

# EXPLORING IDEAS

Sylvester Onyemalechi

There is no gainsaying the fact that ideas rule the world. All great products, businesses, companies and corporations started as an idea in the mind of a man. An idea is one of the things God will rain down on your head as you show yourself faithful in following God. This is so because all achievement, all earned riches, have their beginning in an idea. An idea is the starting point of all things. The idea when accepted will develop to become a vision, dream or goal. Everything you see around you is a product of an idea in a man's mind.

An idea is a thought or picture in the mind. Every idea that God plants in your mind is for a purpose. It is meant to be used to produce result. God does not waste time giving people ideas. The idea you have in your mind now may be what God intends to use to bring you out of your numerous financial, business, marital or social problems. Don't waste that idea. Meditate on it.

Nobody has a money problem, what we have is an idea problem. Your problem may be the idea on how to raise the money you need and not that there is no money. There is a universal principle that always manifests itself: money flows to good ideas; good ideas spawn other good ideas; dreams inspire creativity in money management.

Necessity is the mother of invention - it unlocks the brain causing ideas to flow in order to meet the need on the ground. When there is a problem, there will always be a way out.

Ideas are passed on to us by God via our spirits into our human minds. This thought or picture when put to work always brings praises to God and joy in the heart of the believer.

In Genesis 30: 31-43 we see the story of a man who through the power of imagination escaped slavery and poverty and became a wealthy man. Jacob had served Laban his uncle for over fourteen years, and wanted to go back to the land of promise - Canaan. For his wages he demanded all speckled and spotted sheep, every dark coloured lamb and every spotted or speckled goat from Laban's flocks. Laban agreed, but tricked him. He delayed him going through the flocks. While he was waiting, Laban removed all the sheep and goats that fell into the category Jacob demanded and sent them away through his sons. Only God knows how many years it would have taken Jacob before such sheep and goats as he requested will come naturally. He had to seek God. Ideas began to form in his mind which had never been put to use by anyone before. He put the idea to work and made the strong sheep and goats to produce for him the spotted and speckled ones he wanted. Within a short period, Jacob had become very wealthy that he could return to the land of Canaan.

You may be in a very difficult position now as Jacob was then; God can help you if you will tune in to his frequency. He is always ready to give you an idea that will help you. The question is, will you have faith in the idea and put it to work? Imagine what would have happened if Jacob dismissed the idea with a wave of the hand and said, "it is not possible", "no one has ever done that", "man cannot determine the breed of any animal", "if people see me, they will think I am crazy," "it won't work". Your guess is as good as mine. He would have remained a servant of Laban all his life if he had not acted on that God-given idea. **DON'T DISMISS THAT IDEA IN YOUR MIND!**

## HOW TO GET IDEAS

1. Connect to the Holy Spirit through meditation on the person of God and His word.
2. Pray in tongues. Praying in tongues makes you sensitive in the spirit and opens you up to the infinite mind of God for inspiration and ideas to flow.
3. Be a deep creative and resourceful thinker.
4. Study relevant materials – books, journals, publications, successful businesses and individuals.
5. Have an eye for details. It is those who have an eye for details that get inspired by what they observe.
6. Be a tither and giver for it provokes open heavens. When the heavens open, ideas, wisdom and power for accomplishment flows (Mal 3:8-12).
7. Watch out for the problems and needs in the community.
  - Strive to be the solution to every problem you see around you.
  - Needs create ideas on how to meet them.
8. Patiently wait on God (Prov 2:1-7).

## WHERE TO GET IDEAS

God gives ideas. The devil also gives ideas. Every idea irrespective of the source is to accomplish a definite purpose. The ultimate purpose of God for every idea He gives is to make life easier, sweeter, safer and more fulfilling. Ideas from the Devil are to steal, kill and destroy. You should concentrate your mind on the ideas that God himself inspires, for that is what we all need to make it in this world and be joyful in God and end up at His feet in heaven.

*Mal 3:10*

*10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

*NIV*

Open heavens guarantees constant rain upon the earth. For the faithful tither and giver, open heavens guarantees constant rain of ideas, wisdom, guidance, favour, blessings, power for prosperity and God's friendship necessary for fruitfulness in all of life endeavours. Tithing and giving is the key to unlocking the heavens over your head. You can't expect a free flow of God ideas when you are not a faithful tither and giver. The heavens remain closed to the non-tither and giver. It is only opened to the faithful tither and giver for fruitfulness.

### 1. THE BIBLE

The word of God is full of ideas that can be used to solve problems, create openings and achieve success. Depending on your disposition and what you want to achieve, the scripture is a necessary companion and a source of inspiration. Get friendly with the Bible.

### 2. PUBLICATIONS

Ideas can be received through publications - books, journals, research publications. You need to have a reading culture to be able to receive ideas. Money spent on purchasing books and journals are not wasted but good investments.

