

WISDOM

ISSUE WD1001

Spring Edition

Digest

Bringing Many Sons to Glory

How can the fullness of God be
manifested in our lives? **p.3**

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RESOURCES,
ITINERARY,
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TESTIMONIES,
& MORE...

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Publication Information

Wisdom Digest is published by the Fountain of Wisdom Ministries as a forum to share the ministry of Rev. Kola and Funke Ewuosho and others as God leads. It is also published to inspire, inform and cultivate the involvement of readers worldwide to share in the establishment of God's covenant in the earth through our Lord Jesus Christ. This is distributed freely and supported by partner contributions and donations.

All contributions are gift-aid tax deductible.

If you have been blessed by this issue of Wisdom Digest, we would like to hear from you. Your prayers and support in any form are greatly appreciated.

Please send us names and addresses of friends you know who would benefit from receiving a copy of this magazine.

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FOWM OFFICES

UK: Tel: +44 (0)1344 844172
Fax: +44 (0)1344 844166
Email: office@fowm.org
The Old Church Hall, Rear of Station Parade, Virginia Water, Surrey, GU25 4AB, United Kingdom

NIGERIA: Tel: +234-7027002926,
+234-7081099229,
+234-064978506
Email: office@fowm.org.ng
Web: www.fowm.org.ng
P.O Box 13112,
Nomansland, Kano

GHANA: Tel: +233-21-971143
Email: info@fowmghana.org
(P.O. Box Kn 3021, Kaneshie, Accra.) 22 Adjumah Crescent, S.T.C Road, Behind Ghamot, Accra, Ghana.

USA: Tel: 1-301-740 8007
Email: office@fowmint.org
12820 Serpentine Way,
Silver Spring, MD 20904,
United States

CAMEROON: Tel: +237-33151102,
+237-33089518
Email:
harvestimedouala@yahoo.fr
Harvestime Church Douala,
P O Box 11953, Cameroon

KENYA: Tel: +254 726 982 229
Email: fowckenya@yahoo.co.uk
PO Box 7895, Eldoret,
Kenya, Code: 30100

SOUTH AFRICA:
Tel: 0027839903554

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Your testimonies

"Thanks very much for your encouraging and soul-building Wisdom Digest which I received a few days ago. The focus of the prophetic ministry indeed sheds much light on the ministry work. I pray that the almighty God gives you more strength in the spreading of the Gospel."

"I wish to express my profound gratitude for the quarterly magazine you sent me. I enjoyed all the articles especially the one on 'Beauty for Ashes' by Rev. Funke Ewuosho. It changed my mindset regarding mourning and made me to understand that I should rise up and work no matter what happens. It confirmed the saying 'there is a silver lining in every dark cloud.' Thank you very much."

Salvation Prayer

Are you saved? Do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Do you know whether you are going to heaven or hell when you die? (Rom. 6:23) If the answer to any of these questions is 'No', we invite you to pray something like this... **"Lord God, I ask you to forgive me for my sins and make me a new person today. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead for my salvation. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I receive forgiveness, healing and deliverance today. I ask you to fill me with your Holy Spirit. Help me to know you and follow you from this day on. Thank you for saving me!"** The Bible says that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom 10:14). If you have just prayed this prayer for the first time, please get in touch with us so that we can send you some materials to help you to grow in your new relationship with God.

BRINGING MANY SONS TO GLORY

Part 1

"FOR IT WAS FITTING FOR HIM, FOR WHOM ARE ALL THINGS AND BY WHOM ARE ALL THINGS, IN BRINGING MANY SONS TO GLORY, TO MAKE THE CAPTAIN OF THEIR SALVATION PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERINGS."
(HEBREWS 2:10)

"FOR I CONSIDER THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED WITH THE GLORY WHICH SHALL BE REVEALED IN US. FOR THE EARNEST EXPECTATION OF THE CREATION EAGERLY WAITS FOR THE REVEALING OF THE SONS OF GOD."
(ROMANS 8:18-19).

Rev. Kola Ewuosho



My heart yearns for the fullness of God to be manifested in human lives. Paul prayed in the book of Ephesians that they may

be filled with the fullness of God. It is obvious from scripture that God wants to see the revelation of His glory in the lives of members of His family on earth. There have been progressive revelations of His plans and purposes throughout church history especially as we study the restoration of truth, offices and understandings. I believe we should be moving towards the finishing line now: Coming into the full manifestation of the sons of God.

There have been many streams of knowledge as well as movements in the Body of Christ. We have 'tabernacled' around one stream of knowledge or the other, thinking that it was the fullness, only to realise it was a part; not the full picture. Let us take in the full picture so we can be the generation that can finish what was started many years ago. God made man in His image and likeness but mankind fell short of His glory. Jesus Christ is the express image of God and we are to be conformed to the image of the Son as seen in Gen.1:26-27; Hebrews 1:3; and Romans 8:29. This culmination calls for the coming together of all the streams of knowledge and the fullness of process bringing about the manifestation of the sons of God. God's glory can be understood to be

