



GLEANINGS

Makinde Marvellous
Mercy

**Decisions, Mistakes
and Experiences.**

Gleanings

Makinde Marvellous Mercy



GLEANINGS

Makinde Marvellous

Mercy



**Lessons from over 20
years of my life**

© Copyright 2019 | Makinde M. Mercy

All rights reserved This publication may not be copied or re-printed for commercial gain or profit. The use of short quotations or occasional page for personal or group study is permitted and encouraged. No portion of this publication may be used commercially without the written permission of the publisher with the exception of brief excerpts in reviews, speeches, magazines and other articles.

Published online in Nigeria by Ikecrown Media
Ikecrown Media makindemarvellousmercy@gmail.com
08174321297

To everyone out there who strives everyday to
become a better version of themselves and
make a difference with their life.

Contents

Part 1

Chapter 1	Talent is not enough
Chapter 2	Time
Chapter 3	Intelligence
Chapter 4	On Success
Chapter 5	Fear of failure
Chapter 6	You are not an accident
Chapter 7	Leadership potential
Chapter 8	The Truth about Procrastination
Chapter 9	What is your drive?

Part 2

Chapter 10	He comforts
Chapter 11	When it gets stormy
Chapter 12	Your words
Chapter 13	On Purpose
Chapter 14	Beyond feelings and emotions
Chapter 15	Prayer that brings results

Bibliography

Chapter One

Talent Is Not Enough

While growing up, I had the habit of staying on my own, do things on my own and talk to myself. People can easily predict my movement; Church, School and Home, I found it difficult to associate with people. As a child, I loved to write, so many times you see me with my pen and book putting down a whole lot of things, whether it made sense or not. You would hardly see me with people, so every of my thoughts, pains, sorrow and happiness were always written in my book, I found it difficult to talk to my parents as well. Oh yea! It was that bad but I'm better now.

At a point, I neglected writing because it wasn't easy for me, I found it difficult to continue even though I loved to write, I could not discipline myself and stay committed to writing, I thought I couldn't get better or do better. Sometimes I wouldn't even feel like writing, so I would sleep instead of writing and with that, I lost my writing prowess. I thought since writing was a natural ability for me, I could pick up from where I left if I wanted to but when I to resumed writing, it became a whole different thing. I started as though I was starting from kindergarten. It wasn't easy but it was obviously worth it.

Here is the focus,

It doesn't matter how talented, gifted or skilled you are, if you lack the ability to do what you have to do, when you have to do it, whether you feel like it or not, then you'd never be successful.

"You get nowhere without hard work. Dedication and hard work is most important for man. Life is a jigsaw puzzle and each day there is a new piece to put in there. To have success you must have rules and discipline. If you have no commitment or dedication, no matter how much talent you have, you won't be able to win."

Discipline is the bridge between where you are and where you want to be.

Working hard is the ultimate key to a grand success.

But how can one become more disciplined and tenacious to be able to do what you have to do whether you feel like it or not, or whether you get an ovation for it or not and make quantum leaps towards your goals and dreams? This is the primary objective of this chapter.

Maybe you're tired of starting projects and never getting to finish them because you lose your motivation or maybe you struggle to be consistent doing anything. I'd like to introduce you to what Emmanuel Ahmadu in his book "Deliver me from procrastination" said about the 3 D's of lasting change.

1. Decision

Just because you're tired of something doesn't mean it would change by default. Decisions are the seeds for change, not time or intentions. Time only reveals things, it does not create change. If you're really committed to creating lasting change in your life, to become more self-disciplined and do what you need to do, then you must make a clear decision.

It could be as simple as writing a simple statement like this in your journal...
I MAKE AN INTENTIONAL DECISION, TODAY THE 27TH OF DECEMBER, TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BECOME MORE DISCIPLINED AND COMMITTED.

If you've done that then we can now move to the second D...

2. Determination

The Cambridge English Dictionary defines Determination as the ability to continue trying to do something, although it is very difficult. Determination is a tenacious attitude/state of mind sponsored by a firm decision to do whatever it takes to make progress.

Until you are determined in your heart to do whatever it takes to ruthlessly deal with yourself, you will most likely not succeed.

As Eric Thomas, the popular black American motivational speaker would say, "Until you want success as much as you want to breathe, you will never

succeed."

This is the kind of attitude you must have if you must become more disciplined.

3. Discipline

The last D of lasting change is Discipline, and this is what I'd be helping you have more of throughout your journey reading this book.

Chapter Two

Time

The quality of your life is largely determined by the quality of your time management. But time management is really personal management, life management. It is management of yourself. If you don't control your time properly, it is difficult for you to control anything else.

Fortunately, the richest, most successful person in the world has the same twenty-four hours per day that you have. The difference between successful people and unsuccessful people is that successful people, sometimes with less potential and fewer opportunities, often accomplish vastly more than others because they use their time in a better and more effective way.

Your highest paid, most important skill is your ability to *think*, both before you act and while you are acting. It is your ability to choose what is more important and what is less important. Psychologists tell us that your level of *self-esteem*, how much you like and respect yourself is the key measure of how happy you are in any area of your life. The key to high self-esteem is a feeling of *self-efficacy*, the confidence that you can master your life, achieve your goals, perform your tasks, and get the results that are expected of you and that you expect from yourself.

Your most valuable financial asset is your *earning ability*. This is your ability to get results that people will pay you for. This again is largely determined by how you use your time when you are working and before and after your work.

Thomas Edison once wrote, “Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is why most people would rather die than think.” The way you think about time and the various possible ways you can use your time largely determine your effectiveness and the quality of every part of your life.

