

Making your life count for God.

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INTRODUCTION

“What you are is God’s gift to you, but what you make yourself become is your gift back to God and the world”

To place your life in God’s hands without holding back is your greatest gift to the world.

A man without God is an ordinary life, but a man who drops his life in God would turn out to be a living channel of God’s supernatural blessings to people.

The church today is filled up with people who just sit down every Sunday getting good sermons, with no dreams in their heart for God.

And I think the only thing that went wrong is their not being able to discover purpose. A man who finds purpose will never sit down. Purpose sets a heart on fire.

And why should you sit down when God has placed in you enormous talents and potentials that can change lives?

“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God”. (Romans 8vs19)

The world is standing on their feet to see if you have answers they are looking for. And they just have to face you, because God has already put those answers in you.

“Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ²And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁴And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” ⁵So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” ⁷And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and anklebones received strength. ⁸So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him”. (Acts 3:3-10)

The desire to know who you are and what God has placed in you sets you on your journey to a great destiny. If God will use you to touch lives, and bring blessings to people around you, then you have to prepare your heart for that assignment.

If your desire is for your life to count for God, then you must search for ways to accomplish it, that search begins with you reading this book.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Almighty and great God for giving me opportunities to serve Him.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I want to thank God for the opportunity to have some quiet outside the usual busy lifestyle of “lagosians”, which gave me the chance to write. This book is a product of my “idle period” when I had no job. In retrospect I would want to thank God for not letting me have any other job, until I was done.

I wasn’t quite in the frame of mind to do any writing, but the urge to write was irresistible, because I think the urge fell in due season.

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I want to thank my family for putting up with my solitary life while writing this book.

CHAPTER ONE

ACQUIRE THE GOD SENSE

God wants you to live a life of significance, more than anything else. But that can only happen if your heart is alive in Him.

If your hunger and desire is to make a difference that desire will surely stimulate God to position you in places where your life will constantly be a blessing to all around you.

You will no longer struggle to do good; your life will naturally express God's goodness and grace. It is then that your life begins to take root in destiny.

First and foremost, if your life will ever count for God, then you must ask God to give you a giving heart.

A giving heart attracts God. Hannah gave God what she could never think of giving to any one else.

Samuel was her highest sacrifice to God. For a mother of long years of barrenness to give away the first fruit of her life was a heartbreaking sacrifice. God must have being moved by such rare giving.

If God want to test a man, He will test him with the best in his life. And the best Hannah could give to honour God was to surrender to Him what stood as symbol of her entire life aspiration.

"Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition, which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD So they worshiped the LORD here"(1 Samuel 1: 27-29)

A giving heart attracts God. Hannah gave God what she could not think of giving to anyone else. She gave God what stood as symbol of her entire life aspiration.

God seeks to take hold of your own life, own it, including all the best you have got. You can never be used of God outside what you are willing to forgo. No man has ever been

used of God in a mighty way if that man was not ready to count the cost of full and total commitment. That commitment starts with the “Samuel” in your life.

What is the “Samuel” in your life? Whatever you love and cherish is your “Samuel”, and it is that thing in your life which when given away will yield dividend to God. It could be your time, money, job, talent, possessions, and cars; it might even be your very life, as God desires.

The “Samuel” in your life might be what God needs to reach your world.

How could Samuel become a prophet to all Israel if her mother didn’t give him away?

Someone else in the crowd gave some two fishes and five loaves of bread to meet the need in a thousand lives. The men who made the offering could have been hungry men themselves, but they had to give something, because they saw a need in the heart of Jesus. (Matt.14: 13-21). When you place God above your needs, He multiplies the value of your offering. (Matt 14-20)

Whatever is in your possession could be God’s miracle- in- waiting in the life of others. What would you do if Jesus had cause to ask you for something you own that can put smiles on the faces of thousands of people you do not know? Has God been telling you lately to give out something that you are holding strongly to? The Widow of zarephath heeded the prophet and gave all she got.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.”¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup that I may drink.”¹¹And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”

¹²So she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

¹³And Elijah said to her “Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son.”¹⁴For thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.’”

¹⁵So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.¹⁶The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD, which He spoke by Elijah(1 kings 17:8-16)

There are some Christians who may be nursing the desire for God to use them but are still very “intelligent” about what to give and what to withhold from Him. They don’t want to give like the zarephath woman.