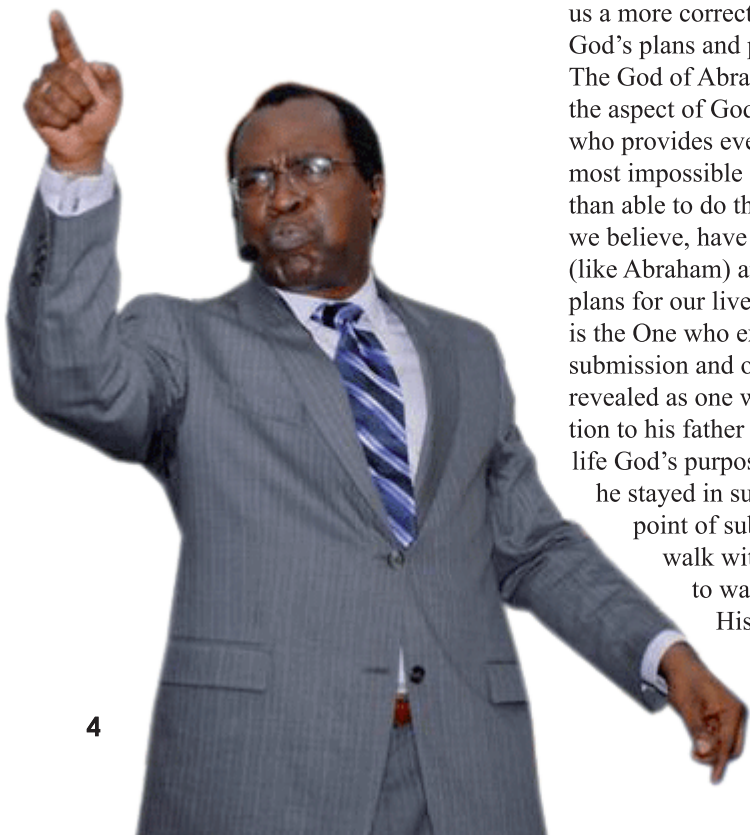
represented by **three dimensions**; the glory of His presence, His ethical glory (the expression of His character) and His functional glory (His demonstration of power). We are to be carriers of His glory in all possible ramifications.

"JESUS CARRIED HIS CROSS; THE BELIEVER IS TO DENY SELF, TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW JESUS."

Everything mentioned about Jesus is applicable to the believer. A body was prepared for Him; the believer is to present his own body as a living sacrifice. Jesus carried His cross; the believer is to deny self, take up his cross and follow Jesus. He bore our sins and we are to bear the infirmity of others. He is the pattern-Son and because of what He did, we see in Him our salvation, our example and the example of a Son operating under God. He came for three reasons: as our sacrificial lamb in divine exchange; He became sin so we can be made righteous; became poor that we through His poverty might be made rich; He took our infirmity and by His stripes we are healed. That is all divine exchange: He became as we were so we can become as He is. He also came as our divine pattern. He suffered in the flesh and we learn from Him as our example. We arm ourselves

with the same mind to suffer in the flesh. This is where tests are passed or failed. Those who drink into only one stream do not appreciate all that Jesus came to accomplish. We learn times and seasons and just like Jesus knew His assignment, we also recognise our seasons in God.

Finally He came to reveal the Father heart of God. God is our Father if we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Matured sonship is what births a consciousness of destiny in us. Our transformation is a function of how we see Him and what we see in Him. "We shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is." 1 John 3:2. "But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the SPIRIT OF THE LORD". (2 Cor. 3:18). We must deal with the veils over our minds that are preventing us from seeing Him as we should in the mirror of the Word of God. Some of the veils are the strongholds in our minds that prevent the light of the glory of God from shining in on us. In spiritual things we tend to see only in one dimension, whereas in the natural we can see in three dimensions. The length, width and height of any object can be taken in by our natural eyes but in spiritual things we seem to learn one dimension at a time and need to mature to handle other dimensions. To have the fullness of His glory and truly glorify God on earth like Jesus did, we need to know the reasons why He came and be well established in the fullness of Christ so we see Him as He is and be transformed into being like Him.



BRINGING MANY SONS TO GLORY

Part 2



THE THREE REASONS WHY JESUS CAME...

There seems to be a **3-fold pattern** for most of the things of God in the Bible.

For example we see God revealing Himself as the Father of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, each revealing a part of God's nature and purpose in His processes for the human race. Each of His revealed identity captures something of His purpose and all three give us a more correct picture of God's plans and purposes. The God of Abraham reveals the aspect of God as One who provides even in the most impossible situation. He is more than able to do the impossible when we believe, have faith in His Word (like Abraham) and participate in His plans for our lives. The God of Isaac is the One who expects us to walk in submission and obedience. Isaac was revealed as one who was in subjection to his father and all through his life God's purposes were fulfilled as he stayed in submission, even to the point of submission to death. To walk with the God of Isaac is to walk in submission to His will for your life. The God of Jacob is He who changes natures

to fulfil His will for our lives. Jacob received the blessing through deceit but did not experience the fullness of it until some price had been paid and his nature changed with a name change. These all

reveal the different aspects of God's processes that need to be taken together to interpret the seasons in our lives and how to respond to them. This will also help us know how to understand what we are going through and how to participate with God's purposes in the seasons of life we find ourselves in.

There are **three** known motivations for anything we do in life. They are fear, duty (obligation) and love. These represent the

must-do, have-to-do and want-to-do motivations. All three have their place in our developmental processes. The fear of punishment is the usual motivation we see in the Bible when people are faced with the consequences of disobedience. Then we see the sense of obligation (duty) to obey God. This is followed by the love motivation which pleases God. This is where God's full purposes can be experi-

"THE GOD OF ABRAHAM REVEALS THE ASPECT OF GOD AS ONE WHO PROVIDES EVEN IN THE MOST IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION."

enced. Our greatest motivation is and should be love.

We see something similar in the words of Jesus when He said He is the way, the truth and the life. He is the way to the Father, as He provided, through His sacrifice on the cross, the possibility of our acceptance, becoming sons, and He gives us a new identity and authority as believers. This elicits our thanksgiving. He is the Truth. Truth is a person as well as reality. When we come to God through the Way, we encounter the Truth who challenges us with the Word and the Word confronts the true states of our hearts. This is when we begin the transformation process, as we let go of the lower life in favour of the higher life. Our humanity and self life is challenged as we progress from the 'outer court' to the 'holy place'. He is the Life when 'it is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me' and 'the life I live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God.' This is where it is none of me but all of Him. He is the life.