Chapter Three Intelligence

Sometimes in 2018, I went for a conference at Mauve 21. It was a conference organized by Jimi Tewe alongside Tara-Fela Durotoye, Steve Harris and some other important personalities. I have always asked myself a question on why many people who were intelligent and brilliant while in school get to the outside world only to become what you never thought they would be and those you never even expected becomes what you could never have imagined. Well, my question was answered that day and I'm grateful I attended the conference. I know you must have thought about that too but here is what happens:

Intelligence according to the dictionary is the ability to learn, understand and make judgements or have opinions that are based on reason; capacity of the mind especially to understand principles, truths, facts, acquire knowledge and comprehend.

Going back to why most people who are termed to be intelligent and brilliant while in school does not always end up as expected and those that has been looked down upon becomes what we can never imagine, this is based on the quality of decision both party made, in other words our decisions becomes our outcome.

Being intelligent have nothing to do with your grades while in school, some people have good grades but yet do not know anything, don't misunderstand me, its good to have good grades (I love it too) but then good grades is not what makes you intelligent. Intelligence is proven by result and outcome of the decisions you made, where it landed you (better or worse).

I therefore define intelligence as the ability to make quality decisions that move your life forward with no negative impact in the short and long time. Let me say this that age does not respect intelligence and the quality of our life experience is highly hinged on the quality of intelligence we operate with.

Where you are today is the quality of the decisions you made in the past and the decisions you make now will determine where you would be. So while making decisions, ensure you make decisions that will not bring negative results in the long run, this is what makes you intelligent not the grades on your A4 paper certificate, intelligence goes beyond your grades.

Your decisions are dependent on your level of intelligence and your life is dependent on the quality of your decisions. (Read that again).

I have come to understand as well that there are different dimensions of intelligence. Before you can be termed intelligent, you must possess this dimensions

'Dimensions of intelligence are:

1. Physical intelligence
2. Mental intelligence
3. Emotional intelligence
4. Spiritual intelligence

1. Physical intelligence: before you can even be called intelligent at all, you must have the knowledge of who you are, who God is and what is happening in your environment. In this case I will be talking on the environment.

You can't be so spiritual to an extent you won't know what is going on in your area talk more of your country. Even great men of God that are more spiritual than you are have the knowledge of their environment. You must know what is going on around you because this is where opportunity is, you can't attract what you are not aware of neither can you rule in a space you don't understand. You can have a great business idea but if you don't know your space, its as useless as not having idea at all.

Make researches, read news, don't just sit down and be shouting that you want to makes changes in politics without even knowing what democracy is. Go for knowledge, learn, read, search, this is the first thing you should get to know, know what is going on around you. I learnt that the hard way.

2. Mental intelligence: this is the second stage of intelligence. It is not enough to know, don't just know and sit down to claim an intelligent being, it is not enough for you to know, you must be able to use your brain and exercise it so that it will not slack.

Think, think, think and think.

Think of how the knowledge you have about a particular thing can bring about changes, don't just let your brain be there in the brainbox without doing anything. Exercise your mind, we have the conscious and subconscious mind, but your conscious mind is the domain of greatness. Process what you know into understanding, don't be a shallow thinker, think wide, think deep and think big, do not ever think something is impossible, if you have a business idea, think of how you can implement it, get knowledge about it, understand it and work it out, everything is possible because you are possible in the first place. You have to learn first, educate yourself because ignorance will cost you more, when you are ignorant you pay everybody and nobody will pay you. Acquire knowledge and use your brain. The level of information you have influences your thinking. It is possible to achieve greatness.

3. Emotional intelligence: let me start by saying, you don't just know what is happening around you alone, you must move from thinking to doing. When you think, you do it alone but when you move from thinking to doing, people will be involved and this is where emotional intelligence comes in.

You must know how to work with people and to deal with them. Do not allow your emotions to control you, master and control your emotions. Even if you have a bad day, you must not transfer aggression, learn to treat people the right way. You are not intelligent if you are physically and mentally intelligent but emotionally dumb. You must come to the understanding of humans as there are different categories of people in life, do not unleash anger on anyone anyhow, learn to control your emotions.

Finally,

4. Spiritual intelligence: this is the central and most fundamental of all the intelligence because it becomes the source of guidance for the others. It is an experience of man in which he is able to think at the frequency of God in handling his day to day decisions and his ability to function that way.

How then do you become intelligent spiritually?

Through spiritual exercise i.e fasting, prayer, word of God.

1. Fasting: fasting does not move God. I mean God has been moving since the world was dark and void, He has been moving even before you knew you. When you fast, it is not about moving God but allowing His move in your life, its about you getting out of the way, get flesh out of the way, eliminates distractions and lies of unbelief. When you fast, don't take a militant posture against God as to try to 'jack him' but take a militant posture against flesh and all things saying no to God. It is about allowing Gods move in your space.

2. Prayer: when Jesus said the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak (mt. 26:41) , he wasn't giving us an excuse not to pray, he was simply giving us a reason to watch and pray. It is so surprising how we use this scripture as an excuse for our spiritual laxity instead of it being the reason why we need grace.

Prayer is non negotiable. It is the path the devil can never walk in, prayerlessness is an exhibition of pride and self sufficiency. The goal of prayer is not to get a yes from God but to know the heart of God, to wait until His ways are your ways, His thoughts your thought, it is a place for the synching of His thoughts with ours.

The goal of prayer is not to get a yes from God, knowing fully well that a yes is as beneficial as a no

3. Word of God: everything you would ever need is in the word of God. For you to be intelligent , you must study to show thyself approved. You must rightly divide the word of truth.

