

WISDOM FOR EXPANSION

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Expansion has to do with becoming larger, spreading out; enlarging your coast, coverage territory and borders. Expansion is all about going beyond your present level to a higher and better level that you dream of.

Another word for expansion is enlargement.

"Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the LORD. "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. "Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. For your Maker is your husband--the LORD Almighty is his name--the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth." (Isa 54:1-5 NIV)

God's desire is for his people to keep expanding and growing. He never intended that man should be static and unfruitful. Expansion is a by-product of many principles that we apply in life. God is always concerned when His people are not making progress in life's assignment. The purpose of God through the teaching of His principles is to show how to keep expanding and increasing in every area of life. It is therefore the duty of man to learn these principles and apply them and watch his life move from one glory to the other.

MAKE UP YOUR MIND

1. Until you are tired of your present position, you can't go beyond your present level.
2. Until your present position becomes too small for you, and everything in you craves enlargement, there can be no enlargement.
3. A man who is satisfied with the "status quo" can never make moves to get out into a better realm of living.
4. Winners are simply ex-losers who got tired of failure and decided to do something about it.
5. The day you get tired of failure is the day you start winning. Winning doesn't start around you, it begins inside you.
6. Prosperity and growth in your Christian walk and in your career are all a matter of choice. It is a result of a decision.
 - The decisions you will make about what you are about to learn will determine your next line of action.

- The choices you make in life determine how you channel your energy, and where you channel your energy.
 - What you decide about this subject determines what your experience will be in the nearest future.
7. Life is a result of the collection of choices (decisions) we make daily.
 8. Your dissatisfaction of the present state of things in your life will fire up a desire in you for expansion. Without a strong desire, there can never be an expansion.

"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:24 KJV)

9. Until you see the need for a change, you won't desire a change or expansion.
10. Necessity is the mother of invention.
11. It is only those who want change that get changed.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28-30 KJV)

12. You need a decision, a major decision that will move you forward. The prodigal son continued suffering until he had to make a major decision to return to his father in repentance and ask him for forgiveness and work for him not as a son, but as a servant. That decision ended his suffering and he got more than what he thought he would get from his father. He was received and restored as a freeborn son. Read Luke 15:11-32.

- What you do with all that you are going to learn in this teaching will determine your future experience.

13. It takes a tired man to be fired up. When you get tired of your present situation, you will be stirred to a decision that will lead to a change.

BUILD A STRONG DESIRE FOR EXPANSION

1. What you don't desire you can't see. And what you can't see you can't possess.

"The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." (Gen 13:14-17 NIV)

"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."(Mark 11:24 KJV)

2. If you can't see it, you can't have it. You must desire what you see to make a move towards accomplishment.
3. Desire is a product of the value we place on a thing or person.
4. What you do not place value on, you will not desire.
5. What you do not desire you will never accomplish.
6. What you do not desire, you will not have the energy and zeal to pursue and possess.
7. Strong desire fires a man up for action. It is the motivating force that drives a man to pursue and achieve his dream.
8. Strong desire keeps dreams alive. It charges, energizes, propels and pushes a man to go, and go, and go till it is a reality.
9. Build your desire around your dream. You must have a defined vision.

HAVE A VISION OF A BETTER TOMORROW

1. Paint a picture in your head that you will focus on.
2. Paint a picture that will keep going even when things are rough.
3. Paint a picture that will not allow you to be static in life.
4. You must live for something at every given point in time. Have a vision that can be reached.
5. Jesus had a vision that he pursued and fulfilled. So also, Abraham, Isaac, Israel, Paul and Peter, etc. Have a vision of a better tomorrow.

