

# THE LESSONS OF LIFE

The lessons I have learnt in my stay on earth.

By: Adebola A. Oni

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# The Major Lessons Of Life

“Life has taught me:

To take things as they come,

That the end of one problem is the beginning of

another,

And

He, who wants to please everybody, ends up pleasing

**NOBODY!”**

## **INTRODUCTION**

When I was growing up, I learnt so many lessons from so many people, right from my childhood, I also learnt from the books I read.

Growing up was not a bed of roses for me because my parents broke up when I was quite young, around 6 years or so, and I was with my mum along with my two sisters. We all went through thick and thin and was able to survive through the Grace of God Almighty. During those periods, I was learning and assimilating all those lessons faster than anyone could imagine. Though I have not read any life changing book then, I was still considered intelligent by people who know me because I do not toy with information. I read Newspapers (started at age 10), Magazines, Journals and also listen to News both on Radio and Television. I was not in the dark at all concerning what was going on all over the World. I became at a tender age a reference point for everyone around me then. Whenever any argument arises concerning any issue, no party agrees with the other until I say something. That shows how people highly respected me back then.

When I got to the University, it was still the same thing and in my 4<sup>th</sup> year, I read a book that opened my eyes to reality. "[Unleashing The Tremendous Potentials Within You](#)", a book by [Bill Wayman](#), is one I will not ever forget in a hurry. I have read books, but nothing like that! The knowledge in that book is so much that I could not believe it was possible for a man to have written such. It dawned on me that I have only being intelligent not wise! Wisdom is not the same things as intelligence, so I learnt that year. I could not help but weep, inside though, because I have spent over twenty years, I was twenty-two then, on this earth and I have never known what I read from that book! What a big pity!

From that moment onwards, I decided to go any length to learn wisdom and become wise. I literarily dropped the intelligence toga and decided to pursue wisdom. Did I achieve my aim? Yes! And I am still learning. During the course of

my learning, I have read so many books that opened my eyes to so many realities I could not have imagined, I have met people, both home and abroad, that have left an indelible mark upon my life. I have also been to places to learn of the wisdom I am pursuing. In fact, I have done all in my capacity to become wise and God Almighty has really helped me. I discovered that the more I pursue after wisdom, the more intelligent I become!

Therefore, this book is about the lessons I have learnt in my journey to pursuing after wisdom. There are so many lessons to be learnt in life, if only we are willing to pay the price. I was willing to pay the price and I paid heavily. I lost so much money in the process, I had to sacrifice my career as a Mechanical Engineer, and I lost the confidence of so many people whose line cum advice I was not willing to toe. I was bruised severely and so many times I fell but I had to dust my arse and move on. Just like one of my mentor, [Jim Rohn](#), said, “If you can see the reward, then you will pay the price”. I saw me sharing my experiences with people so I was willing to pay the price no matter how heavy or costly it is. Life has taught me many lessons and I am willing to share them with you. In this book, you will find many lessons, and going through it entirely, may be one of the best things to have ever happened to you. I want to implore you to put aside any impediment on your way to discovering the message inside this book and I want you to read it with an open mind.

In every chapter, you will read about my experiences and those of other people who have begun the journey long before me and those who are still on the journey. Just sit down, relax and enjoy the wisdom in this book. Your life cannot remain the same after going through it.

My plea to you is to **MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT!**

## LESSON 1

### **It Pays To Have A Dream.**

*“Dreams do come through, if only we have the courage to believe in it”*

When I was a growing up, one game I love doing most is daydreaming. Most times, I walk home from school and what I do for nearly all the time I spend on the road, is to get lost, in my dreams. I have so many things to day-dream about: living in a big castle, riding costly automobile, having all the best of the World, meeting and dining with the World’s famous and being the center of attraction every where I go. When I do these for so long, reality will dawn on me that they were just wishes, which I have learnt are not horses. This conclusion does not prevent me from doing it another day. In fact, it became a routine throughout my growing up days.

What I had never been taught back then is that my daydreams can come through. Nobody ever taught me that it is just possible to build castle in the air and live in it later by just building its foundations on the ground. Fortunately or unfortunately, I got to learn this stark reality at the age of Twenty-two. I read, [“Unleashing The Tremendous Potentials within you”](#) and the veil fell off my eyes. The reality dawned on me that what I had been doing all these years have not actually being a waste of time after all. That was the first time I learnt that daydreams could be converted to genuine dreams that can be transformed to reality. Why is it that I had not been taught this while at a tender age? Does that mean that majority of people living on this earth does not know about dreams and how they can change their lives with it? What a mystery!

What would have happened to so many lives if they could only believe what they declare, as “mere wishes” can become a reality at the end of the day? I discover that there is a missing link that has caused billions of people to remains in abject poverty while living in a world of abundance. This same link has made some

people live a fulfilled life while some are living their daily lives in frustration just because they have not discovered this missing link. [Think and Grow Rich](#) gave this link a better illustration by saying 'whatever the mind of man can conceive and **BELIEVE** he can achieve'. So many people do not bother dreaming because they believe it is impossible for them to achieve those things. However, I want to tell you at this point that your dreams can become **TRUE**; it can become a reality if only you can believe it.

When I learnt this wonderful lesson, my life experienced a drastic change, everything about me changed; the way I talk, reason, see the future, everything. I used to be a person that is always apprehensive concerning the future, but all that changed to a positive disposition as soon as I learnt this truth. I got myself a journal afterwards, and listed all I wanted to do with my life in it. If your life will change, you must first start by asking yourself what exactly you want to do with your life. Where do you want to find yourself in years to come, which places do you want to go to and who are the people you want to associate yourself with later in life?. These questions formed the bedrock of my life and they gave birth to dreams I have never thought of and those I never could have imagining achieving in my entire life on this earth. I learnt another question later on that really helped me to settle for bigger dreams and the question is this: "***what are the things you will have as your dreams or your life purpose, if it was impossible for you to fail?***" If you write those things down you will be surprised in years to come how you have achieved them.

Some weeks back, I was just searching through my folder and I saw a piece of paper, a very rough one. When I straightened it, I saw written on it my dream list. I wrote that list in year 2000 and I decided to do a correlation of what I wrote down then and what my life is now. I gave out a soft smile and I had to congratulate myself a little. One of the things I wrote then was to be knowledgeable in the computer field especially the Internet. Let me share this with you, back then I was a stark illiterate when it comes to computer issues. All I

know is that I used to see a box that paper comes out of and it used to baffle me a lot. When I got into the act of dreaming, it became my first objective and five years after, I can give glory to the Almighty. I not only know something about computer, I used it to earn my livelihood. I coach people and I have mastered the Internet to a level that I have no choice than to commend myself.

Another goal I saw on that paper is establishing and running my own business. Today, I run my own I.T firm, run as buoyant Internet business and some other businesses in the background. This book you are reading is even as a result of the dreams of years ago? **Who told you that it doesn't pay to have a dream?** It is always true that some dreams can cause our heart to skip not just a beat but beats when we look at them, but just believe and see if they will come to pass or not. I remember the story of Ronald Reagan as a little boy. When Ronald was ten years old, his class went on an excursion to the White House and the President then was asking each of the students what they wish to become later in their life. When it got to the turn of Ron, he said bluntly that he wants to be the President of the United State! Everybody was surprised at such a dream from a ten year old but where did he end up? At the White House of course! Others may not believe him then, but he never lost hope in his dreams. That is power of a dream in action.

The story of Monty Roberts is another of a dreaming little boy. Monty is the son of an itinerant horse trader and when he was in senior high school, his teacher asked the class to write a paper about what they all wanted to be and do when they grew up. That night, Monty wrote a seven – page paper describing dream of owning, someday, a horse ranch. He wrote everything in great detail and went as far as drawing the diagram of the 200 – acre ranch he envisaged having with all the features he wanted it to have.

When Monty handed this over to his teacher the next day, nothing seemed to happen. Two days later Monty received his paper back with a large red F with a

note that read, 'see me after class. ' Monty met with the teacher and asked why he got an F. The teacher said, *"This is an unrealistic dream for a young boy like you. You have no money. You come from an itinerant family and you have no resources ... There is no way you can ever do it."* The teacher told Monty to rewrite the paper with a more realistic goal in order to reconsider his grade. Monty took the paper, and was with it for a week. After so much thought, Monty returned the paper back to the teacher making no changes at all. He instead had boldly written on it, "You can keep the F and I'll keep my dream". Did Monty realize his dreams? Every bit of it and what makes the story more interesting is that years after, the same school teacher brought same kids to camp at the ranch for a week, and when he was leaving this is what he told Monty: ***"Look Monty, I can tell this now, when I was your teacher, I was something of dream stealer. During some years I stole a lot of kids dreams. Fortunately you had enough gumption not to give up on yours."***

The above story above is an important lesson for us all. No dream is too big for anybody to achieve and there are always going to be "dream stealers" all around us. My friend, Mike Litman, call them levelers. They have no dreams and will always want dreamers to abandon theirs and be on the same level with them. Did I have them around me? Plenty! They come with "well-meaning" advices and all I do is say a big thank you and I move on. A chapter is devoted to this and how you can move on in the face of "well-meaning" advices that never meant well for your future.

