

RECOGNITION OF A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

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Opportunity is a time favorable for doing something; suitable time combined with other favorable circumstances. Suitableness of time is the predominant signification, but it includes generally circumstances of place and other conveniences adapted to the end desired.

Opportunity is any situation where your favourable qualities and skill, known or unknown, can be recognized, received and ultimately rewarded.

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds. A wise man sees opportunities in difficult and oppressive situations. He never sees a dead end in any situation, but opportunities for a higher and better level. He does not concentrate his mind on the ugly situation, but looks out for the golden opportunity created by the circumstance.

FIVE FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OPPORTUNITY

1. God is the God of opportunity.

God creates all opportunities for men, to move each person from one level to another.

Throughout the Word, countless examples remind us that God gives men an opportunity to repent, rebuild and even receive miracles. God gives man opportunity to prove the sincerity of his words and promises to be faithful to God by allowing man to be tempted by the enemy. Trials and temptations are opportunities to prove our faith, loyalty, sincerity, and commitment to God and His words. So, rather than complain about your trials and temptations, see them as opportunities to once again prove your resolve to serve and honour God with your life. With this mindset, you will always overcome.

2. Opportunities are often overlooked because of immaturity or ignorance

A man was invited to make a choice years ago: an automobile or a piece of land in Florida. He chose the automobile. Sadly, the land he rejected was connected to the fame Disney World. He lost a fortune because of it. He did not recognize the golden opportunity for investment because he was ignorant of the future.

3. An opportunity can even be given to you during a crisis season of your life.

God spoke to Elijah to leave the brook and go to the widow of Zarephat...to give her an opportunity to use her faith and gift to sustain her life and that of her son during the remaining period of the famine (1 Kings 17). If she had missed that opportunity through selfishness, stinginess and lack of faith in the man of God, she and her son would have died of starvation.

4. An opportunity is always near you, merely awaiting your recognition of it.

“No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly” (Psalm 84:11)

5. Opportunity lost may never come your way again.

Blind Bartimaeus did not allow anyone to stop him from seeing Jesus who was passing his way, for he knew that such opportunity may not come his way again, so, he shouted more till

Jesus could hear him and called for him to come close. He received his sight (Mark 10:46-52).

EIGHT GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES YOU MUST LEARN TO RECOGNIZE

1. Recognition of an opportunity for uncommon mentorship

Elisha did and pursued Elijah. Ruth embraced Naomi, refusing to go back to Moab.

2. Recognition of an opportunity for a miracle of healing

Blind Bartimaeus did. He cried out and received his healing.

3. Recognition of an opportunity to be rewarded for destroying an enemy

David did, he conquered Goliath.

4. Recognition of an uncommon friendship that can bring countless joy

Jonathan did. He became known for his loyalty to David.

5. Recognition of an opportunity for financial breakthrough

The widow of Zarephath did.

6. Recognition of an opportunity for significance

David did. He killed Goliath

7. Recognition of an opportunity to erase the memory of every stigma of your life

8. Recognition of an opportunity for access to an uncommon man of God

Every man of God contains a specialized knowledge, experience and anointing which younger ministers need to prepare them for success in ministry. Dr. Oral Roberts who is known for healing once told Dr. Mike Murdock that young preachers had spent hours with him without asking a single question about divine healing. How tragic!

Recognition of a golden opportunity can turn a dull life into uncommon success.

EIGHT POINTS TO NOTE ABOUT OPPORTUNITY

1. Be careful not to miss your opportunity in life as it is presented to you by God.

Jer 46:17

17 There they will exclaim, 'Pharaoh king of Egypt is only a loud noise; he has missed his opportunity.'

NIV

2. Take advantage of the opportunity presented to you to do good to others for it will bring back a great reward into your life. Whatever a man sows he will reap.

Gal 6:10

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

NIV

Phil 4:10

10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

NIV

- 3. Make most of every opportunity that is presented to you by God no matter the circumstances under which it is presented to you.** Look out for it, seize it and make most out of it.

Eph 5:16

16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

NIV

- 4. Keep your eyes open watching out for an appropriate opportunity.** Do not miss your day of visitation.

