn from the experience to do things differently next time. How you learn from the experience will determine how you'll improve in the future.

Look for opportunity in the experience. Every failure carries in it the seed of opportunity. The bee that has a sting in its tail also has honey in its mouth. The most

delightful surprise in life will be to realize your worth in the experience.

Don't forget! The eagle, when the storm hits, sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm, it simply uses the storm to lift it highest and rise on the wind that brings the storm.

You stand today on the verge of greatness. Building blocks of that greatness are imbedded in the challenges and obstacles, which regularly come your way. The biggest, longest-lasting, most meaningful triumphs come from the most difficult and formidable challenges. A world of possibility awaits you. Take up the challenge and claim it.

The way to succeed is to double your failure rate. The harder you fall, the higher you bounce. There are some defeats more triumphant than victories. No matter how dark the cloud, there is often a slim view of the stars. The experience may linger, but

remember, the clock ticks but once at a moment until the hours are fully covered.

Have a lesson here! If a difficult problem arises, sometimes the best thing you can do is walk away from it, at least for a few minutes. That's not to say you should ignore the problem or dismiss your responsibility for it. Rather, it often can be very helpful to give yourself some perspective.

When a difficult problem arises, it can consume your thinking unless you take steps to put it in perspective. When a problem comes along, you suddenly switch to the "panic mode" and are in danger of blowing the problem completely out of proportion. So the next time a problem comes along, walk away from it -- literally. Take a walk. Get out of the environment where the problem occurred and remind yourself that there is a whole, big world out there.

When you return, the problem will still be there, but your panic reaction will be gone. With a fresh

perspective, plus a little fresh air and exercise, you'll be better equipped to turn that problem into a new opportunity (Anonymous).

Every simple moment is a golden opportunity. Get on with the commitment to get things done then you'll enjoy rich rewards as a result.

Believe this:

Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive.

- Harold Whitman



It's Only From
The Valley
That The
Mountain Seems High.

*All humans can turn nothing into something,
penury into fortune, and disaster into dancing;
the reason they can do such remarkable thing is
because they have remarkable gifts, talents and
abilities that lie within.*

He can, who thinks he can and he can't,
who thinks he can't. To small thinkers
everything looks like a mountain. Every
great action is impossible when it is undertaken. Only
when it has become accomplished does it seem
possible to the average man. If you think you can, then
truly you can.

Most of the things worth doing in the world had been
declared impossible before they were done. To resolve to
achieve anything is often achievement itself. Anything can
be. It's only from the valley that the mountain seems high.

Listen to this! In 1954, Roger Bannister broke a world
record and ran a 4-minute mile. Then in 1955/57
people broke Bannister's record. In 1956, over 300
broke it. This was what was thought impossible. There
are more selves within you that lie dormant, untapped
and unused. Arise! You're much more than this. You
can be much more than you think you can, just
believe you can!

The greatest encouragement is from within. Believe in yourself and you are unstoppable. All humans can turn nothing into something, penury into fortune, and disaster into dancing; the reason they can do such remarkable things is because they have remarkable gifts, talents and abilities that lie within. Discover that which lies within you and you'll experience the power of excelling withal.

Life is not a straight line. At any point, it is possible to change direction. John Maxwell said, the air current of life jolts us and tries to keep us from achieving our goals. Unexpected weather can change our direction and strategy; we must adjust our thinking continually, so we can win. Don't complain, change your attitude, consider the alternative that presents itself and win.

Ralph Marston had advised, *"Get in the habit of finding the positive aspects in everything around you. Then, when a new situation arises, you'll easily and naturally see the positive possibilities."*

The real meaning of things lies not in the things themselves, but in our attitude towards them. The real measure of our success would be determined by how we'll be worth if we lost every thing. It would be a misplacement of thought to believe that the failure of life experience leads nowhere, but the understanding that a deeper grace lies within transcends any notion of force or weakness and therefore power.

We'll lose the effort when we're afraid. Afraid of our past failures, afraid of what we don't know, afraid of what others will think, afraid of what will be found out about us. But every time we doubt our ability, the things that we fear grow up. Showing up can breed grace. 80% of success is in showing up. Think big, show up at the task, don't wait till the end of life to discover that you are much more and should have done much more.

The will power is the greatest executive in the republic of the brain.

Nobody starts a business venture with the sole aim of losing, but lots of people don't run their lives with the sole aim of winning. Nothing is actually focused on achieving. The slightest test reveals dreaded steps of advancing forward. I love the courage of Thomas Edison, *"I will burn all bridges behind me and take my entire future on my ability to get what I want"*.

Think of Paula White, a world renowned TV Pastor; though an American, her story is that of tragedy and triumph. Her father committed suicide when she was just five years old due to poverty. She has been called a phoenix; having risen up from the ashes of traumatic early years to become today's instrument in the Hand of God. Speaking to her audience, she noted, *"Your living is determined not so much by what life brings, but by the attitude you bring to life"*.

Don't ever go with the crowd. Rise above the crowd and then genuinely seek ways to bring the crowd along. It's a much more effective strategy than looking for ways to push everyone else down. There's only so much you

can possibly take away from others, yet there is no limit to what you can create for yourself and the world around you.

Develop a confrontational attitude. When negative thoughts like

anger, jealousy, frustration, worry, doubt, contempt, or fear cross your mind, just knock them out. See the thought as a physical object, a small cube perhaps, sitting on top of your head. Then replace it immediately with this question. "What can I do to improve the situation?" If there's nothing you can do, then just move on. There's no sense in dwelling on those things over which you have no influence. If there is something you can do to improve the situation, then do it. Get started right away.

"I'm getting healthier everyday; I'm still on focus. I'm a success not a failure; the setbacks I experienced were for my good; I'm learning to get on better... I'm a dream maker; I'm a world changer!"

The choice is clear. You can either sit around with negative thoughts festering in your mind, or you can step forward and take positive action. Guess, which option will get you the success and achievement you desire? It's a simple technique, something anyone can do, and it works from the very first time you use it. Knock those negative thoughts down, one by one, and fill the void with positive action. It's a real, proven, winning combination.

Someone said; those who win big can't do it by creating losers. In fact, those who win big do it by creating other winners. Those who win big do it not by fighting over what's already there, but by creating something that has never existed before...

Losers look for ways to get away with stealing value from others. Winners know that the way to true abundance is to create as much value as possible for as many other people as possible. You can do it too, right now. It happens every day, and the whole world moves forward as a result.