I want you to know that there is nobody in this world who didn't start with a dream. We can see this in the cited stories, but the world is replete with dreamers who have gone ahead to etch their names firmly in the history book. These are people who had nothing in their favour apart from their dreams. They faced ridicule of all sorts while pursuing their dreams but never gave up. They marched on till they were able to achieve that object of obsession they have been pursuing. What I have learnt is that nothing comes into existence without

first existing as a dream in the mind of somebody. Even the technologies we are witnessing today, started out as a dream before we see the reality.

The story of the Wright Brothers is one I relish so much. One day, Orville and Wilbur thought of making an “Iron” fly! This has never happened before, but they believe it can happen. They were subjected to ridicule by the levelers of their time, but they never gave up. On December 17 1903, history was made and the “Kitty Hawk” flew. That started a revolution in the transportation industry and the name of the Wright brothers, will NEVER be forgotten when mention is made of the aircraft industry. Ray Charles story is another phenomenal one. Who could ever imagine a blind man going ahead to conquer the World of music? Though Ray lost his sight at an early age, he never lost his dreams, his inner vision. So many people told Ray to stop wasting his time and instead should start weaving cane. These levelers couldn’t see what Ray was seeing but trust Ray, he trudged on and today, he has won many Grammys, wined and dined with the powers that be and he has even traveled more than some people with normal eye sight.

The story of Stevie Wonder and Helen Keller are just similar to that of Ray Charles. These are people who have gone ahead to conquer the world despite their disability. There are so many stories like the aforementioned and I could have gone on and on reeling out such stories. Even if this book is all about dreams, I won’t have any problem filling all the pages with stories of these heroes of our time and time past. There is nothing that I will say of people like Walt Disney, a poor boy who started with nothing but a dream and gave us a dreamland, Disneyland, Henry Ford, Abraham Lincoln, Bill Gates, Steve Job, Revd. Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, Oriental James (O. J.) Simpson and several others that has not been said elsewhere or you have not heard about. These people at a point in their lives have a dream, declared it to the world pursued it vigorously and later achieved it. They believed so much in their dreams to the extent that nothing else matters but the dream.

The truth you should always hold dear to your heart is that if other people's dreams could come true, nothing stops yours from becoming a reality. Dreams only come true if only we have the courage to believe in it and hold on no matter what. The secret to living a fulfilled life is to live it with a dream. Life is not meant to be lived by chance but by design. If you live out your dreams, you never can tell where it will take you. Reagan's dream took him to the White House, Gates became the richest man in the world because of his dreams, Henry Ford started a revolution in the automobile's industry and my own dreams have taken me somewhere I couldn't have imagined years back. Where will your own take you? You never can tell till you begin to act it out. You may look stupid to some people in the process of acting on your dreams but these are the same people that will come later to celebrate you.

The mistake most of us make, is that we fashion our lives after what people say. Why should you be controlled by people's opinions rather than your own thoughts? People have always been making jest of dreamers right from the beginning of the world, so why would you be any different? You cannot afford to live your life to suit people and to your own detriment. If I were you, I wouldn't do that because that is the greatest stupidity. What if you find out later in life that those you were trying to please had become better than you all because they were able to pick up a dream of their own later in their lives? I don't think I want that to happen to me, and I know you don't either. You can guard against that happening to you **NOW!**

The greatest favour you can do yourself is to live for a dream and a big one for that matter. I have learnt that it is always good to dream **BIG** because there is no excitement in small dreams and in just keeping up with somebody. Now that you know that your dreams can come true, why put yourself at a disadvantage by not dreaming **BIG**? Do you know what could have become of your life if you have had a dream earlier? It is never too late to dream again. Friend, it is never, never too late. Let me close this chapter with a statement by Jim Edward, "If you are

going to dream, do yourself a favour, make sure you dream **REALLY, REALLY BIG.**"

## LESSON 2

# Imagination is Power!

*“...nothing will be restrained from them which they have imagined to do-  
Genesis 11: 6”*

Noticing the above passage for the first time made a lot of difference in my life. The story of that passage has been something we were all familiar with as kids in the Sunday school. It is a great pity that the significance attached to the story pales in comparisons to the true message. We were all made to understand then that the story's main lesson was that God scattered the people's language in order to prevent them from getting to where He resides (heaven). I have been reading that passage myself for several years and has been attaching the same meaning to it until that fateful morning in 2002. When I got to the above quoted portion, I paused a bit went over it again and again and I was simply overwhelmed. Why I haven't discovered this a long time ago is what baffled me then. I simply decided to imbibe that passage into my daily living. I just imagined myself doing something and viola! It has come to pass.

This book you are reading is as a result of what I imagined doing some months back. I jammed this same passage in Napoleon Hill's all – time classic [Think and Grow Rich](#) where he said, “Whatsoever the mind of man can **CONCEIVE** and **BELIEVE** he can achieve”. This book is a masterpiece considering Mr. Hill's background leading to the writing of the book. Before you can believe in any cause, it has to be conceived or imagined. Imagination is the starting point of any achievement and it also leads to every other things. People who achieve much in life are those who have trained their minds to imagine what others couldn't and followed it up with believing.

There are so many illustrations in [Think and Grow Rich](#) that shows how powerful imagination is. The story of Edwin C. Barnes is a classical one. Before

Barnes left his country home, he has first seen himself as a business partner of the great Thomas Edison. It was that imagination that spurred him on and made him achieve his purpose at the end of the day. Mr. Barnes wouldn't have gotten an inch closer to Edison, if he has not toyed with the thought in his heart.

I can remember vividly when I was in the University, what predominate my life most, are the thought of how it will look like if I am running my business. I used to run really **WILD** with my imaginations that I could see vividly what the future holds in stock for me. Now, I am doing most of the things I thought of several years ago. I have learnt over the years that it is possible to create and live within us first, the future. In our imaginations, we can be whatever we want to be, go where we want to go and do whatever we want to do. As time goes by, we will discover that all those things will start coming to pass and we will be wondering how it all started. Our imaginations will begin to make us take some steps we never believed we could take and that is how the actualization of our thoughts begins.

When the Scientists/Philosophers of old observe an event, they allow their imaginations run lose on to what could have caused such an event and what theory they can deduce from such event. These always lead to one form of discovery or another. The reasons we celebrate people like Isaac Newton Galileo, Archimedes, Charles Darwin and the rest is because through their imaginations, they have added values to our present world and their names will forever be indelible in the book of history. What of the present generation of inventors, researchers, businessmen and great leaders? What did you think sparked off their successful achievements? Imaginations! They thought of doing something and they held on to this thought to the point of believing which led to action and transmitted into reality. What do you think could have led Bill Gates to excuse himself from a big institution like Harvard? He simply saw what other couldn't see with his inner eyes. Look at where he is now.

Henry Ford is another person that put his imaginations to work. He was seeing the possibility of having eight cylinders casted into one block but his subordinates couldn't see what he was seeing. Wait a minute, do you think Mr. Ford just woke up one day and decided to bully his people so that he can have his way being the boss? I don't think so. He would have used his imagination to paint pictures of what it will look like to have an eight-cylinder car: the ease of combustion, effectiveness of the engine and so many other financial/economic considerations. At the end of the day, this came to pass and Ford Motors benefited so much from this breakthrough as well as the human race.

I want you to know that your mind is so powerful that you cannot imagine anything on the one hand without also having the ability to bring the thought into reality on the other. An imagination leads to an idea and the very existence of an idea in your mind means that you have within you and around you, the capacity to turn it into reality. Why do you think that Napoleon Bonaparte said, "Imagination rules the world"? Everything you see around you is the result of what was originally thought of by somebody. Our entire man-made world is the result of thought turning into reality. Nothing is made without it starting as a thought. Brain Tracy also said something note worthy, he said, "Anything you can hold in your mind on a continuing basis, you can have."

I want you to know that it is the ideas you generate, more than any thing else that will enable you to solve your problems, and achieve your goals. Imaginations are the keys to the future. It is impossible for you to achieve anything of value except to the degree to which you think. If you really want to experience a great change in your life, then you must train your mind to see beyond what the ordinary eye is seeing. You must be able to see vividly the kind of life you want to live and the kind of person you want to be.

All this takes, is a small innovation on your part to lay foundation for a fortune and launch you toward great success. "Your incredible brain can take you from

rags to riches, from loneliness to popularity and from depression to happiness and joy – if you use it properly” is what Brian Tracy said and I couldn’t agree with him less. It is your job to be imaginative and to generate as many ideas as possible and act on them. The greater the quantity of ideas that you develop, the greater will be the quality of the ideas you have available to you. There is virtually no obstacle in life that you cannot overcome with your imagination!

