

WORKING TOWARDS SUCCESS

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Success is accomplishment of one's goals, aims and aspirations. Success is a progressive accomplishment of a God given goal for your life. Success is satisfactory progress. Success is the attainment of fame, wealth, or social status.

A successful person is not necessarily a millionaire, for not all millionaires are happy. A successful person is not necessarily a minister, for not all ministers are fulfilled. A successful person is one who is satisfactorily progressing in achieving a God-given goal. As long as you are achieving your goal, you are successful. Success is measured by the progress you are making in achieving your God-given assignment or goal.

WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT SUCCESS

1. Success does not just come, success is worked out.
2. It takes strong desire for a man to attain success.
3. Faithful application of the principles of success will bring about success
4. It takes strong faith and determination to challenge every opposition to success, overcome and attain success.
5. Success is not a gift but a working.
6. Lazy people die poor and unfulfilled, only hard workers attain success.
7. Focused people only attain success.
8. Success is failure turned inside out.
9. Successful people do not fear failure; failure does not stop them from going ahead and winning.
10. Success minded people don't quit because they know that quitters never win.
11. No fearful person wins (succeeds).
12. Courage is a necessary ingredient for success (Josh 1:6-9)
13. No one stumbles into success. All successful people followed a detailed plan of action to success.

EFFECTIVE PLANNING

Mike Murdock said "the weakness of every dreamer is the plan." I agree with him because plans make the pursuit of a goal easy and achievable. He that fails to plan, has no plan of succeeding. There is no other way to success, except through a plan of action.

WHAT IS A PLAN?

- A plan is a way of acting thought out for the future. (Michael West Dictionary)
- A plan is an articulated idea of action arranged according to priority.
- A plan is a detailed proposal for doing or achieving something.
- A plan is a map or diagram leading to a definite destination.

THE NEED FOR A PLAN

1. Without plan visions don't come through.
2. Without an effective workable plan battles are lost.

3. Without a plan, failure will win over success.
4. Planning arrests and puts away frustration.
5. Planning makes the pursuit of a dream interesting.
6. Planning makes a dream achievable.
7. Planning helps to organize a man's life around his goal or assignment.
8. Planning enhances focus, and focus helps us to maximize our potentials towards our assignments, goals and visions.

PLAN WELL IN ORDER TO SUCCEED

Plan how to achieve your vision or goal. It will take a workable plan to bring that new product into the market and succeed. It will take a workable plan to make that new business succeed. It will take a plan to finance and finish your education. It will take a workable plan to accomplish your dream. Every venture succeeds through an effective and prioritized plan of action. If you fail to plan, then failure is inevitable. You must stay in God's presence to get the plan. Write out your plan.

In realizing your main vision, you need to set smaller, definite and achievable goals, and plan how to achieve them. Follow up the smaller goals with all your energy, all your power, all your effort and prayers.

BENEFITS OF SETTING SMALLER GOALS IN PURSUIT OF YOUR MAIN VISION

1. It will help you avoid a waste of time on non-essentials.
2. It stimulates involvement. It energizes you. It creates enthusiasm for what you want to do.
3. It helps to channel your energies towards priorities. The number one key in life is the ability to value priority and follow through. There is nothing to be compared to knowing what needs to be done first and doing it.
4. It helps you to establish checkpoints for your growth, to see if you are progressing. For example, in six months I am going to acquire a million naira, in six months, I should be able to know how much I have acquired. Set time limits for your goals as checkpoints.
5. It will help you fulfill the purpose and his expectation.

CHANGE PLANS WHEN NECESSARY

If the first plan which you adopt does not work successfully, replace it with a new plan. If this plan fails to work, replace it with still another and so on until you find a plan, which does work. Don't allow pride to hold you back from changing an ineffective plan. Majority of men fail because of their lack of persistence in creating new plans to take the place of those, which fail.

- If you give up before your goal is reached, you are a quitter.
- A quitter never wins, and a winner never quits.

HAVE A 'THINK -TANK' GROUP

Prov 20:18

18 Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance.

NIV

Prov 24:3-4

3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; 4 through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

NIV

Prov 15:22

22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

NIV

Intelligent planning is essential for success in any undertaking designed to succeed or accumulate riches. You need people who will rub minds together with you to formulate a workable plan and implement it to success.

1. Identify those who will serve as members of this group.
2. Decide what benefits and advantages you may offer the individual members.
3. Arrange to meet with the members often, may be once or twice weekly.
4. Maintain perfect harmony between yourself and every member.

