

THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

Sylvester Onyemalechi

All achievement, all earned riches, have their beginning in an IDEA. An idea is the starting point. The idea when accepted will develop to become a vision, dream or goal. This is one half of the secret of success.

The power that signals success is the power of your mind. How to make life say YES instead of NO to your plans and ambitions resides in your mind. What you think can bring success or failure. There is power in your mind. There is power of life and death in your mind.

Prov 23:7

7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

KJV

Prov 27:19

19 As in water face answers to face, so the mind of man reflects the man.

RSV

It is therefore your responsibility to make use of your mind positively and creatively to bring good, success and riches to your life.

Truly, “thoughts are things”, and powerful things such that when they are mixed with definiteness of purpose, persistence, and a burning desire for their translation to riches, or other material objects, they materialize.

In 1 Chronicles 22:6-19, we are told David’s desire to build God a temple, and how God denied him the privilege and gave it to his son Solomon. David had a wonderful idea of a temple for God. It became his goal. Though he was not permitted by God to carry it out because his hands had shed blood, he gave his heart to making preparations for its construction by setting aside a good portion of his wealth for the project. He also drummed up support from the people for the project, and instructed his son Solomon to make sure the project was carried out. This shows that when an idea is followed up with persistence and a strong desire for its actualization, it always sees the light of day.

In Genesis 30:31-43, we see another important story of a man who through the power of imagination escaped slavery, poverty and became a wealthy man. Jacob had served his uncle Laban 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. So Jacob was left without anything. Only God knows how many years it would have taken Jacob before such sheep and goats as requested will come naturally. He had to seek God. Ideas began to form in his mind which had never been proven before. He put the idea to work and made the strong sheep and goats to breed for him the spotted and

speckled animals he wanted. Within a short period, Jacob had become very wealthy that he could return to the land of Canaan.

Nobody has a money problem, what we have is an idea problem. Your problem may be the idea on how to raise funds 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; dream inspires 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 ground. When there is a problem, there will always be a way out.

In the midst of hard and frustrating times in one's life pursuits, opportunity comes through the back door. If one is careless and discouraged, he will miss the opportunity when it comes, because it never comes as we expect. And often it comes disguised in form of misfortune, or temporary setback. So do not give in to hard times, but look out for the gold in the problem. Seek for insight that will give you the break you need.

An intangible impulse of thought (idea) can be transmitted into material rewards by the application of known principles. Do not give up when you experience setbacks or failure, seek expert advice – go to the drawing board. Think creatively searching for solutions. Your victory is not far.

Never stop what you are doing because things are not working out well; success is around the corner. Don't give up. Only think, pray and believe your way out of the problem. Always remember that, "Tough times never last, but tough people do"; "When the going gets tough, the tough gets going"; "When the roads are rough, the tough rise to the occasion". You only need good ideas to make it. You have to think, meditate, research and pray to get good ideas. Reach down into your brain, and you will get something by the grace of God.

Open your mind to God, ideas will flow in, one of which will be the idea that God means for you to grab hold of.

1 John 2:27

27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

NIV

John 2:5

5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

NIV

Never take no for an answer. Keep on keeping on, no matter how hard the situation may be. Go for an idea for that is what you need to breakthrough.

Riches begin with a state of mind, definiteness of purpose, persistence and hard work. Hard work begins with creative thinking, idea formulation, analysis and planning of the materialization of the idea. If you fail to plan, you have planned to fail. Success begins in the head. The mental work is very important you cannot do without it. You need to make time to think creatively. You need a quiet time from time to time to brain storm in order to be successful. The hardest part of any job is the thinking, conceptualizing, designing and planning part. That is why the field workers or labourers are paid less than the managerial staff of any organization. Thinking is work, and many are lazy in thinking. But it is what the effort. Take your time to think and you are likely to make less mistakes and succeed faster. All the “breaks” you need in life wait within your imagination.

Failure come to those who indifferently allow themselves to become failure conscious.

Prov 23:7

7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

KJV

One of the principles of success is desire – strong desire – knowing what one wants and staying put to it until it is achieved. Desire is a burning urge for something. In this case it is a burning urge for accomplishment of one’s ideas.

