

THE WAY FORWARD

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Man was created to be progressive. No one wants to remain on the same spot. Everybody wants improvement and better life. Nobody wants to be static or move backwards. When one finds himself in an ugly or unpleasant situation, he will do everything within his power to get out of that situation.

Financially, academically, matrimonially, spiritually and business wise, you may be down, and wondering why things are the way they are, and you desire a change wanting to move forward, but do not know how. I will by the grace of God show you how to move forward to the place you desire to be.

To benefit fully from this material, you need to answer sincerely all the questions I will be asking.

1. REVIEW THE PAST AND PRESENT TO FIND OUT WHY YOU ARE WHERE YOU ARE.

Why are you where you are? Why are you going through what you are going through? Why is your business not doing well? Why are you always losing your job? Why haven't you secured a job? Is it your own fault? How have you been conducting your business? Could it be that you are the cause of your downfall or someone else?

There are lots of questions you must ask yourself to identify the reason why you are where you are. If you don't know how you got to where you are now, you will probably not be able to get out of there. If you don't know the circumstances that led to where you are, you can't get out of it. You must know the factors that contributed to the present circumstances, and then give yourself to searching for solutions to the problems identified.

This calls for critical analysis of the past and present. I am talking about an honest and sincere review of the steps you have taken so far to get to where you are. A review of your techniques, method, mental disposition, ethics, friends and associates, and every other factor that needs considering to find out why you are where you are.

If it is difficult to pinpoint the cause or causes, then pray to God to reveal and help you identify them. You have to be sincere with yourself. Don't lie to yourself if you want to move forward. Call a spade a spade. Acknowledge your mistakes and deal with them. Identify the problem first, and search for solutions.

There are dimensions to problems. The nature of each problem determines the dimension to consider.

SPIRITUAL DIMENSION

Your spiritual state determines your physical state. You need to check out your spiritual life to find out if your problem is spiritual or not. Answer these questions; it will help you determine where the problem lies.

- Are you born again? It could be that God is allowing all that is happening to happen in order to bring you to the point where He can enter your life and help you. It could also be that the devil is enjoying himself in your life because you have never put your life in the hands of God. James 4:4-10; John 1:12

- Are you working in outright disobedience to certain laws of God? Disobedience creates an opening for oppression. Isaiah 59:2
- Are you a faithful tither? Tithing opens the windows of heaven over your head, while a non-tithing life closes it – it provokes a curse rather than a blessing. Malachi 3:6-12
- Did you enter into a covenant with God and didn't keep your part? Deut. 23:21-23; Psalm 66:12-14; Eccl. 5:4-5; 1 Samuel 1:9-11,20,24-28
- Did you pledge something to God in any church service in time past and had the means of redeeming it, but did not? Eccl. 5:4-7
- Are you leaving in a particular sin? 2Corinthians 13:5; 1Corinthians 11:31
- Is there any unconfessed sin in your life?
- Are you under a covenant with any spirit of darkness, whether inherited or personally entered into by you for any reason? Deut. 18:9-13
- Are you labouring under a curse? Deut. 27:15-26; 28:15-68

MENTAL OR ATTITUDINAL DIMENSION

Your mental disposition gives birth to your decisions, words and actions. And these create your experiences.

- Do you have the right mental attitude necessary for success?
- Are you an optimist?
- Are you a positive thinker or a negative thinker?
- Do you always expect the best or the worst?
- Have you programmed yourself to see and look forward to failure, disappointment, and defeat in the face of challenges?
- Are you an excited person generally?
- Are you enthusiastic about your job and business?
- Do you love your job? Are you bored with it? The answer to these questions explains your unproductivity, and the reason why your management is not happy with you.
- What is your mental disposition?
- Do you often think of or see your vision as something you cannot attain? Heb.11:6 What you see is what you get. You can only have what your faith can deliver to you.