The word of God is like a mirror, you view yourself in.

when someone tell you something is on your head and you don't believe, you check the mirror to see for yourself.

This is the same way it works here, all you ever need to know is in the word of God, it mirrors your life for you to see.

But you can't see if you don't study it, we must study!

These and some other spiritual exercise are what makes us spiritually intelligent which becomes a guidance to others.

Another thing I have learnt is this, learn to ask yourself, did God send me to where I'm going? What am I looking for? If God did not send you an errand, you will pay your transport fare yourself. Many a times, we are looking for a good life, opportunity to succeed and ability to enjoy life. We are not necessarily looking for fulfillment, eternity reward, making impact, dying empty.

Spiritual intelligence is living life based on God's plan for your life. He has plans for you, only an irresponsible manufacturer will not have plans for the sustainability of his products.

Until you go beyond survival, you can't thrive!

Chapter Four On Success

There was a time in my life when I could just sleep for hours doing nothing and would be expecting success to drop from heaven. There was a particular year I was writing exam and all I would do was watch film and sleep and eat and by the time I write the exam, I would be praying for miracle to happen because I detested failure. What I did not understand then was that, no matter what we want to do, if we actually want to succeed in it, we must pay a price for it.

Asides that, I could sit down watching someone doing something and starts imagining I was the one doing it. One thing that was actually the reason behind me thinking of doing what another did was because the person actually succeeded in whatever it was he or she did. But one thing I have learnt from that is for us to be successful in life, we need to find out what the will of God is so we won't be wasting time, money and energy. Once you find out His will, confer no more with flesh and blood.

Sometimes, it's best to keep it between you and God because some will not believe, some will doubt and others will try to talk you out of it (Read my article on this on Facebook at Makinde Marvellous Ikecrown). You will begin hearing their unbelief instead of faith. Get it done at all cost!

Another thing I've come to learn is don't do anything because somebody else is doing it. Even if what they are doing works, find out if its God's will for you to do it. Success begins where the will of God is known. Success is fulfilling what God has told you to do not what he told somebody else to do.

Don't give up and refuse to give in when it looks as though it will never come to pass, diligence and perseverance are a must. Always remember that it is God's will for you to succeed in every endeavour of your life. Don't ever accept less than God's best for you.

When you want success as desperately as you wanted the next breath, them

you will succeed.

God has made a master plan of success for us all in all aspects of life. However, there are always conditions to enable us inherit what he has provided for us in redemption. There is always what to do to get what we want. Success or greatness always come with a price tag, there is always something to do! You can't find successful people who did not pay the price. Therefore, we must be conscious of our responsibility in order to attain success, there are certain demands that qualify us for our birthright of success and one of such is discipline. No one ever gets distinguished in any field of human endeavour without the virtue of discipline. It is simply operating as demanded and not as convenient. It is discipline that besets distinction. Bishop Oyedepo.

It is not a gift but a lifestyle of choice we design and submit to. And nothing triggers the potential within us like self discipline. The quality of discipline you put in your pursuit is the quality of success you see. It is obviously a fundamental requirements for exploits. Our dignity is a function of our discipline.

Discipline enhances our productivity, it is the highway to distinction in the pursuit of any task. Highly disciplined people are sweatlessly distinguished. It therefore takes discipline to pay the extra price for extraordinary accomplishments in the race of life and be distinguished.

Attend to things that are more important and not to things that are urgent. There is no aspect in life indiscipline pays, because without discipline life ships off, opportunities are lost and destinies are destroyed. With God and the culture of discipline, success is possible.

Chapter Five

Fear of failure

The very first time I failed in my life, I couldn't take it. I am a very emotional being and I cry at every little thing. Little issue move me to tears, I had thought I wouldn't experience any failure in my life until I achieved all my desires. I never knew how or what it felt like to fail. So I cried when I failed, I went to God cried and told him I had never failed before so why did I have to? I nearly ruined all I had worked for because in my head, I had failed and I was scared to fail again.

I was afraid, filled with loads of fear, I didn't want to fail again and so I said I wasn't going to do anything again, *just a one time failure!* I knew the rules okay? In fact, I encourage people who fail but I never knew what it felt like to fail until I failed. Sounds funny right?

I knew that fear is just false expectation appearing real, I knew that I am a masterpiece because I am a piece of the master, I knew that everything I want is on the other side of fear, I read books, I knew the words I could use to motivate and encourage others but I was still crippled by fear. I knew I am special but I couldn't accept that simple fact.

Many of us act like failure is for some and success is for others, we act like some people are a gift to this world with a divine touch while the rest of us are left to watch film and clap so we are stuck in one of two ways: we either leave the good things for those whom we think are better than us, sit in our comfort zone and give excuses (fear of failure) or we do accept that we are special and we can do it all. We all can fail, we all can succeed, both are inevitable.

You cannot be grateful and fearful at the same time, the reason why you are so scared to fail is because you are not grateful for the opportunity to try again. You might be average but you are special. When you fail, you shouldn't make that your final destination, try again and if you still fail, try again and again and again.

Failure isn't the end of life, you should be grateful for the opportunity to try again. Failure isn't falling, failure is falling but refusing to rise again. If you have failed and you think you can't rise again, it means you are not grateful for the opportunity to try again. Rise and prune your failure.

And to some, as a result of failure, some people might stop communicating with you, but let the pain and humiliation push you to make up your mind to become better than people thought of you. Develop yourself, go for conferences volunteer for events, read more books, it would be surprising that when you do these, those who once called you useless would be proud of you. Life might give you lemons, but you can turn them to lemonade.

