

CHAMPION'S SHIP

**SIGN
POST**



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CHAMPION'S SHIP SIGNPOSTS

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INTRODUCTION

Everyone wants to be associated with a champion. You sure want to be a champion too. There is an inbred quest for championship in every man. God made man automatic champions. He gave the earth and everything inside it under human dominion and control. Man has been given a natural course of championship over which he is made to take charge. There is a natural instinct in us that drives us towards a desire for superiority. We all want to win. However small or big the competition, there is a constant tendency to win even at a great cost. God original desire in creating man was for championship and rulership. However, man lost the sight of direction from which God had given him. Man was easily deceived by the flashy gifts within Satan's dominion compared to the precious wares of God's heritage. Man lost out and has continuously struggled towards returning to that enviable state of championship.

The question “who’s a champion?” is not out of place. The case of Goliath would come into mind. Goliath was renowned for achieving great feats because he was a giant very well feared. He was renowned as being the feared fighter of the Philistines. When he stood, the whole camp of the Israelites trembled. He sent shock waves through the whole camp. Champions are never intimidated by any events around them. Rather they are the sources of intimidation. Champions are people who have perfected the art of winning and conquering. Think about a football competition like the World Cup. The champion would have to beat every other team to win the competition. They make winning a habit until it becomes part of them.

God wants us to be champions too that is why he has constructed a signpost directing us on the road to championship. He sees our quest and passion for championship and is desirous of seeing us reach that point of acclaimed championship. That champion under that tree sleeping that has missed his route will have to be awakened. Enjoy this piece; it is inspired to

inspire you to the top where champions are indeed made.



CHAPTER ONE

THE MANY SIGN POSTS

On our roads, you have observed the many sign posts leading us somewhere. Companies, organizations, churches, schools etc.all have signposts directing their intended customers or members towards their location. Sign posts are guides leading to an intended direction. You would easily locate an unknown location if the right signpost were made available. There are also signposts leading us nowhere. They are just there adding no value to human movement. They have lost their value.

Many individuals claim to have the right signpost to being a true champion and success. If you do a search on the internet, you will observe the many companies and organization that describe one method or the other for achieving one type of success or the other. They

attract readers or passersby to try out their methods. They think they have the right answers to the fledging questions of those success tasty souls. Many students have often been deceived into believing that there are various methods of acquiring success. Even businesspersons have fallen prey to these short changes.

While there are many signposts leading to one form of success or the other, many of them could be very misleading. They offer short-lived success, a type in which you end up losing all that you had hard earned. Do not be deceived by what seems like the colored sign post with neon signs referring you to the Indian temple and other mystical success means. They are entirely heading you towards doom. They may seem to pay off soon but in the long run, you turn out the loser. Some signposts try to mimic the original that many are being deceived towards their paths. The routes look so like the original that you would hardly tell the difference between the major route and minor routes.

Do not be deceived by the plethora of routes. Some persons will see these routes and think they are the major routes. Many do not even know the difference. They make statements, as after all we will achieve success at the end, which is what is important they would conclude. The truth is that the end is not always the same. However similar the routes seem, if it is not the original, it is not the original. The only road to success is the original path. Our quest for success and achievements must not drive us blind. Our eyes must be open to seeing the right signpost. Do not mind the copycats who try to fake success. They normally lead others to their end. Whatever profession one is pursuing, there is only one route to true success.

There are much fake fast success signposts, directing you to down and failure. It seems there is a plethora of them. They may look shiny and bright but they are indeed doom directed. There is indeed only one signpost that is why Jesus himself said I am the only way the truth and the life. The only way to true success is in Jesus. so many might have been deceived by many so called ministries who have used the

name of Jesus to deceived many into following them in a sheer quest for success. Only Jesus gives true success. Success is the children's bread, and if you must enjoy that bread then you must look out for that special signpost. It may look worn and dirty but it is the old rugged signpost. It may not be beautiful at the initial sight, but at close look, this signpost attracts you to uncommon riches at Christ expense.

We have an assurance of success in Jesus. Though Satan may play a ploy to deceive us by creating vague pictures to us, we must like Jesus say no to him. Satan offered to give Jesus earthly pleasures and success when indeed Jesus had a heavenly treasure. Many persons make this mistake of accepting Satan's vague offer in place of God's heavenly offer. What a mistake this is. Jesus has promised heavenly treasures. He made it clear that *in God's house, there are many mansions*. Do not be deceived by the agents of Satan who come to confuse us and move us away from God's promises. God's promises are yea and Amen to as many people that believe.

True champions know the only true signposts. They look out for it everywhere they go. They know where they heading to from the start. They do not move directionless. They trust on the true signpost to direct them. Even when they see a plethora of signposts, they keep sight of their intended signpost and are not deceived. Indeed, champions have learned to trust Jesus the signposts of all signposts. if you do not look away from this signpost, you would score a plus on the path of success and the true championship.

Now, friend to be able to have a focused mind towards the true championship and to be able to pursue your goals with the right signpost requires a firm desire. There must be a desire to pursue championship. Champions begin with a desire and this has driven them through to achieving their goals.