Friend believe this! The circumstances experienced matters less, what matters most is the will to get on. Every thing can be taken from a man except one thing; the last of the human freedom to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstance. With the will to get on, what seems like a graveyard can be turned into a glory yard. Get on with that!

The greatest revolution of generations has been that of mere men, who by changing their confessions, became great and made indelible marks on the annals of history.

Believe this:

To a large degree, you can decide what gets to you and what doesn't, what stops you and what motivates you to move forward.

Put a positive spin on your thoughts, and things that once would have stopped you, no longer will.

- Ralph Marston



Men Are Able Because They Think They Are Able.

I am fighting against odds. I was born against odds, I was raised against the odds; I am an odd breaker and a dream maker. I am a world changer!

Thinking of something as difficult, just makes it that much more difficult. Consider your thought. The world is filled with troubles and many injustices. But reality is, it is as beautiful as it is ugly. Just as important to sing of beautiful mornings, as it is to talk about slums.

When one can see beauty, he becomes beautiful. When one can appreciate and value achievement, he becomes successful. What you build and treasure within you flows into every corner of your life. What you have within you is what you truly have.

Each morning, after a moment alone with God, among other things, I recite: I am fighting against odds. I was born against odds, I was raised against the odds. I am an odd breaker and a dream maker. I am a world changer!

No matter the odds you're faced with, nothing is unrealistic if you believe you can do it. If one is determined enough and willing to pay the price, he can get anything done. Determination is that wake up call of the human will. As Jesus affirms, "... all things

are possible to him that believeth” Mark 9:23. Even when Hagar thought it was over, God showed her a well of water, Genesis 21:19.

Who do you think you are? It is revealed in every moment, in every action, in every decision, in every thought and opinion. The great thing is that you can be whoever you decide you will be. It is your choice. It is your life.

No one thing contributes more to health or success than a strong, vigorous will. It is health tonic, physically and mentally. It braces the system, enabling it to endure hardship, disappointment and disease. The will power is the greatest executive in the republic of the brain. Your life lies before you like a path of driven snow, be careful how you tread it because every step will show.

This might interest you! The morning after the great Chicago fire, a group of merchants stood in State Street looking at the smoking remains of what had been their super stores. They had a meeting to decide if they

would try to rebuild or leave Chicago and start all over in a more promising section of the country...

They reached a decision; all except one: to leave Chicago. The Merchant who decided to stay and rebuild, pointed a finger at the remains of his once vibrant store and said, *“Gentlemen on that very spot I will build the World's greatest store, no matter how many times it may burn down”.*

That was a very long time ago. The store was built. It stands there today, a towering monument to the power of determination as was exhibited by Marshal Field. Developing a positive mental attitude, you'll discover great access to the overwhelming abundance that is already yours. It enables you see the dream, the goals and the vision and then truly become.

Okpombor said, *“everything you've ever achieved, has been precisely what you've allowed yourself to achieve. Think for a moment what would happen if you allowed yourself to accomplish even more...”*

The biggest limitations you face are often your own. And that's good news, because you are always free to let go of those limitations. If the main person standing between you and success is you, that's a situation you can quickly change whenever you wish...

People, who never do any thing more than they get paid for, never get paid for any more than they do.

What would happen if you expanded your own concept of yourself? Imagine what would happen if you changed every "*I could never*" into a "*why not?*" or even better, a "*sure I can.*"

The things you tell yourself repeatedly will surely and faithfully become your reality. You're only as good as you think you are, yet you can think whatever you wish. Raise your opinion of yourself, and watch your life follow suit!

Just believe in yourself. Don't ever confess negatively. Make positive confessions. There is no mistake so great as the mistake of not going on. Are you down and

feeling discouraged; you can try the following daily: "I'm getting healthier everyday; I'm still on focus. I'm a success not a failure; the setbacks I experienced were for my good; I'm learning to get on better... I'm a dream maker; I'm a world changer!" It is a mental dialogue that we have with ourselves to stay on track.

Write down the goals. Read them often to remind yourself why this is important to you. At least once a day, take time to smile at yourself in the mirror. Select several other positive phrases, and repeat them aloud to yourself focusing on your body's strength, your courage and resilience in continuing with focus. It serves as a constant reminder that you can achieve whatever you go for.

Say great things about your life, family, business, education, job or ministry, even if all you see is failure, delay or defeat, keep saying what you want to be and not what you are. Keep saying what you want to see and become. What you want to be is more permanent than what you are.

When you make a list of things you need to do, you're much more likely to get them done. When you write down your goals, you're much more likely to achieve them. When you compile a written list of problems and challenges, they are far more likely to be resolved.

Putting together a list of challenges, goals, or things to do also serves to put you in control. By putting your problems in writing, you assume control over them. By writing down your goals, they move from being things you desire to being things you're bringing about.

What do you need to do? What do you wish to achieve? What problems do you have to solve? Make a list. Write them down and you've taken the first important step to getting them done.

If someone says something negative about you, don't be a sponge. Let the attack roll off like water on glass. You do not have to let the negative comment affect you. React properly and it will not ruin your day. A wrong action could result in losing a friend, getting

stressed up, etc. Proverbs 15:1 says, "... a soft answer turns away wrath".

The road to success may be dotted with many empty parking spaces. Don't settle at the parking space. Get up and get on, keep moving until you get to the destination. Always remember, men are able because they think they are.

The greatest revolution of generations has been that of mere men, who by changing their confessions, became great and made indelible marks on the annals of history. A positive attitude is a very powerful and effective way to deal successfully with reality. Go for it!

Believe This:

I am the greatest. I said it before I knew I was. Don't tell me it's impossible.

Don't tell me I am not the greatest. I am the double greatest... So who do you think you are?

- Mohammed Ali

8

The Ultimate Inspiration Is Deadline

The secret of being miserable is to have the leisure to bother whether you are happy or not. The cure is occupation building your expectation through the bricks of hard work.

Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing. Great success is often the manifestation of great deeds. Here lies the difference between great achievers and mediocres. While the former turn up their sleeves, the latter lay hold tenaciously. Where do you belong?

In life, like the elephant, we become conscious of our strength when it comes to understanding the power we have to make a difference in our own lives, we might as well be asleep. To succeed, you not only plan but also act. You not only dream but also wake and work on the dream. Wake up to the power you choose and do what you think, believe and do.