KEEP IN MIND THIS FACTS

1. You are engaged in an undertaking of major importance to you. To be sure of success, you must have plans, which are faultless.
2. You must have the advantage of the experience, education, talent, skills and imagination of other minds. This is in harmony with the methods followed by every person who has accumulated a great fortune.
3. No individual has sufficient experience, education, talents, skills and knowledge to ensure the accumulation of a great fortune without the co-operation of other people. Every plan you adopt in your endeavor to accumulate wealth, should be the joint creation of yourself and every other member of your 'Think-Tank' group, You may originate your own plans, either in whole or in part, see that those plans, are checked and approved by the members of your 'Think-Tank' alliance.

If you cannot afford a Think-Tank group that can meet in a place with you, go to the selected advisers for counseling and discussion. Have mentors that will advice you in your area of endeavor. What is missing in you is in another person, and discussion will bring it out.

IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION

1. Information is knowledge, and knowledge gives power.
2. There is no substitute to information in the school of success. Information is the secret. Job was the most outstanding success in his time. He became successful by information.

Job 1:1-3

1:1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. 2 He had seven sons and three

daughters, 3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

NIV

Job 29:2-6

2 "How I long for the months gone by, for the days when God watched over me, 3 when his lamp shone upon my head and by his light I walked through darkness! 4 Oh, for the days when I was in my prime, when God's intimate friendship blessed my house, 5 when the Almighty was still with me and my children were around me, 6 when my path was drenched with cream and the rock poured out for me streams of olive oil.

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3. The quality of information at your disposal determines the quality of your success.

Josh 1:8

8 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.

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4. Every heavenly information when properly applied will command earthly attention.

5. Without knowing what you must do, you will pray in vain.

6. Until you know what you must do, you may die on the same spot.

7. If you succeed by tricks, you will soon be trapped. But if you succeed by truth, you will continue in triumph

8. There is no price too much for information.

Prov 2:1-8

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

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Prov 4:7-9

7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. 8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. 9 She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor."

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9. Information will transform your life. When you as a person is transformed, everything around you will take a new turn.

Rom 12:2

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.

NIV

10. It is your insight that determines your attitude.
11. Information makes you a wise person. And wisdom will keep you from terrible mistakes.

3 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW

1. You must know where you are going.
 - You must know what your assignment is.
 - You must have a vision, goal or something to live for.
2. You must know what it takes to get to the place you are going. You must know what it takes to fulfill your assignment and achieve your goal.
3. You must be willing to give it what it takes.

BE SURE OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT OR VISION.

Every profiting begins with defined purpose. Without a defined destination, there can never be an adventure. Identify what you were created to be. Identify what you want to achieve within a given period of time. Having identified what you want to achieve, the next stage is sourcing for information that will help you to actualize your dream. Information is education. Get education to is relevant to, or enable you achieve your assignment or goal.

SOURCING FOR INFORMATION

Sourcing for information is getting oneself educated towards the actualization of one's vision for his life.

Before you can be sure of your ability to transmit desire into physical reality, you will require specialized knowledge of the service or merchandise which you intend to offer in return for success. Perhaps you may need much more specialized knowledge than you have the ability or the inclination to acquire, and if this should be true you may bridge your weakness through the aid of your 'Think-Tank' group.

Information will not attract money; unless it is put to use- it is organized and intelligently directed through practical plans of action, to the definite end of success and accumulation of money.

Your education is what you make it, and you can find the information that takes you where you want to go. Knowledge is only potential power. It becomes power only when and if it is organized into definite plans of action and directed to a definite end.

“Educate” is derived from the Latin word “Educo”, meaning to educe, to draw out, extract, bring forth, to develop from within. An educated man is not necessarily, one who has an abundance of general or specialized knowledge. An educated man is one who has so developed the faculties of his mind that he may acquire anything he wants, or its equivalent, without violating the rights of others.

- Knowledge that is not productive is useless.
- Education that cannot be profited from is a waste.
- An educated man is one who has been able to use his education to his own advantage and benefit of others

You need information on government laws on whatever you are doing for a living. You need information on basic laws of the land. You need to know about trading laws of the land and laws governing business transactions, especially your kind of business, criminal laws, import and export laws, immigration laws, labour laws, land ownership laws, etc. You need information on the professional body that supervises the profession that you belong to and their laws. The knowledge of these laws will enhance planning and business operations. Success is tied to the knowledge that you have and use.

Those who know and understand the laws, make progress faster than those who don't. They escape many traps that ignorant people fall into. They know the loopholes in the law, and how to take advantage of them. They exploit all the privileges and opportunities the laws present, while the ignorant are deprived because they don't know. So, do not consider it a waste of time to study these laws. Get all the information that you know will be relevant to your work and pursuits and you will be adequately rewarded.