Their heart is willing, but their head is saying no! God might have been laying the desire in their hearts for them to serve Him completely, or in some other specific ways, they rather decline, than take the pains of submitting their pursuits and goals to God. In their minds comfort and personal goals still rank high above God. They don't want God to step beyond a certain zone of their life. It is not that they don't love God, but somehow they have put a red flag in their thinking chain, that signals God where to stop.

You need the "God sense" to break away from personal limiting thoughts to gracefully submit to what God wants from you. Personal considerations can limit God's move in any life. God can only go as far as you let Him. Sometimes we consider what will happen after we must have obeyed God. We dwell on thoughts like: "How will God reward me"? "What if my efforts fail?" "Am I sure this is what God want from me?" "How would I start again if after putting in all I have got in God and nothing works"? "Am I not going too far?" Thoughts like these can hinder God's move and could curtail His intentions for your life and ministry.

God's miracle in the life of the widow was cut short because the vessels in her possession were limited. Never limit God in your life by marking out some areas He should not touch-or they remain untouched forever. God's cycle of unending harvest in your life begins with your bold and confident steps in doing the little things.

"A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

²So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

³Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. ⁴And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."

⁵So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. ⁶Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel."

And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased. (2 kings 4:1-6)

The trouble with many believers is not with accepting Christ, but in winning the battle of total yieldedness to what God want to make out of their life. The only way God can take total control of the life of a Christian, and position him for exploits, is for that Christian to constantly expose his or her mind to God's word. It is there inner conflicts are resolved. Battles that will change the destinies of men and nations are won or lost in the mind of a Christian. We are in a time when Christians easily get distracted. The devil

throws in thoughts to pollute people's mind and could seize their capacity for effective Christian life. The devil tries to discourage, deceive and finally make people ineffective as Christians and as God's building partners in the kingdom, by knocking them down with lies, fear, propaganda, poverty, bad marriage, joblessness, and many more material problems. But the good news is: No demon or power of darkness no matter its size and strategy can stop a yielded life.

Above all, when your mind as a Christian is renewed, it becomes easy for God to take and exercise control over your life- for Him to work out His good purpose for your life. As child of God seeking your life to be useful to God you need to sincerely make your heart ready for Him. A man with the "God sense" will have the right heart and would be willing to do God's perfect will.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"

(Romans 12:1-2)

The "God sense" will make you see the way God sees, love the things God loves, and makes you willing to let go any of your personal desires if need be, for God's sake.

Cars, good jobs, money, comfort, career goals, personal goals, and the good things of this life will cease to stand as "wall of offence" between God and any Christian who has chosen to be God's man or woman. Some workaholic Christians in big cities around the world are merely standing on God's sidewalk and playing the observer role, with no hearty, passionate commitment to God's kingdom goals. There is real big struggle between God and their jobs. Their jobs have taken the position God once occupied in their lives.

God has to first of all take away anything that will rival His position in your life before positioning you to affect other lives. What are your dreams? What are the things you think will be too hard to let go?

You can make up your mind from this moment about things that are very dear to your heart and allow God sit above them. It is your choice of putting God above every other thing you cherish or desire that secures your place in destiny. Settle it in your heart today and forever by giving God charge over you, your money, talents, friends, family, job and possessions. Allow God sit above every of your decisions, taking full and absolute charge over your life. That way fulfilling destiny and realising God's dream for your life will be a sweet natural experience.

"He must increase, but I must decrease. ³¹He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all". (John 3:30-31)

It would be an unfruitful effort for God wanting to use anyone whose will and passion is not kingdom centered. A life that will profit God is not measured by church membership, but on “God membership”-how much you are willing to allow God own you.

*”Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, **“One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”**”*

*But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions”
(Matt.10: 21)*

Getting to have the seed mentality

One of the greatest secrets in growing ones talents is enthusiasm-the ability to express what one has got in him with passion and great expectation. A passionate person will look for ways to sow a seed for God and expect results. Isaac was a sower of seeds and he reaped an amazing reward (Gen.26vs12).The people of his time may possibly have questioned the wisdom in his action to sow at an odd time and season. They couldn’t understand the miracle of the bountiful harvest he got- It only came about by his passion and desire to sow a seed even amidst great odds.

Every seed bearer is rich. ***“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126vs 6).***

God has given every child of His a precious seed- which has to be sown and not to be buried. The unprofitable servant (Matt. 25 vs24) buried his talent and thus the rest of his life and destiny.