Matt 26:16

16 From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

NIV

- 5. Opportunities come most of the time disguised as difficult situations – It is often masked – and only those looking for it locate it and take advantage of it.** Your retrenchment could be an opportunity to change your job or start your own business. Your financial crisis could be an excellent opportunity to evaluate how you manage your finances and correct some excesses in your expenditure.

- 6. Those who know how to make friends and keep friends have more opportunities presented to them than those who don't.** Relationship is major key to recognizing and seizing opportunity. Each person you meet are connected to at least four people who are connected to at least four different people in their lives and on and on it goes without end. Relationships open up doors of opportunities for movement to the next level.

- 7. Missed opportunity brings stagnancy and frustration.** Stagnant water stinks.

- 8. Do not miss your opportunity to sow into the work of God and a man of God's life that will bring a season of change and financial miracles in your life. Learn to move with the anointing and plant your seed when the Holy Spirit prompts you to.**

WHY OPPORTUNITIES ARE GIVEN BY GOD

1. Opportunities are given by God to help solve man's problems.
2. Opportunities are created by God to move a man from a lower level to a higher level in life and in career.
3. Opportunities are given by God to prove one's faith, loyalty, commitment and dedication to God and His word.

4. Opportunities are given by God as an escape window from a difficult and trying experience.
5. Opportunities are given by God to connect two or more people together for a beneficial relationship.
6. Opportunities are given by God to sow a special seed that will bring about a financial and material breakthrough that will end a season of financial struggle and lack in a man's life.
7. Opportunities are given by God through small openings and blessings to give the person an opportunity to prove he can handle greater and bigger things if given the opportunity.

Luke 16:10-12

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. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

NIV

8. Opportunities are given by God to help release each man's potentials and bring out the best of God in us.
9. Opportunities are given by God to mature man.
10. Opportunities are given by God to make each person to stand out and stand tall being who each was designed and ordained to be in life.

CONCLUSION

Anybody can achieve anything. Do you believe that? I do. But there is a caveat that must be made. Those who succeed are those who walk through the door of opportunity when it swings open. That we know. But what is the secret to getting through the door of opportunity? Being outside the door when it swings open. Be ready for opportunity by looking out for it.

As the story goes, Frank Sinatra got his big break while working as a waiter. One day, as he was waiting tables, who does he see sitting in the restaurant, but one of the biggest names in the music industry. Old Blue Eyes did the unbelievable: He cleared off a table next to the gentleman and got up on it and sang! He knew he was done at the restaurant for doing so, but how many times would this door of opportunity open up? Needless to say, the rest is history.

You see, you never know when the door of opportunity is going to open wide. For some, the big break comes early in life and for others later on. But for all of those who become successful, there is one key similarity: They were ready. And for every one of those who were ready, there were thousands more who weren't. So, the principle for us is: Be ready!

Are you ready? Here are some thoughts for you to consider.

Are your skills as sharp as they could be? Are they enough so when your opportunity comes you can perform? Is your character deep enough to handle success? Let's face it; you don't want big success if your character won't be able to handle it. Are you working hard to position yourself

now? The job to do while waiting for the door to open is to develop your skills and your character, so as to position yourself to get through that door before it closes.

Your door will open someday. It opens for everyone. It may only open once or it may open many times. It is different for everyone and life just isn't fair that way. But everybody gets a shot. Will you be ready? When that huge door of opportunity opens up, will you be able to walk boldly through it?

Do everything you can to be ready. Don't just sit and wish and dream. Be proactive and make sure that you are the most qualified when the door opens. Make sure that you are the hardest worker. Make sure you are the closest to the door.

When it opens – Be Ready!

Shhh. Do you hear that? Hinges creaking! It is the sound of the door opening. Your door of opportunity! Are you ready?