Do you know that imagination is more important than fact? This is a statement made by Albert Einstein and it is as true today as it was then. There have been numerous instances in so many people’s lives where facts are saying something but imaginations and creative ability have enabled them to do something completely different. It is a known fact that everybody who leaves school must always run around to hook up with a job. My imagination didn’t make me believe in that and today I am more secured than those who were initially looking for security. An idea or an insight at a critical moment can be the turning point of your life. When you free yourself from self-imposed limitations, to generate creative ideas, you will discover one that will turn your life around as it has done to so many lives.

The truth is that whatever your situation, you have the creative capacity, in the form of an infinite ability to generate ideas, to solve any problem and achieve any goal. There are virtually no limits to what you can accomplish except for the limits you place on your own imagination. All you just need do is to start brain storming so that you can generate ideas on every problem, question or dream. More people have become wealthy and successful with this method of creative thinking than with any other. When you ask yourself the right questions, you will be amazed at the quality and quantity of ideas that spring from your imagination. To really show that imagination is power, I will want to share this wonderful story I read in [Chicken Soup for the Soul](#) by Jack Canfield and Mark V. Hansen. It is a story by Glenna Salsbury and it goes thus:

“In 1977, I was a single mother with three young daughters, a house payment, a car payment and a need to rekindle some dreams. One evening, I attended a seminar and heard a man speak on the 1Xv = R Principle. (Imagination mixed with Vividness becomes Reality). The speaker pointed out that the mind thinks in pictures, not in words. And as we vividly picture in our mind what we desire it will become a reality.

This concept struck a chord of creativity in my heart. I knew the biblical truth that the Lord gives us “the desires of our heart” (Psalms 37:4) and that “as a man thinketh in his heart, so he is” (Proverb 23:7). I was determined to take my written prayer list and turn it into pictures. I began cutting up old magazines and gathering pictures that depicted the “desires of my heart” I arranged them in an expensive photo album and I waited expectedly.

I was very specific with my pictures. They included:

1. A good-looking man
2. A woman in a wedding gown and a man in a tuxedo
3. Bouquets of flower
4. Beautiful diamond jewelry.
5. An island in the Caribbean
6. A lovely home
7. New Furniture
8. A woman who had recently become vice president of a large corporation. (I was working for a company that had no female officers. I wanted to be the first Vice President in that company).

About eight weeks later, I was driving down a California freeway, minding my own business at 10:30 in the morning. Suddenly a gorgeous red-and-white Cadillac passed by me. I looked at the car because it was a beautiful car. And the driver looked and smiled, and I smiled back because I always smile. Now I was in deep trouble. Have you ever done that? I tried to pretend I hadn't looked.

“Who me? I didn’t look at you!” He followed for the next 15 miles. Scared me to death! I drove a few miles he drove a few miles. I parked, he parked ... and eventually I married him!

On the first day of our date, Jim sent me a dozen roses. Then I found out that he had a hobby. His hobby was collecting diamonds. Big ones! And he was looking for somebody to decorate. I volunteered! We dated for about two years and every Monday morning I received a long-stemmed red rose and a love note from him. About three months before we were getting married, Jim said to me, “I have found the perfect place to go on our honeymoon. We will go to St. John’s Island down in the Caribbean”. I laughingly said, “I never would have thought of that!” I did not confess the truth about my picture book until Jim and I had been married for almost a year. It was then that we were moving into our gorgeous new home and furnishing it with the elegant furniture that I had pictured. (Jim turned out to be the West Coast wholesale distributor for one of the finest eastern furniture manufacturers).

By the way, the wedding was in Laguna Beach, California, and included the gown and tuxedo as realities. Eight months after I created my dream book, I became the Vice President of Human Resources in the Company where I worked.

In some sense this sound like fairly tale, but it is absolutely true. Jim and I have made “picture books” since we have been married. God has filled our lives with the demonstration of these powerful principles of faith at work”.

I believe you will agree me that this is a wonderful story. You have a choice to believe and imbibe it into your life so that it can work for you or the choice to disbelieve it and never bother doing anything. The truth is that “whatsoever the mind of man can **CONCEIVE** and **BELIEVE**, he can **ACHIEVE!**”

### LESSON 3

## **There is a Huge Deposit of Diamond in all of us.**

*“There is so much in us that you and I know, if we are made to see if for one second, we will never settle for less”.*

The story of Ali in the classic, [Acres of Diamond](#) is one that has refused to clear from my memory ever since I read the story. Dr. Russell Cornwell, did a yeoman job by painting in stories the lives of the ordinary people whom greatness is within their grasp but couldn't just smell it talk less of grabbing it. What a great pity! Ali had a huge deposit of diamond in his garden, but just because he could do some searching sold off the garden for a peanut and went in search of diamond. He never found any diamond because he has sold it off and the lucky buyer discovered the world's largest deposit in the same garden our journeyman friend sold off! Abu got frustrated with his life and committed suicide while our friend that bought Abu's garden became the richest man of that time. What an Irony!

The story represent some of us who have so many things to offer but are still wondering about what we want to do with our lives! Deposited in all of us is a huge deposit of greatness but amazingly only few ever get to become something in life. We talk about poverty, unemployment and several other things that should have never being heard among us if only we all can sit down and do some soul searching to discover the deposit within us. Most times that I go out, I always see one person or the other that is evidently suffering and I shake my head praying silently that this ignorant person could just see what the Almighty has placed inside of him/her.

Something happened to me some years back that really rammed this message home. When I started running my business, things were very tough for me to the point that I could hardly afford to have a dime on me. One of those days, I was at home and very hungry with no hope of seeing anything to munch. I tried to force

myself to sleep, but I could only succeed for just thirty minutes! I was so hungry that I just couldn't have time for my favorite past time, reading. In another attempt to sleep, I struggled and slept for an hour or so before I woke up again. There was simply no available option for me because I was the only person at home then. At the last botched attempt to force myself to sleep, something just spurred me to look at a corner of the room and to my greatest surprise; I saw a bowl being covered. I quickly ran to where it was and unbelievably, there is enough food inside the bowl that I won't be able to finish!

It dawned on me that that is just an important lesson of life that needed to be learnt by all. So many people are surrounded with all that is needed to live a worthy life but they just couldn't open their eyes to see what they have within or around them. Instead of discovering themselves, people prefer to complain about several things militating against their progress in life. They talk about their family background, the society and circumstances beyond their control when all they could have done is self-discovery. An author said in one of his books that man is created with about 500 abilities! When I discovered that I am created with 500 jobs inside of me I told myself I would never look for a job or be unemployed in my life. When you discover all that has been deposited within you, then you will never live a life of mediocrity like so many in the rat race. Why should you or anyone live in poverty when abundance is at your fingertips? Borrowing from Jim Rohn that is one mystery of life that I am yet to fathom.

The world is replete with those who have discovered themselves and are really living it big and loud in our time, while there are also those who have failed to discover who they truly are and are living frustrated every day of their lives. Do you think somebody like R. Kelly, Mariah Carey, Cece Winans or Ron Kenoly and so many others will ever pick up pen to write an application for any job? No! They have discovered who they are meant to be and what is deposited within them. They never hesitated in using what is deposited inside and look at the fame people like them have acquired. What about those in sports, business or

those authors. All of them have discovered that unique thing about themselves and they are exploiting it. What about you? For how long will you complain about others making it happen and of your own haplessness when all you need is to discover your abilities and put just one to use.

I remember when I read [Unleashing The Tremendous Potentials Within You](#), I shed tears within me because I discovered I was living far below my potentials. I discovered that most of my over looked talents and stuffs I love doing could make a way for me. I decided to search within me and asked my self those things that come naturally to me, things I can do effortlessly and with so much joy. I couldn't believe I have those abilities within me that I haven't discovered all the past years.

Prior to discovering my potentials, I used to be scared stiff whenever it occurs to me that I will leave the University one day and start looking for a job. I used to wonder whether I will be qualified for any job considering the education I receive everyday in the University. I used to see most of the courses as obsolete and irrelevant in this present age. The rate of unemployment is something that sends jitters down my spine whenever I think of it. We churn out about 100,000 graduates every year and yet our country couldn't boast of creating jobs up to 10,000! I used to wonder how I will make it and all I could utter is "God help me", because I wasn't really sure how I was going to make it. God sent me that book as an answer to my prayer and may be your prayer can get answered too by ordering the book [HERE](#).

When I discovered my potentials, I just couldn't be put down any longer. There has never being a day that I became dejected anymore because I have discovered a purpose to live for and I couldn't be less excited. Whoa! What a great discovery! It was as if I just came into the world. All those things that used to worry me disappeared because I was seeing a bright future instead of the bleak one that I used to see. People couldn't believe I have decided not to look

for a job like every of my other colleague that we graduated together. It was an abnormal situation to majority of them except just a few.

Discovering your potentials could be the greatest thing that could ever happen to you. Search within yourself and look for your natural talents, things you love doing that seems so easy to you. Things that when you are woken from sleep and asked to do, you will do with utmost pleasure and derive joy from them. What are those things? Don't you think that they could be your ticket to greatness in life? I learnt earlier that talents and special abilities could take you to where degrees or certificate cannot take you. A man's gift makes a way for him is what the Bible said. Don't you believe that it can be same for you? What I want you to realize is that if other people's gift has opened doors for them, then it can for you too. Your success in life may not be in the Corporate World, it may be based on your decision to discover your potentials and use just one of them.