BECOME A POSITIVE AND HEALTHY THINKER

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee." (Prov 23:7 KJV)

"As in water face answers to face, so the mind of a man reflects the man". (Prov. 27:19 RSV)

"You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matt 12:33-37 NIV)

1. You are what you think.
2. Your life experience is a product of your thoughts.
3. Your mind is the drawing room for tomorrow's circumstances.
4. What happens in your mind will happen in time.
5. Mind management is the first priority for the overcomer.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things." (Phil 4:8 NIV)

6. Your words create your world. Your thoughts determine your words. Control your thoughts and you will be able to control your words.
7. Your feelings are manifestations of your thoughts.
8. Desire is a product of the meditations of the mind.
9. Success and failure are determined by the thoughts a man thinks.
10. Your thoughts determine your focus.
11. Your thoughts determine your level of zeal and energy for expansion.
12. The mindset of a man determines how he approaches life, manages problems and challenges, and what he accomplishes.
13. Your thoughts increase you or reduce you.
14. Your thoughts put barriers before you and limit you if they are negative.
15. Taking on the mentality of God as a son of God guarantees your success in every area of life.

"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." (Philem 6 KJV)

16. Always believe you can achieve whatever you set your mind to achieve with God's help.

"If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." (Mark 9:23 NIV)

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Phil 4:13 NIV)

17. If you believe you can, then you can. If you think you cannot, then you cannot.
18. Believe you are who God says you are, that you have what God says he has given you, and that you can do what God says you can do.
19. See yourself in the light of the scripture, and you will be unstoppable.

"See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc; no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD." (Isa 54:16-17 NIV)

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." (Luke 10:19 NIV)

"And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." (Mark 16:17-18 NIV)

"I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it." No misfortune is seen in Jacob, no misery observed in Israel. The LORD their God is with

them; the shout of the King is among them. God brought them out of Egypt; they have the strength of a wild ox. There is no sorcery against Jacob, no divination against Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, 'See what God has done!' The people rise like a lioness; they rouse themselves like a lion that does not rest till he devours his prey and drinks the blood of his victims." (Num 23:20-24 NIV)

- No one can stop you. There is no challenge that you will not overcome. There is no goal, you cannot achieve.

RE-EXAMINE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

"Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Cor 15:33 NIV)

"Remove the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness." (Prov 25:5 NIV)

"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered." (Prov 22:24 NIV)

"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." (Prov 13:20 NIV)

1. Who you relate with matter a lot to your destiny.
2. Every relationship in your life moves you closer to your dream or far away from it.
3. There are two kinds of people: they that add to your life and they that subtract from your life.
4. Re-define every relationship you are involved in to know the kind, and level of relationship each person deserves.
5. Associate with those who will help you fulfill your dream.
6. You will not succeed in life unless you are connected to people.
7. Success involves people. People who enable you to succeed may not always come to you. In fact, they rarely do. You must go to them.
8. Learn the art of maintaining a relationship.
9. What is lacking in you is in others. And what is lacking in others is in you. Recognize this and cherish relationships.

BECOME A PROBLEM-SOLVER

1. You are a solution to someone's problem. And someone is a solution to your problem.
2. Everything God created was created to solve a problem or meet a specific need. You are a solution to a problem in this world.
3. If you work just to make money, you will not make all you are worth. But, if you work primarily to solve problems and meet needs, then you will get more than you bargained for.
4. Problem solvers are seed sowers. Seed sowers will always have a good harvest. They will receive based on the measure they have given.

5. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's chief bottler and chief baker's dreams not for a price. It earned him a recommendation to Pharaoh when he needed to interpret his dream. He interpreted Pharaoh's dream not for a price. He went beyond the task of interpretation and offered counsel on how to exploit the revelation and avoid starvation in the land. At the end, he got his freedom from prison and slavery and became Prime Minister over all Egypt immediately (Genesis 40 & 41).
6. Remove your eyes from the price and reward and focus on meeting needs and solving problems.

PLAN HOW TO GET TO YOUR DESTINATION THROUGH GOALS

1. Without a working plan, a dream will remain a dream.
2. Set smaller goals that will gradually bring you to the fulfillment of your larger dream, vision or goal in life.
3. A little at a time is the way to get to the top.
4. Make your goals **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**ealistic and **T**angible (SMART).
5. You can't manage what you can't measure. When performance is measured, performance improves.
6. Smaller goals help one to measure success.
7. Time your goals.