Our brains become magnetized with the dominating thoughts which we hold in our minds, and by means which no man is familiar. These ‘magnets’ attract to us the forces, the people, the circumstances of life which harmonize with the nature of our dominating thought.

Prov 27:19

19 As in water face answers to face, so the mind of man reflects the man.

RSV

Therefore, before we can accumulate riches or be successful in life pursuits, we must magnetize our minds with intense desire for riches and success. We must be success conscious, until the desire for success drives us to create definite plans for acquiring it.

Go for ideas that will distinguish you and make you a star. Stop complaining. Settle down to think. Use your imagination. Only one idea from you can change the whole course of your life. One idea can turn you into a millionaire. Become a deep thinker, for great men (all achievers) are great thinkers. You must learn how to draw water from the well of living waters within you. You must learn to reach deep into yourself and beyond into the infinite world to get ideas to solve your problems and lift you from obscurity to limelight.

Henry Ford with little schooling, without a dollar, with no friends, rose to great heights. He had great ideas which he turned into riches. Edwin Barnes worked his way to becoming a partner with Thomas A. Edison the great inventor. We learn from his life, that a man may be poorly dressed and penniless, yet his burning desire to see his dream actualized can bring him the opportunity of a life time.

An idea, a strong desire, patience, persistence, hard work, faith, prayer and application of the principle of God concerning success and achievement will make you an achiever. The longer you work in the right direction, the closer you are to success. Too many men give up when success is within their grasp, they leave it for someone else for capture. Don't be like such people. Don't give up. Go for ideas.

WHAT IS IMAGINATION

All the 'breaks' you need in life wait within your imagination. Imagination is the workshop of your mind, capable of turning mind energy into accomplishment and wealth.

The imagination is literally the workshop wherein are fashioned all plans created by man. The idea is given shape, form and action through the aid of the imaginative faculty of the mind.

The imaginative faculty of man can be described as an ocean whose waters cannot be quantified or run dry. No man including great inventors and achievers have been able to fully utilize the imaginative faculty he or she possesses. It is so verse, so deep, so wide, so high, so rich, so lively, so powerful and effective. It doesn't fail to function for one second. It possesses positive and negative powers. It can give life and it can take life. It can wound and it can heal. It can destroy and it can restore. It can make a way and it can close a way. It can bring success and it can bring failure. It can enhance fellowship and understanding, and it destroys fellowship, divide and bring enmity. Depending on how you use it, it will always produce.

However, evil imaginations are meant to be cast down and destroyed by the weapons of our warfare.

2 Cor 10:4-6

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

NIV

The Bible encourages us not to harbour evil imaginations or thoughts, but rather to think pure giving our imaginations to the word of God and godly matters.

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 to breakthrough.

The imaginative faculty functions in two forms. One is known as "synthetic imagination", and the other as "creative imagination".

SYNTHETIC IMAGINATION

Through this faculty, one may arrange old concepts, ideas, or plans into new combinations. This faculty creates nothing. It merely works with the material of experience, education and observation with which it is fed.

Synthetic imagination has to do with putting together information to achieve an aim. It is the faculty used most by the inventor, with the exception of the “genius” who draws upon the creative imagination, when he cannot solve his problem through synthetic imagination.

CREATIVE IMAGINATION

Through the faculty of creative imagination, the finite mind of man has direct communication with God. It is the faculty through which “ideas” and “inspiration” are received. It is by this faculty that all basic or new ideas are handed over to man.

1. The creative imagination works when the conscious mind is stimulated through desire.
2. You have to key in to God to receive from God.
3. The creative faculty becomes more alert in proportion to its development through use. Both the synthetic and creative faculties of imagination become more alert with use, just as any muscle or organ in the body develops through use.
4. Your imaginative faculty may have become weak through inaction. It can be revived and made alert with use, just as any organ or muscle of the body develops through use. This faculty does not die, though it may become quiescent through lack of use.
5. Tithing opens the windows of heaven for wisdom (ideas for prosperity to flow)

Mal 3:10-12

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. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. 12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

NIV

1 Cor 1:24

24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

NIV

By opening the windows of heaven, God pours out His wisdom and power on the giver.