The famous musicians of today discovered that they can sing more than any other thing, and they pitched their tent in the music scene. Bill Gates discovered he has flair for programming than any other thing; look at what he is doing with Microsoft today. Would Carl Lewis have attained such a great height if he not being into athletics? What of Michael Jordan and all other NBA greats? What would have happened to them if they had decided to be job seekers instead of talent explorers? I remember O.J Simpson, Pete Sampras, Lisa Leslie, Gail Devers, Lance Armstrong, Tiger Wood and several great sportsmen/women who made their lives count by living on their potentials. What would have become of them if they had decided to live ordinarily?

Having known this truth about that thing within you; that dynamite that is awaiting you to trigger it into action, what are you going to do? Will you still whine about you having nothing to do? Will you continue living like those who are not yet opportune to read this book? What are you going to do with your life? Do you want to make your life count or you want it rot and pale in significance to others

carrying exploiting their talents? It is all up to you to decide. If you want to make your life count, just stop reading for a while. Yeah! Stop reading this. Pick up a pen and a journal preferably or any writing pad and list all your abilities. List everything that comes to you naturally. What are the things you love doing? Write all of them down.

What issues or topics do you love talking about? Those could be clues too. Just write all of them down and don't bother about how few or much they are. Take time out to list everything whether you can do it perfectly or not. Once you are done, look over the list and pick the one that you know if you start to work on, can catapult you to greatness in life. That may be your gateway to greater things in life. You may be the next Michael Jordan, Cece Winans, Mary Kay Ash or Bill Gates of the next generation. I believe you are destined for greatness unless you want to prove me wrong. Remember: "***There is so much in us than you and I know, if we are made to see it for one minute, we will never settle for less***". Please make your life count and **NEVER** settle for less. I believe in you. If others can do it, then you too can.

See you at the top.

## LESSON 4

# Tough Times Truly Don't Last!

The story of Revd. Robert Schuller is one that has made deep impact on me when it comes to facing and overcoming obstacles in life. A lady friend, bless her soul, gave me the book, "Tough Times Never Last But Tough People Do" and men it was the book that met me at the time it should. I was really facing a lot of trying times then and it got to a stage that I became despondent and that was the time this priceless gem was handed over to me. After digesting the whole book, I couldn't but say a BIG thank you to that my friend I call "**Enny**". It was as if she saw the challenges I was passing through and just like an angel sent from above, she taught me one major lesson about life.

After going through the whole book, I became more resolute to persist no matter what happen or will still happen to me. I don't think things will ever be as worse for me as it was for Dr. Schuller. I was then like what was it I was facing that this man has not faced? Dr. Schuller even faced a worst situation while growing up but never gave up. I was wondering what kind of faith his father was able to instill into the family despite all they were passing through. This is the kind of mindset we are all supposed to have.

Another person I really admire his courage is no other person than Abraham Lincoln. We all know the story of Abbey Lincoln and I am sure that is another case of great persistence. He was born into poverty and was faced with defeat throughout his life. It is widely know that Lincoln lost eight elections and suffered a nervous breakdown. Yet he never gave up. He could have quit many times but he didn't, he went on to become one of the greatest Presidents in the history of the United States. Look at what he said after a senate race: "The path was worn and slippery from under me, knocking the other out of the way, but I recovered and said to myself, 'it's a slip and not a fall'. That is vintage Abraham.

How far we go in life will be determined by the amount of obstacles that we overcome. It is a popular saying in my country that “*uneasy lies the head that wears the crown*” and I couldn’t agree less. If we all want to be reckoned with, then obstacles will come and the only choice we all have is to brace up and face them boldly. Those we celebrate today, see obstacles as stepping-stones instead of blocking stones. When I understood this, I made up mind to face all the odds that come my way without losing my courage to move on.

When I first launched my business, it wasn’t easy at all, but when I remembered that it has never being easy for anybody before me, new strength always come upon me to move on. Several people gave advices of me waiting out a little before I can start a business. They always tell me it is not easy, that I need to have a huge amount of money stashed somewhere to serve as a back up, but it was too late. The words of Jim Rohn are something that I hold in high esteem back then. Jim used to say ‘don’t wish things get better, but wish you are better’. That is one good advice I took to and it has really helped me a lot.

My first three months in business was calamity exemplified. When I started, a close brother took interest in what I was doing and decided to invest in the business hoping to get returns later. Through my ignorance or sheer optimism, I was promising him quick returns in a field I was a newbie to. I made lots of mistakes and did so many investment miscalculations until one day I woke up and realize that all the money was gone. It was a terrible blow for me and it was as if the ground should open and swallow me up. The time came for me to deliver on my promises, but I was not forthcoming. Within me, it was a very tough battle to the extent that at the sight of any vehicle similar to his, my heart used to skip a beat. One thing that never made me resign or give up, are the lessons I have learnt. I learnt that “winners don’t quit and quitters never win”. If I should quit what story would I have been able to tell you? What will I tell the future generation stopped me from achieving my dreams? A little trip? No not for me. I

became more resolute to achieve my dreams and to trudge on no matter what happens along the way.

Let me tell you something, it is okay to make mistake as long as you learn from it. Successful people make mistakes, analyses it, learn from it and move on. They experience defeats but they refused to be stopped by those temporary setbacks. Ann Landers said, “expect trouble as an inevitable part of life and when it comes, hold your head high, look it squarely in the eye and say, ‘I will be bigger than you. You can not defeat me.’ This epitomizes the life of the successful and the celebrated. If you want to get into this category of people, you must persist! Your ability to persist in the face of set backs and disappointments is the measure of your belief in yourself and your ability to succeed. Persistence is the iron quality of success. The most important asset you can have. The only quality that separate you from everyone else. Your failure in life can only be final if you let it be.

Let me tell you something, life has a way of testing everybody. You hear me right! Life has a way of testing **EVERYBODY!** Several situations, circumstances and obstacles will always be brought your way, as long as you are still alive. You cannot escape that but you can only succeed in life based on your determination to face all these challenges and overcome them. If you are faced with any challenge, and you decided to give up or even take the easier route, obscurity becomes your lot. Obscurity is always the portion of those who want to live life and face little or no challenge; people who always want the easy way out. They are always satisfied with doing the 9 to 5 thing, which is even becoming 7 to 7 in some parts of the world.

***“It’s not whether you get knocked down, it’s whether you get up again”***

**– Vince Lombardi**

Life is all about being knocked down but not out. As soon as you allow circumstances to knock you out, you become their slaves and they keep

knocking you about till you are sent into your grave. Have you ever heard of the phrase “the path less traveled”? That is the path that the successful people are comfortable in taking. Though the road is rough and tough, yet they are willingly to take it because they know what awaits them at the end of the road. Those who take the road most traveled are those who want to have things easier in life, those who believed life is meant to be lived without facing any form of obstacle, the lily-livered type. What do you think is awaiting these ones at the end of the road? Penury, obscurity and things related to them. These are the people that will end up blaming everything, apart from themselves, as the source of where they have ended up in life. Our perception of failure needs to really change. It is something that is just a temporary event but people who dwell on their failures always make it a permanent thing. All they do is just give that as a source of excuse for them not moving forward. We all must fail at one point in our stay on this planet but our decision must be to march on no matter what life throws at us. I want you to know that the greatest failure in life is to stop trying. It is better to fail attempting a great deed than to attempt nothing and succeed.

Another thing I see about challenges, is that they make us become a better person. The mistakes you made yesterday, you find it difficult to make today. The wisdom we gain from our challenges will always be useful to us and those who listen to us. Why do you think people will pay huge amount of money to listen to people like Jim Rohn, Brian Tracy, Anthony Robbins, [John Foppe](#), [Michael Angier](#), Phillip Humbert, Les Brown and several other speakers? It is because of the wisdom that is oozing out of them and where do you think they gained all these wisdom from? Do you think they learnt it in an institution of learning? Or do you think by just sitting down and doing nothing that is how the wisdom flew into them? No! They really went into the world and experienced all that life has to throw at them. They went through tough times in their lives and life dealt several blows on them, but to life’s surprise they took everything and were still able to ask it if that is all it has to offer! Life, I am sure couldn’t believe it, it has to give them everything they required from life.

The wisdom they have didn't come cheap! They fell several times and still dusted their pants and move on they did! Who won't listen when these men talk? Have you ever lost a million dollars? How will you react if you happen to be in the shoe of someone who has? Won't you listen when, someone who has passed through that experience and still made it back, talk? That is simply what tough times and challenges do to us! They make us better, wiser and more resolute to succeed more than any other thing. Why is it that there is always a light at the end of a dark tunnel? If you know this is always so, why then do you think of giving up when you are passing through tough times?