Always give a hundred percent, and you'll never have to second-guess yourself. Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence is the key to unlocking our potentials. May your actions be consistent with your creeds, and your belief backed up with your dreams.

I have learnt this at last! The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes their way! Plans, like rockets, don't always take off on schedule. The key is to keep working the engines. All efforts that make dreams come true have dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

Now is the time to follow and act positively to your dreams. Now is the time to fulfill your possibilities. Life can be as full, rich and joyful if you're willing to make it. There's absolutely no reason to put it off until later. You'll only cheat yourself out of the golden days that can be yours. Stop for a moment and consider your dreams, your hopes and your ambitions, then move forward to fulfill them.

They are yours for a reason. They are yours because you are in the best position to follow and fulfill them. They are yours because they will compel you to make a positive difference in your own special way. Don't miss out!

I do not know anyone who has got to the top without hard work. That is the recipe. It may not get you to the top, but will get you pretty near. You may never know what that thought can turn into until you work on it.

Share my findings! I studied the life of great men and famous women who got to the top. They were those who did what they had in their hands, with everything they had of energy and enthusiasm and hard work. The secret of being miserable is to have the leisure to bother whether you are happy or not. The cure is occupation building your expectation through the bricks of hard work.

Are you bored with life? Then, set the goals on the trend of hard work. You are never given the wish without also being given the power to make it come true. You have to work on it, however. A musician must make music; an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be at peace with himself. Whatever your mind is set at, get on with it with your whole heart, and you'll succeed there is so little competition.

Don't ever believe your actions are wasteful. You're needed. Your actions are needful. Don't be afraid to give your best to what seemingly are small efforts. Every time you conquer one, it makes you much stronger. Improving on little efforts, the big ones take care of themselves.

Listen to Edison, "I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accidents; they came by work". There is no substitute for achievement. There can be no substitute for hard work. People, who never do any thing more than they get paid for, never get paid for any more than they do. Get on with the expectation and work hard at it. More than that! Be committed to a given purpose. Nothing shapes one's thought more than the commitment he makes. One's commitment either develops or destroys him, but either way, they will define him. Tell me what you are committed to, and I'll tell you what you'll be in twenty years.

My friend says; Success comes from thinking ahead and taking the actions that will serve you best, not simply the actions which serve the whims of the moment. You are worthy and you are capable, so make it count. Harness your awesome capabilities and make some positive progress.

He relates further; what would happen if you were to eliminate the phrase "I can't" from your vocabulary? If "I can't" was no longer an option, you would be forced to replace it with either "I will" or "I won't." Think how much clarity, confidence and power that could bring you.

Too often "I can't" is used as a way of running away from responsibility to your own possibilities. Each time you say "I can't," whether to yourself or someone else, you're arguing for your own limitations. When you disavow your responsibility, you also deny your own effectiveness.

"I can't" is rarely true. Usually it means "I'm too uncomfortable to" or "I don't want to make the

necessary effort." There are few obstacles, which are insurmountable. Yet by continually repeating "I can't" you make yourself more and more powerless, in your own mind, to get anything done.

The next time you're tempted to say "*I can't*," stop and ask yourself whether or not it's really true. Be clear, direct and honest with yourself and you'll find yourself using "I can't" a lot less. When the desire is there, so is the ability. You can do whatever you wish. Whether you will or not is up to you (*Okpombor*).

Go do it! Rather than worrying about it, do something about it. Rather than complaining about it, do something about it. Rather than putting your energy into assigning blame, put your energy into the effort of making positive progress. Instead of cursing your feebleness, make yourself stronger. Instead of filling your mind with regret, fill your moments with constructive action. Instead of fretting about your ignorance, find out what you need to know.

The sooner you start, the sooner you'll finish. Before long, those tough challenges which have been nagging

you and worrying you will be behind you. Just imagine how great that will feel. Just imagine what you'll be able to do next! Get busy and get it done. Then you can look back on today as a day of great accomplishment upon which you can build even more.

We become what we are committed to. Be committed to a set purpose; work hard at attaining it and you'll discover what great power lies within and joy that you had thought could never be yours.

What are they? What can you do right now to move toward them? Consider how great that will make you feel, and how memorable it will make today. Get on with it and you'll truly make a difference.

Believe This:

The best way to better your lot is to do a lot better. Build on the lot in life that you've been given. Do it now!

9

Time Is Man's Most **Valuable Asset**

Today is here, whether you are ready for it or not. So use it. The situation in which you find yourself is far from perfect. That's all the more reason to go ahead with your life, with your plans, your goals.

Most times are wasted on what does not bring value. Imagine a man who teaches a pig how to dance, it brings no value. For others they waste time procrastinating what should be done now until tomorrow. To grow up, don't ever waste your second; it makes up the minutes, which makes up the hours, and then make up your life.

Time is man's most valuable asset in life. Nine tenth of wisdom is being wise in time. Like money, the more we spend it, the further we make it go. How it is spent determines to a greater extent, man's destiny. It waits for nobody; it's perishable, irreversible and it flies faster than the eagle. Be wise with how you spend your time!

Also know this! Worry is a wretched experience that leaves one exhausted, uninvolved and in deep hopeless despair. It is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble. Dr. Charles Mayo shares his opinion, "Worry affects circulations, the glands, and the whole nervous system and profoundly affects the heart". So why worry, live one day at a time.

Wasting time wastes life. The problem with waiting until tomorrow before doing anything is that when it finally comes, it is called, "Today". Today is yesterday's tomorrow and the question is, "what did you do with yesterday?" All too often we will waste tomorrow as we wasted yesterday. Friend, if Satan can steal your time, then he has stolen your life.

Remember the nursery quotation; *"Tick says the clock tick tick, what you have to do, do quick..."* this is all what life consists. The clock does not care about winners or losers; neither does it care about who succeeds or who fails. It does not care about what excuse one has to offer. Time is the great equalizer and leveler of the rich and the poor. At the end of your life, what matters to time is; "how did you use me"?

Someone had asked, how do I overcome procrastination? A friend helps us out! First, think of all the undesirable things that will happen if you don't get the job done. It's easy to procrastinate when you refuse to even think about the negative consequences of not

taking action. So fight procrastination by focusing on the undesirable things it would surely bring.