### **3. ENVIRONMENT**

The things you see around you can give you inspiration. A problem can give you an idea - the desire to solve the problem brings inspiration. A need in the community can bring inspiration that will lead to the creation of a new commodity, business, market, design, etc.

Your eyes and mind needs to be open always. If you are not a good observer, sensitive and a deep thinker, you will not be able to get anything out of what you see in your environment. You must know this, that every challenge of life has in it something or a seed not only for its own solution but also for launching the challenged into something greater and more rewarding.

Be a careful observer of your environment. And draw inspiration from what you see around you.

The people you associate with can become a source of inspiration. If you move with the wise, you will become wise.

*Prov 13:20*

*20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.*

*NIV*

Move with the successful and draw inspiration from them.

### **4. THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

You get ideas from the presence of the Almighty God. You must learn to tarry in the presence of God for ideas.

*Prov 8:34*

*34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.*

*NIV*

We need to learn how to be still before God to receive from him.

*Ps 37:7*

*7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

*NIV*

*Eccl 5:1*

*5:1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.*

*NIV*

It is not only to pray that God expects from us when we come into his presence, but to lay before him to listen to him. You must learn to be quiet before God after worship and may be prayers to listen to God. Great ideas will be released into your mind. I believe that is why Jesus used to withdraw from the crowd of disciples and followers to be with his father alone in the mountain top where it is quiet.

For you to receive from God you need a quiet environment. You also need to be quiet inside you to be able to hear from him. Practice this often, and you will have testimonies to share.

*Job 29:2-4*

*2 "How I long for the months gone by, for the days when God watched over me, 3 when his lamp shone upon my head and by his light I walked through darkness! 4 Oh, for the days when I was in my prime, when God's intimate friendship blessed my house,*  
*NIV*

In the presence of God where you also study His word, there is light to walk through darkness. God our heavenly and loving Father is ever ready to give us light - wisdom and ideas to walk through the dark places of life to the other side where dignity, honour and success will crown our heads.

It was the light of God received from the presence of God in close friendship and fellowship that put Job ahead of every other person in his day. It made him blameless, successful, wealthy, famous and dignified. He was highly honoured. *"When I went to the gate of the city and took my seat in the public square, the young men saw me and stepped aside and the old men rose to their feet; the chief men refrained from speaking and covered their mouths with their hands; the voices of the nobles were hushed, and their tongues stuck to the roof of their mouths.....Men listened to me expectantly, waiting in silence for my counsel. After I have spoken, they spoke no more; my words fell gently on their ears. They waited for me as for showers and drank in my words as the spring rain."* (Job 29:7-10, 21-23)

If you will tarry in his presence daily waiting on Him, He will do the same for you. If you create the right atmosphere, God will cause ideas to flow ceaselessly into your mind. The atmosphere of quietness and peacefulness is required for man to receive from the infinite mind of God. Learn to be quiet before His presence and you will receive.

## **HOW TO TREAT IDEAS**

"Treat ideas like newborn babies

Treat them tenderly.....

They can get killed pretty quickly

Treat them gently.....

They can be bruised in infancy

Treat them respectfully.....

They could be the most valuable things that ever came into your life

Treat them protectively.....

Don't let them get away

Treat them nutritionally.....  
Feed them, and feed them well  
Treat them antiseptically.....  
Don't let them get infected with the germs of negative thoughts.  
Treat them responsibly!  
Respond! Act! Do something with them!"  
(Robert Schuller)

Mark 9:23

23... "Everything is possible for him who believes."

NIV

Ideas are the beginning points of all fortunes. Ideas are products of imagination. It is said that man can create anything he imagines. Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can actualize. So don't throw away that idea that is forming in your mind. Believe it is possible and make plans for its actualization may be that idea is what you have been waiting for.

As a positive thinker, look at every idea to see if it has possibilities. If it does, go to work on it. Never underestimate the value of an idea. Every positive idea has within it the potential for success if it is managed properly.

**1. Never reject an idea because you see something wrong with it.**

There is always something wrong with every good idea. Any time God gives an idea, you can find some negative aspect of it. It may be how to accomplish it, or how to raise capital. Don't throw away a suggestion when you see a problem. Instead, isolate the negative from the possibility. Neutralize the negative. Exploit the possibility, and eliminate the negative. Don't ever let negatives kill the positive potential that is within an opportunity. Believe, "Anything is possible"!

**2. Never reject an idea because you won't get the credit.**

God can do tremendous things through the person who doesn't care who gets the credit. Don't worry about getting the credit. If you do, you will become ego-involved in the decision-making moments of life. Decision must never be based on ego needs. You must kill pride so that it does not rob you of great opportunities. Your decision to accept an idea must be based on human needs and market pressures that transcend your own desires. Decide today: would you rather satisfy your ego or enjoy the fruit of success?