When Sir Winston Churchill visited his old school one day. While addressing the students after being introduced by the headmaster, all he could say is "Young gentlemen, never give up, never give up, never give up, never, never, never!" And he sat down. What better advice such a man considering all he had gone through in his entire life could give? I want you to know that it is always too soon to quit. I can't say what situation you are in now or what life is throwing at you, the problems or trial you are facing right now. All I know is that it is too soon to quit. Never give up. Just hang in there a little while and you never can tell what will happen afterwards. No man has ever exhausted the power that lies in the words, GO ON.

The following is an excerpt from [Michael Angier](#) about obstacles:

"When someone is being interviewed upon some outstanding accomplishment, they don't talk much the moments of victory. That point is fleeting and frankly, not very interesting what they talk about and what we want to hear is the heartache and the struggle – what they had to overcome in order to reach their goal. That's the real story. And it's also the mark of a champion – the ability to surmount the insurmountable, to dig down deep inside themselves and triumph over the difficulties. And we all have this magnificent ability.

In my studies of successful people, as well as those who gave up on themselves and their dreams, I found that their individual circumstances were not that much

different. In fact those who succeeded often faced more challenges than those who failed. The difference is never out there – it's always inside.”

How you view your challenges is a thing of the mind. If you see them as stepping-stones, you will react to them as such but if you see them as an insurmountable brick wall, they will remain as that. What does Henry Ford has to say concerning obstacles? He said “Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals.” You have the right to choose how you will react when faced with obstacles, challenges, setbacks, failures, tough times or whatever name you choose to call it.

In rounding up, I want to share another story with you. The story is excerpted from a lovely book, [Chicken Soup for the Soul](#) by Jack Canfield and Mark V. Hansen. Please read and learn from it.

***“Experience is not what happens to a man. It what a man does with what happens to him.” Aldus Huxley.***

What if at age 46 you were burned beyond recognition in a terrible motorcycle accident, and then four years later were paralyzed from the waist down in an airplane crash? Then, can you imagine yourself becoming a millionaire, a respected public speaker, a happy newly wed and a successful business person? Can you see yourself going white water rafting? Skydiving? Running for political office?

W. Mitchell has done all these things and more after two horrible accidents left his face a quilt of multicolored skin grafts, his hands fingerless and his legs thin and motionless in a wheelchair. The 16 surgeries Mitchell endured after the motorcycle accident burned more than 65percent of his body, left him unable to pick up a fork, dial a telephone or go to the bathroom without help. But Mitchell, a former Marine, never believed he was defeated.

'I am in charge of my own spaceship' he said 'it's my up, my down. I could choose to see this situation as a setback or a starting point.' Six months later he was piloting a plane again.

Mitchell bought himself a Victorian home in Colorado, some real estate, a plane and a bar. Later he teamed up with two friends and co-founded a wood burning stove company that grew to be Vermont's second largest private employer. Then four years after the motorcycle accident, the plane Mitchell was piloting crashed back onto the runway during takeoff, crushing Mitchell's 12 thoracic Vertebra and permanently paralyzing him from the waist down. 'I wondered what the hell was happening to me... what did I do to deserve this?'

Undaunted, Mitchell worked day and night to regain as much independence as possible. He was elected Mayor of Crested Butte, Colorado to save the town from mineral mining that would ruin its beauty and environment. Mitchell later ran for congress, turning his odd appearance into an asset with slogans such as "Not just another pretty face".

Despite his initially shocking looks and physical challenges, Mitchell began white water rafting, he fell in love and married, earned a master's degree in public administration and continued flying, environmental activism and public speaking. Mitchell's unshakable positive mental attitude has earned him appearances on the "Today Show" and "Good Morning America" as well as features articles in Parade, Time, The New York Times and other publications.

'Before I was paralyzed, there were 10,000 things I could do,' Mitchell says. 'Now there are 9,000. I can either dwell on the 1,000 I lost or focus on the 9,000 I have left. I tell people that I have had two big bumps in my life. If I have chosen not to use them as an excuse to quit, then maybe some of the experiences you are having which are pulling you back can be put into new perspective. You can step

back, take a wider view and have a chance to say, 'Maybe that isn't such a big deal after all.'

Remember; 'it is not what happens to you, it's what you do about it.'"

Whoa! What a GREAT story! Need I say more? Just know this, **Never Give Up!**

## LESSON 5

### **Faith is everything.**

*“Whatsoever the mind of man can conceive and believe he can achieve” –  
Napoleon Hill.*

Nobody can do anything worthwhile in this world without first believing in that thing. Have you ever seen a salesman sell a product he doesn't have faith in? Have you ever seen doctor prescribe a drug he lacks confidence in? A lawyer does not pursue a case he cannot be confident of winning. So also are we. Whatever we do, we must be able to have confidence in it. Most people live a miserable life because they do things they don't believe in and they do it on a consistent basis that it has become part of them. Why should I follow a cause that I don't believe in? I never really believed in living such kind of life. Therefore whatever you do must be something you strongly believe in. When I started out, I was 100 percent sure I wanted to do what I was doing and I had no problem settling down to work. So many people had divergent views but I stuck to my gun because of the faith I had in this major purpose. This is one kind of faith that we need to have: faith in a major purpose. There is something we have to live for on this earth and that is our major purpose.

Majority of the people living on this earth do not have something to live for because they never believed they could do something worthwhile. When you tell them there is always something they can do, their unbelief will always blindfold them to that fact. But there are some few people who have decided to believe in something they can do while here and they hold on tenaciously to their belief.

Why do you think a young man will live a school like Harvard University, to set up a business that is relatively new? It is faith, a strong one for that matter. Bill Gates, had a solid faith in the attainment of his major purpose when he started Microsoft. So many people would have derided him when he started but he held on to his belief until he finally broke through and became the object of envy for

all. It is this same faith that drove the Wright brothers into believing that an iron can fly. When Orville and Wilbur Wright conceived this idea, they were definitely mocked but did those mockery get to them? No it didn't. Instead it spurred them on and made their faith stronger. History is there to back them up.

What do you think motivated Thomas Edison to continue working after his numerous failed attempts at inventing the Electric bulbs? It is that faith that he can achieve that thing he set his mind at achieving. If you are going to achieve your dreams, this intangible force called faith must back them. Believing that you can do what you want to do and achieve what you have your mind on achieving is just half the work done. When you believe strongly, no matter what comes your way, you will gladly take it as a price you are willing to pay on your way to achieving your dreams. The mockery you face everyday will not amount to much to you, you will just develop a thick skin and keep moving.

I vividly remember when I shared my dreams with my family they couldn't just believe it. My mother couldn't help but let out some mocking laughter, which pained me a lot. But didn't allow that to stop me? I was just like, she didn't know the kind of Son she's got. Till today, none of my family could still understand why I am doing all I am doing. Some even see it as stupidity but instead of their opinions weakening me, it has been strengthening my resolve to continue.

Another faith we need to exercise if we are ever going to amount to anything in life, is faith in ourselves. If you don't believe in yourself, nobody will ever believe in you. 'Believe in yourself and one day people will have no choice than to believe in you'. It is an advice I learnt very early in life and it is something you also can hold on to. If you are starting on a journey, you have seen why you are embarking on that journey. This is something that no other person has seen except you share it with them. Why do you think others will believe in your dreams when they have not seen what you are seeing? You must first believe in your self before people can ever believe in you. Most of us won't want to do what

we are supposed to do because of the opinions of people. This is as a result of absence of self-belief. We tell people how to take us, if we present ourselves as somebody who is lost and doesn't seem to know what he wants from life, people will see us as that. Likewise if we show ourselves as confidence—oozing person, someone who knows what he wants in life, who is clear about his goals, do you think people will agree less with us? Nope. I haven't seen anybody who believes strongly in himself and his major purposes, being ignored forever. If he is always ignored, he will one day come to limelight where he can never be brushed aside.

Napoleon Hill called this a Positive Mental Attitude and I believe he is in the best position to say that. At a very young age, Mr. Hill was saddled with the task of devoting twenty years of his life to interviewing successful people. He took up the job because somebody believed in him and most importantly, he believed in himself. If it were to be now, so many young men would have developed cold feet at the thought of interviewing Bill Gates, Rupert Murdoch, Ted Turner and their likes. When he took up the task, did you ever think people will cheer him on? For most part of the years Mr. Hill was doing this, he was the object of ridicule. People are always like, 'you are doing what? 'That's crazy you know". But let me ask you, who is being celebrated now, Napoleon Hill or his critics? When you have a strong faith in yourself, you won't mind what person says. I have always believed people will always talk.

The opinion of people should never be allowed to hold you back in pursuing your dreams and aspirations. Let your driving force be your faith to achieve anything you have conceived. If people had reacted negatively to people before you, what makes you think they will embrace you and your dreams? Unless you have a positive attitude towards your aspirations you may find out later in life that you have regrettably become part of the people you are trying to live your life to please. Several people have become part of the rut all just because they couldn't stand up for what they believed in when it mattered most. They allowed their confidence to fizzle out just because of other people's opinion about their

dreams. Imagine, these are people who are going nowhere and want to increase their numbers. Do you wish to be part of this crowd. I don't think you ever want to.