WORK DIMENSION

- What is your attitude to work?
- It is true you work, but can you at the end of each day; say this is what I have achieved by my work?
- Do you just work or you have targeted or focused work?
- Are you busy every day, but doing nothing?
- Do you work with goals in mind?
- Do you love sleep and pleasure?
- Are you lazy?
- Do you believe in hard work?
- Are you a busybody?

Read these passages: Proverbs 10:4; 23:19-21; 21:17; 22:13; 24:30-34; 28:19; 14:23.

WISDOM DIMENSION

Wisdom will teach you that you must know where you are going, how to get there, and what it takes to get there. Proverbs 4:7-9

- Do you know where you are going?
- Do you have a definite vision for your life?
- Do you have defined vision for your organization?
- Do you know how to get to where you are going? If you do, have you been putting to practice the “how” to get there?
- Have you counted the cost to know if you have what it takes, and if you don’t, how to acquire them? Proverbs 24:3-6
- Are you skilled enough to excel in what you are doing? Prov. 22:29; Eccl. 10:10.
- Do you abhor further training in your area of work?
- How do you treat new ideas? Do you analyze and use them, or reject them?
- Are you afraid of or resistant to change?
- Do you believe that change is necessary for success in life and ministry?
- Are you open-minded or close-minded?
- Are you too proud to ask for help when you need it?
- Are you too proud to go to those succeeding in the area you are not, and ask them how they are doing it so you can make it also? Prov. 27:17
- How do you see success seminars and success teachings? Do you think you need them?
- Do you believe in reading? Do you read for know-how or for the fun of it? Joshua 1:8
- How many books do you read in a year?
- Do you see it as a waste investing in truth – Tapes, Books, Journals, and other relevant publications? Proverbs 23:23
- Is the location of your business your problem?
- What is your overhead cost compared with your income like?
- Would you be willing to pay the price necessary for you to improve in what you are doing?
- How attractive is your place of business?
- Do you work in a neat or dirty environment?
- Are you a neat or untidy person?
- What have you done with the principles of God on success that have been delivered to you in time past?
- Can it be said of you that you have a teachable spirit?
- Are you stubborn and do you enjoy being stubborn? Isaiah 66:2
- Do you desire a change?

ASSOCIATION DIMENSION

The companies you keep affect and influence you. Association is a blend of spirits, anointings, spirits, habits, characters, desires, tastes, ideas, ideologies, beliefs, doctrines, temperaments, visions and dreams, covenants and curses can be transferred and acquired through associations. 1Cor. 15:33; Prov. 29:3; 22:24-25; 28:27; 13:20; 2Thes.3:14

- Who are your friends?
- Are your friends godly or ungodly?
- Do your friends have a positive or negative influence on you?

- Are your friends lower than you or higher than you socially, academically and financially?
- Do you only associate with those who will look up to you as the big guy or girl, or do you associate with those you will look up to for inspiration, encouragement and challenge?
- Do you keep company with people who are going nowhere and looking forward to nothing (people with no future ambition)?
- Do you keep company with people whose preoccupation are parties, clubs, clothes, and the latest thing in town?
- Do you associate only with people who have nothing to do with your profession?
- Do you have friends whose visions are similar to yours?
- Are your friends positive thinking people or negative thinking people?
- Are your friends, people with hunger to be somebody before God and man?
- Are your friends, drunkards and immoral people?
- Do you sometimes feel ashamed of your friends because of their character, behaviour, dressing, manner of speech, complications and problems in their lives, or because of the complaints family and friends have against them?
- How many of your close friends can you say are a plus to your life and vision?

MANAGEMENT DIMENSION

Ability to manage men, materials and resources is a key factor in determining the success of any venture. Many a time we fail not because of a lack of resources but inability to manage what is available to us.