Success has many friends but failure stands alone, try again and again and again, we almost cannot get it right the first time. Sit down and analyze why you fail and work towards becoming successful in your next attempt. The truth is nobody has the energy to pity you for so long, they have their own problems too. So dust your butt up, take responsibility for your failure and forge ahead. The same people who laugh at you will laugh with you.

Failure is an inevitable part of life, you cannot deal without it as human. Only God cannot fail, it is not abnormal when you fail, it is made for humans and not animals and the difference between successful and unsuccessful people is how they deal with failure, leverage on your past mistakes and create success out of it.

To fail is human, to fail forward is wisdom! “Leche Winniefred”

Chapter Six

You are not an accident

At a point in my life, I hated myself. I suffered from low self esteem, I hated my color, my hair, my shape, my race, I hated that I was born in a low class family, I hated practically everything about me. I hated even my parent, I hated that I was short, plum, dark and born in Nigeria. But as time goes on, I started loving me, loving everything around me. I figured out that hating me and hating everything around me will kill me faster, I could give in to depression, everything that was said about me, I saw it as part of the hatred. I had no confidence in myself, so everything I did were looked down on. People saw me just the way I saw myself - a mistake!

But I have come to understand that I am not an accident. Until I understood that, things did not go well for me. So I started telling myself this: anyone taller than me is too tall, anyone shorter than me is too short, anyone fairer than me is too light, anyone different from me cannot be me. I am the best me God created, I am different, unique, wonderfully and specially made. I am the best me created to fulfill my purpose. No one can be like me, if anyone is like me in all ways then one must be useless.

Dear reader, you are not an accident. Your birth was no mistake. Your parents may not have planned you but God did. Before you were conceived by your parents, you were conceived in the mind of God. You are alive because God wanted you to. PS. 138:8a. He deliberately choose everything about you (colour, race, hair, etc), custom made your body, determined the natural talents you would possess and the uniqueness of your personality. Ps. 139:15-16, Acts 17:26.

It doesn't matter whether your parents are good or not. God knew that those two individuals possessed exactly the right genetic make up to create the custom you he had in mind. God never does anything accidentally, He has reason for everything he creates. His motive for creating you was his love. Eph. 1:4a. He was thinking of the world before he made the world. In fact, that's why he created it. We're the focus of his love and the most valuable of

all his creation.

Love is the essence of God's character. He is love not he has love. There is perfect love in the fellowship of the Trinity, so God wasn't lonely but He wanted to make you in order to express his love. Is. 46:3-4

Stop looking down on yourself, stop seeing yourself as an error, learn to love yourself the way you are. You can build or improve your self esteem through the following ways:

1. Be with people who treats you well
2. Accept what is not perfect about you
3. Set realistic goals and build around your strengths
4. Focus on what you want to let into your life instead of what you don't want in it
5. Give yourself credit for the small things
6. Talk to yourself compassionately
7. Improve the moments by interrupting negative thoughts with positive actions

You really are important more than you think you are!

Chapter Seven

Leadership Potential

This was a lesson I learnt from Trista Sue on one of the Leadership conference I put in for. We all have the capacity to lead and influence change in our families, communities, workplaces, nations, and all around the world! But, before we can expand that leadership and capacity, we have to become our leadership!

We are all created with leadership wired into who we are. Leadership is not what we do. What we do is a reflection of who we are. Therefore, as leaders, we must discover, develop, and unleash who we are, and the things that we accomplish and serve to humanity will come out of being who we are.

Therefore, true and authentic leadership is about **BECOMING** who we are more than **DOING**.

When we look at the leaders that we admire from the past and today, we can see something in common, they all served who they were - their passions, purpose, potential, vision, and personal authority or gifts - to those around them, solving a problem that humanity was facing.

A great example of this is **Nelson Mandela!** He served all that he was to humanity. He discovered the injustice and problems that he was born to solve by first discovering who he was. He did not just serve projects, programs, or jobs to people. He served himself in everything that he did, and his presidency, as well as the projects and programs that he implemented were a result of that.

We are created to produce a solution for humanity with who we are as leaders. Each one of us is created with leadership wired within our very core, but we all have a unique way of unleashing and manifesting that leadership.

You may be the best at something that your neighbor is not the best at. But, your neighbor is the best at something that you are not the best at. We all have something that we can produce, create, and serve - and that becomes a

solution to a problem or a host of problems that our families, communities, nations, and the whole world could be facing. Before we can expand on the leadership capacity that is within us, we must first discover what it is that was wired within us.

What do you have built inside of you? Who are **YOU**? What gifts were you given that you can develop and cultivate into a skill and produce or create with, and then serve to humanity and solve a problem? Those who produce and create solutions from what they have inside of them are the most effective leaders. The world is changing at a constant rate. It has been said that we see more change every year, than those who came before us, our ancestors, ever saw within their lifetime.

Some of these changes can either prolong the problems that we face, create new problems, or can be the catalyst for leaders around us, as well as you and me to bring solutions to the problems that we face. It is up to us to decide. As true and authentic leaders, we are called to be change agents, which are those who know who they are, know what they are created to serve, and live everyday to develop, cultivate, and serve that to humanity. What are we going to do with that ability within us?

As leaders, we cannot wait and hold what we have inside of us when the world is waiting for solutions. Therefore, we must embark on the journey to discover, develop, and unleash it in our spheres of influence - in our families, in our communities, in our workplaces, in our circle of friends, in our nations, and around the world.

This journey of unleashing your true and authentic leadership begins with you! It begins with your mentality. How do you think? Do you think of yourself as a leader? Do you see yourself as capable to produce, create, initiate, and serve a solution to a problem? Do you see yourself as a problem solver?

