

DEDICATION

Sylvester Onyemalechi

To dedicate is to set apart for some good or holy purpose. It is to set apart for some special purpose. Dedication has to do with devoting one's energy, talent, training, gifts and resources to the pursuit of a particular cause, vision or purpose.

All achievers are dedicated people. All successful Ministers of the gospel are dedicated and hard working people. All those who have served God successfully in Bible times and in our modern day were all dedicated men and women. You can't serve God successfully without being fully dedicated to Him and His cause. You can't achieve anything in life without being dedicated to your pursuits. You can't be successful in your relationship and marriage without dedication to your friend and spouse

No dream can become a reality without dedication. Dedication is the power that brings accomplishment. Dedication is the engine that powers vision to reality. The drive for success is the foundation upon which dedication is built. No matter what your goals in life are or what you do for a living, if there is no urge for success and dedication, there can be no accomplishment and celebrations of dreams come true. Marriage will only remain a dream as long as there is no dedication to the success of your relationship.

A dedicated man is a hard working man. Dedication means dogged commitment. Dedication is devotion, and requires a lot of perseverance. To be dedicated to a relationship is to pay allegiance to and be loyal to the person you are involved with. It means you have to turn your attention away from others that seek your attention.

Dedication gives birth to diligence which is a prerequisite for prosperity and success in life and ministry.

"Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth" (Prov.10:4).

Dedication to your dream and goals will bring about the celebration that you often think about. If you pay lip service only to your goals, visions and desires without giving yourself to the actual pursuit of these things that you want, you have only wasted your time day-dreaming.

Prov 14:23

23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

NIV

Prov 28:19

19 He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

NIV

You must march words with action. You must take serious steps to actualizing your thoughts, visions and desires.

THE CHRISTIAN AND DEDICATION

Dedication and commitment are two sister words. Commitment has to do with promising and acting on your promise. Both have to do with pursuing a cause. You need to be a committed Christian who is dedicated to living for your Savior and glorifying him in all that you do.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will". (Rom 12:1,2)

In this passage Paul is calling for commitment and dedication to God in view of the mercies of God revealed and received. Dedication and commitment is a voluntary action - No one forces you to do it. He said, *"I urge you"*. The King James Version says, *"I beseech you"*. And he says, *"This is your reasonable act of worship"* (KJV). *"This is your spiritual act of worship"* (NIV). Paul actually is appealing to our reasoning. It is indeed the only reasonable and spiritual thing to do - to dedicate ourselves to the worship of the one who saved us from the judgment of God. He wants us to reason it out and voluntarily dedicate ourselves to God so that we can make a success of our Christian lives. Without dedication and commitment, it will be difficult to take the drastic actions expected of a believer. In the next verse he asks us to act upon our decision to worship God in appreciation of his mercies by refusing to conform any longer to the worldly and sinful pattern or system of this world. It takes a dedicated man to remain unspotted by the filth in the world. It takes dedication to say and make sure that the evils you did before, that you do them no more. It takes dedication to make sure that the evil habits and character cultivated over the years are dropped from one's life and new ones after the order of Jesus Christ is cultivated. It takes dedication to be a successful and a God-pleasing Christian. Without dedication, there can be no success.

JESUS AND DEDICATION

"Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: ' Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am - it is written about me in the scroll - I have come to do your will O God.'" (Heb.10:5-7)

"My food' said, Jesus, ' is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." (Jn. 4:34)

Jesus knew why he came to this earth from childhood. And he made up his mind as we can see from the above scripture to dedicate himself to that assignment. And one day, as he was waiting for the Samaritan woman that he had ministered to, to return with the people, he declared that his "food is to do the will of him who sent him and to finish it." He made this declaration when his disciples urged him to eat.

From this statement of Jesus, it is very clear that Jesus Christ succeeded in his assignment because he was dedicated to its completion. On the cross, they urged him to come down from the cross, and they will believe he is the Messiah. He refused because he knew his assignment very

well. He understood that man can only be saved through his death and resurrection. It was his commitment and dedication to this understanding that made him resist the temptation.

Dedication to your assignment, vision, goals and desires will help you resist temptation to abort your dreams. At the garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed on the eve of his death, we see how the dedication of Jesus helped him to submit to God's will. As he meditated and prayed on all that will befall him a few hours from that time, he cried out to God that he wished the assignment be aborted, but on a second thought, he surrendered to the will of God. He remembered his commitment to the Father. His dedication helped him not to abort his vision.

CONCLUSION

Be committed and dedicated to your vision, goals and dreams. There is no alternative to dedication. It will make you work hard for the success of your vision and desires. Dedication is working hard towards the actualization of your vision. Get dedicated to that vision you are pursuing and you will soon celebrate.

Be dedicated to your relationship to make it work. Be committed to the success of your life pursuits. Be dedicated to the success of your friend with whom you are in relationship. Be dedicated to your relationship with God. Be dedicated to anything you believe in and want to see come true. Nothing works without a dedication to its actualization.

Be dedicated to improving your person to make you marriageable and lovely to live with. Dedicate yourself to increasing your knowledge about how to have a successful and enduring relationship and marriage. Be dedicated to letting the word of God dwell in you richly, cleansing and making you better by the day. Go to work on yourself now!