

# THE POWER OF SELF-KNOWLEDGE

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Self-knowledge is recognition of God given abilities, talents, and gifts to profit from.

Self-knowledge is an understanding of your potential.

Ignorance is deadly. Ignorance perpetuates disease, poverty, and failure. Ignorance produces constant loss in our lives. Ignorance imprisons and destroys. God said,

*Hos 4:6*

*6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.*

*NIV*

*Isa 5:13*

*13 Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.*

*NKJV*

Dr Mike Murdock said, "Everything you need is already in your life merely awaiting your recognition of it. Anything unrecognized remains uncelebrated by you. Anything you refuse to celebrate eventually exits your life...a gift, a miracle or a person."

- ❖ What you do not know you have, you can't pursue or possess.
- ❖ What you do not know you possess, you cannot release or maximize.
- ❖ Knowledge is a key factor in living a fulfilled life.

Self knowledge is all about who you are, why you are in this world, how much potential you have, what you are capable of doing, your limitations and the process of maximizing your potentials.

The key to self-knowledge is in the understanding of the source of man. Everything is made up of the same stuff as what it came out from.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR SOURCE

*Gen 1:26-27*

*26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

*NIV*

When God created the world, he first decided what He wanted His creation to be made out of. Then he spoke to that source, and whatever God said came out of what he spoke to. When God

wanted plants, he spoke to the soil, and out of the soil came what God spoke. Since God wanted plants to be made out of the soil, every plant is dirt. That is why, when plants die, they decay and become soil again. When God wanted animals, he spoke to the soil, because animals came out of the soil, they are hundred percent soils. As soon as they die, they return to soil.

When God wanted to create the sun and other lights, he spoke to the gas in the air. That is why the sun and the stars have been discovered by scientists to be hundred percent gases. Whatever God speaks comes out of what he spoke to. Everything is made up of the same stuff as what it came out of.

Because God wanted man to come from himself, he spoke to himself. God made the body of man from the soil, but the real man is of the spirit of God (the breath of God). When the body dies, because it is from the soil, it returns to the soil, and because the real man (the spirit man) came from God, it returns to God in eternity far away from this realm of time. This revelation should excite you. You came from God for a purpose.

When God wanted man, he spoke to himself; therefore, man is what God spoke to. Man is spirit because man came out of the Spirit of God.

The physical body of man because it came from the soil needs food grown from the soil to stay alive and function well. The spirit of man in the same way needs to feed on the word of God to remain spiritually alive and grow to maturity.

### **Source Determines Potential**

Everything God creates has the same component as its source. Everything is made up of the same stuff as what it came out of. Man has the potentials of God because he came from God. This explains why:

- Man is the most intelligent of all the creature of God,
- Why the devil launched his most vicious attack on man,
- And why God loves man so much as to redeem man through Jesus Christ death and resurrection.

You are loaded with abilities, talents, gifts, and powers. You are complete in Him. **Whatever something comes from determines the components of which it is made. And whatever something comes from determines it's potential.** Potential is related to source. Take a close look at God, and look at yourself and you will see how loaded and great you are in him.

You have abilities that are lying dormant in you. You have reserved power, untapped strength, hidden talents and unused success within you waiting to be recognized, released and maximized.

### **YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO BECOME BETTER**

Potential is always present, waiting to be exposed. It demands that you never settle for what you have accomplished. **One of the greatest enemies of your potential is success.** God wants you to make full use of the potential he has given you. You are not yet what you are supposed to be. You are on a journey, and you will soon get there. Your last success or achievement could stop

you if you see yourself as having arrived your destination. Whatever you are now, have accomplished, or acquired is not your last bus stop. The best of you is yet to come out. Don't be satisfied with your last accomplishment, because there are many accomplishments yet to be perfected. Since you are full of potential, you should not be the same next year what are this year. There should be an accomplishment and improvement.

Never accept success as a lifestyle - it is only a phase. Never accept an accomplishment as the end - it is but a mark in the process. Because you are God's offspring, there are many achievements, victories, successes, and many more waiting to be released. You are on earth to make valuable contributions to the society. Don't die with what God has deposited in you to bless mankind.