**3. Never reject an idea because it's impossible.**

Almost every great idea is impossible when it is first born. Positive thinkers take great ideas and turn the impossibilities into possibilities. That is progress.

The important issue is whether the idea is a good one. Would it help people who are hurting? Would it be a great blessing to our country and our world? If so, then develop a way to achieve what today is impossible. Make the seemingly impossible possible.

**4. Never reject an idea because your mind is made up.**

People who never change their minds are either perfect or stubborn. I'd rather change plans while still in port, than to set sail and sink at sea. Take a look at that idea again. That idea you are rejecting may be what God has destined to use to bring you out of darkness into light. God is not a fool in bringing that idea to you.

**5. Never reject an idea because it's illegal.**

Some of the greatest ideas are impossible because they are illegal today. You should never violate the law, but don't reject an idea because it's illegal. You might be able to get the law changed. You can make representation to the authorities showing the benefit of the idea, and demanding that the law be amended or changed completely to allow the company or country to benefit from it.

**6. Never reject an idea because you don't have the money, manpower or muscle to achieve it.**

All it takes to achieve the impossible is mind power, manpower, money power and muscle power. If you don't have them presently, does not mean you will not have them tomorrow. The absence of any or all of these is not a license to reject an idea. If you don't have them, believe you can get them. Spend enough time, use enough energy, develop enough human resources, acquire enough financial capital, and you can do almost anything.

Don't reject an idea just because you don't have the necessary power. Make the commitment to do what's great, and then solve the problems. A super successful person has very few resources, except the capacity to take an idea and marshal stronger and smarter people around him to pull it off. You have the potential of a super successful person. You can make it! Believe, *"I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me"* (Phil. 4:13).

**7. Never reject an idea because it will create conflict.**

You can never develop an idea without creating problems. You can never establish a goal without generating a new set of tensions. You can never make a commitment without producing some conflict. Every idea worth anything is bound to be rejected by people who don't go along with it. Don't be afraid of conflict. **If you are afraid to be different, you will not make a difference. To reject an idea because it may generate conflict is to surrender leadership to friends and enemies.** As long as you believe in the idea, go ahead and actualize it.

**8. Never reject an idea because it's not your way of doing things.**

Anyone who resists change will soon become antiquity - he will be left behind. Insisting on tradition is to become irrelevant with time. Learn to accommodate new ideas. Prepare to compromise. Plan to adjust. A different style, a new policy, a change in tradition - all are opportunities to grow. Get set to compromise your methodology and belief. Learn to be equilibristic. Maintain a balance between the tension of an opportunity that demands exploitation and the limitations of the resources available at the moment. Readjust your budget; compromise your taste. Accommodate new ideas. You will have to decide, "Is it more important to succeed than it is to snobbishly adhere to my private tastes". Let go of outdated and unprofitable traditions.

**9. Never reject an idea because it might fail.**

Every idea worth anything has failure potential in it. There is risk in everything. Don't reject an idea because there's some risk involved, but identify the likely cause of a failure in the idea and deal with it. So don't be put off by the likely obstacle to the success of that idea. Most of the fears that normally come to discourage us from believing in an idea are non-existent. They're just bad seeds that the enemy uses to keep man from moving forward.

**10. Never reject an idea because it's sure to succeed.**

There are people today who back off if they are sure they will succeed. One reason is that these persons begin to imagine the ego fulfillment this success would give, and with an excuse of being humble, they pull out.

To all my fellow Christians, trying to follow Jesus, who say "I should not try to be successful, I am not interested in becoming big or rich or getting to the top of the ladder. That's vanity. That's materialistic. It's worldliness". I must say, that's not true! To choose poverty instead of prosperity, failure instead of success, low achievement instead of top of the ladder achievement, simply for the sake of being humble, is not super Christian. It's dumb. Only successful people can help people who are failing and are poor. Only winners survive to give food to the poor. Only those with money can support the gospel. Money is the vehicle of the gospel. If you don't have it, you can't give it. And if you don't aim for the top, you can't have it.

The Bible teaches that Jesus became poor that we may become rich.

*2 Cor 8:9*

*9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

*NIV*

And, that money answers all things including the spreading of the gospel.

*Eccl 10:19*

*19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything.*

*NIV*

Don't run away from success, it is your covenant blessing in Christ Jesus.

Everywhere in the Bible God calls a man or a people to serve him or carry out a specific assignment, he always promises success, prosperity and wealth. If he is against it, while will he promise it to the faithful. Any humility that rejects the top of the ladder experience is false humility.

*Deut 28:13*

*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.*

*NIV*

That an idea gives you ego - fulfillment does not mean it is not coming from God.

*Phil 2:13*

*13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

*NIV*

Don't kill the idea, execute it.

***(To be continued)***