Once again we see progression in the process of God captured by the **3 dimensions** of the outer court, holy place and holiest of all. In each dimension we can have the difference between thanksgiving, praise and worship. Sometimes we experience different dimensions in the different aspects of our lives.

These are the **three reasons** why Jesus came: He came to take our place in a DIVINE EXCHANGE; He came to show us the pattern for living as a DIVINE PATTERN and he came to show us the true nature of the Father-God as the DIVINE REVELATION OF THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD.

DIVINE EXCHANGE

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21). This is the aspect of His substitution on the cross. He became poor so we can become rich. He took our place in rejection so that we can gain acceptance from the Father. By the stripes He took, we are promised healing. Our faith in the finished work of Calvary helps us appropriate the ben-

efits His suffering made available to us. The streams of teachings on faith, spiritual warfare, pulling down strongholds, prosperity and new creation realities all come through this aspect of Jesus coming to the earth. God's attitude to sin is seen here: He sees sin as that which needs the blood of His Son to cleanse the human race. The Son carried the judgement of sin on behalf of the human race. This aspect also helps us to see how Satan operates in utilising sin as a means to deceive humanity and the power of the blood of Jesus over the works of darkness. We also see the concepts of authority and how the choices we make determine whose authority we are under. The finished work of Calvary gives us a new identity, a new authority (in His Name as believers) and a power to choose to live above sin by the Holy Spirit. How well established we are in this is very much dependent on how we are taught and how much we meditate, internalise and act on these truths to effect the renewal of our minds so we can walk in the will of God. We come into a new position in our relationship with God simply because we accept what Jesus Christ did for us at His death burial and resurrection. This is the divine exchange. We need to be strong in the grace that this dimension brings to us.

DIVINE PATTERN OF SONSHIP

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren". (Romans 8:29). He died to set us free but His life, death, burial and resurrection also shows us a pattern for us in living according to His will. This is the aspect of character formation, where inner attitudes and attributes like humility, intimacy and faithfulness are cultivated. The main issues here are that character-tests precede kingdom -promotions. He died and we are supposed to die to ourselves. Our flesh needs

putting under. He carried His cross and we are supposed to be ready to carry ours. A body was prepared for Him as He was to lay His body in death, and we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. Our motives and focus come to bear on our servant's heart for God's kingdom purposes. The death

process of the grain of wheat come into focus here. We undergo the process of denying the self, taking up our cross and following Him.

(see John 12:24-26). In our death process, all the trappings of the old nature and its effects on our souls undergo death. Paul says "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me and the life I live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gala-

tians 2:20). This aspect is not popularly preached because dying to self is not always palatable neither is it found when happiness is our ultimate goal in our Christian faith. Our motive in life should be our love for God and our focus should be Christ and His Kingdom.

"THIS ASPECT IS NOT POPULARLY PREACHED BECAUSE DYING TO SELF IS NOT ALWAYS PALATABLE NEITHER IS IT FOUND WHEN HAPPINESS IS OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IN OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH."

DIVINE REVELATION OF THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

He is the way to the Father-heart of God. God is a Father and He sent His Son to reveal His fatherhood nature. Christ lived his life to show us how to live with the Father and to reveal how the Father thinks and functions. God is a Father and His goodness far surpasses the best of fathers on earth. Scripture says the family in heaven and earth is named after God the Father (Eph. 3:14-15). Understanding God as a father implies some maturity in us as we mature into sonship. In spiritual growth we have children, young men and fathers (1 John 2:12-17). We also have carnal and spiritual Christians. Maturity helps our

appreciation of the fatherhood of God. Our knowledge of God is incomplete if we do not come to the realisation that He is the Father of all who come to Him through Christ. In the story of the prodigal son, we see the fatherhood of God exemplified (Luke 15:11-32). He seems to be more interested in restoring His son than in checking him for purity or holiness and obedience. This insight into the nature of God should not be seen to negate the other reasons why Jesus was sent to us. Many such acts make some people erroneously believe that they can play with sin and God is not so interested in counting sin, He simply winks at it because He is a loving father. Nothing could be far from the truth. Sin destroys everything in its path. We need to confess and forsake it so we can enjoy our fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. Pleasing the Father should be uppermost in our affections for everything in life. Sons train their affections to come into alignment with the Father's pleasure. Knowing God as your Father will minister a deep sense of destiny and acceptance. You will understand how to walk with Him, taking initiatives where necessary in your walk of faith. Our prayer life takes on a new level of boldness, intimacy and clarity. The Father commits more to faithful sons who by practise have exercised and trained themselves to discern between good

and evil. They can carry command and execute God-given assignments as sons who know the will of the Father and His times and seasons. Jesus came to show us the Father-God. We need to have a face-to-face relationship with God when we know Him as our loving heavenly Father. We must cultivate a heart felt passion for God. This will lead to us having quality times in His presence. Many things happen when people have a real relationship with God as their Father.

MANY STREAMS FLOW INTO THE RIVER OF PURPOSE

Many have majored on one of these aspects, thinking that they have the whole picture, only to find out later that they do not have answers to the challenges they face. They need the other aspects or streams of knowledge to successfully navigate in the river of God's purposes on the earth. Each aspect has a way of affecting

those who are strong in it. I see God's process go through these steps: revelation; responsibility and relationship. If you read through the book of Ephesians as a whole, you see the progression: revelation of who we are in Christ, what we have in Him and then we see our need to take responsibility for our thoughts, words and actions. These all flow into our ability to build godly relationships that will enhance God's will on earth. The three aspects why Jesus came can be seen in this light. Jesus came as an exchange for us; we need the revelation of these issues. As our divine pattern, we take responsibility for our development into the nature of Christ. All these flow into our relationship with the Father God.

Many sons will come into the glorious liberty of their being sons of God, if we comprehend, appropriate and demonstrate the realities that we are studying in this write-up. We have our part to play and God will play His part but coming into this fullness is our privilege and responsibility. May we bless the heart of the Father as we honour all that the Son has done and we come into the full pleasures of the heart of God.