### **RECOGNIZE YOUR SPIRITUAL STANDING**

*1 Cor 6:17*

*17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.*

*NIV*

*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*

*1 John 4:17*

*17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.*

*NIV*

*Rom 5:17*

*17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.*

*NIV*

*Rev 5:10*

*10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*

*NIV*

Self-knowledge requires that you recognize your spiritual standing in God. The above scriptures are not the only scripture that explains the position of the true Christian believer. It is important that you know that you cannot survive outside your source. The plants have to remain attached to the soil to stay alive. The animals have to keep eating plants, which is from the soil to keep alive. The fishes that take their source from the water have to stay in the water to remain alive. Remove a fish from the water, and the fish will die. Man cannot survive outside his source...you need God to survive, release and maximize your potential. That is why Jesus came to reconcile us

back to God and maintain a steady and sweet relationship with God and enable us to use the authority and power of God to our own advantage.

If you have not given your life to Jesus Christ, do that right now. You must walk in the consciousness of whom you are in Christ to walk in dominion. Dominion is your right in Jesus Christ. God saved you through Christ to reign in life. It is your responsibility to make this truth a reality in your life on a daily basis.

### **RECOGNIZE YOUR ASSIGNMENT**

Every man is born with a purpose. Your purpose is your assignment. You must understand that you are here on assignment and not as a mistake. You are a solution to a problem; because everything God created is a solution to a problem, that problem is your assignment. Find it. Your eyes see; your ears hear; mothers bear children and nurse them; dentists solve teeth problems; doctors solve health problems; lawyers solve legal problems; Pastors solve spiritual problems. Your assignment on the earth is to solve a problem for somebody, somewhere and receive a reward for it.

*1 Cor 7:20*

*20 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.*

*KJV*

Your gifting is toward your assignment.

### **10 FACTS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT YOUR ASSIGNMENT**

#### **1. Your assignment is always to a person or a people.**

*Jer 1:7*

*7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.*

*NIV*

*2 Tim 1:11*

*11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.*

*NIV*

#### **2. Your assignment determines the suffering and attacks you encounter.**

*2 Tim 1:12*

*12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*

*NIV*

#### **3. What grieves you is a clue to what you are assigned to heal and restore.**

*Neh 1:3-4*

*3 They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." 4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.*

NIV

Compassion is always a signpost to the geographical location where you are sent. What makes you cry is a clue to the problem God has qualified you to heal.

**4 What you love the most reveals the greatest gifts you possess:**

Passion is the path to your wisdom. What you like to talk about, think about and learn about is your assignment. You will only have wisdom for something you love.

The proof of love is the investment of time. What you are willing to invest your time in must be your assignment.

**5. Your assignment is to a location.**

There is a place called “*There.*” There is a location for everyman. Where you are matters as much as whom you are. Geography matters. The fish can only survive and prosper in water. The eagle can only express its nature and skill in the air. Location controls the flow of favor in your life.

At the right location, the right people will see you. Who sees you determines who promotes you. You will rarely receive favor except someone sees you. Go where you will be celebrated and not where you will be tolerated

**1. You will only succeed when your assignment becomes an obsession.**

*Phil 3:13-14*

*13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

NIV

**2. Your assignment will require seasons of preparation.**

*2 Tim 2:15*

*15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

NIV

You will experience seasons of insignificance, isolation, waiting, warfare, persecution, injustice, silence, and promotion. Jesus invested 30 years of preparation for three and one half years of ministry.

*Luke 3:23*

*23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.*

*NIV*

3. Your assignment may be misunderstood by your own family and by those closest to you. Jesus experienced this.

*John 7:5*

*5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him.*

*NIV*

God gives a family to prepare you for an enemy. Everything in your future is already in your present family, Judas or doubting Thomas. Your family is your school.

Your family wants you humbled. Your enemy wants you destroyed. Your survival of your family is proof you will survive your future as well.

4. **Your assignment will always have an enemy.**

*John 15:18-21*

*18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.*

*NIV*

Your enemies are as necessary as your friends. Your friends provide comfort and encouragement. Your enemy provides challenges that lead to promotions. The only difference between obscurity and significance is the enemy you are willing to conquer. The size of your enemy determines the size of your promotion.

5. Your assignment is the only place your financial provision is guaranteed. Lack is a clue that God is changing your assignment. When God sends you to a place, provision is the promised incentive for obedience.

### **RECOGNIZE YOUR DOMINANT GIFT**

Every man has a dominant gift in his life. It is this gift that God intends to use to make the man great and fulfilled.

