

ATTAINING GREATNESS

Sylvester Onyemalechi

God our Father is a great God who desires all in covenant relationship with Him to be great. When He created man at the beginning, He created him to have dominion over all the earth. He made man to be the great ruler of the earth.

Gen 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

NIV

At redemption, He redeemed man to rule his world as a king. He put Satan and his evil forces under the believer. He put sin under the believer.

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

NIV

Rev 5:10

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

KJV

1 Cor 4:8

8 Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

KJV

Rom 5:17

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

KJV

Gal 3:13-14

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

NIV

Gen 12:1-3

12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

NIV

All these he did to make man great on the earth. So, by creation and redemption, God's plan is that man will be great, rule, have dominion and administer the earth on His behalf. God wants you successful and great.

God does not want you to be anything less than great. He wants you to be successful in all that you do in life. This is the reason why He gave us laws and principles to help guide man to success and greatness. Failure to abide by these principles will bring failure and defeat.

Josh 1:8

8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

NIV

IGNORANCE

Ignorance is the main problem that has kept many Christians from attaining greatness in life. When a man is knowledgeable in any area of life, he makes steady progress because he makes bold to take hold of his inheritance.

Hos 4:6

6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.

NIV

GREATNESS IS BY COVENANT

A covenant is a formal agreement that is legally binding. A covenant is a commitment between two or more people.

A deed of covenant is written, signed and sealed, in most cases with blood. It can be institutionalized by a pillar or alter, object or anything.

A covenant is an undertaking. A covenant usually involves two or more people.

The most common use of the word COVENANT in the bible is for the covenant between God and His people.

WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT GOD

- 1. God does not relate with a man except on the basis of a covenant.**

Matt 11:28-30

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

NIV

Nobody follows God for nothing. You relate with God according to his terms and not your terms. It is a covenant relationship. God is faithful to those who are faithful.

2. God does not engage a man in a service except on the basis of a covenant.

Jer 1:4-5

4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

NIV

Jer 1:17-19

17 "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. 18 Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. 19 They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

NIV

When God calls a man to service, He will reveal the assignment; give him promises and conditions for service. God has a covenant with every of His servant. As long as that servant is faithful in following the terms of covenant, God will prove Himself faithful.

3. God does not bless a man except in a covenant.

Deut 28:2-14

2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock--the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

7 The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

8 The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

9 The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. 10 Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. 11 The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity--in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground--in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you.

12 The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow

from none. 13 The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. 14 Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.
NIV

John 15:7

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.
NIV

All the promises of God are covenants. There is a God part, and there is a man part. Do your part and God will do his part. You can't receive or claim the blessing promised except you are fulfilling the conditions (covenant requirement). **Example:** Prosperity answers to tithing and giving and not just to prayers and fasting.

4. If a man has a nagging problem and enters into a covenant with God sacrificing something precious to him, God always answers.

Ps 50:5

5 "Gather to me my consecrated ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice."
NIV

Read Judges 11:28-37; 1 Samuel 1:1-20: 2:21.

Don't promise in a covenant what you won't fulfill. It is dangerous. You can't use God. You will pay dearly for it.

5. God does not violate (treat with disrespect) his covenant.

Ps 89:34

*34 I will not **violate** my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered.*
NIV

6. God will not forget his covenant.

Deut 4:31

*31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or **forget** the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.*
NIV

7. God will not break (annul) his covenant.

Judg 2:1

*2:1 The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, 'I will never **break** my covenant with you,*
NIV

God is trustworthy as far as covenant keeping is concerned. Just be faithful, and He will not disappoint you. It may appear as if He is slow, or he has forgotten you, I want you to be rest assured he can never forget you, and because no one is higher than Him, He will always rescue, protect and bless you as He has promised.

8. God wants you to keep your covenant (vows and promises).

Eccl 5:4-6

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. 5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it. 6 Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the [temple] messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands?

NIV

Keep your part of the covenant by obeying every command of God.

Deut 28:1-2

28:1 If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

NIV

When you walk in covenant with God as He has demanded of you, greatness will definitely be your portion. Every man is blessed as he relates with God in the covenant.

UNDERSTAND THIS

1. Your experience in life is a product of your faithfulness to God and his instructions.

Your attitude to the word of God determines how God deals with you in life. Your faithfulness to the word of God determines how things work out for you.

Ps 18:25-26

5 To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, 26 to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.

NIV

Luke 16:10-11

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

NIV

2. What you were yesterday, what you are today, and what you will be tomorrow are determined by your faithfulness to the word of God.

A man's response to the word of God determines how God deals with the man. Obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings problems, complications and troubles. What a man sows, that he will reap. This is the law God put in place that never fails to come to pass from generation to generation. You are the one that creates your own experience. So, what you were yesterday, what

you are today, and what you will be tomorrow depends on your response to the words and laws of God.

3. God's blessings in your life are determined by your faithfulness to his instructions.

The promises of God are with conditions. They are covenants. God does not call a man to serve him except on the basis of a covenant. God does not bless except on the basis of a covenant. There is always a man's part, and there is God's part. You fulfill your part God will fulfill His part. Your faithfulness in fulfilling and obeying His word will provoke His blessings on your life.

4. Your level of obedience determines your level of promotion and upliftment in Christ, in finance, business, and in the society.

Jesus taught in the parable of the sower that believers bear fruit based on their level of acceptance and yieldedness to the word of God. A man's level of yieldedness determines his fruitfulness. And fruitfulness determines the level of promotion.

Luke 16:10

10 Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

NIV

The more you prove yourself faithful, the more God blesses, promotes and uplifts you. Obedience attracts God's mercy and favor. Obedience secures God's right hand of fellowship. And that is all we need for us to succeed in life. The one whom you obey cannot but love and favor you.