What you do with your God-given seeds decides who you become and where you end up. (Matt.25vs 30)

The seed mentality is the passion and joy to always sow into lives, in prayers, in the word, in outreaches, in evangelism, church work, ministry without minding the odds around you and the sacrifice it entails. Men who sow irrespective of how they feel not minding the limitations of their situations are giving God an opportunity to affect and increase their harvest. Such people are not always conscious of the seasons. Seasons could mean what people will say about the dreams in your heart for God. What you think about yourself, even what others think about you. It could slow down your zeal and lower your passion if you choose to throw your high dreams and good intentions to people’s opinion and approval. Some people will always watch other people’s faces before they say or do anything they know is good and surely will bless and touch lives to God’s glory.

These are men pleasers. When you are prompted to preach or sing by God’s spirit and you fail to do so-you have lost a wonderful opportunity to sow a good seed. The life in a seed can only emerge when that seed is sown-The things in you can produce and give life when they are used. What comes out of you have life-they are living seeds empowered by

the life of God in you (John 7vs38). In cultivating the seed mentality you have to ignore your feelings.

The man whose heart is on fire for God will always look for ways to sow seeds for God. A man who fills his spirit with God's love will naturally overflow with divine expressions-this spring of goodness will always touch and bless lives around him. A sower is a giver. He is also a harvester. Some people are dry and unhappy because they can't find what to harvest either in their marriages, vocation or even in their own spiritual life because they have not got the seed-sowing mentality.

Givers never lack. They grow naturally in wisdom, power, unction, favour and stature-the five pillars of grace. If you are still operating at the same level of grace where you were some years back with no significant increase- have you checked your seed sowing life? Seeds are God's powerful miracle channel for lifting men. The seed mentality is the growth mentality. Sow and grow. When you start sowing in lives and the body ministry God will initiate a growth process that will enrich your whole life and ministry.

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CHAPTER TWO

DISCOVER WHAT IS IN YOUR HANDS

After giving God your heart and allowing Him take hold of your life, including everything you own, the next important thing to do is to locate your place in God's service. As a child of God what you will need to serve God is already in your hands.

God does not take the responsibility of telling you what you have in your hands.

“So the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?”

He said, “A rod.”

And He said, “Cast it on the ground.” So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail” (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), “that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”(Exodus 4:1-5)

It is your personal discovery of what is in your hands that will send God the signals that you are ready for kingdom exploits. Discovering your place in Christ is the key to a life that will make a great difference in the world. An aimless life is an empty life.

A purpose and kingdom-driven Christian has one cherished dream-to be God's kingdom ambassador, to be Heavens distributor of blessings. You can never dream for God if you are a sloppy-sleepy Christian. Dreams are God's power-centers and sockets through which He plugs in to deliver His purpose to the world. Every dreamer is a warehouse of possibilities. Dreamers may sound hollow at first, but mark such people; they end up being God's channel-partners for distributing kingdom blessings. Dare to dream!

In Paul's letter to Philemon, he reminded him not to forget that he has some good things God has put in him to be a blessing to others and the church. That “good thing” is in everybody, awaiting discovery.

“That the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus”(Philemon 1:6)

Remember the Bible calls it “good thing”. It is good because it will serve some good purpose.

Some Christians or people generally speaking don’t realise they have something in them that can add value to their world. There is a special gift, an astonishing potential God has put in you that no one else has got.

Everyone has got one or more exclusive ability that enables you do things that others cannot. That exclusive ability and potential put in your life by God is called “Talent”. Your talent is God’s mandate for Kingdom impact and exploits. Your talent is God’s given permission to trade and make profit for the kingdom. Talent is your certificate of occupancy in God’s kingdom- that allows you exercise maximally what you have in you.

Just one talent is good enough

As a child of God you don’t need too much to make a mark. Does that sound strange? You need only but one talent. “One” is God’s number. Come to think of it, God has only one son, and the Bible declares that we have only one God. (1Tim.2vs5). If we have only one God then “one” has no limitation at all, because God is one. The power is not in the quantity, but in the potential.

The man who received only one talent did not realise the power locked inside the seed. He did not respect the value and potential lodged in what he received. One of the greatest gifts is the gift of recognition. It has the “magic” that enables you see the wonders and greatness in what is in you, or have received (Matt 25vs16).