David knew his dominant gift was not music. He was a warrior. That was why he spent time throwing stones (sling shooting). When opportunity came, he used it to destroy Goliath, and became famous. Identify your dominant gift and use it.

### **13 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS.**

#### **1. God gives wonderful gifts to us.**

*James 1:17*

*17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

*NKJV*

*Matt 7:11*

*11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

*NIV*

#### **2. The Holy Spirit gives you all the gifts, talents and abilities you possess.**

*1 Cor 12:4*

*4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

*NIV*

#### **3. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to us relative to our assignment on earth.**

*1 Cor 12:11-12*

*11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.*

*NIV*

#### **4. Your gifts were given to help men of God fulfill their instructions and vision from God.**

*Ex 36:1-2*

*36:1 So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded." 2 Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work.*

*NIV*

#### **5. Your gift was imparted to you to solve problems for those closest to you.**

*Prov 3:27*

*27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.*

*NIV*

6. When your dominant gift becomes your seed in the lives of others, God guarantees to generously compensate you.

*Eph 6:8*

*8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.*

*NIV*

7. Few ever recognize their dominant gift.
8. Obsession with your flaws will often blind you to your dominant gift.
9. Your dominant gift will operate well in a hostile environment.
10. The focus on others often distorts our personal awareness of our dominant gift. Don't focus on your weakness that others are focusing on. Focus on your strength and become stronger.
11. Admiration of others with different gifts often blinds us toward our own dominant gift.
12. What you would love to do most every day of your life is a clue to your dominant gift.
13. Your significance is not in your similarity to another but in your point of difference from another. Celebrate your difference.

*(To be concluded in the next edition)*

## **SUCCESS TIT-BITS**

1. **Success is not by chance but by choice.**
2. **Hard work gives birth to success.**
3. **God is not a lazy God. He works daily. He neither sleeps nor slumbers.**
4. **Service is a means to greatness.**
5. **Your ability to work without offending your customer, employer or master will determine your success and promotion.**
6. **Prov. 10:4 - "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth".7. Prov. 17:23 - "All hard work brings a profit but mere talk leads only to poverty".**
8. **2 Thes. 3:10 - "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule, 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat'".**
9. **Expose what you are doing. Advertise your goods and services according to your financial capability.**
10. **There is a difference in creating wealth and just doing business. Work creatively to create wealth.**
11. **Learn to be yourself and you will not struggle to be what God wants you to be.**
12. **It is input for output. Hard work produces great harvest.**
13. **Don't just work, work constructively with a goal in mind.**
14. **Real work is targeted work.**
15. **Skill will bring you before great and notable people and make you rich.**
16. **Train yourself to be a master in what you are doing and the world will celebrate you.**
17. **Resourceful thinking is hard work. Think and think until you think through.**

## **RENEWING THE MIND**

- 1. Sadness is a depression of the mind.**
- 2. Emotions dictate world events, and thoughts create emotions.**
- 3. Every feeling is a product of your thoughts.**
- 4. The mind will always resent what it cannot master.**
- 5. As long as you see with the eyes of God, you will be what he wants you to be.**
- 6. I cannot change your experience, except I change the way you think.**
- 7. You can if you think you can.**
- 8. Superiority and Inferiority complex are products of misinformation and wrong interpretations of events and the facts of life.**
- 9. How you think is how you see. And how you see determine how you live.**
- 10. "Our life is what our thoughts make of it" (Marcus Aurelius).**

## **WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION**

- 1. The company you keep tells who you really are.**
- 2. Your weakness will separate you from right people. It makes you uncomfortable in the presence of those who refuse to justify it.**
- 3. Someone will be assigned by the devil to feed and strengthen your weakness.**
- 4. The evil you tolerate from your friends, you cannot correct in their lives.**
- 5. Don't take relationships for granted. Nourish and cherish every good and rewarding relationship.**
- 6. Avoid time wasters because time wasted cannot be redeemed. The clock is ticking away every minute. It is not reversing.**
- 7. Let every appointment be for a definite purpose.**
- 8. Do not make other people your subject of discussion when in the midst of your friends. Backbiters always remain behind. You can't be pulling another down and expect to go forward.**
- 9. Those who gossip with you will definitely gossip you.**
- 10. Do not be a burden to your friends but a blessing to them. Be a burden bearer and not a burden.**