- Can you say of yourself that you possess quality managerial skills?
- Do you have ability to influence people to do what they don't want to do, and like it?
- Do you command respect and influence among your workers and subordinates?
- Do you do little things well?
- Do you inspire confidence?
- Are you ardent or forceful or committed to your vision and beliefs?
- Do you have the power of clear decision, or do you allow people to make your decisions for you?
- Do you trust those under you, or you are always suspecting them?
- Have you learnt how to take advantage of momentum?
- What is your attitude towards discouragement?
- How do you face impossible situations?
- Do you have a good reputation within and without?
- How have you handled your finances?
- Do you live on credit? Are you always on deficit?
- Do you love pleasure so much that you cannot draw a line between capital for your business and spending allowance? Proverbs 21:17
- Can you gloriously give a good account of your monthly income?
- How do you manage your time? Do you know there is a time for everything? Eccl. 3:1-8
- Do you have maintenance culture?
- Do you possess the ability to secure discipline without having to resort to a show of authority? True leadership is an internal quality of the spirit and requires no external show of force.

- Can you accept opposition to your viewpoint or decision without considering it a personal affront and reacting accordingly? Are you at ease in the presence of your supervisor or strangers?
- Do your subordinates appear at ease in your presence? A leader should give an impression of sympathetic understanding and friendliness that will put others at ease.
- Do you nurse resentment, or do you readily forgive injuries done to you?
- Are you reasonably optimistic? Pessimism is no asset to a leader.
- Is your problem lack of fund or inability to manage the little available?
- Have you been able to manage the gifts and talents you have to your own advantage and advancement in life?

If you will be sincere to yourself, by going through this questionnaire again, you will be able to identify your problem. When you identify the real problem, the next step is to find answers to the problems identified.

2. GO FOR KNOWLEDGE.

Having identified the real problem, you need to search for solutions. You need to study, as the case may be, attend seminars, and be counseled by qualified personnel to be able to identify how to overcome the problems.

It takes committed people to move forward. There is no substitute to information in the school of success. There is no price too much for information. To be informed is to be transformed. Information will take you from your unpleasant situation to the pleasant place that your heart craves for. Until you know what you must do, you will pray in vain. Knowledge is the key to moving forward. Find the answers to the problems. The quality of information at your disposal determines the quality of your success.

“Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night; so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (Joshua 1:8)

Job was the most outstanding success in his time (Job 1:3). He became successful by information.

“When his lamp shone upon my head and by his light I walked through darkness!” (Job 29:3)

Every heavenly information when properly applied will command earthly attention. Make diligent search on how to solve the problem you have identified as the reason why you are where you are. You must solve the problem if you are to move forward. If the method or principle you are using is not working, change it to the one you have identified will produce your desired result.

3. BOLDLY CHANGE WHAT MUST BE CHANGED.

Change means to turn from something and take on something new. It means to put off the old and put on the new. It means to abandon the old and embrace the new. It means to abandon

the normal and usual way, method, lifestyle and attitude that brought you to where you are now and take on a new and better, successful, proven and effective way, method, lifestyle and attitude.

Change is a sign of maturity. Change is a proof that one is teachable, and that one has learnt from his unpleasant experiences. Change is an evidence of an open heart. Change shows one's acceptance of his or her imperfections and a willingness to become better.

Change displays wisdom and discretion. Change is the road to progress and prosperity. Change is a willingness to move forward, for without change where and when necessary, there can be no moving forward.

Change is part of the circle of life. Don't be afraid of it. You cannot do without it – you were created to change from glory to glory (2Cor. 3:18). You are expected to be affected and be transformed by the word of truth and by the experiences of life (John 8:32; Romans 12:2)

Change brings one into the path of greatness. Change takes you from the wrong way of doing a thing to the right way where success and prosperity is sure. Change positions you for blessings. Change triggers a movement towards your life goal.

If you refuse to change what must be changed, you will remain on the same spot. He that will not change will be destroyed by his bad habits, sins, mistakes, stubbornness and wrong methods. Proverbs 13:13; 15:10; 29:1

If it is not producing the desired result, change it. Be bold! Change what must be changed and move forward. Don't postpone action till tomorrow. Act now. Go to work now. Make the change boldly and we will celebrate your testimony. You must move forward!