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. Success is measured by the accomplishment of a God given vision and not by one's possessions and material gains.**
- 2. To succeed in life, you need to catch a vision of what you want to become or attain in life.**
- 3. Not all are called to own businesses or be MDs of companies. Some are better off working for others.**
- 4. There are times it is better to be the waiter of a five star hotel, you might earn more and gain more respect than probably being a manager of a run down one star hotel. Aaron was the High Priest of God of over a million people under Moses, if he had left Moses to start his own ministry, he probably, would have been a leader of a few hundreds. We need good understanding to know that we are at our best helping others.**
- 5. Being close to your boss can create great opportunities for you.**
- 6. Success comes by riding on the back of a successful man or boss.**
- 7. Never forget those who help you succeed or open a door for your success.**
- 8. Remember those who risk to help make you who you are, and never ridicule or forget or slight them.**
- 9. It is always evident that whatever value a person places on himself is the same value others place on him. People who value themselves highly are so regarded and those who put themselves down are treated as such. The world sees you as you see yourself.**
- 10. Whatever can be imagined can be attained, whatever is clearly spelt out is achievable and by the power of the Almighty God.**
- 11. It has been observed that there are three categories of people in the world, the spectators who watch events happen, the talkers who talk about events and the**

actors who cause events to happen. Every true child of God should cause events to occur.

12. There is no worse death than the death of hope.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. Knowing yourself is an indicator that you will find the one who will fit your kind of person.
2. Sincerity is a vital ingredient in relationship and must be practiced by all who seek a lasting and richly rewarding relationship.
3. You need people to succeed.
4. You need somebody to watch your back. It takes others working with you to keep you from pitfalls of life and save you from the traps of the enemy.
5. You acquire new knowledge and skills while working with others.
6. The body of man functions effectively because all the different parts that make up the body of man work as a team with each playing its complementary role. The team work is such that no one can say this is the most important part of the human body. The same way we are to function without worrying on who is proclaimed the best and most important. All are equally important because all have their different functions and assignment
7. Fill your heart with love for your team mates. Let your heart reach to them in prayer daily to the Almighty God, and your relationship with them will be fantastic and richly rewarding.
8. Close your ears to gossips about your team mate's personal life and what people say they said.
9. Be willing to help your team mates recover from their weaknesses and failures, remembering that you too do fail at times, and still pursuing perfection.
10. Keep your eyes on the assignment and not on the leadership position.
11. Do not be envious of another. Just play your part, and you will celebrate the success as a team. Knowing that your labor of love is not in vain, keep your hands on the plough and work with all your might until the work is done.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. To guard your mind is to guard your life. To guard your mind is to guard your lips. To guard your mind is to guard your emotions. To guard your mind is to be careful how you think, feel, decide, respond and react to life's circumstances and situations.
2. Your mind is the battle ground of life.
3. The mind is the centre of activity in man. It is the control room of man's emotions, words and actions.
4. There is a big difference from worrying and creative thinking. Worry is a negative use of the mind, while creative thinking is a positive use of the mind. Negative use of the mind oppresses the mind and body with sicknesses and diseases, while positive use of the mind has no negative effect on the body. This is the reason the scripture

discourages worry. Don't worry but trust the Lord to help you overcome any adverse situation that may befall you.

5. Just as the Lord uses the past of each man to teach him lessons, motivate and mature him, the devil uses the past to torment and hinder man. An understanding of this will help you to be careful how you handle the evil past.
6. Bitter people are prisoners of the past. Depressed people are prisoners of the past. Those who feel rejected are prisoners of the past. Those who never stop talking about losses they suffered are prisoners of the past. Those who cannot get to forgive themselves for the mistakes they made that cost them, are prisoners of the past. Any one who has lost his or her fighting zeal is a prisoner of the past. Any one who has thrown in the towel and is not willing to dream again because of past failure is a prisoner of the past. Any one who refuses to forgive the one who offended him and is terribly bitter in heart is a prisoner of the past. Anybody who has become negative about life in thoughts and words is a prisoner of the past. Any one who has become weakened and discouraged in his pursuit because of an experience, is a prisoner of the past. Any one who has lost his enthusiasm for life, work, marriage and family life is a prisoner of the past. Any one who has lost joy and interest in marriage and wonders why people marry at all is a prisoner of the past. Any one who has become bored with life and is considering suicide or turns to alcohol, is a prisoner of the past. Any one who is haunted by the past is a prisoner of the past. Anyone who can no longer trust people and does not believe anybody's integrity is a prisoner of the past.