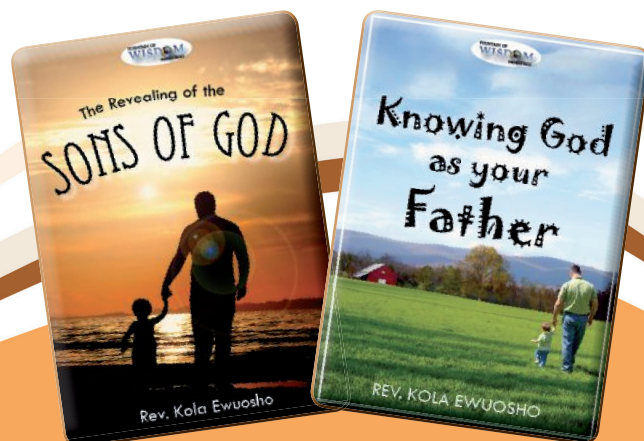
God bless you,

Rev Kola Ewuosho



RELATED MESSAGES

To understand more about the things discussed in this article, we recommend 'The Revealing of the Sons of God' and 'Knowing God as your Father'. Both series contain two messages and cost £10 each on CD or £16 on DVD. Available from www.wisdomstore.com.



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The Wisdom Life Training Centre is for those who want to be equipped to serve God and fulfil their destiny. The Training Centre is a Bible-based institution designed to prepare people who are inclined to Christian service with excellence. We will be training to the highest level of excellence to bring about raising a new generation of leaders who will be like Daniel, Joseph and other men of God who were excellent in spiritual as well as secular functions. Our aim is that students gain a working understanding of Biblical principles, cultivate intimacy with God, embrace His will for their lives and find fulfilment in doing His will.

The development into the full stature of Christ is a principle part in the fulfilment of God's purposes. In a world of information and knowledge, we need an accurate understanding and application of all the available knowledge to the end that an effective life is lived for the glory of God. We hope to build the love of God into the hearts of people so that they are motivated to bless others and serve God acceptably, build faith in God into their lives so that they can activate the power, plans and purposes of God on earth and build wisdom so they can navigate through the process of change they go through in God. We seek to give tools to every student, impart grace for exploits and generate passion for the service of God in every life. The challenge to get the student entrusted with a hunger to know, grow and do more for God has never been more necessary than in these last days.

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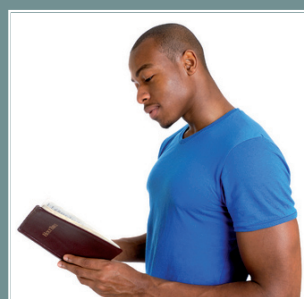
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WALKING IN PROSPERITY & ALL ROUND SUCCESS

BY REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

God wants you to be successful in life! His will for you is prosperity. God wants you to walk in favour and freedom in every area of your life. God's will for us is not partial success but all-round success;

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your

soul prospers." (3 Jn. 2)

God said to Joshua;

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then

you will have good success." (Josh. 1:8)

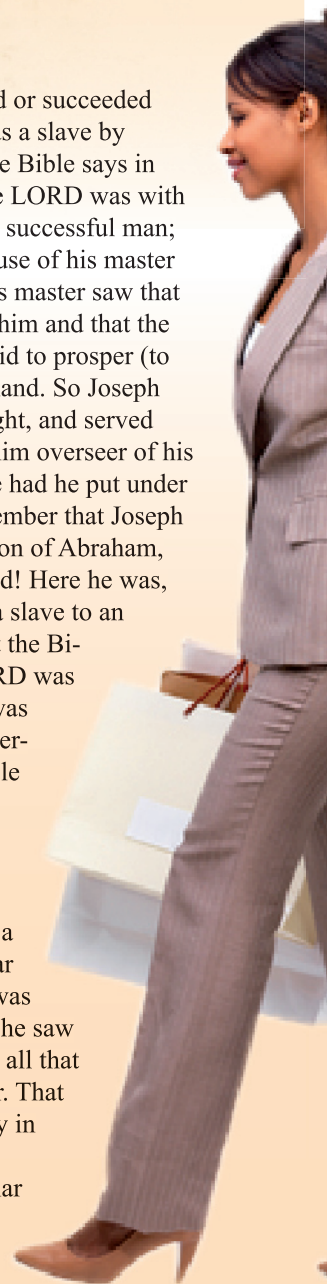
God want us to prosper in everything we do! Yes, in everything! **Therefore, whatever we do is worth doing well; if it isn't worth doing well, it isn't worth doing at all.** Wherever you are, whatever you do, God wants you to have good success.

In Psalm 1:3, the Bible says that man who delights in God's law and meditates constantly in it, shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water "and whatever he does shall prosper". To 'prosper' means, 'to push forward in various senses, to go over, to be good, to be profitable.'

The Bible says that Isaac sowed in the land of famine and in the same year reaped a hundredfold, and the LORD blessed him. "And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great." (Gen 26:12,13)

God wants you to prosper in **WHAT-EVER** you do! What then could ever be your reasons or excuses for not prospering or succeeding in whatever you do? Joseph was a man who had every reason

not to have prospered or succeeded in life. He was sold as a slave by his own brothers! The Bible says in Genesis 39:2-4, "The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper (to be a success) in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority." Remember that Joseph was the great-grandson of Abraham, God's covenant friend! Here he was, not as a Master, but a slave to an Egyptian master! Yet the Bible says that the LORD was with Joseph and he was a successful or prosperous man! Some people believe they are not prospering because they are not their own boss or because they are working for a non-believer. Potiphar saw that the LORD was with Joseph because he saw that the LORD made all that Joseph did to prosper. That was a good testimony in itself. Joseph served Potiphar and he was promot-



ed. Some people see their job as a limitation or a hindrance to their progress or promotion in life. On the contrary, your job could be a channel and a stepping stone to other things that God has for you if you would have the right attitude. Proverbs 22:29 says, "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men." (KJV). Another translation says a man who excels in his work (or is prompt in his business) will not stand before unknown (or obscure) men. The Message Bible says "Observe people who are good at their work—

skilled workers are always in demand and admired;

they don't take a backseat to anyone." Joseph was obviously a very diligent man. He served his master diligently; he was prompt in his business. No wonder he was promoted to being the overseer of Potiphar's house. Also when he was in the prison, the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners and all the prison affairs; and the LORD made whatever he did to prosper. (Gen 39:22,23).