In the parable of the “mustard seed” Christ did not use the word “seeds”. He compared the kingdom of God to a seed.

A seed is one of many seeds. A seed has trees and forests locked on the inside of it, though you may not see it, but they are there, awaiting to manifest. It will only take time to reveal the forest and trees in a seed.

The mustard seed is one seed you can neglect, because it is small, but it was the seed Jesus chose to illustrate the greatness of His kingdom. (Matt.25). It simply shows that to God, size and quantity does not determine greatness. Greatness is the product of effective use of your resources. Some Christians don’t give attention to what is in them because they see and think small. Your thinking can shrink or multiply your potentials.

That’s the reason why anyone who feels “inferior” never gets to use maximally what they have, because such people would always feels cheated, unfit, and ungifted. That feeling is the poison that kills any dream or potential no matter the size and colour. Do you feel odd about yourself: not beautiful, short, handicapped? Do you feel you are not eloquent and that nothing is going for you and for that reason you shy away when you ought to be shining? God says that no man has right to fix how you see yourself; you are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalms 139:14)

How you think is more important than what you have. Jesus put it to His disciples that: “As a man thinketh in his heart so he is” (Pro23vs7). Each time you think on your God given abilities, think more of what they can do, than what they should be.

Do not neglect God’s gifts in your life, no matter how you feel about them, or about yourself.

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership”(1Tim.4vs14)

God has put tremendous greatness in a seed. Jesus was the seed of Abraham. But that seed became the hope of the whole world. Just that one talent of yours can turn your generation around.

“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches. (Matthew 13:31)

Paul was not called to do so many things, one thing was important to him and that he did. That is why people of seemingly little abilities turn out to be champions and great successes because of the investment in time, devotion, and value they place on the little they have got.

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”.
(Philippians 3:13)

David needed only one stone to kill Goliath even though he had five of such stones in his bag. Only one of the five stones brought down the giant, and brought glory to God and liberation to Israel (1 Sam. 17vs40)

As famous and talented Pele of Brazil was, he is known world over for only one thing-football. Mohammed Ali is one man who won fame and recognition by doing just one thing he chose to do. Boxing was his life and dream. Anything you have and know to do, and keep doing as a Christian can win you a place in God’s heart if you do it for His glory.

God does not need you to have all the talents in the world to excel. If one stone could bring David from the grazing field to the king’s palace whatever one talent God placed in your life can take you to any height in life. Only an Isaac was what God needed to bless all mankind.

How do I discover my “power point”?

“Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

Have you discovered God does not put things that are important to Him on the roadside? Even Herod knew this for a fact. It takes wisdom to know what is where, and how to get it. The only way to discover what is in you is to search it out.

“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter”. (Proverbs 25vs2-3)

It’s your responsibility to search for things that are hidden in your life. There is one thing God has put in you that when put to good use, the effect is outstanding and usually of immense blessing to people. It comes so powerfully from you that it overshadows all other things in you. That is your “power point”. It is there your maximum impact power lies. It stands you out. It is what singles you out as a unique person amongst the crowd. You need to discover it.

David was a skilled musician, a soldier, a shepherd, a writer, poet, and prophet, but it was the soldier in him that cleared the way for him. All Israel had respect for him as a warrior.

What do you have in you that attract people’s attention to you and for its sake they give glory to God? Do you sing and people get blessed? There are some people with powerful musical talent that is so great, each time they play an instrument or sing Heavens gates open to men. Others are good organisers, things just fit in when they show up. God has given some people excellent speaking abilities, others are good and prudent finance and resource managers and they can administer people and manage events. In the church you have prayer warriors, preachers, and those with the talent of leading others. They have this strong charisma that stick people around them, and they seem to carry people well. Some have the patience to sit down and hear out the hurting and offer God’s comforting word and counsel. Others are good teachers who can explain God’s word with clarity. You will find creative individuals who with their skills can turn any place around. The ability to write is also a talent you can put to good use in God’s service.

You can begin your discovery by asking the question that Paul once asked.

“So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do you want me to do?”(Acts 9:6)

Five Pointers to discovering your “power point”(s).

- **Anything that stirs your passions**

One of the ways to know your gift or talent is the passion test.

Passion is the internal glow and surge you feel about things that are important to you. Passion is powerful (Psalms 69:9).