Wisdom is simply the ability of God in a man which enables him to know what to do at every point in time. Wisdom is the knowledge of what next to do. Power is defined as the ability to do work

What your giving releases from heaven therefore is a rain of ideas, and the power to carry out those ideas. This is what makes for riches. Prosperity is tied to what to do, and you are not told what to do unless you are a giver. Giving releases divine direction.

6. Ideas are the beginning points of all fortunes. Ideas are products of imagination
7. The secret of a successful idea is to find a need and fill it.

YOU CAN TEST AN IDEA TO SEE IF IT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL OR NOT, BY ASKING FOUR QUESTIONS

1. Is it practicable and will it fill a human need?
2. Can it be done beautifully?
3. Can it be differently enough so that it will stand out from all others?
4. Can it receive the stamp of excellence and be a little better than anything else that is being offered?

When you have answered the above questions, and it is in the affirmative, apply the three D's of success: Desire, Dedication, and Determination. And you will see the idea become a reality.

Remember, whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe it can achieve. Go for ideas. Tune to the Holy Spirit frequency and you will receive ideas that will change your life completely. Don't sit down there and grumble or complain. Withdraw into yourself and place a demand on your imaginative faculty, and it will not fail you.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. **Life without God is empty no matter your attainment in life.**
2. **If you fail to return glory to God, you will loose your glory and be humiliated.**
3. **Excuses will get you no where.**
4. **Sincere analysis of the past makes rewriting of history possible.**
5. **Shifting blames is an escapist method. It does not achieve anything. It is only self-deceit.**
6. **Problems remain when you don't own up to your faults.**
7. **Greed leads to too many troubles. Kill it before it will kill you and everything you ever lived for.**
8. **When giving becomes your lifestyle, receiving becomes your life experience.**
9. **Giving to a Christian is giving to Christ.**
10. **Giving to a man of God is giving to the one who sent him.**
11. **Success is not by chance but by choice.**
12. **Hard work gives birth to success.**
13. **God is not a Lazy God. He works daily. He neither sleeps nor slumbers.**
14. **Service is a means to greatness.**
15. **Your ability to work without offending your customer, employer or master will determine your success and promotion.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

- 1. There are those who add to your life, and there are those who subtract from it. Pay attention to those who add to you.**
- 2. God does not relate with a man except on the basis of a covenant. Pay attention to your covenant with God and make sure that you are faithful to it.**
- 3. You need good willed people to get to where you are going. Learn to nurture and keep relationships that are clean and rewarding.**
- 4. Just as you are a solution to someone's problem, someone is a solution to your problem.**
- 5. You will always attract the kind of person you are.**
- 6. There are those who are difficult to relate with. Are you one of them?**
- 7. Kind people always get connected to people that will greatly bless their lives, though that is not their motive for showing kindness.**
- 8. The one who shows favour will be favoured.**
- 9. Respect other people's feelings and your feelings will be respected.**
- 10. Getting along well with people is not a gift, but an act that must be learned and practiced.**

RENEWING THE MIND

- 1. Your mind is your life.**
- 2. Your thoughts give birth to your words, moods, feelings and actions.**
- 3. A man is basically what his thoughts are.**
- 4. You are a sum total of the thoughts that you accommodate in your mind.**
- 5. Because the mind can be deceived that is why you must know the scripture very well.**
- 6. The word of God is the helmet that protects our minds from being taken over by the evil suggestions of the devil.**
- 7. Negative thoughts will produce negative words, actions and lifestyle. Positive thoughts will produce positive words, actions and lifestyle.**
- 8. The state of your mind determines your ultimate status in life.**
- 9. Problems create mental reactions. Negative mental reaction is injurious to man. But, positive mental reaction will create solutions.**
- 10. Fear is an enemy and a state of the mind. It is destructive to vision, plans and the health of man.**
- 11. All human brain is the same worldwide. Putting it to work is the problem.**
- 12. Your mind can become a spring of life or death, depending on how you use it.**