

# ENEMIES OF PROGRESS (Part 2)

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In our last edition we considered seven enemies of progress, in this edition; we are going to look at the remaining ten. The Lord bless you as you pay attention to the things you will learn.

## 8. DISOBEDIENCE TO THE WORDS AND PRINCIPLES OF GOD AND REJECTION OF GODLY ADVICE AND CORRECTION

Disobedience is rebellion – rebellion against the words and authority of God. Disobedience is questioning God's wisdom behind his instructions and laws. Disobedience is questioning God's authority. Disobedience and rejection of Godly counsel and correction will hinder progress – you turn yourself to an enemy of God.

*1 Sam 15:22-23*

*22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."*

*NIV*

*Prov 13:13*

*13 He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.*

*NIV*

*Ps 107:17-20*

*17 Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. 18 They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. 20 He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.*

*NIV*

*Isa 59:2*

*2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

*NIV*

Always remember:

- (a)** That your experience in life is a product of your faithfulness to God and His instructions.
- (b)** What you are yesterday, what you are today, and what you will be tomorrow are determined by your faithfulness to the word of God.
- (c)** God's blessings in your life are determined by your faithfulness to His instructions.

- (d) Your level of obedience determines your level of promotion and Upliftment in Christ, in academics, in finance, business, and in the society.
- (e) You are the one who chooses the cup with which you will be blessed – the cup is determined the level of your obedience.
- (f) You are where you are by choice. And you can also decide to move from where you are, it is a matter of choice.
- (g) Disobedience is the root of agony and oppression. The devils attack on you will never work when you are in obedience to God's word.

Determine to obey God in all things and at all times. Accept Godly advice and correction, and it shall always be well with you.

## 9. PRAYERLESSNESS

Prayerlessness is a hindrance to progress. A prayer-less Christian is a powerless Christian. A prayer-less Christian is a weak Christian. Prayer strengthens the believer and gives him power to overcome the enemy and power his dream to reality.

To be an achiever, you have to follow-up your dream with prayer-

*Luke 18:1*

*18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*

*NIV*

*1 Thess 5:17*

*17 pray continually*

*NIV*

*1 Cor 14:4*

*4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.*

*NIV*

## 10. UNSERIOUSNESS

Anyone who is not serious with his job or life cannot progress very well. Unseriousness breeds laziness, and sets the stage for poverty to take over. Anyone who is unserious about getting a job will never get one. Anyone who is not serious about improving his or her living condition will never see improvement. When you get dissatisfied with your present condition or position in life or job, then you get serious about a change, change will come. But when you are passive about your condition, only paying lip service to the idea of change, change will never come.

- Unseriousness is a lack of strong desire which is a necessary ingredient for progress and accomplishment in life. Develop a strong desire for whatever you want, towards the realization of that desire.
- Unseriousness is lack of enthusiasm for what you are doing. When there is not enthusiasm, there is no production.

- Unseriousness is lack of interest. And without an interest, there can be no commitment. And where there is commitment there can be no achievement.

An example of someone serious about changing her adverse condition is found in Matthew 15:21-28.

*Matt 15:21-28*

*21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." 23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." 24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." 25 The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. 26 He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." 27 "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.*

*NIV*

## **11. TIME CONSCIOUSNESS**

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die,  
 A time to plant and a time to uproot,  
 A time to kill and a time to heal,  
 A time to tear down and a time to build,  
 A time to weep and a time to laugh,  
 A time to mourn and a time to dance,  
 A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
 A time to embrace and a time to refrain,  
 A time to search and a time to give up,  
 A time to keep and a time to throw away,  
 A time to tear and a time to mend,  
 A time to be silent and a time to speak,  
 A time to be loved and a time to hate,  
 A time for war and a time for peace”. (Eccl. 3:1-8)

“Time is money”. And “time waits for no one”. And one who does not know how to keep to time will miss many golden opportunities to make it in life.

Punctuality shows maturity and your commitment. Be time conscious. Don't use other people's time. Be business like in your time management. Learn to keep appointments and build a dependable reputation.

## **12. INABILITY TO KEEP RECORDS**

Documentation is important to progress. Without it, you will not know whether you are making profit or running at loss. Without records, you will not know when to make a change or adjustment in your business.

Without records you can't even calculate your tithe. And if you don't give the accurate tithe, you will be attracting a curse on your business.

Maintain accurate records of your business dealings - purchases, sales and expenditures God is a record keeper-The Bible is the record book of God's dealing with men.

### **13. FORGETFULNESS**

To forget means to lose remembrance of something or someone. Forgetfulness is the habit of not remembering things.

It is a dangerous thing to be forgetful. It will make one to miss many opportunities, appointments and useful of information.

- a. Learn to keep record – learn to write things down because you can't remember everything especially when you need them. Have a diary and pen with you always.
- b. Pray yourself out of it.
- c. Rebuke the spirit of forgetfulness, and cast him out of your life.
- d. Work on yourself not to be forgetful.

### **14. DIRTINESS OR UNCLEANLINESS**

Dirtyiness is a bad habit. Anyone who does not have the culture of cleanliness will not go far either in business or office work. If your office or place of business is usually dirty, you will suffer loss of potential customers and clients. A dirty worker will suffer loss of his or her job if there is no change.

Maintain clean office, business centre. Be tidy. Be smart. Be clean. Be corporate. God is a God of cleanliness. In the Old Testament, he established ordinances involving all sorts of washing and ceremonial cleansing. Hygiene is uppermost in the mind of God. They say, "Cleanliness is next to godliness". Be tidy.