Passion brings out the action in you. Infact whatever provokes the grace of God within you is likely to be your ministry. Some have passions for preaching, others the passion for helping others.

An Evangelist can't stand sinners without the nudge to preach and save their souls. He feels that money spent on anything other than preaching the gospel is a waste. A pastor will feel the pain of hurting people, he will naturally aim to touch, care and shepherd them. This is so because that is what stirs his passion.

- **Whatever you do that produces good results**

God is a good manager of resources, so He is not interested in wasting resources. If after several sincere efforts, prayers and you still cannot seem to get results in the present role you are playing, God may be signaling a change of direction. Result is one of the keys to knowing your life purpose. Whatever blesses people and promotes God's glory is a good result. Hold on to it, keep at it, your talent or gift could be right there.

"A tree is known by its fruit" **Matt 12:33, Luke 13: 6-9, Matt 25: 14-30.**

- **What do you feel the peace of God doing?**

Peace is a test of God's presence or assurance. This peace goes beyond the natural mind. It is a divine means of knowing whether you are on course with God and His purpose for your life.

The peace of God will give you a clear and focused perspective. **Isa. 26:3, Col 3:15. Phil.4: 6-7.**

- **An impression that refuses to leave your mind.**

Thoughts, visions and dreams are God's powerful communication medium. Most of the time when the Lord plants something in our spirits, it becomes a thought or an idea that simply will not just go away. In **Acts 2:17** and **Joel 2:2**, God gave visions and dreams to men.

Proverbs 20:27 also said *"the spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord searching all the inner depths of his heart."* God turns the light on inside of us that we cannot put out. That light is His direction for our life.

Moses had the desire of freeing his people for forty years before it came to pass. Samuel also from childhood had vision of ministering God's word to Israel. God can plant a desire and a thought as a foundation for His purpose. The dominant thought on your mind may signify your ministry.

- **What naturally flows out of you**

People who have found their place in God are those that do what comes natural to them. There is this sense of naturalness about it. It just seems "fitting" and flows. There is nothing as difficult as acting a part you are ill suited for. Your place in God is what fits without your mechanically trying to fit in. Walking your God given course will be like just flipping a switch and the light comes on. If you struggle to do things you are not created for, you will weary yourself. A man who copies is still an imitation of an original copy. Be yourself (Joel 2vs 7-8).

It's your responsibility to search for things that are hidden in your life. There is one thing God has put in you that when put to good use, the effect is outstanding and usually of immense blessing to people.

CHAPTER THREE

MAKE YOUR LIFE PROFIT GOD.

In arriving to become a man whose life will count for God, you need to let your life profit God. One of the ways to let your life beneficial God is to put His gifts, talents, and whatever He has blessed you with to profitable use.

God measures your life on its usefulness and not on longevity. “Profit” is God’s weighing scale for every life- how much in your lifetime you are able to bring lasting impact and blessings to people’s life and God’s kingdom in total. Whether you are casting out a demon, playing a guitar in the church, singing, praying or preaching, giving out some money, your target is to bless people with whatever God has placed in your hands.

People are the direct beneficiaries of a useful life. The way to know the worth of a life is to check how useful that life is to other people in every positive sense. If your life is truly useful to men, God must be involved.

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. ¹⁵Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all”

Apostle Paul was admonishing Timothy not to forget that the gift in his life was something God expects to use to touch peoples lives one way or the other. God was not interested in any other thing other than the new value Timothy could bring to people all around him. People are God’s target.

As a child of God, how do you feel when you cannot meet a need in God’s heart because you feel you are not in a position to do so? Your life cannot be one empty barrel, because the whole world is expecting to see the answers in your hands.

It’s good to know that you are very important to God. Understand today that God has placed answers to people’s problems in the power deposited in your life as a Christian. Jesus trained His disciples and empowered them as solution providers to the world. The sick, sinners, wounded, broken hearted, drug addicts, orphans, alcoholics, prostitutes, armed robbers, frustrated people on the roadsides, the outcast, the hungry, battered people, emotionally disturbed, the hopeless and the worlds needy are amongst the long list of people who must have real and lasting answers to the issues around theirs lives. And God have said: “You are the answer”. (Isaiah 50:4)

“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God”. (Romans 8vs19)

God counts your life on how much problems you are willing to solve in the life of others.

You must decide today to place your life at an advantage for God. Life is all about producing results that will put smiles on peoples face. If the people are smiling God will be smiling too.