Beyond that, think of the positive consequences that will come when you do take action. Strengthen your own desire and motivation to get the job done. This will truly help out.

Then, decide on a good starting place, accept that you probably won't get it perfect, and jump right in. Get it done. Do it now. You know it needs to be done. Keep in mind what will happen if you don't, and compare that to what will happen if you do. Make the choice that will bring the best results. It's your life. Stop putting it off. Move it forward right now.

The things you put off will eventually put you off. When something needs to be done, do it as quickly as possible. Delaying it only serves to use up more of your energy. Often, the procrastination can take more out of you than the task itself.

Someone else adds: here's a suggestion that will make today a great day; find a way to look forward to and

enjoy everything that you must do today. That's easy to say, but is it really possible? Of course...

First, there are things you will genuinely enjoy doing. You should have no problem looking forward to them. That leaves all the other things -- those tasks which may be unpleasant or uncomfortable or otherwise undesirable. The good news is that you can look forward to them with even more anticipation, because rather than looking forward to doing them, you can genuinely look forward to having them done and behind you...

For everything you must do today, you can either look forward to doing it or look forward to getting it done. Whatever the case, the ultimate outcome is enjoyable, no matter what the task may be. And when you enjoy what you're doing, you naturally become more effective at it. Look forward to everything; enjoy doing it or having it done, and you'll make it a great day... Once this day is over, you cannot go back and reclaim it. What a waste it would be if you failed to squeeze

every last drop of living and joy and love and achievement from it. If your aim is to just get through the day, if your goal is to just get by, aim higher. You're spending the moments, so make them really count. Start right now to live the greatness you were born to live.

Today, not tomorrow! Today is the day to get the plan started to make it so. The moment you hold in your hands right now is the link between intention and reality. This day is the arena in which life can be lived and dreams fulfilled.

An author friend showed wisdom here! We cannot postpone today. It comes no matter what anyone does. Yet for some reason, we often consider today not to be good enough. We postpone our actions, our achievements, our happiness, our lives, simply because the conditions don't seem right at the moment.

And still, day after day, the dawn is never postponed. It arrives dependably and right on schedules no matter

what. Those who experience success and achievement do not postpone their actions until the conditions are right. They take whatever action is necessary to make the conditions right.

Today is here, whether you are ready for it or not. So use it. The situation in which you find yourself is far from perfect. That's all the more reason to go ahead with your life, with your plans, your goals.

Before you postpone for later, consider that later never really comes. Now is what you have. Choose to work with it despite all the imperfections and inconveniences. Do your best. Whatever adverse conditions you may have imagined were holding you back will be overcome when you make the most of today.

Now, think of how life would be if you spent less time complaining and more time truly living. Will today be part of a wasted opportunity, or will it be a golden opportunity that will contribute to the annals of history? The choice is up to you. There are plenty of

opportunities, and there are also plenty of distractions. The progress you make will depend on where you focus your decision. Decide now!

How long have you wished, how intently have you imagined what the world could be? Here is your opportunity to have it happen. The past has already faded into memory. It cannot stop you nor can it push you. This moment right now is yours to live, free of any that has come before.

My mentor once informed! Your limitations are not imposed on you. You accept them. No condition, no circumstance is inherently limiting. What you do with those circumstances is what matters most. Rather than looking for excuses to give up, find the reasons to move forward. Go beyond those limiting thoughts and free yourself to be your very best (*Idongesit Okpombor*).

Have a do-it-now attitude. Develop a sense of urgency in all you seek to do. There is no time like tomorrow, it never comes.

The past is over. It has brought you to where you are right now. Get over it. Today is the best opportunity anyone could ever imagine. It is a new day with even more possibilities than any day you've ever known in the past. Today is your opportunity, here and now, real and ready to be used. You're precisely in the right spot, at the right time, to make a right and positive difference in life and the world around you. Don't miss out; make it the best day ever.

You have more knowledge, more experience, and more wisdom today than you've ever had before. Make use of it all. Make it count. Make it happen. Make a difference! Today your life begins anew. This very day is your greatest opportunity yet. Grab it and make it a winner!

Believe This:

'Now' is the operative word. Everything you put in your way is just a method of putting off the hour when you could actually be doing your dream. You don't

need endless time and perfect conditions. Do it now. Do it today. Do it for twenty minutes and watch your heart start beating.

- Barbara Sher

One of these days is really none of these days. The "by and by" never comes. The person who desires, but doesn't act, breeds stagnation. You should always expect poison from standing water.

- John Mason

10

Luck Is A Matter Of **Preparation** Meeting **Opportunity**

Luck! If there is any luck at all, luck is what happens when preparations meet opportunity. Luck is the manifestation of hard work

Never ask for opportunities; ask that you will be ready when an opportunity comes. A man that is prepared has won half the battle. Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity. The tendency of an event to occur varies inversely with one's preparation for it. What you intend doing prepare for it!

The problem with the future for most people is that it arrives before they are ready for it. Dig a well before you are thirsty, and plant a seed before you are hungry. He that waits upon fortune is never sure of a dinner. You'll be the master of your fate. You'll captain your own soul. So get the umbrella early before the rain falls.

Are you asking for chance, chance is a word void of sense; nothing can exist without a cause. In the field of observation, chances favor the prepared mind. So don't wait to see what will happen. A man that has no plan for his life is unstable in all his ways. Stay alert!

Luck! If there is any luck at all, luck is what happens when preparations meet opportunity. Luck is the

manifestation of hard work. Get prepared for opportunity, otherwise, when it comes it will pass you by and present itself to others. Opportunities multiply as they are seized; they die when neglected.

Never ask for opportunities; ask that you will be ready when an opportunity comes. A man that is prepared has won half the battle.

The man who succeeds has a programme. Luck doesn't exist. It is the word of failures. The more one works hard on his work, the luckier he becomes. It's a matter of opportunity meeting preparation. Be ready for opportunity when it comes. Ability is nothing apart from opportunity.

Preparation is the key that opens the door to accomplishment. The first law of success is preparation. One who truly succeeds is one who sticks his blow in one place, makes pre-effort; sets the plan rolling until he accomplishes his purpose. Early preparation prevents poor performance. What you intend doing, prepare for it.

John Mason had said, *"We accomplish things by directing our desires, not by ignoring them. What an immense power you will have over your life when you possess distant aim. Your words, the tone of your voice, your dress, and your very emotions change and improve when you begin to live for a reason"*. That is the winning principle, grow up with it!