This journey will require each of us to begin with our mentality, and asking ourselves 5 very important questions:

1. **Who are you?** This question refers to your identity. We are each

created to be leaders, but who are you uniquely as a leader? Who are you created to be to unleash authentic leadership?

2. Where are you from? This question does not refer to ancestry or ethnicity. This question refers to your core being. Where does your core being come from? We are all created in three parts. We each have our physical bodies, which is our skin, organs, bones, blood, ligaments. It is what communicates through the 5 senses of touch, see, hear, taste, and smell. And, then we have a soul, which is our mind, will, and emotions. It is where our mentality comes from. It is where we house our belief system. And, then we have a spirit, which is our core being. This is where our leadership is. This is where everything began. So the second question refers to where your spirit came from.

3. Why am I here? We all are here on earth because of a purpose that we carry. There is no one on the earth whether other humans have said or not, that is a mistake. No one is on earth because of a mistake. A mistake or a decision that was later regretted may have been used as a tool to get you onto the earth, but you are not the mistake or regret. You are of high value and a leader that is here for a purpose. You are created and here on earth for such a time as this, and you carry a purpose and solution that the world needs and is waiting for. As true and authentic leaders, we need to know what that purpose is in order to serve it and expand it into society,

4. What can I do? What gifts do you have? What are you capable of doing? You have gifts and untapped potential within you that is hidden and waiting to be unleashed so that it can make a difference, impact humanity, solve problems, and serve our communities, nations, and the world. As true and authentic leaders, we must discover the gifts and potential that we carry so that we can maximize them, expand them, and unleash them, ultimately solving problems and serving humanity.

The question of what you are capable of doing refers to your life vision. What do you see your life accomplishing as a leader? What legacy do you want to leave for humanity and pass on to the next generation that will be a stepping ladder or platform for them to stand on as they continue to be

leaders when we are all gone? We all have ideas, gifts, and a purpose. What is the picture that you see when you put those together?

I once heard a story from a great man named **Dr. Myles Munroe** about vision. He said that there was a little girl who was traveling with her father on a boat. And, as the boat started to take off from the dock, the little girl ran up to the railing of the boat, trying to see everything in the water and all around her. But, because she was so little she could not see over the railing and past all of the other people on the boat. Her father, then picked her up and placed her on his shoulders so that she could see everything. As she looked she saw so much. She saw the beautiful water, the fish, the birds, and other boats. But, the most beautiful thing that she saw she described as being able to see farther than her eyes could look. And, what she was describing was the horizon.

Vision is just like the horizon. When you look at who you are, why you are here, what you can do, and the potential that you have, what do you see? Can you see a picture that goes farther than your eyes can look?

Now, the answers to these 4 questions are not meant just for us. They are inside of us to impact and serve humanity. So, when you take time to embark on the journey of discovering, developing, and unleashing who you are (a leader), you will see that your life is a huge service to humanity, that it is solution to humanity, and how you can add value to the lives of the people around you, in your family, your community, your nation, and the world. And, you won't be able to stop or contain yourself from adding value, solving problems, producing and creating, and making an impact that benefits humanity.

Therefore, the best way to expand your leadership capacity, is to **BECOME YOU!** As a famous children's book author, Dr. Suess, from the United States once said, "You are you than you, that is truer than true. There is no one else who can be you than you."

When you become you, you will become the leader, the purpose, the

potential, the vision, and each of the gifts that you carry inside of you. You will produce. You will create. You will initiate. And, you will solve problems. You will add value to those around you. And, you will serve those around you and you won't be able to contain that service because all you are doing is being you.

I hope that this has empowered and challenged you to think beyond the textbook definition of leadership, and see yourself as a unique shine of true and authentic leadership. I hope that this has challenged, inspired, and empowered you to discover, develop, and unleash YOU in the world, so that you can fulfill all that you are, serving all that you are to humanity.

It can sometimes be challenging to see ourselves as true and authentic leaders, but when it sinks into our spirit that there is no one else who can be who we are and serve who we are, it jumpstarts a change in our mentality, and we begin to see ourselves as who we really are created to be.

Chapter Eight

The Truth about Procrastination

Procrastination is the act of postponing, delaying or putting off, especially habitually or intentionally. I was really a fan of procrastination, I did that every now and then. I could remember when I was in my third year in secondary school, I could procrastinate for days. I would keep telling myself there is still time until all the time are finally up. But here is a lesson I have learnt from Emmanuel A. Ahmadu in his book “Deliver me from Procrastination”

In the summer of 1830, Victor Hugo one of the greatest and best-known French writers was facing an impossible deadline. Twelve months earlier, the French author had promised his publisher a new book. But instead of writing, he spent that year pursuing other projects, entertaining guests, and delaying his work.

Frustrated, Hugo's publisher responded by setting a deadline less than six months away. The book had to be finished by February 1831. Hugo concocted a strange plan to beat his procrastination. He collected all of his clothes and asked an assistant to lock them away in a large chest. He was left with nothing to wear except a large shawl.

Lacking any suitable clothing to go outdoors, he remained in his study and wrote furiously during the fall and winter of 1830. The Hunch-back of Notre Dame was published two weeks early on January 14, 1831.

Here are two basic fundamental lessons I want you to learn from the story about Victor Hugo I just shared.

Lesson #1: Even Successful People Struggle With Procrastination

Human beings have been procrastinating for centuries. Even prolific artists like Victor Hugo are not immune to the distractions of daily life. The problem is so timeless, in fact, that ancient Greek philosophers like Socrates and Aristotle developed a word to describe this type of behavior: Akrasia, the state of acting against your better judgment, doing one thing even though you know you should do something else.