Always believe in yourself and the attainment of your major purpose in life. The Holy Bible even supports this by saying, "All things are possible to him who believes." The only thing that can cause all your dreams and vision not to come to pass is your unbelief. Why do you want to pick up a dream you don't believe in? Why don't you want to believe in yourself? The Almighty has created you with all that you need to succeed. If only you can just believe and start doing what you are supposed to do. If only you can ignore the derision of people and focus squarely on your goals. If only you can have a strong faith in accomplishing your heart desires, then will success come knocking at your door.

It may be long in coming but if only you can hold on, tightly, to that faith. Let that faith sustain you because it has sustained so many souls in time past and has never disappointed them. If it had not disappointed so many people in time past, why do you think it will disappoint you? Please hold on tight to what you believe and **NEVER** allow the opinions of people to sway you from the right track. Remember, '***He who wants to please everybody, ends up pleasing nobody!***'

## LESSON 6

# **Experts make mistakes too!**

I just finished reading a chapter from Robert G. Allen's book '*Multiple Streams of Income*' and there could be no better opening to this chapter than this. Before I continue, I want to mention that in the last chapter, we talked about how to shield ourselves from falling prey to the opinions of people who can't seem to understand what we are doing by carrying out our dreams. These may be ordinary people around us, but how do we handle those we see as experts in different fields of endeavor who believe some things can never be done by some certain set of people? People they see as not capable or under capable of doing some things perfectly either because of their past experiences or by the virtues of complexity of the task at hand.

In chapter eleven of *Multiple Streams of income*, Bob Allen, an expert in creating wealth, was presented with an opportunity of being involved in a Network Marketing business but due to his past experience declined. He didn't stop at that; he also went as far as discouraging a divorcee, Collette Van Reusen, who happened to be Bob's Assistant and his wife's friend. Thank heavens for Collette's wisdom, she went ahead despite the "expert" opinion of Mr. Allen and she got to a point where she started making \$2,000 per week, which later impressed our dear Bob. Collette later resigned from Bob Allen's company and went on to build fortune for herself and she later co-opted the "expert" and his family into the business. Here is what Mr. Allen said later of the same business he has derided: "we have been involved in a lot of businesses over the years, and network marketing has been one of the most rewarding things we've ever done. We have no overhead, no debt. We maintain this powerful stream of income with zero employees. When people ask me today if I'm involved in network marketing, I reply with a resounding absolutely!"

That is someone who had a bad comment to pass earlier about the same business he is now turning around to praise. His words continue thus: "... my experience is fantastic ... looking back, I wonder how I could have overlooked such a powerful money making idea for so many years. And I'm saddened because those same misconceptions are holding back so many other smart, reasonable, intelligent people."

If an expert in creating wealth can make such a blatant blunder, who couldn't? Most of us when we want to set out on a task, which we have conceived with great optimism, we first want to seek out an expert opinion. One thing we never realise is that the expert may not have been exposed to the knowledge we have concerning that thing we want to do. The expert gives you his honest opinion and as he is, he will list a thousand and one reasons why you shouldn't get involved in such. Being an expert, you will honestly agree with his honest opinions and decide to abandon that major task. How many times has that occurred to you? How many people do you know that it has happened to? This keeps happening and it won't stop till we can all believe that experts too are humans and are liable to make mistakes. The fact that they are older or more knowledgeable than us doesn't mean they know everything. I know of Professors who have been in the academic field ever before I was born, that will dissuade me from ever trying to run my own kind of business just because they couldn't understand what it is. If because I see them as older and that they should know better and decide to heed their advice, will I ever forgive myself? Let this stick: ***Experts are also humans; they are not all knowing they are bound to make mistakes!***

I remember my high school days, in our geography class, we were taught that the people of the old world used to believe that the earth is rectangular and that people who travel far are liable to fall off the earth. This fact has been held on to for thousands of year and do you think there were no wise men then? Plenty of them. Thank God for Ferdinand Magellan who decided to challenge that widely held belief. He was told of the doom that is about to befall him if he venture on

such a risky journey, but he still set sail and about a year after, he came back to his starting port and that became one of the earliest proof of the spherical nature of the earth. What goes up must surely come down; due to gravitational pull is what I was taught in my physics class back then. I am sure when those spaceship engineers were building those ships; the experts would have pointed out the futility of such exercise. Those guys also became smart and they went on to discover that there is something called escape velocity. That is how it is possible for man to land on the moon and carry out several space explorations.

If you live your life based on people's opinions, you may not really get far. It is not you that you won't get advice from people, but please if you want to achieve your dreams, always go to people who have embarked on such a journey. Imagine, if you have Abraham Lincoln, Churchill, Gates and the likes to advice you, will they ever tell you that something is impossible? They've being there before and they know what it is to have a dream and pursue it. So that kind of people cannot pull you back from achieving your dreams. Always be wary of people you go to for advice. Also when you approach some people to assist you in achieving your dreams, always watch out if all they have to tell you are the negatives. Know whether the reason they give you such an advice is because they've never being there or they seem to have an idea about what you are doing. The honest advice I can give you is to follow your heart even if it is wrong. Even if you make mistake at the end of the day, you would have learnt an important lesson that will help you make better judgment later.

The truth is that those we celebrate today have, at one point in their lives, been given a thumb down by an "expert" when they started out. Do you know Cher? When she started out as a model, she was disqualified in so many ramifications but where is that "experts" opinion today? Cher became one of the top models and made a lot of fortune from it. The great Beethoven was said to have "handled the violin awkwardly and preferred playing his own composition instead of improving his techniques." He was even called hopeless as a composer by his

teacher. Whose name immortal is today? Beethoven or the “expert”? Why did you think Thomas Edison had just about six months of education in his entire life? His teacher said he was too stupid to learn anything! Everybody agreed but not Tommy’s Mother. She had to withdraw little Tommy from school and tell her what she felt about him. And he later became one of the greatest inventor that ever stepped on planet earth. Read the following excerpt below.

“When Peter J. Daniel was in the Fourth grade, his teacher, Mrs. Phillips, constantly said, “Peter J. Daniel, you’re no good, you a bad apple and you are never going to amount to anything. Peter was totally an illiterate until he was 26. A friend stayed up with him all night and read him a copy of [Think and Grow Rich](#). Now he owns the street corners he used to fight on and just published his latest book: Mrs. Phillips, you were wrong!”

Do you know that Albert Einstein did not speak until he was four years old and didn’t read until he was seven? His teacher even described him as “mentally slow, unsociable and adrift forever in his foolish dreams.” He was expelled and was refused admittance to the Zurich Polytechnic School.

Can you now see that if you happened to have been rejected by an “expert”, you really have a long list of companions. If people tell you something cannot be done or that you cannot become something, all you just need tell them is a BIG thank you and just remove that thought from your mind and focus on what you have to do. People’s opinion about you, should not shape your life. Just believe in yourself and your dreams, then just move on and wait for the day your will enter into the history book, and then you can do what Peter J. Daniel did.

## LESSON 7

### **Learning is Important**

*Study to show yourself approved a workman that need not to be shame, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2Timothy 2:15*

Jim Rohn said something I love so much. He said, “Pity a man who has a favorite restaurant but has no favorite bookstore. He has chosen to feed his body but not his mind”.

The above statement clearly shows the significance of reading and every other forms of learning. “Leaders are readers” is a popular adage we all know but not many of us imbibe the lesson behind the adage. To become successful in life, the place of learning can never be ruled out. Even if you have the brightest of goals, you still need to learn how to achieve those goals you have set for yourself.

It is very difficult for someone who is not learned to get to a top position in life. This kind of learning is not only restricted to the four walls of a school, if it were so, the likes of Ford, Honda, Edison and the rest wouldn't have been songs on our lips today. This type of learning is what people call, personal development.

Learning is an everyday thing and I have learnt that no one is exempted from learning till death come calling. No one is really has a monopoly of knowledge. Anyone can accrue it. Peter Morgan Kash has this to say in his book, Make Your Own Luck, “... Attend classes, workshops and professional symposia talk to other professionals in your field, read, pursue and apply your knowledge. Every year, I attend at least four major conferences to gain new knowledge from other experts in my field ... I am constantly learning from my students. It takes time and effort, yes but this is what a successful career requires, learning and self – development.”

To remind you, Peter Morgan Kash, is one of the top businessmen and venture capitalist of this age. You can read what he has to say about learning how he is still actively involved in learning. That is not only peculiar to him; it is something that is common to every successful people all over the world. To stay at the top, you need to learn continuously because we are in an age where knowledge expires on a regular basis. What you know yesterday will be expired by today and unless you add new knowledge to what you know, you may not be relevant again. Do you think what was relevant 10 years ago is still relevant today? It is important for us to be on a life-long quest for knowledge. What we know and what we know how to do are critical to our success in life. It is essential we read books to stay in tune with our world and to learn wisdom from the wise men of our time and time past.