Diligence and hard work always pay off; it's only a matter of time! Diligence, literally means, 'a threshing sledge' (i.e. having sharp teeth). It therefore implies, determination, eagerness, sharpness, quickness, readiness, skilfulness, etc.

Proverbs 10:4 says, "He who has a slack hand becomes poor,

But the hand of the diligent makes rich." Also in Proverbs 12:24, "The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor."

These verses tell us why some people are poor; why they are in financial or economic bondage. The Message Bible is spot-on, it says, "The diligent find freedom in their work; the lazy are oppressed by work." (Pr. 12:24). How true! Did we ever see Joseph complain

on the job? Did he ever try to draw any attention to himself? Don't forget that this

was a guy so loved and 'spoilt' by his father back at home. He had never had any practices on being a slave, yet he adjusted so well in a strange land, doing what he had never done before. Joseph, indeed, so found freedom in his work in Potiphar's house, in the prison and everywhere, that all he got was favour and promotion!

A lazy man will always complain on his job about anything and everything.

Have you ever heard the saying, "A lazy man is always angry with his tools"?

A lazy man is always full of excuses. Proverbs 26:13; "The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road!

A fierce lion is in the streets! As a door turns on its hinges,

So does the lazy man on his bed." Think about it- for every excuse you give to yourself as a reason for not succeeding, there are people who have faced similar or even worse situations and yet have succeeded! No reason is good enough. **You can succeed inspite of the obstacles. Challenges are meant to be overcome. Hurdles are meant to be scaled. You can convert stumbling blocks to stepping stones.** Lazy folks are always full of ideas but no action. They are too lazy to translate their ideas into profitable actions. They usually have nothing to show for their lofty ideas.

Proverbs 26:12,16 (The Message Bible) "See that man who thinks he's so smart?"

You can expect far more from a fool than from him. Dreamers fantasize their self-importance;

they think they are smarter than a whole college faculty." "A lazy life is an empty life, but "early to rise" gets the job done." (Pr. 12:27 – The Message Bible)

James 2:17, says faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Verse 18 says "I will show you my faith by my works." Proverbs 13:4 says, "The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;

But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich."

Have you ever heard the saying, 'If wishes were horses, beggars would ride'? Lazy folks are too lazy to work out their ideas. Proverbs 26:15 says the lazy man buries his hand in the bowl but is too lazy to lift it to his mouth.

Proverbs 13:4 (The Message Bible) says "Indolence wants it all and gets nothing;

the energetic have something to show for their lives." Remember, "Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith BY MY WORKS." Diligent people plan their work and they work their plan! Proverbs 21:5; "The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty,

But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty." Lazy people are too mentally and physically lazy to

carry out any plan. They just can't be bothered with details. Remember, diligence isn't just about hard work but also means being sharp, being on the cutting-edge, being skilful and being determined. Diligence is paying attention to details. If you jumped into anything without careful planning,

you will also find yourself jumping out as quickly as you jumped in!

Proverbs 27:23,27, "Be diligent to know the state of your flocks,

And attend to your herds; You shall have enough goats' milk for your food,

For the food of your household,

And the nourishment of your maid-servants."

Did you notice the connection between diligence and prosperity?

Many folks are lazy! You must make up your mind to succeed and be your best in whatever you do.

Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."

Before the fall, Man was put in the garden to tend (i.e. dress or cultivate) and keep it (Gen 2:15). God had planted a garden and made trees to grow out of the ground; there were also gold and other precious stones buried in that garden. The garden was full of potentials and God put Him man there "to dress it and keep it" (KJV). "Dress" means 'to work, to serve, to labour, to till, to bring to pass.' It was man's responsibility 'to bring to pass' what God had deposited in that garden.

We must take note that work isn't a curse! Man was put in the garden to work it, to till and to cultivate that garden. However, when man fell, the ground was cursed-

"Cursed is the ground for your sake;

In toil (KJV – in sorrow) you shall eat of it

"DILIGENCE
AND HARD
WORK ALWAYS
PAY OFF; IT'S
ONLY A MATTER
OF TIME!"

All the days of your life.

Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,

And you shall eat the herb of the field.

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread

Till you return to the ground," (Gen 3:17-19).

That was a different scenario from Genesis 2:15, when man was put in the garden to dress it. To 'toil' means to work long or laboriously. It connotes something negative. That wasn't God's original idea about work. Ps. 127:1-2, "Unless the LORD builds the house,

They labor in vain who build it;

Unless the LORD guards the city,

The watchman stays awake in vain.

It is vain for you to rise up early,

To sit up late,

To eat the bread of sorrows;

For so He gives His beloved sleep."

The curse was that the man shall eat out of the ground in sorrows all the days of his life. (Gen 3:17 KJV).

To toil connotes labouring without commensurate results. It implies

putting out so much and bringing in so little. In Luke 5:4; Jesus told Peter to launch out into the deep and let down his nets for a catch. But Peter answered Him, "Master, **we have toiled all night and caught nothing**; nevertheless at Your word, I will let down the net". And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish..."