In all human effort, particularly in all matters of business, time, stress and difficulties are seasons of opportunities when the seed of greatness are sown.

There are great opportunities in the world, and new opportunities come along every day. Making the most of those opportunities requires preparation. Success is not dependent so much on access to opportunity as it is on the amount of preparation that has preceded the opportunity.

Preparation may altogether be exciting. It can be tedious and uninspiring. Yet it pays off in big ways. When you are prepared, you can make the most of the good times. When you are prepared, you can thrive even in difficult times.

If actually tomorrow will come, are you doing anything today to prepare for it? As the months and years pass by, and they surely will, the preparation you do right now will bring much added value to your life. Do you ever wish you could be lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time? With enough preparation, you can surely and reliably put yourself exactly there.

Think about the flight of a spaceship challenger. The man who plans a trip into the space decides before the spaceship ever leaves the earth, when the journey will begin, where the spaceship will go, what the crew will do while in space, how long the trip will last, and where and when the ship will land. Each event had been well planned.

Myles Munroe has this to advice: *“Stop! Set your course. Imagine into the future as far as you can. Chart what you are going to do for the next five months. Twelve months... what you want to accomplish. Do something and then put your plan in a convenient location so that you can check your progress, seeing how close you are to your next goal.”*

Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood... make big plans... aim high in hope and work. Is there anything you're targeting at, set the plans, and seize every moment that present itself.

Success is not elusive. It is a reality. It is something you catch up with if you properly plan and prepare. The fellow who wins is the one who makes hay from the grass that grows under the other fellow's feet, and who does not restrict his effort to the hours when the sun shines. Life is a succession of moments; to live each one is to succeed.

Not realizing what you want is a problem of knowledge. Not pursuing what you want is a problem of motivation. Not achieving what you want is a problem of persistence. The truth is: without preparation, there are no motivations, let alone persistence. The very moment one sets his plans on focus; he seizes every moment that comes to him.

Now, learn from this! The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital. The world

rose in unison of applause when Andriy Shevchenko was named the European Footballer of the year in 2004. He had a particular secret of staying behind at the Milanello training center to work on his finishing, when other players were off the pitch. The truth is, preparation in the secret can be a painful phase of life, but it is the secret of one's public coronation.

Therefore friend, don't be a person who stumbles into occurrences. Set the mode of the outcome of your events. You cannot move farther until you are prepared. To succeed, dare to prepare for success. Know what you want, when you want it and how you want it. Preparing for success is more like building a plan. A good plan is a road map. It shows the final destination and usually the best way to get there. To be deadly is to live without a set plan. Stay alive, get on with the goal, set the plan, and move forward to achieve it.

However, a good plan vigorously executed right now is far better than a perfect plan executed tomorrow. Tomorrow may never come. If you wait, all that

happens is that you get older. You become successful the very moment you start moving towards a worthwhile goal. Get on. Good luck will be yours when you work your way towards it.

Believe This:

So many times we stand beside, and watch the waters slip away. What we put off till tomorrow now becomes today. So don't you sit upon the shoreline and say you're satisfied. Choose to chance the rapids and dare to dance the tides.

- Garth Brooks



**It Is Not Enough To
Stare Up The Stairs;
We Must
Step Up The Stairs**

A man of words and not of deeds is like a flower bed full of weeds. Don't let weeds grow around your dreams. To only dream of the person you would like to be is to waste the person you are.

People judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heir of gold, but so does a hard-boiled egg. Remember too, knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is a sin (James 4; 17). Take the bull by the horns until you hear him screaming for mercy.

What seems prevalent in life is that there are no shortages of good decision but good decisions without corresponding actions that are hard to come by. To be anything one chooses to become is the beauty of the human mind. To be anything one wants to do is the strength of the human will. To think is easy; to act is hard. But the hardest thing in the world is to act in accordance with one's thought.

Action is the gem from which all growth of nobleness proceeds. Once a man backs up his decision with an action, he puts the greatest strength in the world behind him, its something one would term 'heart power'. Once a man acts upon his decisions, nothing can stop him short of success.

Among all human constructions, the only one that amid the dissolving hands of time is castles in the air. Everyone seems to be on the move. It is not whether you are busy but that you are making progress. It is the question of activity versus accomplishment.

“A man of words and not of deeds is like a flower bed full of weeds. Don't let weeds grow around your dreams. To only dream of the person you would like to be is to waste the person you are” (John Mason). Quit dreaming and get into acting.

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not figures on a dial. He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best. The path of success is to take massive, determined action. To do nothing is a way to become nothing.

See, the tragedy of life doesn't lie in not having a decision; instead it lies in not taking an action. The more we act, the more we live. The more we can do; the busier we are, the less leisure we have; the greater we attain.

One's idea may or may not have merit. The key is to act upon the decision. Vision is not enough; it must be combined with venture. The people who get on in the world are the people who get up and act upon their decisions. If you are going to be thinking, you may as well think not just big but act great.

Don't ever ignore and put off the little challenges that you're confronted with. The little challenges, though easy to forget, can quickly add up and eventually hold you back in a big way. So make a point to deal with them as they come up, while they're still small and manageable. Not only will you become more disciplined and effective, you'll free yourself from their cumulative burden and be able to focus on the truly important things in your life.

Winners aren't born, they're made. And they're made just like anything else, through hard work. The height of any accomplishment equals the depth of effort at work. He who labors diligently need never despair; for all things are accomplished by diligence, labor and hard work. Dare to be one!

Take the opportunity of each day as it comes, and those opportunities seized will pile on top of one another into something grand. Work on steadily toward a future that you choose by virtue of the actions you take on the way there. Each moment is precious in its own sake and even more valuable because it contains the seed of great moments. Enjoy each moment, nurture the seeds of possibility, and you'll reap a bountiful harvest.

Believe This:

Put the best of yourself into the things that you do. It is difficult to accomplish anything of value with a half-hearted effort.

If you're going to do the work, it's best to put your heart into it. It will bring to life a richness that has no equal.

- Ralph Marston

12

**If You Want To
Go Ahead,
Care About Others**

Life will reward you precisely to the extent that you express yourself, in your own unique way, to the world. Give what you've got and you'll get whatever you desire.