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. When you walk in covenant with God as he has demanded of you, greatness will definitely be your portion. Every man is blessed as he relates with God in the covenant.**
- 2. A man's response to the word of God determines how God deals with the man. Obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings problems, complications and troubles.**
- 3. Jesus taught in the parable of the sower that believers bear fruit based on their level of acceptance and yieldedness to the word of God. A man's level of yieldedness determines his fruitfulness. And fruitfulness determines the level of promotion.**
- 4. You are where you are by choice. And you can also decide to move from where you are. It is a matter of choice.**
- 5. It takes you changing to change your experience. The secret of changing your experience is in identifying why you suffered what you suffered, and going to work in that area to effect change.**
- 6. By your words, you will be justified; by your words you will be condemned. By your words you will be destroyed.**
- 7. You will make life better by the words you speak and you can make life bitter by the words you speak.**

8. **There is sweet in your mouth and there is sweat in your mouth. If you do not speak the words that will make your life sweet, then you will speak the words that will make you sweat in life.**
9. **Don't just know, but use what you know. Don't just understand, but walk in the understanding you have. Go and have dominion, reign and rule your world. It is your portion in Christ.**
10. **Success starts with a decision to succeed. Where there is no firm resolve, there can be no achievement.**
11. **You can only have what your faith can deliver to you.**

RENEWING THE MIND

- 1 **Most pain that we feel are the result of the thoughts that we think as a result of what we suffered or are suffering. Every pain is a direct product of the meditations of the mind of man. When there is no thought, there will be no pain.**
- 2 **Pain exists because of the multitudes of thoughts that run through our minds. Therefore, a man can reduce the hurt he feels or eliminate it completely by changing the thoughts he is thinking in his mind, irrespective of the loss he has suffered or is passing through.**
- 3 **Depression is a state of the mind that seizes a man's emotions and oppresses his body. It is so bad that it affects everything about his life – his relationships, marriage, work, enthusiasm, dreams and health.**
- 4 **If life is not what you want it to be, make it what you want it to be through your positive and creative thoughts. Make life say yes to you no matter what happens. Refuse to be shattered and put down by adverse circumstances. Prove tough and not weak to the problems of life.**
- 5 **Prisoners of the past never see a future, they see a dead end. They hate with passion because of their suffering. They are bitter people who never want to forgive and never say anything good about those who they attribute their suffering to. Prisoners of the past are negative people who have stopped believing in themselves, because of what they suffered. Some don't even believe in God or in anyone helping them to come out of their crisis. Negativism is their consolation and comfort. Such condition of mind and heart is pitiable and requires urgent reconditioning.**
- 6 **Have hope in God. Believe in a new tomorrow. After every night season, there will always be day light. At the end of every dark tunnel, there is always light. Believe and look ahead with hope. You will still celebrate the actualization of your original dreams. Don't give up for God has not given up on you. God can still clean up the mess and beautify your life again.**
- 7 **Change the picture in your head and your life will change also.**

- 8 I cannot change your condition except I am able to change your mindset (thoughts). As your thoughts change so your experience changes.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. Loneliness is the absence of a true and positive close companion.
2. If you are not influencing your associates, they are influencing you.
3. Every good relationship in your life is supposed to solve a problem and meet a need. Check yours out.
4. Real love works with understanding. And no relationship can survive without it.
5. Any one who does not know who he is cannot find the right associates that fit him perfectly.
6. Perfecting your personality is a key to successful relationship.
7. Learning how to communicate effectively is essential to sustaining a good relationship.
8. Humility is a key to forgiveness which is the healing balm of relationships.
9. What you tolerate you can't fight, and what you can't fight will stay in your life.
10. Those who don't mix up will not be discovered. Living where you will not be seen or meet the right people is not helpful to you.
11. Where you are determines who sees you, and who sees you determines what comes to you.