This story shows us the difference between 'toil' and 'work'. Working without grace can be a toil – "nevertheless at your word, I will let down the net." He had been doing it before, on his own. "Unless the LORD builds a house, they labor in vain, who build it." God still expects us to build; He still expects us to work but not without His blessing. Someone said, one word from God can change your life forever!

Remember, it is the blessing of the LORD that makes one rich, without sorrow. (Pr. 10:22). Christ has redeemed us from the Curse, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon us. Jesus wore the crown of thorns to redeem us from the Curse. Your ground is no longer cursed! You don't have to eat out of it in sorrow anymore! It shall no longer bring forth thorns and thistles for

you; and you don't have to eat bread in the sweat of your face anymore!

It was the blessing of Abraham that made Isaac to sow and reap a hundred fold in the land of famine.

It was the blessing that made Jacob prosper under a fraudulent master, who had changed his wages ten times!

It was the blessing that made Joseph prosper in Egypt – in Potiphar's house, in the prison and in the Palace!

God said to Abram in Genesis 12:2, "I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing."

The Patriarchs were not only blessed, they were a blessing to others. Joseph was a blessing to Potiphar, to the prison warden and to Pharaoh. Jacob was a blessing to Laban.

You are an asset, not a liability. You are a blessing to someone, and not a bur-

den. Laban didn't want Jacob to go; he said to Jacob, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake." Then he said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it." (Gen 30:27-28).

You must begin to

change the way you see your job and also the way you see yourself. The way you see yourself is the way you will behave and also the way others will see you.

"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7) If you think you are a burden and a liability to others, so you are! If you see yourself as 'grass-hopper', that is also how others will see you. Don't let what you see or experience affect who you are. **Laban changed Jacob's wages ten times, but that didn't change Jacob's fortune or future**, because Jacob didn't allow Laban's ways to change who he was! He said to Laban's daughters, "And you know that with all my might I have served your father. Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me." (Gen 31:6-7).

Did you notice that Jacob wasn't lazy?

He served Laban with all his might.

Joseph also served Potiphar. There should really be no excuse for laziness or slothfulness on your job – especially if you would succeed in life.

Jacob didn't serve half heartedly; rather he served with all his might. **Some peo-**

ple are forever looking for new jobs, and so they don't work with all their might. Jesus said if you are faithful in least, you are also faithful in much and if you are unfaithful in least, you are also unfaithful in much. He said, if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, nobody will give you what is your own. (Lk. 16:10-12). Jesus also said no servant can serve two masters, because he will either be loyal to one and despise the other. (Luke 16:13).

Are you serving two masters while on your job? Are you busy serving your own interest while you are on your job, or you are serving whole-heartedly? Are you allowing your own interest to clash with the interest of your job? The answers will help you know if you are being faithful in another man's business or not.

This calls for us having a change of attitude towards our job. We should be grateful to God for our job, instead of complaining about it. **Remember, there are people out there who don't have a job or who would rather have your job. Your job is a channel through which God can, and wants to bless you!** He wants to prosper you in whatever you do. "The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand..." (Deut. 28:8). Remember, if you are doing nothing, then you aren't giving God the room to bless you financially!

You can be happy on your job, instead of being put into forced labour (Pr. 12:24). You don't necessarily have to change your job or be miserable because you can't change it. You can change yourself – your attitude, your disposition, your orientation, your belief-system. You can find freedom in your work instead of being oppressed by it. Remember, Joseph was a slave and a prisoner – yet he was prosperous! **You don't have to be the boss to be happy! You can be happy where you are, on the way to where you are going.** What are the things you can learn where you are now, on your job? That is what it means to see your job not only as a channel, but also as a stepping stone to greater heights. Zechariah 4:10 says, "For who has despised the day of small things?" Remember, small things have the potential of becoming big things, if we would handle them right. We must pass the test of 'small things' to move forward in life. Jesus said faithfulness or unfaithfulness in small things, is seen as faithfulness or

"JESUS WORE
THE CROWN
OF THORNS
TO REDEEM
US FROM THE
CURSE."



unfaithfulness in big things! God won't commit big things to us, if we aren't faithful in small things.

How do you handle the phase you are in right now? That will determine if you will ever get to the next phase and how you will handle it, when you get there. I believe that Joseph learnt some skills as a slave and as a prisoner which prepared him for the challenges he faced as a Prime Minister later on in life. He must have learnt leadership skills, management skills, people skills, etc. Don't you ever waste your trials, rather let them work for you! You can become better prepared and equipped for your future. James 1:2-4 (The Message Bible):

"Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. **So don't try to get out of anything prematurely.** Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way." Imagine if Joseph had tried to get out of Potiphar's house or the prison, prematurely? One thing for sure, he wouldn't have made it to the palace or if he did, he would have made a big mess of it! Change your attitude of just working to get by or to pay your bills or to make a living. **Work to develop yourself. Work to become a better person in life. Work to contribute to your world. Work to be a blessing to others. You must have a healthy attitude towards your work and work in general.**

Jesus said, those who labour and are heavy laden should come unto Him and He will give them rest. How? "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me... For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30)
He does not want us to be oppressed by

work! Ecclesiastes 10:10, 15: "If the ax is dull,

And one does not sharpen the edge,

Then he must use more strength;

But wisdom brings success. The labor of fools wearies them,

For they do not even know how to go to the city!"

If you are being oppressed by your work, rather than finding freedom in it and enjoying it; you might need to learn a few things that could help you make the necessary adjustments. Remember, work is not a curse and it isn't an option! There is no

way round it, if you are to stay on top and not beneath!

God's will for you is financial freedom! Proverbs 22:7 says, "The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower is servant to the lender."

God's blessing on Israel is that the LORD will open to them His good treasure, the heavens to give rain to their land and to bless the work of their hand, **and they shall lend to many**

nations but shall not borrow. (Deut. 28:12).