I am in terms with John Mason that *"Life is a lot like the game of tennis, those who don't serve well end up losing"*. Life is an echo. What you send out is what you get back. People don't really care about how much you know, until they know how much you care. The reaction is always greater than the action. So get into the habit of caring for others. Then, you'll truly live.

I haven't found a man that has achieved greatness without being of service. Are you longing to grow great? Then, lend a helping hand. Good people like the cloud receive only to give out. The roots of happiness grow deepest in the soil of service.

Joy increases as you give it and diminishes as you try to keep it to yourself. In giving, one accumulates a deposit of joy greater than he ever believes. It's just that, without love, life is like a tree without blossoms or fruit. A poet had reasoned well, *"I went out to find a friend but could not find one. I went out to be a friend and friends were everywhere"*. Have you longed for one

and haven't found? I guess the best thing to do is to be one, and then you'll understand the essence of life.

There may be no time you cannot find help, but there is no time you cannot give help. Service is the rent we pay for life; it is the real purpose of living. Think less of yourself; think more of others. Be a little kinder than necessary.

Our greatest motive in life shouldn't be to be-all and end- all of life, but to enrich the world. We have but one life to live, but if we work it right, once is enough. There must be more to life than having everything. Don't forget, monuments are not raised for those who got much, but to those who gave much. What is left behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is deposited into the lives of others.

While living, Charles Allen advised, *"Remember you are needed. There is at least one important work to be done that will not be done unless you do it..."* Just give out your best to what seemingly are small. Every time

you conquer one, it makes you stronger. If you do the little work, show the little kindness; the big ones will tend to care for themselves.

One may never be successful except he realizes this truth - "Selling is the most interesting thing in the world". Make room in your heart to work for showing love and put some heart into your act. One isn't paid for the hour; he's paid for the value he brings to the hours. Sometimes, the good you do comes back to you in the form of a miracle.

Learn this! Do you know that the finest of all arts is the art of doing good; yet it is the least cultivated. Activity in doing good is a way for being cheerful; it is like exercise to the body, it keeps the soul in health. You can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed.

Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated. It is the little thought, the little things we do or leave undone, the little moments of good waste or wisely used, the little things that either mar or make our

future. Measure your life by its donation and not by its duration.

Serving others makes life more meaningful. A self-centered life is bored and filled with dissatisfactions; an empty life allows room for an infilling. Think of a water tank, when it's filled, it makes no room for an infilling, without giving out, it may rust and probably become useless for any useful need. So is it in human life, when it doesn't give out, the existing becomes retarded. Are you dissatisfied with your life; then, build a service station on it.

The act of good works may not be publicly known, but then, it fades not. A lighthouse sounds no drum; it beats no gong; and yet, far over the waters, the mariners see its friendly spark. So let your actions shine out your good. Let the main sermon of your life be illustrated by all your conduct.

Don't be selfish! Selfishness is the greatest disease of human race. The effective life, the receptive life is

one. Never reach out your hand unless you're willing to extend an arm. No man truly becomes rich until he enriches others. If you want to go ahead, care about others!

Believe This:

One thing I know; the only ones among you who will really be happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

- Albert Schweitzer

13

**All Great Things
Have God
Involved In Them**

Small men stand on others, great men stand on God. Superior men seek God in their effort, inferior men seek men. Great men move forward on God's wings

It is told of a minister who shouted to his congregation one Sunday morning before his sermon, *“One who rushes from his bed to his business and does not wait to worship, is as foolish as if he had not put on his cloths or cleansed his face; and as unwise as if he dashed into battle without arms or armor. It is ours to bathe in the softly flowing river of communion with God before the heat of the wilderness and the burden of the day begin to oppress us”*.

One who holds nearest communion with God is best able to discharge the duties of every day. A more daily communion with Him will find Himself in us all day. Begin your race from the throne of God itself if you would run well, and win the price.

The morning is the gate of the day, and should be well guarded by prayer. It is a time fixed to meet with the Lord. It is one end of the thread on which the day's activities are strung and should be well knotted with devotion. If we felt more the majesty of life, we would be more careful of its mornings.

In the morning! Then God means me to be at my best in strength and hope. I do not have to climb in my weakness. In the night I have buried yesterday's fatigue, and in the morning I take a new lease of energy. For David, *“My voice shall thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up”* (Psalm 5:3).

Daily feeding on God's strength lays hold of His strength in us all day. One who feeds on cornfield, would have the strength of cornfield come into him, and becomes his strength. In same manner does he who feeds into His presence early have His strength come into him to face the day.

Difficulty melts in the heat of his presence. There is no limit to hopes and thought. There is assurance all day, there is a grace that leads the path, guides the mind and secures victory.

Sweet morning! There is hope in its music. Blessed is the day whose morning is sanctified. Successful is the

day whose dawn found in the closet with Him. Health is established in the morning. Wealth is won in the morning. The light is the brightest in the morning.

One who holds nearest communion with God is best able to discharge the duties of every day. A more daily communion with Him will find Himself in us all day. Begin your race from the throne of God itself if you would run well, and win the price.

A quiet hour spent alone with God at the beginning of the day is the best beginning for the toils and cares of active business. A brief season of prayer, looking above for wisdom, grace and strength, seeking for an outpouring of His presence ensures the greatest ability for every task.

Place your concern in the care of the Lord, faithfully striving to do His will, there is hope however dark or discouraging events may appear. It's a strong defense and he that has found this has found a treasure. Our father's hand is guiding everything, and will give the wisest direction to all our toils.

Time spent in communion with God is never lost. Mighty works are possible with men who, like Elijah on

Mount Carmel, cast himself down upon the earth, put his face between his knees and called upon the name of the Lord to lead the course of the day.

Go up to the mountain, fall on your knees and the things in the plain will look very small; the higher you rise, the more insignificant things become.

We may be tired, weary, and emotionally distressed, but often spending time alone with God, we'll find that He injects into our body energies, power and strength. Every morning lean thy hand upon the window slice of heaven and gaze upon the Lord.

Small men stand on others, great men stand on God. Superior men seek God in their effort, inferior men seek men. Great men move forward on God's wings. They obtain strength to get on in spite of all odds. They accomplish much because God is in their effort. Have God involved in your ambitions!

How that we stand powerless on every side because we lack more secret dealing with the living God. We've dared

Go up to the mountain, fall on your knees and the things in the plain will look very small; the higher you rise, the more insignificant things become.

without seeking His grace. We've run without being sent; we've spoken before God spoke to us. No wonder we often failed. Go up to the mountain, fall on your knees and the things in the plain will look very small; the higher you rise, the more insignificant things become.