It is important for you to know that you're not the only one who suffers from procrastination. You will always feel like procrastinating, what makes the difference is whether you give in or not, and your response to it.

Lesson #2: Procrastination Can Be Overcomed

In the story I shared about Victor Hugo above, despite procrastinating for nearly 6 months, he was able to complete his book. This is proof that procrastination can be overcome with the right strategy. Do not give in to it, procrastination only waste your time and leave you doing nothing and this is why the three D's in the first chapter are very much important. Read them again.

You can as well get the book “Deliver me from procrastination” to know better on procrastination.

Chapter Nine

What is your drive?

Everybody on this planet earth is driven by one thing or the other. Drive means to guide, control or direct. When you drive something, a car for example, you are controlling, guiding and directing it.

What is the driving force in your life? There are thousand circumstances, emotions that can control your life. You can be driven by a problem, painful memory or past mistakes, fear or pressure. Either way, you are driven by one thing or the other. Some of these drive includes: Guilt, Resentment and anger, Fear, Material things among others.

Guilt: many people are driven by guilt, they spend their entire lives running from regrets and hiding their shame. People driven by guilt are manipulated by memories, things they should have done but were unable to do, they allow their past control them, these set of people wander through life without a purpose.

We are product of our past but we don't have to be driven by it. You can't spend your life in the grave yard of guilt dealing with the corpses of the past. Know when things are dead, when to release and bury them. If you continue to work with the dry bones of dead issue, you too will begin to decay. No amount of work will resuscitate a corpse. Sign the death certificate and bury the past! Rick Warren

Resentment and anger: these set of people hold on to hurts and refuse to get over them. Instead of releasing the pain through forgiveness, they rehearse it in their minds. Some internalize their anger while others explode it on others. Both are unhealthy. Resentment always hurt you more than the person you resent. Those who hurt you in the past cannot continue to hurt you now except you hold on to the pain though resentment. Your past is past and nothing will change it, you only hurt yourself with your bitterness. Learn from it and let it go, it's for your own sake.

Fear: many are driven by fear which might be as a result of traumatic experience, unrealistic expectations or even genetic predisposition. Regardless of the cause, fear driven people often miss great opportunities because they are afraid to venture out. Instead, they play safe, avoid risk and tries to maintain the status quo. Fear is a self imposed prison that will keep your from what God intends for you to be. You must move against it.

I was driven by fear, I used to be afraid of so many things, afraid of making friends, afraid of leaving my comfort zone, I did things on my own because I was afraid of

telling anyone, I was afraid of doing new things, going for interviews or even stepping out of my comfort zone. But I faced my fear the day I realized that fear is only an advance you pay on goods you will never get. Face your fear and move against it with weapon of faith. Enough of living in fear, take risks!

Materialism: many are driven by material things, their desire to acquire becomes the whole goal of their lives. The drive is always based on the misconception that if I have more, I will be more happy, important and secure whereas these ideas are not true. Things do not change, we eventually become bored with them and then want newer and better ones. Possessions only provide temporary happiness. Your value is not determined by your valuables and the most valuable ‘things’ in your life are not ‘things.’ Real values, security can only be found in that which cannot be taken away from you.

Part 2

Chapter 11

He comforts

Last year was a year of so many emotions. The sad, happy, overwhelmed, joyful and any other emotions you can think of. I cried more than before, I laughed more as well. I recorded many successes and failures weren't lacking either. It was really a tough year for me. Everything I expected were yet to be gotten. So many dreams were shattered, I cried as though my tears would make everything change but no! It only made me weaker.

I felt broken, looking back I realized I just couldn't continue; it was as if God was silent. I took my time and went to a secluded place, I needed to pour out my pains and hurts to the only one who would understand. Yes! I cried, I shouted but of course no one would hear me, I chose the place intentionally. I yelled! I groaned! I poured out all my pains, I made him understand I was growing weak, I needed him to help me, I started going back on all the success I could have had that got shattered. I told him about all the failures, naturally I should have gotten all those things but it was as though someone or something from the supernatural is withholding them.

It was a year I prayed more, a year I trusted and had faith more, a year I praised and worshipped more although I had my shortcomings as well. It was a year I was expecting my breakthrough because I did all I could but it all came crashing.

I told him of how disappointed I was, I told him how my mates has gone far, how age is no longer on my side, I cried! I showed him my heart and how weak it was!

But then, he opened my eyes to the positive side of it all. He made me understand what would have happened if my expectations had actually fell through. He told me of how good the plans he has for me are, how all things are working for my good. The fact that I prayed more doesn't mean I wouldn't experience such. In fact, the devil strike the more in those

moments just so we could be weighed down. Above all, He comforted me. I went back home with joy, even my friend noticed it. She told me my mood that day was different, she told me I was glowing!

Dear reader, the only difference between believers and unbelievers is the fact that we have the Holy Spirit. We have a great comforter, one who would comfort us when it gets stormier. This is whom the unbelievers do not have and that is why there is more record of depression and suicide. It doesn't matter if the world best motivational speaker speaks and encourage you, it doesn't matter the number of books you read. If you do not have a comforter, you would realize those things you read were just for the times you read them, even at that there is still a longing inside of you, something is missing.

Do you want to tell me those who committed suicide hasn't been spoken to before or they haven't read nooks before? When it all gets stormy, the best person you turn to is God. Pour out your mind, tell Him how you feel, in the end He comforts!