### **15. INFERIORITY COMPLEX**

Inferiority complex is a negative personality. Inferiority complex is self-doubt. It is a belief in the mind that one is inferior to other people, and as a result, unqualified and incapable of doing what they can do. Those who have inferiority complex try to win recognition by boasting and being aggressive. And some, withdraw from people, and will never express themselves in public. To overcome, you must see yourself as God sees you. You are a Son of God; a joint-heir with Jesus Christ.

*John 1:12*

*12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*  
NIV

*Rom 8:15-17*

*15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

NIV

Stop looking down on yourself. Believe you are who the word of God says you are. Believe you have what it says you have, and you can do what it says you can do.

## **17. THE DEVIL AND THE AGENTS OF THE DEVIL**

It is no news that the devil and the agents of the devil stand in the way of people's progress. The Bible teaches that there are those who will rage against us and form weapons against us to hinder our progress. And that we should not fear them, for they will fall before us.

*Isa 41:11-16*

*11 "All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. 12 Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. 13 For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. 14 Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O little Israel, for I myself will help you," declares the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. 15 "See, I will make you into a threshing sledge, new and sharp, with many teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff. 16 You will winnow them, the wind will pick them up, and a gale will blow them away. But you will rejoice in the LORD and glory in the Holy One of Israel.*

NIV

*Isa 54:14*

*14 In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you.*

NIV

*Isa 54:14-17*

*14 In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you. 15 If anyone does attack you, it will not be my doing; whoever attacks you will surrender to you. 16 "See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc; 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

*Luke 10:19*

*19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*  
NIV

*Mark 16:17-18*

*17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*  
NIV

Do not fear the devil nor his attacks or oppositions. When they come, face them squarely and resist them in the name of Jesus Christ and with the word of God. Remember that if your life is not in line with the word of God, the weapons of the enemy will prosper in your life. God's protection does not work fully when one is in disobedience. Complete obedience brings complete protection.

## **SUCCESS TIT-BITS**

- 1. To bite finger that feeds you, is to cut off provision. Love for God enhances the grace for provision and care; it keeps the windows of heaven open.**
- 2. When love is in the heart, obedience is possible and enjoyable. Without love in the heart, obedience is a big struggle and burden.**
- 3. God lovers are tithers. Non-tithers don't love God. Non-givers are non-lovers because lovers are givers.**
- 4. To please God we must keep obeying him. To obey him we must love him.**
- 5. Obedience is the proof of love. When love is in the heart, obedience is possible and enjoyable. Without love in the heart, obedience is a big struggle and burden. Love God and you will be able to willingly and promptly obey him at all times.**
- 6. When God speaks, He speaks as the originator of all things, as the planner of life and events both for each individual and the world in general. He speaks as the ruler and king of the world. He speaks as God, and He does not lie nor change His mind. His word is final - He means everything he says and is committed to their actualization. Take Him serious, and always obey Him and it will be well with you.**

7. For every purpose, there is a plan for accomplishment. The plan is the programme or timing of events leading to the actualization of that purpose. So every word has timing for accomplishment.
8. A man without vision has no focus in life. He has nothing driving him on in life.

## **WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION**

1. When God wants to bless a man, He sends him a person with what he needs. It takes those who value relationships and are sensitive in the spirit to recognize them and take advantage of the opening and connection.
2. Go where you are needed and you will be highly honored.
3. Do not expect everybody to believe in you and in your dream for not all will. Believe in yourself and prove to the world you are worth something.
4. When love is in the heart, obedience is possible and enjoyable. Without love in the heart, obedience is a big struggle and burden.
5. Obedience is the proof of love. When love is in the heart, obedience is possible and enjoyable. Without love in the heart, obedience is a big struggle and burden.
6. Forgiveness is the evidence of love in the heart.
7. Forgiveness is the healing balm of every relationship. Forgiveness is the closing of a case. It is the end of a matter. Without forgiveness no relationship can survive.
8. Love is not love until it is tested through offences.
9. A man without vision has no focus in life. He has nothing driving him on in life. It is important that you marry a man with vision, because a man with vision has direction in his life – he knows where he is going. To marry a man who does not know where he is going or is going nowhere, is suicide.

## **RENEWING THE MIND**

1. God consciousness is knowing, understanding and walking in the consciousness of who you are in Christ Jesus. God consciousness is walking in the light of God's word. It is always bearing in mind who God is and His word concerning any and every situation you find yourself.
2. The sub-conscious mind is those mental activities of which we are not (wholly) aware. These are thoughts, ideas, desires and impulses arising from previous conscious thoughts in the human mind. When a man has dwelled on a particular thing in his conscious mind, it will settle into the sub-conscious thereby stimulating certain actions that was not

originally planned. I call the sub-conscious mind the store house or reservoir of thoughts.

3. So, if you continue to feed your mind with stories and thoughts about what the devil can do, is doing, or has done, it will be stored in your sub-conscious mind from where it will generate fear of the devil, doubting of God's power and all kinds of bondage. But if you continually and systematically feed your mind with the word of God, and you meditate on it day and night, your sub-conscious thoughts will generate or stimulate faith in God, confidence in God and in yourself to confront every confrontation and destroy every mountain. It will make the devil to always be small in your eyes and God very big.
4. God sees your thoughts and watches you all the time. Everything about you counts before God. Never think or say it doesn't matter. What you say and do can hinder your breakthrough and prosperity that you so desire.
5. The mind is the engine room of man.
6. You need a working mind to have a working life.
7. Praise and worship relaxes the mind.