The best time to learn all we want to learn is now. There are so many knowledgeable and experienced people who are kind enough to have their distilled their knowledge into books. Some organizes seminars and workshops to pass across the knowledge they have garnered over the years. What you can do is to avail yourself the opportunity of gaining from the wisdom of this people. There is no successful person today, that won't mention a book as the source of his or her success. [Think And Grow Rich](#) is a book that so many people have ascribed to the turning moment of their lives. There are so many books like that too that has contributed to the success of so many in this world. I remember vividly the first book I read, it changed my mentality about life generally and I can proudly tell you that the book got this point of writing my own.

I learnt some years back that there are two ways of gaining experience; acquiring it yourself or by learning from the experiences of other people. The first option takes years and maybe by the time I finally gained all the experiences I need, I would have grown old and all I could just do is to pass it on to those coming behind. It took Napoleon Hill twenty five years to learn all he put down into the

book, [Think And Grow Rich](#). Who want to spend twenty-five years to learn some wisdom when all it requires is just to get to local store and pick up the book? Learning on your own is even expensive. Apart from the years it will take, the amount it will cost is something that you may not even be able to afford. You will spend a lot, you will lose a huge amount of money and you will also suffer a lot. Now, thanks to the books I read, I am experienced in several areas of life. I need not experience them on my own but just pick it up from somebody who has gone through it. I don't need to go to any school to learn how to set goals for myself. If I am not clear about goal setting, all I need do is to pick up a book by Brian Tracy, Jim Rohn or Dr. Phillip Humbert. If I want to learn anything about relationship John Gray is there for me to pick his brain. Robert Kiyosaki, Larry Bucket and Warren Buffet are always around to teach me about finances and investments. I am passing through tough times, my Bible is always there to comfort me and even I have Dr. Robert Schuller to stay by my side giving me courage to move on. There are also business, management, health and so many other giants to learn from.

Two things will definitely change our lives; the books we read and the people we meet. What if I can meet the people, can't I read their books? I won't be able to afford it if I want the likes of Jim Rohn, Jack Canfield, Peter Drucker, Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, Robert Allen, Jeff Bezos, Brain Tracy and Les Brown to sit at the table with me and lecture me in their various disciplines. But won't I be able afford their books? Even if I can't buy hundred books at a go, I can buy one at a time and learn from each of them as I read what they have to tell me in those books. I haven't met with all these people physically, but I have sat with them several times and they are members of my team. When I need advice on any area of my life, I know whom to consult. Even as I am writing this chapter I have about seven books surrounding me. The truth is that most times I see myself as not knowing anything because everything I seem to know now, I learn it from somewhere! I pick up a word or knowledge from somebody and I apply it to my life and I see that it works. That is how I have been living my life and that is even

why this book is so titled. I wasn't learning by just all by myself. I learn from others.

Another truth that I have learnt is that the advice to develop yourself by exploiting all the avenues of learning is just for your own benefit. You have so much to gain by devoting yourself to life long learning than any other person. When Apostle Paul told Timothy to give himself to study, he didn't say so that he, Paul, may be honored, he said so that Timothy can show himself approved and a man that needs not be ashamed. Have you ever being in a gathering where they are discussing an issue that you are not familiar with? How do you feel when you are asked to contribute to the subject matter? You won't definitely be proud of your contribution after you have all dispersed, will you? But what if you are conversant with the subject matter? You will definitely argue out your point with the last drop of your blood. You can see why learning benefits you so much. Even if you don't have to show it off, you will still be respected when you open your mouth to speak wherever you find yourself. Why do you think thousands of people go to lecture halls to listen to the likes of Jim Rohn? It is because they have something to offer.

The challenge I used to give myself is that I will learn all I need to learn so that when opportunity comes for me to speak in the public, I won't be found wanting. That is a challenge you can live your life by. If you give yourself this challenge, you will see that you won't want any knowledge to pass you by. With all modesty, I will want to let you know that I have known so much by just reading. In my locality, I am seen as an Internet expert and the truth of the matter is that I got to know about the Internet just in 2001. When I saw what the Internet could do, I told myself I have to know this thing.

The first thing I did was to gather materials from people I know that have some information concerning the Internet at their disposal. I later discovered the Internet itself has materials I needed. That is how I started little by little. I first

learnt how to use HTML then later graduated to learning FrontPage followed by Macromedia products. I never went to any College to learn these skills, because I have been made to understand that I can do whatever I choose to do.

Most times, we all complain about the cost of buying a book or other learning materials such as cassettes, DVDs or VHRs but I want to tell you that the best investment you can make is an investment in yourself. It may look painful and inconvenient when you are doing it, but when the returns start coming in, you will realize it really pays to invest in oneself. A policy I never break is buying a book out of every money I make. This looks very stupid to so many people, but who cares what others feel? I know why I am doing it and when I start reaping the dividend of the investment, I won't be surprised. Somebody said he will first give himself to learning all he can learn so that when his day of opportunity comes, he will not be found wanting. Can you say the same about yourself?

## LESSON 8

### **Action Makes All The Difference!**

*“Nothing happens to him who will not act”*

By reading this far, I believe you have come to believe that it really pays to have a dream. I am sure you also believe that your dreams can come true. But I want to let you know that it is NEVER sufficient to have a dream or a realistic goal without backing it up with action. Your goals become a mere wish if you are not willing to back your desire with action. No matter how little your action may be, it is still better than inaction. It may take a moving snail or tortoise longer time to get to their destination, but the fact is that one day they will eventually get there.

Most of us always think that our work stops merely at having a long list of things to achieve in life. That is just fallacy, you can't sit on your butts and have things fall on your laps. It has never being recorded in history that greatness or success in life falls on people's laps from above. If this does occur, then we all would have been successful and definitely we will all be lazy, successful people! Does that sound exciting to the ear? What makes the difference between the rich and poor, the successful and the failures, the haves and the have-nots is that a group decides to act on their dreams but others never bother leaving their comfort zone. It is very easy to get ideas in our world of today but where are the people to back them with action? Little wonder Brain Tracy said “ideas are a dime a dozen, but people to put them into effects are extremely rarely.

The best commitment you can make today is to start acting on your goals. Having goals to achieve is definitely not enough! The earlier you understand this, the better for you. I could have written this book if I acted earlier. I had the idea of writing a book about two years ago, though not with same title, but I kept postponing it. When I decided to act, I got all the stuffs I needed ready and within two weeks of committed effort I was able to finish what I couldn't do for two

years! When I made the commitment to start, I discovered that action and inaction are both similar to each other; they are both enjoying. When you fail to do what you are supposed to do, you also enjoy it. So, what kind of enjoyment do you want to have? One philosophy I learnt from Jim Rohn is sowing in the spring and reaping in the summer. It is always difficult at springtime to sow but you just need to do it if you want to reap in the summer. Mr. Rohn put it clearly that “you must be good at one of two things, sowing in the spring or regretting in the summer” which do you want to happen to you?

It is not what you say, wish, hope or intend, it is only what you do that counts. Who cares about the things you say? Nobody! People only value you at the things you do. When you move towards your goal not minding your pace of movement, you will eventually arrive at a successful destination. There has been no man that moves towards his heart desire that never get there. You must always ask yourself what you must do each day to move you towards your goals and when you figure that out, follow Nike’s advice; Just do it! Dreams not only come true when you believe in it, you also need **ACTION** to back it up.

There is a wrong notion that majority of people have about those who are successful; they see all successful people as lucky! Luck is the word they use freely as an excuse when they compare their lives to a successful individual. But I want you to know that everybody can get lucky if only they choose to work harder. Let me state it clearly, the harder you work, the luckier you get. That means you can also create your luck when you do the things you are supposed to do. Act boldly and unseen forces will come to your aid. What greater luck can be more than that? I have learnt that the more action you put in towards your goals, the luckier you get. I have been told how lucky I am to get into some places by people who haven’t bothered to set sail on their dreams. Am I not lucky? Very lucky indeed!

After one of his lectures during a speaking engagement, a writer told a story of an elderly gentleman that came up to him with a neatly folded, yellowing piece of paper extracted from his coat pocket. "See here," said the man, unfolding the paper, "I've had most of these principles you talked about written down on this paper for many, many years." "The only difference between you and me," said this writer "is that I did something about them and published them in the form of books and study courses."

This explains the lives of so many people. That is why it is been said that the richest place on earth is the graveyard. So many have an idea they could have carried out while living but never bothered doing anything about it till they answer their final call. How many potentials do you think died with many? There is nothing that beats action. I have learnt that without action, you cannot get whatever you wish for. You can't even marry the lady of your dream if you don't have the courage to act by asking. Those who don't act when they are supposed to get the crumbs. They only get the piece when those who have acted have had their fill. How many times have you heard people say "but I thought of that before?"

To discover new lands, you must lose sight of the shore. If you don't get down to work on your dreams, you may never discover how far you can get. It is while working on your dreams that you can get noticed by people who may be of help to you. It is possible that you don't get to meet them immediately you started but one day, luck will come your way and connect you. But it will be a gross mistake for you to believe that while lying on your bed or sitting in front of your T.V set that is when luck will shine on you. I have never seen anyone yet that was sleeping and they present him with a check of \$1 million without doing anything to deserve it. I am yet to see such an event occur and I doubt if it will ever occur.