Chapter 12

When it gets Stormy

I have experienced storms and I'm quiet sure you must have experienced one too. It doesn't matter whether yours is much worse or not, but we have experienced it. The truth is not all of us will have to face physical storms like the one recorded in Mark 4:38-40. But Jesus said we would all face storms of life. The storms are many and varied and sometimes, the hardest situations we face in life can be those of our own making (Gen. 22:9-14) and sometimes God allows us to be tested. But above all,

I have learn to take up the shield of faith. PS. 7:10-17, Eph 6:16. This is the best protection I could ever have against the attacks of the enemy. My Faith is my willing heart touching a willing and able God.

I have also learn to trust God. Mt. 8:23-9:13. Sometimes the storms in our life appears without warning and during those storms, it is natural to panic and at times it appears that Jesus is sleeping, he does not appear to be doing anything about our problems. But we can cry out as the disciples did. The natural response to the storms of life is doubt and fear but we are not expected to react that way. We are to trust and not being afraid. Jesus is quiet capable of calming the storm and that is exactly what he did.

I have also learn to always do what Jesus did whenever storm arises. I have learn to let Jesus be my peace factor. He is not moved by the adversities we face so we shouldn't be moved either. Even in the midst of personal storms, God has a firm grip on you. Is. 41:10

Another thing is that God will never allow you go through anything dangerous without a way of escape. 1cor. 10:13. Rely on His word, the best reason not to be afraid is because His word tells you not to. Is. 41:19, Ps. 139:5

I have learn to tell the storm to be still as well. Jesus commanded it to be and

it did, I can do that as well, He has promised I would do greater things Jn. 14:12 but then spiritual preparations always precedes victory over the storms of life.

And finally, I have learn to be willing to learn in all situations. Phil.4:11. The only way God can make us who he wants us to be is by our willingness to learn from every situations we face.

But remember, storms makes tree take deeper roots. But your anchor in the storms of life is that Jesus is in your boat, it doesn't matter how strong the rage of the sea is, it bows to the Prince of peace!

Your certainty of victory in battle is because you have the Lord of host on your side. No devils, demon, man or woman can harass your destiny, at the sight of the Lord mighty in battle, they melt! It doesn't matter the fightings without or the fears within!

Chapter 13

Your words

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. What you say and think of goes a long way in life.

Fear filled words can stop a man's heart but faith filled words can make it normal. Your words are the carrier of faith or fear and what you talk about the most represent what is in your heart in abundance. No matter how severe your circumstances may be or how impossible your problem may seem, faith filled words will change them. I have seen the result a countless number of times. Faith filled words will sustain you. They are the most powerful weapons in the world of the spirit. They can do in the spirit what a physical warfare can do in the world of the natural.

Satan is a spirit being, you can't hurt him with physical weapons but faith filled words wound him. This is why the word of God is called the 'sword of the spirit.'

There was a time I needed something badly, humanly speaking I know it was not possible but I serve a God who is an impossibility specialist. I took the matter from the physical plane to a spiritual plane. I started speaking faith filled words. It was then I knew faith will work in your hearts with doubt in your head. When it looked as though my head was becoming too heavy with doubts, I started making the confessions every seconds. I clouded my brain with the confession as well and within a short while, what seemed impossible became very much possible. I can only tel you this, stop wasting words. Speak only those things that are beneficial to a victorious Christian living.

The shadows of a dog never bites. Shadows can not hurt you, the dog can bite you but its shadow can't. Satan only throws shadows at you, symptoms of defeat, failure are only shadows and they have no strength. They cannot

hurt you if you stand on Gods word and resist the temptation to give up. The word you say goes a long way as touching what happens to you. Whenever fear tries to rise up in you, pray in the holy ghost.

Praying in the holy ghost is not the source of your faith. Hearing is the source, and it comes only by hearing the word of God. Rom.10:17, praying in tongues only build up your faith. When terrible things happen, it is not the time to run away from God but a time to run to him. But you must live on your own revelation of the word. Faith is quiet different from foolishness. If you try to live on someone else's revelation, too could loose your britches. You can't live on someone else's revelation, its got to be a revelation to you.

Chapter 14

On purpose

Sometimes ago, when I had not understand what my purpose is, every road I saw looks like the right one for me. Every vehicle that passes looks like the right one that would take me to my destination and every stop looks like my destination. I was abusing myself because my purpose was yet to be revealed. I wanted to be everything, I wanted to be a lawyer and a doctor at the same time. I wanted to be a missionary, drama minister, choir and prayer warrior all at once. I wanted to be every good thing you can ever think of but then I was actually wearing myself out, I started having headaches from so many wishes and thinking.

It took a while before I came to realize that my primary purpose is intimacy with the father. Mk. 3:4, Jesus chose the 12 to be with him and to send them out for the gospel. Not all are called to teach the bible on the pulpit and hold microphone but all are called to showcase Christ. If Jesus is to do ministry on our present generation, he would call some to cook and feed the multitude. He improvised the disciples as caterer while feeding the 5000s.

As a believer, your purpose is Jesus. Its all about promoting the cause of Christ on earth. Its all about the kingdom! Having that in mind, you need to understand we are made for different platforms. Whatever portion or slice God has cut out for you to fulfill, do not see it as little of insignificant. Do not equate purpose with fame. Every purpose is to point people to Christ. Abide in your personal calling. If you are called to be a writer, write! A singer? Sing! A teacher, teach undilutedly! If you are assigned to care for the widows, orphans, sick, youths, teens, children, prisoners, don't neglect your target population. If you're blessed to finance the kingdom, spend the cash, fees tour generation.

Touching lives for Jesus is the greatest impact. The impact in your generation is not measured by your fame, it is not the function of your million likes and comments but how many lives are blessed and

transformed. There's a way your purpose will announce you to the world.