**I know He will walk close to my side,
my every wandering step to guide.**

**My hands in His Hands no surer way
to walk in safety through each day.**

Seek the clasp of Christ's hand before every bit of work, every hard task, every battle, and every good deed. Bend your head in the dewy freshness of the morning before you go forth to meet the day's duties and perils, and wait for the benediction of Christ, as He lays His hands upon you. They are hands of blessing. Their touch will inspire you for courage, strength, and all beautiful and noble living.

Believe This:

**Each morning, when I wake, I say...
I place my hands in God's Hands.**

14

The Real Secret Of An Unsatisfied Life Lies Often In An Unsurrendered Will

*The righteous shall hold on his way, and
he that hath clean hands shall be
stronger and stronger.*

-Job 17:9

To truly move forward is to live for God. To live for God is to hate sin. Sin is an act and has to be judged as an evil act. The sin of Paradise was eating the tree of knowledge before the tree of life life must ever be first. Knowing God and not being, hearing and not doing, admiring and not possessing, all are living without life.

Looking back, my life seems to be one long obstacle course, with me as the chief obstacle. Then, I'll fall to my knees and cry; *"Father help my weakness; help that I grow to you, live for you in all manner of life, that I'll truly accomplish my days in greatness"*. His grace has often been and is still my strength.

Understand this! Gold cannot be used for currency as long as it is mixed with the quartz and rock in which it lies imbedded. In same manner, a man's soul is useless to God until taken out from sin and earthliness and selfishness in which it lies buried. To be used by God and that He be resourceful to the struggle, you must

therefore be separated unto Christ, stamped with His image and superscription, and made into a divine currency, which will bear His likeness among men.

Sin in the soul is like Jonah in the ship. It turns the smoothest water into a wild, tempestuous sea. How do we expect to get things right when we ourselves, are not living right? We must empty our heart if we expect God to work through us.

Beware how you take lightly of sin. Take heed lest you fall. Sin, a little thing? Is it not a poison? Who knows its deadliness? Sin, a little thing? Do not the little foxes spoil the grapes? Does not the tiny coral insect build a rock that wrecks a navy? Do not little stroke feel lofty oaks? Will not continual droppings wear away stones? Does not a little crack spoil the ring of the coin?

Take note! Our business is not to build quickly, but to build upon a right foundation, and in a right manner. Life is more than mere competition as between man and man; it is not who can rise the highest in the

shortest time, but who is working most patiently and lovingly in accordance with the design of God.

Of concern, a friend asked, *"How can we ever live in this sinful world without living in sin"*? Perhaps you ask same...

Learn this! If you will go to the bank of a little stream and watch the flies that come to bathe in it, you will notice that while they plunge their bodies into the water; they keep their wing high out of the water; and, after swimming about a little while, they fly away with their wings unwet through the sunny air.

We live in a world of sin. Our cares and daily business seems to confront our daily thought, and compromise appears every corner we turn, we mustn't have to give in.

Let us keep the wings of our soul, faith and love, like that of the bird, out of the world. It is at this level that we will have heaven's support and truly move forward.

Had thou sinned? The real secret of an unsatisfied life lies too often in an unsundered will. You can rededicate your life back to God. You may say, "Father, I don't know all that I need to do, but I know I don't want to stay where I've been. I want to be different, and, so I come to you and ask you to work in me to change my life". This is the life that truly moves forward.

O the height and depth of mercy!
O the length and breath of love!
O the fullness of redemption,
Pledge of endless life above!

15

God's word! **Sprout of** **Sustainable Existence**

The man who has learned to meditate upon His word will be able to run on His feet and walk in His grace. The word is as powerful as the author (God Himself).

If Satan can keep a man from the word, he has kept him from glory.

Time invested in reading the Bible is time invested in a school of wisdom. Get in the habit of finding wisdom from the word of God in everything around you. Then, when a new situation arises, you'll easily and naturally see the positive possibilities. In it is direction, grace, strength and sustenance.

It is not always about knowing our ultimate direction, about what the next step is or should be; and it is only in God's word that truest direction can be gotten direction towards the attainment of our greatest expectation.

Daily, certain issues come beyond my ability; ability to understand and how to handle. I find myself desperately in need of wisdom. But I have often found courage and direction in His word. I've heard wisdom defined as God's perspective on a matter. Isn't that what we really need...? God's perspective. It is within the pages of the word taken and applied by the Holy Spirit to each and every situation we face.

Let's learn something here! The forest in summer days is full of bird's nests, hidden among the leaves. The little

birds know where they are. When a storm arises or when night draws on, they fly, each to his own nest. So, the promises of God are hidden in the Bible, like nests in the great forest. There we fly during any danger or alarm, hiding there in our soul's nest until the storm is past. There are no castles in this world so impregnable as the word of God.

God's word is the water of life; the more one freely allows it to flow, the fresher it runs. It is the fire of God's glory; the more one blows on it, the clearer it burns. It is the corn of the Lord's field; the better one grinds it; the more it yields. It is the bread of heaven; the more it is broken and given forth, the more it remains. It is the sword of the spirit; the more it is used, the brighter it shines.

Oh, how that we stand powerless on every side because we lack more secret dealing with the living God. The man who has learned to meditate upon His word will be able to run on His feet and walk in His grace. The word is as powerful as the author (God Himself). If Satan can keep a man from the word, he has kept him from glory.

From moment to moment, and from hour to hour, the inner nature of man is to be continuously sustained with God's word. Constant endowment of His fullness into our emptiness that we may come to the knowledge of His grace that assured strength for daily effort and struggles. It's therefore as necessarily as it is helpful that we study the scripture and meditate upon them, and keep the word alike in head and heart and daily in our work.

It's not a thoughtful conception, but truly true, the path of life and the truest secret of possession is obedience to God's word. All things are inspired through the volumes, from cover to cover. Spending time to study the pages of His word releases our heart to greater assurance, assurance unto greater attainment. It establishes our fruitfulness in the pages of His work.

Discover in His infallible word that Jesus is the same today, when He is sitting on the throne, as He was yesterday, when He trod the pathway of our world.

What He was, He is. What He said, that He says. The gospels are simply specimens of the life that He is ever living; they are the leaves torn out of their diary of His unchangeable being.