GIVE YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS

1. Seed sowing precedes harvest.
2. Giving provokes God to bless a man. When a man is blessed, he is empowered to succeed and expand.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38 NIV)

"Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:14-19 NIV)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies

seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Cor 9:6-15 NIV)

"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell. He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it. Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf."(Prov 11:24-28 NIV)

3. Giving guarantees open heavens. And when the heavens open, anointing, wisdom, ideas and favour flow.

"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." (Mal 3:10 NIV)

4. Giving is the covenant way to increase.
5. Consistent giving makes room for abundance.
6. When giving becomes your lifestyle, the fruit of giving becomes visible.

WHOM TO GIVE

1. To God

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. 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. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty." (Mal 3:8-12 NIV)

2. Men of God

"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor." (Gal 6:6 NIV)

Read 1Kings 17:7-16.

3. The needy

"He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses." (Prov 28:27 NIV)

"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered." (Prov 21:13 NIV)

WHAT TO GIVE

1. Your tithe – 10% of your income (salary, allowances, gifts and profits).

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. 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. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty." (Mal 3:8-12 NIV)

2. First fruit offering – first salary, first increase in salary and allowance and first profit from a business or trade.

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." (Prov 3:9-10 NIV)

3. Offerings of thanksgiving

"Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you." (Ex 20:24 NIV)

"All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do." (Ex 35:29 NIV)

"You must not eat in your own towns the tithe of your grain and new wine and oil, or the firstborn of your herds and flocks, or whatever you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts." (Deut 12:16-17 NIV)

4. Kingdom investment or ministry project financing.

"Then King David said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God-gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise,

stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble-all of these in large quantities. Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, 5 for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?" Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly. They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents of iron. Any who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the LORD in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly." (1 Chron 29:1-9 NIV)

Finance church buildings, publications and tract ministry, outreach programmes, missionaries and mission work. Money spent on the work of God is properly spent and will always bring back a reward.

HOW TO GIVE

1. Give willingly

"For the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?" Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly." (1 Chron 29:5-6 NIV)

2. Give wholeheartedly

"The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly." (1 Chron 29:9 NIV)

3. Give cheerfully

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7-8 NIV)

4. Give with a heart filled with thanksgiving and gratitude

"David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. "But who am I, and who

are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, requirements and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided." Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God." So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed low and fell prostrate before the LORD and the king." (1 Chron 29:10-20 NIV)

5. Give in faith expecting a harvest

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38 NIV)

LIVE GODLY TO PLEASE GOD

- 1.** When a man's ways please the LORD he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him (Prov. 16:7). When your enemies are at peace with you, whatever you lay your hands on prospers.
- 2.** The pursuit of righteousness produces prosperity and honour.

"He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor." (Prov 21:21 NIV)

- 3.** Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth, honour and life.

"Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honour and life." (Prov 22:4 NIV)

- 4.** On your way to the top treat others nicely because you don't know when and where you will meet them and need their help. God always fights for the oppressed. He hates oppression and exploitation.

"Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them." (Prov 22:22-23 NIV)

BE THE BEST

- 1.** A skilled man will always stand before the great.

“Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.” (Prov 22:29 NIV)

“If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success.” (Eccl 10:10 NAS)

2. Skill leads to promotion.
3. Skill will make you to be sought after.

“They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.” (Isa 62:12 NIV)

4. Skill makes the job less tedious and interesting.
5. The more skillful you are the more expansion you experience.

CONCLUSION

God’s desire for you is to increase you continually. He wants you to experience expansion. This is only possible if you are constantly walking in the principles of God that will enable Him work it out in your life. Settle down therefore to put to use the wisdom outlined in this publication, and it will be well with you. Your life is in your hands. Your future lies with what you do from now on.