"Invest your life in a worthwhile cause by having a noble purpose for which to live-a purpose that is bigger than yourself...."

Ten passion test you must pass

Passion is the engine that drives accomplishments. There are passion tests that can tell where your life is pointing. A life that will touch other lives must be God-seeking. As a believer you can only go as far as your desire and hunger for God takes you. There are points you can test your life on to know the direction of your passion. God will easily use a man whose passion is towards Him.

- What do you place great value on? The direction of your affection most likely will tell where your passion lies. People who show more affection to their personal dreams are self-centered. ***“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”(Matt.4: 45)***
- Your daily devotional habit is an estimation of your personal goals. You can measure how far you wish to go with God on the basis of your “contact hours” with God. What is the intensity of your desire to be with God? (Matthew 5vs6)
- Do you show deep respect for Men of God-do you also crave for some of the grace in their life? You are likely to get into your life any gift you aspire to have which you have seen in the life of any man of God (2kings 2vs2-10). If you love God you will love His men.
- In what ways do you invest your personal earnings? -The object of your passion will realign your choice of spending. (1 Chronicles 29:3-5)
- When you are in your quiet-what occupies your thinking? There is no way your thinking will not revolve around your dreams. People, who dream for God, think it. (Matthew 22:37)
- Do you see yourself as a person who is willing to serve? -Willingness to serve others can tell how quickly you will respond to a demand above your personal goals. (Romans 12:1,Acts 6:3)
- Are you liberal with your own personal possessions when God makes call on them? (Mathew 10:21)
- Who are your models- who shapes and inspire your perspectives? (Phillipians 3:17-18)
- What would you want to do-outside things that generate your income?

- You cannot love God and keep your eyes closed to the need in peoples lives-Your willingness to invest in God's people is a great test of your relationship with God and how your God given purpose rank above personal blessings. (Philippians 4:10-19)

Eight ways you can make your life profit God

- ***Recognise and fill God's need.***

You may wonder if God really have needs. His greatest need is a willing man. One way to put your name in God's book of records is to strive to meet a direct need in His heart.

Obededom took the Ark in when others refused it. His act pleased God.

“David was afraid of God that day, saying, “How can I bring the ark of God to me?”

So David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. ¹⁴The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had. (1 Chronicle 13:12-14)

As a child of God when you provide shelter, services and financial support to ministries and men of God you are meeting needs in God's heart. When you give your house freely for church and fellowship meetings you have not only saved God a big embarrassment, you have also made Him your friend and covenant partner.

If God sees a heart that is panting and ready He will move in. God's spirit will rush in to fire up fill any willing heart.

“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work”(2 Timothy 2:20-1)

There are some other ways you can directly meet the need in God's heart. As a prayer warrior when you wake up in the night to intercede for souls to be saved and the kingdom of God to increase. When you give directly to missions, and involve yourself directly in mission work and evangelism, you are making an indelible mark in God's heart.

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:” Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”(Isaiah 6:8)

- ***To meet a need meet God first***

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all ^owith one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2vs1-4)

Making impact for God is not about church activities- it’s about people, meeting needs in people’s life. The Pentecost was a get-ready-boot camp for the disciples to get ready to start meeting the needs of the people bound by sin, demons and sicknesses.

If your life must count for God you must be God’s agent in meeting needs in people’s life.

How would you meet the needs of people, when you have not met God?

Are you ready for God to use you? Who have you met? Meeting your pastor, men of God or attending fellowship can never replace the fresh, enlivening spiritual fire that ignites your being when you meet God face to face, in the secret place of quiet communion. Answers to problems find their hiding place in God’s presence.

Any Christian who fails to renew his strength in God will live a fruitless life. Raw talents or natural abilities can never take any man far. The arm of flesh will surely fail (1Sam 2vs9). When you meet God you can meet needs. It is in your meeting with God that He releases the answers to the needs of the world around you. The Apostles were able to heal and accomplish many works because they met God in the upper room.

“Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need”. (Acts 2vs43)

Jesus was always in God’s presence before He goes out for the day’s assignment. You cannot fulfill your assignment if your fellowship with God is broken.

Communion is the key to an impactful life. If you have God you have solutions. (Mark 1vs 35).

- ***Choose to be an answer to someone's prayer***

When a need is met in someone's life God is excited. Solution to someone's problem is one way God reveals His glory to man.