Therefore friend, the one purpose of life should be to remain in union with God's word; guarding against every thing that would break it, employing every means of cementing and enlarging it. And just in proportion as we do, we will find His strength flowing into us for every possible desire.

"Beautiful thoughts of all kinds crystallize into habits of grace and kindness, which solidify into genial and sunny circumstances; pure thoughts crystallize into habits of temperance and self-control."

- James Allen

16

All I Have Seen Teaches Me To Trust The Creator For All I Have Not Seen

It's just in proportion as one adds to his effort faith that he has a solid ground on which to rest assurance despite life's storm.

To move forward, think like a man of faith and act like a man of action. Kill every trace of doubt in your life. The only thing that stands between a man and what he wants from life is merely the will to try it and the faith to believe that it is possible.

Doubt is the great modern plague but faith is its cure. Doubt sees the circumstances, faith sees the promises. Doubt sees the obstacle, faith sees the way; doubt sees the darkest night, faith sees the dawn; doubt dreads to take a step, faith soars on high. Doubts say, it has never been done, faith believes, it can, at least for the first time be done; doubt says but 'how', faith responds, 'somehow'.

Be decisive in the presence of uncertainty. It is not day-dreaming, it is decision-making. Develop a winning attitude, grow in your faith; like the flashlight, no matter how dark, it gets, it will help you find the way.

Faith sees beyond the circumstance. It considers less what poses a threat in the struggle. Like Elisha and his

servant Gehazi, everything that comes to a man becomes a “*Chariot*” the moment he treats it as such; and, on the other hand, even the smallest threat may be a powerful arm to crush us into misery and despair if one considers it so. It all depends not upon what the events are, but upon how one takes them.

Every struggle and expectation has two handles; we can either lay hold the handle of anxiety or by the handle of faith.

Don't forget, by faith Abraham, where he went, he knew not, it was enough for him to know he went with God. He leaned not so much upon the promises but upon the promisor. He did not look on the difficulties of his lot, but on the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, and the only wise God (I Timothy 1:17) who has designed to appoint his course, and would certainly vindicate himself.

Never believe any thing is impossible. To believe that something is impossible is to make it so. The belief that it's possible even when life seems to be a plot written by someone who wants to see how much adversity we can overcome makes all things possible. True hope responds to the real world, to real life; it is an active effort.

To be an achiever, first become a believer. What causes most battles to be lost is the fear of the enemy's strength. Fear- the worst lie in the world. It breeds worry and worry is the faith that it won't work. It is wasting today's time to cluster up tomorrow's achievement.

Blessed are they that have not seen; yet believed (John 20:29). Faith is action, not a passive attitude. *“It is like radar that pierce through the fog, the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see”* (Corre ten Boom). Develop faith!

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible. Faith is

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.

something that you believe that nobody in his right mind would believe.

It's just in proportion as one adds to his effort faith that he has a solid ground on which to rest assurance despite life's storm.

The world will conquer a man when it stops him from believing he can, but the man who believes he can, conquers the world. Dare to conquer the world. Believe you can, and truly you will.

The world says seeing is believing, faith says believing is seeing. The seen are shadows; the substance is found in the unseen. No doubt, in Christ, the foundation of our faith is unseen. It matters little what form of prayer one adopts, or how many words he uses. What matters is the faith that lays hold on God, knowing that He knows our needs before they are presented.

Just believe! However the storm, know that God is in the boat. He will not impose upon a man one needless burden. He will not exact more than He knows your strength will bear. He will ask no Peter to come to Him on water, unless He impacts at the same time strength and support on the unstable waves. He will not ask a man to draw water if the well is too deep, or to withdraw the stone if it is too heavy.

How can He go until He has healed Magdalene's broken heart? He must linger until poor Peter can venture near to have his forgiveness assured. He must stay to strengthen Thomas' faith. He must tarry with them until He has made them feel that He is just the same friendly, brotherly Jesus that He has ever been, caring for them in their work, watching them with a yearning pity, stooping to kindle a fire for their warmth, and to cook the fish for their meal; and then bid them come and dine. He will not tarry, you'll smile again. Don't ever give up, but grow up with the experience!

Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens. Faith is the force of life. Faith is simultaneously long perseverance and unwavering confidence. Faith can rewrite your future.

On a long journey of human life, faith is the best of companion; it is the best refreshment on the journey; and it is the greatest property. In actual life every great enterprise begins with and takes its first forward step in faith.

LEARN AND GROW

- ? The art of living lies not in eliminating our troubles but in growing with them.
- ? The path without an obstacle is probably a path that leads anywhere unimportant.
- ? Good timbers do not grow with ease, the stronger the wind, the stronger the trees.
- ? The turning point in the process of growing up is when you discover the core of strength within you that survives all hurts.
- ? The difference is not in what's available to you, but rather in what you do with those things, which are available. Change your perspective.
- ? Get committed! True commitment is seriousness and it is powerful. Commitment is not just saying you will do it. Commitment is doing it. True commitment is not conditional, for to be committed means to be absolutely committed.
- ? Be true to the best that you have and let it shine through each thing you do. The richness of your life grows ever more valuable each time it is shared.

? Many limitations are limitations only because you see them as such. By changing your thinking, you can change the reality of your limitations.

? All the strength and force of man comes from his faith in things unseen. He who believes is strong; he who doubts is weak. Strong convictions precede great actions.

? Until you do the ridiculous sometimes, you cannot see the miraculous often times. Risk is what carries a man from the crowd to the crown.

? The best rose bush is not the one with the fewest thorns, but that, which bears the finest roses. Roses grow from thorns, praise in the midst of pain.

? If our circumstances find us in God, we will find God in our circumstances. Life may not be fair, but God is good!

? Will you just get by, or will you soar to impressive heights? Fix your focus solidly ahead. Look ahead; think ahead, act ahead and you will most certainly get ahead.

? The difference between getting by and getting ahead is mainly one of perspective. Getting ahead results from looking ahead, and from focusing your efforts on creating long-term value. Getting ahead comes from doing more than just what is expected or required.

Put it down
Whatever the mind of a man can conceive
and he believes can be achieved.

What have you almost given up?.....

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What were the challenges and limitations that posed before you?.....

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What do you want to accomplish with your life?.....

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Where are you today? What do you want to accomplish with your life?.....

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What does it take to accomplish it?

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