Don't hunt for fame! It is God that glorifies, what is your drive? Your purpose is about impacting lives. Jesus had a single drive/motivation (to do the will of Him that sent him and to finish his works, purpose and impact!) He wasn't after popularity, he tried as much as he could to forbid people from spreading the news of his wonders and miracles, yet His fame spread out. Why? He was fulfilling purpose, Is. 60:1-3. His impact on lives announced him, his fame went abroad. He didn't hire advertisement agency or struggle for popularity. He is a light shining brightly and when its fullness was come, it's tenacity burst it off into limelight. The purpose of purpose is to impact lives and ever purpose must point to Christ. Check your drive or motivation in fulfilling your purpose.

I learnt this from Mummy Esther Ebunoluwa Omoniyi

Chapter 15

Beyond feelings and emotions.

God is real, no matter how you feel. It is easy to worship God when things are going great in your life but what do you do when God seems a million miles away. The deepest level of worship is praising God inspite of pain. Thanking God during a trial, trusting God when tempted, surrendering while suffering and loving him when he seems distant.

Friendship are often tested by separation and silence. In your friendship with God, you won't always feel close to him. Every relationship involves times of closeness and distance, no matter how intimate, the pendulum will swing from one side to the other side. That's when worship gets difficult.

To mature your friendship, God will test it with days of seeming separation. Days of dark night of the soul or spiritual dryness, doubt and estrangement of the night or winter of the heart. Besides Jesus, David probably had the closest friendship with God yet he frequently complained of God's apparent absence. But God will never leave you, he has promised you will always feel his presence. You need to continue to love, trust, obey and worship God even when you have no sense of his presence or visible evidence of his work in your life.

The most common mistakes we make in worship today is seeking an experience rather than seeking God. We look for a feeling and if it happens, we can conclude that we have worshipped. Wrong! God often removes our feelings so we won't depend on them. Seeking a feeling is not worship.

But when sensational feelings is no longer their, we tend to feel God's distant. He has forsaken us and we have lost connection with God. In plain fact, sinful lifestyle pushes us away from God and holiness draws us closer to God and enjoy his presence more. But God is not limited to the sweet sensation we feel, it goes beyond feelings and emotions. If the feelings is experienced, fine! If not, good! There is no time God is not present with us

but there are times we don't feel him with our senses. Joyce Meyer said, it's not about how I feel, God is with me. I pray believing God is always attentive, worship even if no tears flow, study even if no special gigantic rhema. God is with me!

When you are a baby Christian, God gives you a lot of confirming emotions and often answers the most immature self centered prayers so you'll know he exists. But as you grow in faith, He will wean you of those dependencies. God's presence is too profound to be measured by mere emotion.

There's the manifest presence and the Omnipresence of God. He wants you to sense his presence but he's more concerned that you trust him than that you feel him. Faith, not feelings pleases God. The situations that will stretch your faith will be those times when life falls apart and God is nowhere to be found. Job on a single day lost everything. Most discouraging for thirty seven chapters, God said nothing. When you don't understand what's happening and God is silent, do what job did.

Tell God exactly how you feel. Pour out your heart. God can handle all your doubt, anger, fear, grief, confusion and question. Admitting your hopelessness to God can be a statement of faith.

Focus on who God is - His unchanging nature. Regardless of what you are going through, hang on to God's unchanging character. Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light.

Trust God to keep His promises. During times of spiritual dryness, you must patiently rely on the promises of God and not your emotions. Don't be troubled by trouble, God is still for you even when you don't feel it.

Remember what God has already done for you. Even if God has not don't anything else for you, Jesus' death for you is the greatest reason for worship.

Sometimes, life issues can make us feel God's presence is hidden. At this time, we must touch God with our faith.

Chapter 16

Prayer that brings result.

At a time of my life, whenever I pray, I only just prayed. I just prayed as I want to and I figured out I wasn't getting results until I started praying with the answer. The word of God!

I have come to understand that prayers that must bring results must be based on God's word. When you learn how to pray the word, then you can start with the answer. For instance, when you want to pray for healing, go to the word and see what God says about it. Start your prayer with the answer! 1jn. 5:14-15, 3:22, Rom. 12:2

You can then begin the application of faith. Start a confession before you have the manifestation. Believe you receive the moment you pray. Confess the truth, God's word is true. James 3:11-17, heb. 4:11-16.

Act as though it is already done. James 2:14-24 To be afraid to confess or act on God's word before you have it is to doubt God's word. Refuse to allow fear and doubts to enter your consciousness. Satan works in the area of suggestions, dreams and thoughts. You are the establishing witness, control your mind with the word of God. Dwell on the answer instead of the problem. 2cor. 10:5, Phil. 4:6-8, 1pet. 5:6-7.

See yourself succeeding and not failing, testify to what you believe. Your testimony establishes what you believe, Rev. 12:11. Say it, do it, receive it and tell it. Also, get involved in praying for someone else. 1tim. 2:1-2, faith works by love and get on the giving end. Lk. 6:38

Bibliography

Esther Ebunoluwa Omoniyi; Beyond feelings and Emotions (c) 2018

Emmanuel A. Ahmadu; Deliver me from procrastination

Rick Warren; Purpose driven life

Trista Sue; Leadership Potential



Hi, I'm Makinde Marvellous Mercy known as Ikecrown. I'm a child of God. A poet and Christian writer and convener of LOVE (Ladies of Victory and Exploit) a ladies group where relationships and marriages are built with Godly principles. I'm a teacher and music lover who is based in Ibadan.

**You can reach me on whatsapp: 08174321297; Gmail @ makindemarvellousmercy@gmail.com
Instagram @Ikeademakinde and on facebook @ Makinde Marvellous Ikecrown.**