To close your eyes on someone's need is to close God's hands, and limit His power. He needs you to reach the next man.

“For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’(Matthew 25:35)

Some Christians chose to pretend about the needs of others simply because; they feel they shouldn't get involved. You need to get involved because God is involved. God gave His son for the world (John 3vs16)

There are lots of people knocked down with life's problems and their sole desire is to find someone to lead them to an answer. These are the ones Jesus care about. You are God's own answer to people's problem. As a Christian you are Heavens public relation officer-you are God's arm, and voice to the man next door. In your fellowship, church, or neighbourhood, you can look out for a sister or brother, or even someone outside your church or homestead, who has no one to care for him or her. Chose to identify with their struggles, and share their burdens. Your time, love and sacrificial identification with the pains of others, when you know they are not in a position to repay you, is your greatest show of God's love in your heart.

In God's kingdom allocation, “to own is to owe”. What ever you own is a debt to the next man. Your resources and talents puts you in a position of indebtedness. Paul paid his debt to all men.

“I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also”.

(Rom.1: 14)

When people are truly blessed the kingdom of God grows.

“And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmesan, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith”.*(Acts 6vs6-7)

- *Stand where you can meet a need*

Some Christians try to solve problems for the wrong people. There's always a specific person, at a particular season God wants you to reach. God will naturally arrange the means how it will happen.

“Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. ²⁷So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”

⁰So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” As they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”

Then Philip said, if you believe with all your heart, you may.

And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him” (Acts 9vs10)

Ananais was sent to Paul.

“Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “Ananias.”

And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

¹So the Lord said to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹²And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.”(Acts 9:11-12)

And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord ^oJesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized”.(Acts 9:17-18)

No one sits in the comfort of his sitting room and meet the needs in the lives of others. You need to go to where the people are. One must rely on God's leading to reach his

audience. You will be surprised that God will take you to people He has prepared you to bless.

There was this young lady who always visited me. We happened to be members of the same church. I couldn't figure out why she was always visiting. But one day as we were talking in my father's sitting room during one of her visits, suddenly she broke down and started weeping. She wept for a long time and I was scared, really scared. I didn't know what was happening. But after a while I got to know that Christ had touched her life, there and then I had to lead her through the sinner's prayer. I later got to know from her relatives who testified that from the day we met everything about her changed. This could not have taken place except through the help of the Holy Spirit.

A spiritually prepared and sensitive Christian will always meet people God can reach through him.

- ***Understand that the devil is not your team mate***

Devil fights every opportunity you have to lift or bless any life. He is the chief hindrance to God's blessings in people's lives. Your activities are an irritant to the devil, so he fights everything good you hope to do. But you need to resist the devil completely. He seeks to hinder all the good ways your life can profit God.

"Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia). ⁶And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits.

⁸But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. ⁹For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries". (1 Corinthians 16:9)

The devil opposes any thing that will bring liberation to people. Satan withstood Daniels prayers for all Israel.

"Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia". (Daniel 10:13)

As you understand the devils game plan to frustrate your good plans and dreams then you need to push all the way despite his devices. You need to spiritually prepare against all satanic weapons. (Eph. 6vs12)

Devils oppositions did not deter Paul. Fight your way spiritually to bring God's blessings to people's lives.

“And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

¹²Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, “What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

¹⁴So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, “The will of the Lord be done.”(Acts 21:10-13)

▪ ***Trade with your talent.***

The result of trading is profit. God’s gift in your life is your currency for kingdom business. No one operates God’s gift in his or her life without leaving deposits of grace and blessings in people’s lives. The blessings that people get when they encounter you are the kingdom profits.

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him”(Acts 10:38)

Some Christians are afraid to tap into their gift pool. They still wonder: “what if I fail, what people will say” Stir the gifts in you and operate in boldness.

“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”. (2Tim. 1vs6-7)

If you are a preacher, locate opportunities to share God’s word. Invest your life in missions and evangelism. As a gifted intercessor how often do you wake up in the night to shake Heaven with your prayers?

To hold back is to bury your talent and God wouldn’t want that. (Matt.25vs 14-30)

Respond to God’s spirit, anytime you have the urge to sing, pray or preach no matter how afraid or intimidated you feel.

