

IMPACTING PEOPLE'S LIVES

Sylvester Onyemalechi

God never created man to live without the input of others. He created man to live in harmony with each other and contribute to each other's well being and success in life and daily pursuits. Man was never created to survive alone; and no man can succeed all by himself. Life is an input of many relationships. You need people, and I need people contributing to our knowledge of life, and helping us become better daily unto perfection and fulfillment of life purpose and goals.

No one has ever made it alone, and no one will. Someone somewhere will have to contribute something to you to make you get to your destination. To think or say you don't need anybody in your life is self-deceit and pride. You must talk to someone, live with someone, buy from someone or sell to someone, render service to or receive service from someone. Whichever way you look at it, you are relating, dealing with, contributing and receiving contribution from someone to make life a better one. In the same way, someone needs your contribution into his life that his life becomes better. Someone has what you need and you have something another person needs. You contain a certain knowledge and expertise that another needs that he or she does not have, so it is your duty to look out for such people and impact them so they can be fulfilled.

God gave different knowledge, gifts and skills to men so that we will need and relate with one another. Each individual have his own unique abilities and personality that the others who don't have it will need. In this way, we all need each other and depend on each other. So, I have a contribution to make in your life, and you have a contribution to make in my life. So, I am as important as you are, and you are as important as I am. If any of us fails to perform our roles to each other, life will not be complete and as easy and happy as it ought to be. The car owner needs the mechanic, the car parts manufacturers and traders, the petroleum companies and their dealers to enjoy his car. The medical doctor cannot practice without the help of those in the construction industry to build the clinics and hospitals, the pharmaceutical companies and their drugs distribution personnel, nurses, cleaners, lab scientists, medical equipment manufacturers and their distribution personnel, vehicles produced by car manufacturers and drivers, electricity producing companies and their staff, the water company and their staff, and many more. So, you can see that no single individual can succeed in any venture without the input of people.

BE WILLING TO AFFECT OTHERS

Having established the fact that we all need the input of others into our lives to make it worth living and have success, I want us now to focus on the contribution we as a individuals have to make in people's lives to make their lives worth living and successful. We are expected as Christians to impact each other's lives. You are expected to affect and influence others positively. We are born in Christ to fellowship, grow and work together. You can't make it alone.

Heb 10:25

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

NIV

The purpose of Christ instituting Church fellowship is for encouragement and building of the members of the body of Christ unto perfection and daily victory. To achieve this objective, Christ did not give all the spiritual gifts to one person or few people, but to all, that all might be relevant and need each other. I need encouragement, and you do too. You have to start thinking of what contribution you have to make in the life of others to make them succeed in their life journey to heaven.

Phil 2:1-4

2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

NIV

Heb 3:12-15

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. 15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

NIV

Make effort to impact people's lives with your own lifestyle. Be a positive influence on others. Make your life count in other people's life. Live your life in such a way that you will be an inspiration to others. Live your life in such a way that those who don't want to live anymore will change their minds when they see you and even encounters you. Let your life be an encouragement to others. Let your life communicate hope, joy and the goodness and faithfulness of God to others. Always remember we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, so our daily words and actions are communicating something to those around us.

Heb 12:1-3

12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

NIV

It is true you are not to live your life just to please men, but you are to live your life to please God your Saviour and Lord. In pleasing God, you will please men. In an attempt to live to please certain individuals, you will definitely displease God. You cannot be pleasing God and not be an inspiration to someone. You can't be pleasing God and not impact people's life. To please God is to walk in God's word (principles), and you cannot do that and not impact others positively.

WHAT IMPACTING PEOPLE INVOLVES

Impacting people's life includes:

1. Fervent prayers for those not saved, backslidden, sick, in trouble and in need.
2. Sacrificing your time to counsel and help those in trouble who need love and care.
3. Being there for those who need you.
4. It is all about being reachable and available for others to tap from your wealth of experience, knowledge, gifts and skills.
5. Guiding those who have lost their way back to the right track, or those who are confused about their lives especially the next line of action to take in getting to their God-given destiny.
6. Impacting people involves giving to those in need as much as it lies within your power.
7. Funding the work of God to reach more people and impact more lives.
8. Willing distribution of Christian literature and publications to those who need them.
9. Preaching the gospel to the unsaved and making disciples of them for Jesus Christ.
10. Inspiring, encouraging and building people through godly character and exemplary lifestyle.
11. Mentoring others.

CONCLUSION

Love must be the motivating force in all that you do, especially for others in Christ. You have the river of love flowing in you by the Spirit of Christ that is in you. Love is your nature in Christ. Let that love well up within you and constantly motivate you to godly acts that will impact others. Make it a point of duty to impact as many people as possible in your life time. Live your life in such a way that you will be remembered for the good that you have done like Dorcas in Acts 9, whom the people refused to accept her death and sent for Apostle Peter to raise her up from the dead.

Acts 9:36-43

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

NIV

- What contributions have you made in someone's life in your Church?
- If you leave this area, will anyone miss you?
- Are there people who are indebted to you, who will forever be grateful to God for your life because of the contribution you have made in their lives?
- How many people will say that if not for you they would not have been saved? How many people owe their salvation to your ministry and efforts?
- You have been enjoying your church fellowship, but how many people have you brought to your church to enjoy what you are enjoying?
- How many people will say, "I am ever grateful to 'John' for bringing me to this local assembly, my life has changed since I came here"?
- How many have found direction in life through you?
- How many have you helped that will say, "My success is tied to your unflinching support and valuable contributions when I was down and not knowing where to turn"?
- Is there anyone who will say, "This man must not die now, he has to reap from the good things that has happened to me, because of his help"?

Start now to impact people, and continue in it till death.