CHAPTER TWO

DESIRE

Every champion begins with a desire. They begin with a mental picture painted. They began by thinking. You are familiar with the biblical phrase “*as a man thinketh so he is*”. There is always first a desire, a thought to achieve. Whatever success you have seen people have, began with someone desiring. This desire may come from a dream, a self-realization, etc. and it was built upon by an action. Jesus had assured in his word that *whatever we desire would be granted to us if we look up to our father the source of everything*. Desire is the starting point of great achievers. As we move every day in our quest for survival, we have many desires we intend to see through. The difference between champions and failures are that champions pursue their desires to the latter while failures accept defeat.

Desire can be positive or negative. Every champion developed positive desires.

Solomon the richest man the world has ever known had ever known had a desire. He needed wisdom and knowledge to govern his kingdom Israel. Moreover, he pursued that desire by asking God to grant him his desire. His desire was a positive desire to make a positive impact. Of course, God heard and granted him this wisdom. We know that Solomon is similitude with wisdom. Jabez was another man with a quest and desire. He had realized that he could achieve more above the setback his name had caused him and he did something about it. He called on God the father. This man had positive desires that these drove him to achieve. In our contemporary world, many men and women have had their desires accomplished. Persons like Barrack Obama, Martin Luther King, scientists like Newton, Carl Marx, etc. all these persons had the desire to cause positive change in the status quo upon which they had found themselves.

Some people also had negative desires Balaam had a negative desire. Therefore, he called Balak and asked him to curse the sons and daughters of Israel. Because it was not the

purpose and will of God, God proved to them that he was superior. He canceled the council of the wicked. Sanballat and Tobias had a negative desire, to cause confusion in Jerusalem and bring the work of God to not. God showed he was indeed more superior. Every negative desire would always have a natural end. The devil influences negative desires in man. Remember that in the beginning of creation, the devil planted a negative desire in the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. "Eat this fruit and you shall become like God". Devil put inside man a negative desire of wanting to know good or bad like God. He thus changed the course of man. He fulfilled his desire of cutting short God's plan for man. Man accepted the devils limited vision and thus allowed the devils desire to be his desire. Today the devil desire is still in full swing to ensure we lose track of the sign post leading us to true championship

There is a God desire that we must instill in ourselves, a desire to walk with God, to know God and to accept his course through which we would be directed to take. Everyone who takes on God's desire outlives his own

desires. Solomon, you have read earlier had a desire for wisdom and knowledge for ruling his kingdom. God not only granted him Solomon's request but he superseded his expectation. His wisdom was not only for his kingdom but also it attracted kings and queens and he gained respect from all the kings around him. Solomon is still influencing lives with his wisdom. However, it all started with a desire.

To be a true success, you must have an unquenching desire to be that success. It must be a desire that will:

- Drive you: Once your desire cannot drive you to act then it is not a desire but a mere wish. The popular saying goes, if wishes were horses men would have ridden. It is because men make wishes, that is why they cannot ride on their horses. Desire makes you strive to ride on the horse.
 - Propels you: You need propulsion, to drive the car. An engine fires the car so that the driving could be done. Desire puts in the champion, the propensity to
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act and act fast. Have you ever seen rockets in propulsion? It uses up enough energy in the form of fuel to run smoothly. Something has to propel you to act and that propulsion is your desire.

- Make people see along with you: True champions know how to carry people along with them. Their desire rubs off on others who also find themselves working to see the desire of the champion come through. Champions command respect and have no problems having people to carry out the desire they would want to see being accomplished.

Champions desire to win always. They eat the bread of winners and they always get to win. Even when it seems there are setbacks or pitfalls, they normally find a way of coming through them. They let their desire supersede the setbacks and once it does, they climb over their setbacks as if they are eating food. You want to be a champion. Then start building on

that desire. That dream you had some years ago is still waiting for you to work on it. Remember Joseph had a dream. He made his dream his desire. He talked about his dream everywhere. Even when it seemed the dream would be killed, his desire to see the dream come through ensured he had the backing of God. Joseph the dreamer saw his desire come through.

You are steered up by something inside you. There is an excitement. Something must excite you about that dream. Something must drive the passion. You aspire to acquire what you desire and when you perspire never retire but re-fire. There must be a desire to aspire, and an aspiration to acquire. Your aspiration must correspond to a particular desire. Desire that thing; it is certain you can get it.

CHAPTER THREE

DECISION

Every champion began with a desire. That desire was brood. Before a hen produces its chick, it brood its eggs. The process could be considered as a desired process. If the hen does not brood the eggs, its quest of having babies would be useless. The hen must, therefore, seek to take a decision to undergo the 3-week burden involved in seeing that desire of having a baby come through. Every champion had a desire just like everyone has a desire but one quality differentiates champions from failure or infidels. It is the decision-making process. The word decision is derived from the word decide. You decide you want to achieve that desire and then you make a decision to sacrifice everything sacrificial to achieve it. Being a champion is more than desire because everyone has desire. It is decision that moves champions one-step

ahead. Champions know how to make decisions. They look at their goal or desire; decide what it would take to achieve them; and make a decision to do what they have decided to do.