I remember travelling in a commercial bus with a man holding to his bible but refused to preach. I think he was afraid-he started and stopped. I was so moved, and at same time embarrassed by this act of timidity, so I had to take his bible from his hands and preached the word of God. It was short but God glorified himself.

Just as I came down, one of the men in the Bus walked past me and asked if I could join him to his house. After some hesitation, I did. At his house, He testified of how God touched him through my short preaching.

He assembled his household and shared the testimony of his salvation. It provided another opportunity for me to lead his household to Christ.

One single act of boldness for God can bring tremendous impact to people's lives. Whatever talent God has blessed you with, look out for opportunities to use them whether in the church, in your office, at home, in B

buses, in the plane, everywhere. Do not let the fear of what people will say hinder the use of your God given abilities.

Find and associate with people who can help you grow in your gift area. Whatever you do that brings glory to God and blessings to people seek to grow in it. If you trade with what you have God will add more to you. (Matthew 25:16)

▪ ***Seek to order your life.***

Gifts can never replace spiritual order. Order is the binding force that releases the grace for results. A sinful lifestyle can never guarantee lasting results for God. Those who desire distinctive results in their lives must observe the law of order. Holiness, integrity, purity, and truth must surpass the mere passion for talent exhibition.

Order manifests God presence more than any human efforts. Talent or gifts can never replace good standing with God. Sin hinders your effectiveness as a Christian. Sin diminishes the impact of your gifts and talents. Samson was greatly anointed and gifted, but sin reduced him to mere rubble, a play thing in the hands of his enemies.

He ruled Israel for twenty years but could not rule his sinful desires (Judges 17:18-20)

“Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. ³¹And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.”^o

“Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!”(1 kings 18vs30, 38)

Your heart is God's altar, and when you change certain negative habits and lifestyle that is not pleasing to God, He will bring out of your life results that will amaze men. Make your life good and it will produce powerful results.

“You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them”. (Matt. 7vs16-17)

- ***Fill your heart with love and compassion for people***

Nothing ignites God's power like compassion. Gifts operate in love. If you love people you will pour the content of your life into them. An open heart is like a river that has no boundaries and will naturally overflow. You cannot love without giving. When you feel like God feels towards people, He will release sufficient and dynamic power to meet their needs.

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick” (Matt.14vs14)

A compassionate heart is the product of a deep hunger to please God. It is an attribute all Christian workers should ask for. Compassion draws from God. A virtue from God gets to men through a heart that is compassionate towards men. The Holy Spirit works through a compassionate heart.

Above all you can create a heart that will prompt God plant the thirst and hunger for you to release all your great potentials and to be a blessing to all as much as He gives you grace to do.

“As many that hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled”. (Matthew 5vs6-7)

REMEMBER:

There is a special gift, an astonishing potential God has put in you that no one else has got. You have one or more exclusive ability that enables you do things that others cannot. That exclusive ability and potential put in your life by God is called “Talent”. Your talent is God’s mandate for Kingdom impact and exploits.

A word for you

It's possible you chanced upon this book with the heart and mind to be blessed by it, but you are not yet a child of God. I thank God for your life. I have the firm believe that by taking this step of reading this book could mean you have the desire to associate with God perhaps deeper than this book may afford you.

If you are not very sure that you are born again-truly and experientially you can make good this opportunity by asking God to come into your life. Confess your sins to Him and ask Him to fill you with His grace, He will forgive you, your sins and restore His presence and glory in your life. Make a quality decision today by resolving to forsake your sins and let Him take over your life completely.

Like a new creature your life will emerge from its past to a new colourful experience to the glory of God and you will see and feel the beauty of your new life in Christ.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, all things are become new, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new" (2cor.5vs17)

Congratulations! Only a life in God can live a profitable life. May your encounter with God renew your life and destiny, and may His grace empower you for an enriched life. God bless you.

About Sentword Ministries

Sentword Ministries is a ministry empowered by God's spirit to publish and distribute God's word and inspired literature across the world. The ministry targets campuses, churches and body ministries as channels of distribution and impact.

For more than seven years, the ministry has continued to complement the strategic efforts of agencies and other ministries in bringing the gospel to nations and peoples of diverse culture through its print media.

Tracts and materials from this ministry go to churches, ministries and other relevant destinations at no cost. It is the hope that this Ministry continues to touch the lives of millions of people scattered across the globe. We have been receiving tremendous responses from individuals whose lives have been touched and renewed by this effort.