In Deuteronomy 8:18, Moses commands the Israelites to remember the LORD their God, because it is He who gives them the power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant, which He swore to their fathers. 'Power' means, vigor, strength, force, capacity, etc. It means capacity or ability, whether physical, mental or spiritual.

It is, therefore, in acknowledgement of God being the source of their wealth, that the Israelites respond to Him in their tithes and offerings.

After Abram's battle against the King of Sodom and his allies, Melchizedek the Priest of God Most High met him with bread and wine and blessed Abram and also said "And blessed be God Most High,

Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." (Gen. 14:19-20).

That is, Abram's victory wasn't just because he was strong and smart but because God delivered his enemies into his hand. And Abram gave Melchizedek tithes of all he got from the battle.

In Genesis 28, when God appeared to

Jacob, he made a vow to God and said **"...and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."** (v. 22b). Take note that all this was before the Law! Moses said they should remember that God gave them the power to get wealth and not begin to say in their hearts that their power and might made them wealthy (Deut. 28:17, 18). To the Patriarchs, tithes and offerings were not a matter of the Law (as a matter of fact, they did them before the Law), it was done in recognition and acknowledgement of God, as their Source. Abel brought the first born for his flock and their fat to the LORD, before the Law. (Gen. 4:4)

Proverbs 3:9,10 says, **"Honor the LORD with your possessions,**

And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

So your barns will be filled with plenty,

And your vats will overflow with new wine." The key word there is 'Honour'. God wants us to honour Him with our giving. The Bible says the LORD respected Abel and his offering (I believe, because it was done with honour). We don't give to God as slaves

but as children of God.

Give with love and joy in your heart. "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:6-7).

The Amplified Bible

says: "for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving]." If we would prosper financially, we must also be diligent in our giving, not only in our work. 2 Corinthians 9:8 goes on to say; "And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]." (Amplified Bible).

Did you notice verse 8 starts with 'And'? That is, it doesn't stand alone,

"REMEMBER, SMALL THINGS HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING BIG THINGS' IF WE WOULD HANDLE THEM RIGHT."



it must be taken with the preceding verses. Paul was therefore saying to the Corinthians that if they would do their part, in giving bountifully and cheerfully, God's grace will abound towards them and they will have more than enough for themselves and others! God multiplies every seed sown (verse 10). We could see the same trend of thought in Philippians 4:15-19; they shared with Paul concerning giving and receiving, they sent aid for his necessities. "Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. **And** my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:18-19).

In Philippians 4:17, Paul spoke about the fruit that abound to their account; but what account was he talking about? In Matthew 6b, Jesus talked about laying treasures in heaven. Seems to me that every believer has a heavenly account – "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you," (1 Pet. 1:4). One of the ways we make

"ONE OF THE
WAYS WE MAKE
DEPOSITS IN
OUR HEAVENLY
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BY GIVING"

deposits in our heavenly account is by giving – giving to support the work of God, giving to the poor, giving to support missions and missionaries, etc. How then do we draw on our heavenly account. Remember, they are kept for us and not from us! Jesus said if we are faithful in 'unrighteous mammon' God will give us 'true riches' (Luke 16:11). However, 'NO DEPOSIT, NO WITHDRAWALS'. We draw, firstly, by ASKING.

Matt. 7:7-8; "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Also in James 4:2; "...Yet you do not have because you do not ask." Jesus said in Mark 11:24, that whatever things we ask when we pray, we should believe that we receive them, and we will have them.

The key word in these verses is 'ask'. We must be bold enough to ask. When you need to withdraw money from your bank account, you simply ask. Secondly, you need to CREATE THE CHANNELS. God is the Source, and He wants to bless the work of our hands

(Ps 1:3). He wants to give us creative ideas that can generate money. Remember, the power to get wealth is not only physical and spiritual, but also mental. Your job, your business, your investments, etc are examples of channels you could create.

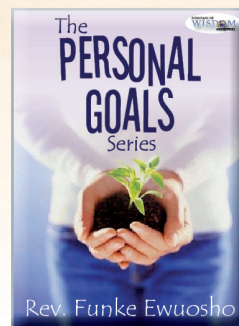
In conclusion, remember, God wants you to prosper and to walk in financial freedom. "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (Jn. 8:36). He wants you to make your way prosperous and have 'good success' (Josh. 1:8). God wants you to be victorious in life. (1 Jn. 5:4).

"Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." (2 Cor. 2:14). AMEN!

God bless you.

Rev. Funke Ewuosho

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MAXIMISING YOUR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL

Understanding the potential principle; understanding the role and need for leadership in our world; the pitfalls and problems in leadership; maximising your potentials in leadership.



“Let no one despise (look down on your youthfulness), but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine (teaching). Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them,

for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” 1 Tim. 4:12-16.

The Apostle Paul was saying a lot to Timothy, his disciple, who had taken on leadership responsibilities in the above passage. Amongst other things he is saying to us that we should understand the potentials that lie within us and not to be carried away by externals; to give ourselves to the aspects of life that enable us to generate the right kind of influence (leadership); become single minded in our focus as we give ourselves entirely to these things and finally he warns about the potential dangers in the race we are on. These summarise what we are studying in this article.

UNDERSTANDING THE POTENTIAL PRINCIPLE

Almost everything that God created has the ability to undergo changes that can cause something else to be born. This is because the Creator designed His creation with potentials to reproduce and become the raw material for another. What God speaks to is the source for what He creates and all things have the same components and essence as the sources from which they come.

"You have untapped potentials. As you yield yourself to God's Word and process, you can reproduce your qualities in others."

For example in Genesis 1:11, God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth and it was so.' The earth here had potentials to produce grass, herbs, fruits and seeds. If you saw the dry land called earth just before God said it should bring all these forth, there is no way you would know it had the ability to produce such. God who created the earth knew what He had built into it (potentials) so He called forth and the hidden abilities of the earth were awakened by the voice of the Creator! The same can be seen of the seas as creatures were brought forth from it too. See Genesis 1:20-25. The earth also brought forth living creatures. All things must be maintained by the sources from which they came.