One common trait among successful people is that they act on their dreams. They don't only have dreams, they don't stop at having beautiful plans to achieve

those lofty dreams of theirs, and they also put their hand to work! They say the only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary and I am sure you have seen or heard that many times. If success precedes handwork then it will not be necessary to assume responsibility again. I have studied so many successful people and I will tell you that I am even scared at the rate they are willing to put in effort in order to achieve their goals.

What greater commitment to achieving ones dream than for one to abandon everything including academics in order to achieve their goals. Several successful people took that step. Some have to abandon what they were doing initially in order to pursue their heart desire. Even after achieving what they set out to achieve, successful people still keep acting till they drop dead. There is a very important lesson to learn there: Acting on your dreams is not all about your achievements, but the kind of person you will become. Successful people have been so transformed that they cannot do without work. I have seen people who say that after they have made some money, they will stop working and all they will be doing is just to enjoy their money. I wonder if those people ever get successful.

If people like Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, Henry Ford, Mary Kay, Anita Roddick and all other successful people think in such a manner, probably their empire would have collapsed and they might have died of heart failure. Contentment is a step away from failure, no wonder Thomas Edison said “show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure.” No matter what happens to you, never stop working at your goals. If you make a million dollars today why get satisfied? Who told you, you wouldn't be able to make ten or even a billion if you continue? What do you think happen to lottery winners who become poor again after they have won a fortune? They never worked for the money and they never see the need to continue working because they believe the money is enough to last them eternity. And what happens after a year or two? Your guess is as good as mine.

I have seen a lot of people even boast in what they know. They seem to be knowledgeable in all the wisdom of the world, but something is definitely wrong with them. Their success is not in comparison with their knowledge. Come to think of it, we have always been told that knowledge is power. I have also belonged to that school of thought that with what I know something good will happen to me one day. I am always day-dreaming of that glorious day that golden fortune will come my way putting into consideration all that I know. But later I came to realize one truth and the earlier you imbibe this into your life the better. What then is the truth: Knowledge is not power, but only knowledge that is applied in some ways that empowers. It is not what you know that counts; it is what you do with what you know that matters. Knowing does not guarantee success, it is only the doing that does. Even the bible said those who do not work, must not **EAT**.

It is time to wake up. If you have not started acting on your dreams, it is now time for you to back your desires with committed effort. You will be surprised where you will find yourself in years to come. The only regret you can have in 5, 10 or 20 years from this day will not be regret for the things you did but for those things you didn't do. What if later you realize that you could have been more than you were if only you had done the right things, if only you had acted on your dreams, how will you feel? Which pain will you like to endure, the pains of hard work or the pain of regret? The choice is yours.

## LESSON 9

### **It is all about God!**

*“So then it is not of him that wills nor of him that runs but of God that shows mercy” – Rom 9:16.*

At a point in our lives, we feel that having being inspired by messages of motivational or inspirational speakers, we can achieve whatever we want to achieve and become whatever we want to become, without external support. We get so high that we think there is no mountain too high for us to surmount. I was in this position some years back until I encountered the above passage. When we talk about goals, I have plenty of them but I couldn't say I was achieving any then. I thought everything could be done by my strength alone until I saw Zech 4:6c, *“not by might, nor by power but by my spirit, says the Lord off hosts”*. I became very sober after seeing all the above verses and I had to ask God to forgive and help me. I have being rejecting Him from taking His part in the actualization of my dreams. I have been doing it alone. We all make that mistake but it doesn't have be forever.

So many will question my intention to include this chapter but I want to tell you that if I don't, I will be doing the greatest disservice to you. You will be led astray and you may end up frustrated. I wouldn't want you to read this book and still end up frustrated in life. No. It is my desire to touch lives on this planet and lead them to the right path, which is the reason for my existence. You may want to ask the role God plays in ones success in life and I will like to tell you he has a lot to do with your success on this earth. Before I go on, I want to tell you that being successful is not all about having plenty money, it is not all about riding expensive cars and it is not all about having all the expensive things that money can buy. Success is all about living out your purpose on earth and in tune with your creator.

Getting back to what God has to do with your success in life, you must know that the life you claimed to be yours is not actually yours! That is one fact that must stick in your memory. Somebody gave you the breath that you carry about and if he decides to take it from you, then you are worthless. Of what value are riches to a dead man? If you don't believe this read **Luke 12:16 – 20**. Another fact is that without Him, we all can do nothing, **John 15:4–5**. Except we put our trust in Him, we all can amount to nothing. It is at the point that we ask Him to help us with our lives that He steps in and make everything we do become so easy. If you don't like the result you are getting now, all you just need do is to ask Him for help.

When I got this revelation and decided to put it into practice, I discovered a new lease of life. Things started getting easier for me. I had a free flow of ideas into my life and I was 100% sure that success was inevitable. At a point when it seems, externally, nothing was happening in my life, I still had this inner peace within me that something was definitely HAPPENING. I feel so excited sharing this with you and I believe you too will get into the realm I am in now. Let me tell you this, I desired writing a book about three years ago but just wasn't able to. But when I asked him to help I couldn't believe it all. The book in your hand didn't take me a month to write. At times I will just pick up my pen and start writing something on my paper, ideas will instantly begin to flow.

I cannot help but tell you that God is **REAL** and you need Him to help you succeed in life. I know so many people doubt the existence of God, but I want to tell you that others may, but don't be part of them. If you are in tune with Him, He will guide you and take you on a successful journey through life. Even when challenging times come, He will see you through. He is a **VERY** caring father and I have **NEVER** seen any like him. If you doubt his existence, have you ever asked yourself these questions?

- How come some people sleep and never woke up but you sleep and still wake up?

- How come some people are at a place where bad things occur and you were not there even when you were supposed to be there?
- How come you have a fully functional body and others don't?

There are so many things to proof this existence and I am sure you know too. You need not doubt Him but trust HIM. In him is all you need. Whatever you want in life, you can get it through Him. It is possible to derive joy from other sources, but they are just temporary. Only in God does permanent joy resides. Please be in tune with Him.

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all those who labour and I will give you rest." It is only in him that you can get the rest that you deserve. His joy is **NEVER** like that of the world. I have tasted it and I know it is good. This is a call for you to have rest in Him that truly cares. If you have not known Him, it is **NEVER** too late. He said in Isaiah 1: 18, "Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" so what is your excuse? God is so caring that he never looks at your past to determine your future. If he does, we won't all qualify to benefit from His grace. He is rich in mercy and overflowing with grace.

You need His grace to flourish. Ask for His mercy right where you are and ask Him to forgive you of your past. Talk to Him because he is beside you right now. Tell him to help you live your life, and recognize your helplessness. Just thank him for he has answered you. Believe that you are now a new person.

You are welcome to the fold of people who live by faith in him and who are beneficiaries of His grace. As I said earlier, you can only experience true success by His grace alone. You don't have to struggle for anything again. In all your ways just recognize your inability to help yourself and he will step in. Just as He has been doing for people like us, He will move mightily in your life. This is the best lesson I have learnt in life and I am happy to share it with you.

***Congratulations.***

### In Summary

Now that you have finished reading, what are you going to do with all you have read? Please I want to implore you to begin to put all that has been mentioned in this book into action. Remember:

### **“Nothing Happens To Him That Will Not Act!”**

If you don't act out these lessons, they wouldn't make much difference in your life. I can tell you that because I have passed through that way before. Procrastination is **VERY DEADLY** you don't have to allow it deny you of your success this year.

I am willing to be your help in this journey through life. I will always be available to answer your questions anytime there is any. Just mail me at: [bola@the-lessons-of-life.com](mailto:bola@the-lessons-of-life.com).

You can also chat with me on Yahoo Messenger my id is: “htmlselfmanual” (without the quotes please).

Chilling here waiting for a response from you.

Love You.

Adebola A. Oni

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Below are the books and resources that have helped me in my journey through life. If you have not laid your hands on the recommended books, you will help yourself a lot by picking them up.

➤ [Unleashing The Tremendous Potentials Within You By Bill Wayman:](#)

This book changed my life and it can change yours too. I am where I am today just by reading this book. It opened my life to so many realities in life. The most important being letting me know the huge power I have deposited in me. You definitely don't have any excuse for not grabbing this book.

➤ [Seven Strategies To Wealth An Happiness By Jim Rohn:](#)

Jim Rohn is another person that has affected my life greatly. You will do yourself a lot of good if you pick up the above book. I learnt so many strategies in living a sophisticated life from the book.

➤ [Chicken Soup For The Human Souls By Jack Canfield and Mark V. Hansen:](#)

101 motivational stories that will simply blow your mind! They blew mine and they will do same to you. If you probably don't like reading long statements, this will be for you. They are short but moving stories. I have never stopped sharing my copy with friends I have around me and they have always been blessing me.