5. You are the one that chooses the cup with which you will be blessed – the level of your obedience determines the cup.

By cup, I mean the measure or size of blessing you receive from God per time. It is God's desire to bless His children with all spiritual and material blessings needed by them, but He is always limited by each individual's attitude and response to His word and command. God is a principled person – He cannot neglect or abandon His word. He follows His word and abides by His principles no matter who is involved. He is not a respecter of persons.

Acts 10:34-35

34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

NIV

Your obedience measures the size of your blessing and reward.

Ps 18:25-26

25 To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, 26 to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.

NIV

6. You are where you are by choice. And you can also decide to move from where you are. It is a matter of choice.

The choices we make determine our experiences in life. No one chooses for you. Every person that speaks into your life are all advisers, you are the only one that makes your decisions. Whatever you decide to do with your life, marriage, and career etc. is your choice. Your choices create your experiences in life. The decisions you reach about the instructions of God create your experiences. So, you are where you are by choice, and you can relocate yourself by changing your attitude and response to God's word. Choose to obey God's word and live by his principles, and you will be where you ought to be.

7. Disobedience is the root of agony and oppression.

The devil's attack on you will never work when you are in obedience to God's word.

Isa. 54:17

17 No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,' declares the LORD.

NIV

Disobedience opens the door for evil spirits to gain entrance into a man's life and attack him. The attacks of the enemy can never succeed if the believer does not open his life to the devil through disobedience.

Prov. 16:7

7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

NIV

Walk with God in obedience and you will enjoy the blessings of the Lord in a wonderful way. The enemy cannot touch you at all because the hedge of God will be in place in your life. God is always faithful to the faithful. He will keep him out of trouble.

BUILDING STRONG CHARACTER

- It takes a godly character to make a great person.
- It takes a strong and godly character to make a good husband or wife.
- It takes a good character to retain a good job and get promoted.
- It takes a good and strong character to become what God wants us to become.
- It takes a good character to please God and secure His favor.

Go to work on yourself by getting rid of all the wrong habits and character in your life. Begin now and do not postpone action. Resolve in your heart to be disciplined and mature in your life.

Greatness is earned through strong and godly character. Never forget that. Greatness is the result of a disciplined life and walking in integrity. To attain greatness is to develop strong godly character, and through it become what God planned for your life. It is to walk in the covenant with God and secure the support of God in the journey of life.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. Laziness will stop the blessings of God in your life. Be diligent.**
- 2. Every smiling is preceded by crying.**
- 3. Give your job or business all it takes, and you will get all it contains. If you invest in it, you will partake of it.**
- 4. Work precedes reward.**
- 5. He that has power with God must have power with men.**
- 6. The larger your heart for God, the larger your destiny in God.**
- 7. Vision is the unfolding of divine plan.**
- 8. Kingdom exploits is tied to validity of vision.**
- 9. A seed of exploit is planted to fulfill a particular vision when it is given.**
- 10. Location brings the unction for success in any business or ministry.**
- 11. There is no security in any office. But there is security in vision if you will stay with your vision.**
- 12. Your input to whatever you are doing will determine your output.**
- 13. Success is possible if you will believe and work at it.**
- 14. The desire for improvement and expansion is not carnal but godly.**
- 15. Do not worry or fear what the enemy will do or say concerning your dream. No one can slow or fasten the plan of God.**
- 16. Goal setting is the key to achievement**
- 17. There is a difference between a success and a failure.**
- 18. There is a difference between a winner and a loser.**
- 19. The difference is information. Get knowledge, get understanding, and work with it, and you will become successful.**
- 20. Wrong mentality is an invisible wall against good.**
- 21. Don't think or say you can't. Believe, think and say "I can", and you can. Throw away the word impossible. Believe all things are possible, and that which seems impossible to you before, will become possible.**

RENEWING THE MIND

- 1. What you think determines what you say, and what you say determines what happens in your life.**
- 2. Your thoughts create your feelings, and your feelings determine how you behave, how you respond and react to situations and people around you, what you say and how you say it; and what you say create your experience.**
- 3. Thoughts make us speak and act the way we do.**
- 4. Behaviour is the result of thoughts, especially intense thoughts about a subject.**
- 5. The intensity of thoughts determines the intensity of feelings, desires, words and actions created. The more you think on a thing the more power you generate for it to influence, control and rule you.**
- 6. As thoughts come alive, so words come true.**

7. **There is power of life and death in the tongue, and they that know it reap the fruit thereof.**
8. **What you say create your world of experience. While what you think motivate what you say. To determine your life experience therefore, you have to watch what you think to watch what you say.**
9. **Every man is the product of his own thoughts – your thoughts make you who you are.**
10. **Every emotion is the result of the intense thoughts that run through the mind of man from time to time.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. **There are those who add to your life, and there are those who subtract from it. Pay attention to those who add to you.**
2. **God does not relate with a man except on the basis of a covenant. Pay attention to your covenant with God and make sure that you are faithful to it.**
3. **You need good willed people to get to where you are going. Learn to nurture and keep relationships that are clean and rewarding.**
4. **Just as you are a solution to someone's problem, someone is a solution to your problem.**
5. **You will always attract the kind of person you are.**
6. **There are those who are difficult to relate with. Are you one of them?**
7. **Kind people always get connected to people that will greatly bless their lives, though that is not their motive for showing kindness.**
8. **The one who shows favour will be favoured.**
9. **Respect other people's feelings and your feelings will be respected.**
10. **Getting along well with people is not a gift, but an act that must be learned and practiced.**