It is worthy of note to realise that everything that came out of something else depended on the thing it came out of. Grass depends on the earth for its nutrients. The living creatures also depend on the earth for its food. The things that were brought forth also had potentials to reproduce after their kind. God is really omnipotent! Full of potentials! When God was to create mankind He made us out of Himself and in the same way we need to depend on God for our sustenance. Every disconnection from source has the potential to cause death. Since God is a Spirit, when we became disconnected we were termed spiritually dead though physically alive. So we see that every created thing has potentials but man has great and almost unlimited potentials as we were created in the image and likeness of the omnipotent God. The earth produces the grass and herbs according to the Word of the Lord. The herb has fruit and the fruit has seed and the seed has the potentials to repeat the cycle as it enters the earth to reproduce the grass and herb again. The seed of everything is in itself. The potential principle simply states that, given the right conditions and process, the seed can reproduce itself. You have untapped potentials. As you yield yourself to God's Word and process, you can reproduce your qualities in others. There is more to your life than meets the natural eye. Would you like to develop your potentials? There may be music in you yet to be tapped. Who knows if you carry solutions to many of life's problems within you? There are untapped abilities within you waiting for your decision to develop them.

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE AND NEED FOR LEADERSHIP

Many believe that leadership has to do with being at the top of an organization. This is not true. Leadership has to start with a simple desire to make life a little better for someone else. It is the ability to influence others for their good and the good of the society at large. You don't need a title to be a leader. Many problems in the world today are opportunities for leaders to step in and make a difference. Sadly there are not many leaders prepared for the challenges we face. You do not need a title to operate leadership principles. Everyone's level

of leadership will impact the level of success they can enjoy in their lives. Leadership principles are life transforming principles that will enhance your life and the lives of people around you. Everyone needs to be developing in areas like time management, goal setting, and cultivating work ethics that not only work hard but work at the right things. This will enhance efficiency and effectiveness. The personal development industry is full of good stuff that can help us set goals and stay motivated to achieve them. Mark Sanborn's book titled "You don't need a title to be a leader" is a good one along these lines. In it he lists out 6 principles of leadership. Another author renowned for leadership development is John Maxwell. The principles are as follows: 1. the power of self mastery, 2. the power of focus, 3. power with people, 4. the power of persuasive communication, 5. the power of execution, 6. the power of giving. You cannot lead others if you do not master yourself by keeping the promises you make to yourself and exercising the necessary discipline over your words thoughts and actions. You don't give what you do not have. To lead is to start by leading yourself to do what you know is right. The more you expose your mind to developmental principles and apply yourself to practise; you will begin to take your life to new levels of fulfilment and achievements. Your life will be focussed and you will have something to pass unto others as you learn to communicate and develop others for their good. Servant leadership will be very fulfilling as you learn to maximise the impact your life is making in the lives of those around you. "Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord not men" (Ephesians 6:7) You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself.

SOME PROBLEMS AND PITFALLS IN LEADERSHIP

The foremost problem in any developmental process is the problem of **PRIDE**. It is the downfall of many. It acts as a blind spot in many lives. Insecurity, inferiority complexes or superiority complexes are all effects of pride in people's lives.

NOT RECOGNISING OTHER PEOPLES ROLES AND POTENTIALS: Others were designed

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by God to contribute into your life as well as those that receive from you. When you do not recognise their role in your life you short change yourself.

PRESUMPTUOUSNESS: When we do not think through on issues either through laziness or carelessness we tend to become presumptuous. Many people fall into this pitfall when they stop listening to constructive criticisms and continue to develop themselves. Life is meant to be lived by keeping our perspectives right, our relationship with God and people healthy and keeping our feet on the ground.

MAXIMISE YOUR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL

Leadership is your God given ability to influence other people for their good. Maximising it starts by recognising that you have it; then you can guard and

protect your potentials. The potency of God in you is His wisdom, presence and power in you. How you steward these and make them available to bless others as God helps you is the key to maximising your potentials. Guard this treasure in you from critics and all who may want to make light of your potentials in leadership.

Cultivate and feed your potentials by feeding on good literature that can build leadership principles firmly in you. Be one who acts on what they learn. Through your lifestyle cultivate an environment that is conducive for your growth. Stay in the place of intimacy with God and live by faith as you seek to be a blessing to others. Seek to serve others with what God has given you. To maximise you must read, study and have clear goals and objectives that will challenge every potential in you. Through your words and actions based on God's Word, create an environment conducive for healthy growth. Give yourself to the challenges you face and

decide to be a winner not a loser, a victor and not a victim of your circumstances. Your decision and power of choice

is your key to turning things around in your life. Christ did not die to give God more failures as children so whatever you are facing in life, with the help of God, stay positive and be victorious. God bless you



Rev Kola Ewuosho

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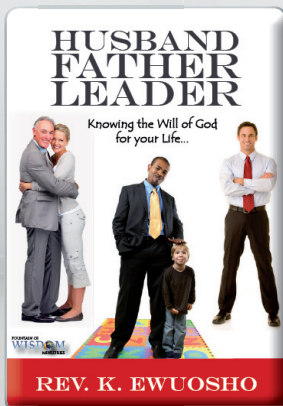
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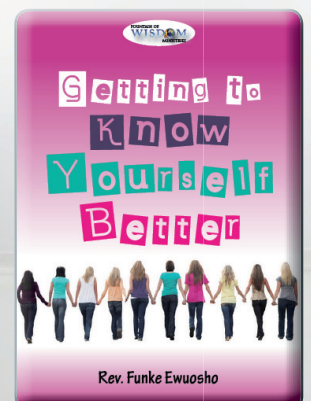


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