FIND KNOWLEDGE

1. First of all, decide the sort of specialized knowledge you require and the purpose for which it is needed. Your major purpose in life, the goal towards which you are working will determine what knowledge you need.
2. You need information about the product you want to market.
3. You need information about the people you want to reach, their tradition, taste, desire, social lifestyle, financial, status, religious background and behaviour.
4. You need information about how other products are doing in the market. If they are succeeding, know the secret of their success.
5. You need information on how to market yourself and your product.
6. You need information to be the best you can be.
7. You need to update your information from time to time to keep abreast with the latest technology, research findings, tested and proven techniques.
8. Whatever you are into or want to achieve, source for information as to how it can be done successfully.

9. Source information on cost of the project, finance, manpower, office accommodation and, materials and equipment, time period required, the best way to package your product and services.
10. You need information on what is missing in the goods and services being rendered by others before you, and decide to fill the gap by providing it. By so doing you will catch the attention of others.
11. What incentives can you put in place to succeed more than ever?
12. Keep researching, never stop. Every successful business establishment, have a research department, library, and are always organizing and attending seminars and courses locally and internationally because they want to remain relevant and successful.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. One's own experience and education,
2. College and universities,
3. Experience and education available through co-operation of others ('Think-Tank' group),
4. Public libraries,
5. Books and periodicals in which may be found all the known to man,
6. Special training courses: Seminars, night schools, home study schools, correspondence schools etc,
7. The church,
8. Internet.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. **Success is measured by the progress you are making in achieving your God-given assignment or goal.**
2. **Success does not just come, success is worked out.**
3. **Lazy people die poor and unfulfilled, only hard workers attain success.**
4. **Lazy people die poor and unfulfilled, only hard workers attain success.**
5. **Courage is a necessary ingredient for success (Josh 1:6-9)**
6. **Without a plan, failure will win over success.**
7. **Planning helps to organize a man's life around his goal or assignment.**
8. **Every heavenly information when properly applied will command earthly attention.**
9. **You must know what it takes to get to the place you are going. You must know what it takes to fulfill your assignment and achieve your goal.**
10. **In as much as you want a change immediately, you must remember that preparation brings success.**
11. **Champions never hurry. The quality of preparation determines the quality of performance. It took Jesus thirty years to prepare for a three and half years**

ministry. I am not expecting you to wait that long; but I want you to make preparation.

12. Get education. Train and sharpen your skills. Improve your capability to win over challenges. Strive to be a master of the game that you play.
13. If you take time to prepare, your presentation will have believability. "Champions do not become champions in the ring. They are merely recognized in the ring. Their becoming champions happen in their daily routine". (Mike Murdock).
14. Great men are not made in the open but in the secret.
15. Preparation chapters in your life are not delays in your future success. Each chapter and season has a benefit and a product, look for them.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. Who you think and believe you are determines who you relate with.
2. Ungodly and wayward people breathe wrong things into your life which eventually influences you into doing evil things and live an ungodly lifestyle.
3. The problem of many especially young people is keeping company with the badly behaved and rebellious. They seem not to know that wrong company corrupts good morals.
4. Every person you have related with left something in your life.
5. Your life today is a sum total of the inputs from many people you have had relationship of one kind with, whether you know it, believe it or not.
6. Love without brains will end in crisis. Don't forget the brain was given to be used.
7. Constant evaluating of your friends and acquaintances to know who is to be dropped and who is to be retained is essential for success in life.
8. Lovers don't live in hate and are never afraid of hurts. Love and be loved.
9. Anyone who cannot listen to you is not worthy to be under your roof.
10. Draw a line between love and encouraging one who refused to be disciplined and grow up.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. All thoughts breathe life and give birth.
2. Thoughts influence, motivate, discourage, and control the thinker depending on what he is thinking.
3. As love is the result of positive thoughts towards a person or object of love, so also hatred.
4. Your thoughts determine how you live.
5. Enthusiasm is a product of positive thoughts about life.
6. Depression and bitterness are reflections of the conditions of the mind of man.

- 7. When a man's thoughts are centered negatively on the hurtful past, there is the likelihood that his mind will become a prison.**
- 8. The thoughts of your mind limit you.**
- 9. It binds, oppresses, torments, beclouds your vision, cuts you off from good things and good people, makes you bitter and damages your health.**
- 10. It is important that you count the cost of allowing the evil past to dominate your mind before you do so.**
- 11. 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.**