Daniel a renowned prophet in the bible is an epitome of a decision making man. Daniel and his friends' had a goal. They had found themselves in the University of Babylon and they desired to achieve success. Success could only be attained by taking a decision not to bow to the idols of Babylon. They knew the only source of championship was God and their decision was to serve God, however, the challenge, for it is only in God that true success is obtained. They decided they would not eat food offered to an idol. However, it seemed challenging for them at the time but they knew the path to true championship is not an easy route and they strived under the study of some of Babylon's finest tutors. During the examination done by the king Nebuchadnezzar and his aides, the king observed that the quadruple were ten times better than their peer

that was the beginning of championship to come.

Joseph had a desire. Someday he would have to live the dream he has always had. Nevertheless, there had to be a decision he would have to take to see through this dream. He had to trust God and flee from all forms of evil. Indeed, he decided he would make that decision. Even when he was enticed, he stood firm. In the prison or out, he was firm. Joseph got through his desire. He became the desire he wanted to be.

Any desire, however, beautiful it is without a decision would end up a dead desire. Ask president Obama, president of America, he would tell you he took a decision to act out his desire.

Decision requires a fixed heart. Your heart must be fixed towards the desired goal or ambition. Decision thus ensures you do not waver in your action. It requires a firmness of character. Before every desire was achieved, the Desiree had to make major decisions. There were odds at

every time but they were firm to ensure they achieved their goal. The bible gives a clear picture of an indecisive person. It says a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. When you do not set out to achieve something, you would hardly achieve anything. You must be dedicated and firm. That is the only way a champion can be made.

You may be a fan of a particular sport and team. Learn from every winning team. They always start the season with the desire to win. The desires propel them to making a decision. Everything that has to be done to ensure they win is stated and a code of conduct for both staff and players is made and they are set to go with every match, there is an increasing desire to continue winning. At the end of the season, it is the most dedicated and decisive team that gets it right. Every team desires to win but only one team ends up winning.

Remember, winners and champions never quit. They go all the way to see the end of any event they are pursuing. Students in school know how much a decisive mind can do. It can turn

failures into winners. Every student who desires success know that the only way they can achieve it is to take a decision to study. Sportsmen know that to achieve a medal they must make a decision to train constantly and daily. Academics know that to be renowned they must make a decision to study. Even criminals know the power of decision. Criminals that want to be renowned normally would take a decision to make their lives worthless for the wealth that would not last.

Every desire is strengthened when a decision to act supports it. King David knew this and thus declared *that whatever man sets his heart to do, he can do it*. Our modern world could not have been without the decision undertaken by scientist and engineers to live their dreams and desire. Most of the things being enjoyed today was people's desires and an inbred decision to ensure the desire saw light. 7up a notable soft drink was a decision someone took never to accept defeat but to pursue a desire. The electric bulb and Edison are stories of a decision to meet up with desire. What this means then is that our decision must meet with desire.

Do not forget, whatever desire you have, you can see it through by taking the right decision today. That decision can be taken now.



CHAPTER FOUR

DEPARTURE

Every decision taken requires a departure from what had been a status quo. Every champion got tired of been taken for granted. They became champions because they decided there would have to be a departure from what had been and they needed to make the decision to cause that departure. If only you are not tired and discontented with your present state, it is unlikely you would take a different cause from where you have been.

There is certainly a departure point for every journey in life. On the journey to championship, you would likely have a departure point. Championship is the desired endpoint everyone wants to reach but many do not make a choice

of starting the journey. It is good enough to desire, and it is good enough you have decided to take the journey but you have to leave the bus stop. You have to depart from your current position. You have to act first. An action must follow your decision. You have to depart towards the championship route. It is time for you to pack your luggage and say to yourself, I am fed up of being a failure. I cannot continue in this awkward failing lifestyle. I have to wake up to my dreams and aspirations. The bus has always been at the bus stop. It is just that only a handful ever make it through that route. Some fear the route is stressful though they want to enjoy the benefits that come after it. They fail to note that every success had to pass through this road. The road may seem rocky and mountainous, and it seems you are tired of this tedious journey but you must resist until the end.

There is always a departure time. Trains at the train terminal do do not always move together towards different routes at the same time. One waits for the other. The departure time towards championship has a time. There is a time and

season for everything under the earth. The only difference between championships departure time and that of the train or airplane is that the choice of time of departure depends totally on you. The vehicle leading to championship is always waiting at the bus stop. However, it seems only a few see it. Only a few more ever enter this vehicle. It's great seeing the bus but it is much greater sharing in the experience on the road to championship.

At every departure point, there are a plethora of buses, train or even planes. Some persons carelessly or mistakenly enter into a bus or train leading to another route. They would find themselves before long at a destination unplanned and confused. Championship does not come by mistakes. You will therefore not get to another destination thinking you will be champion. You will be driving in a merry go round. Champions look out for the right bus to pick them. If it is not the bus, it is not the bus however alike another bus may look like. The bus may look alike but the routes are different. You do not have to rush into any bus just because it looks like the one you intend to enter.

You have to look out for the route. The route has to be CHAMPIONS CAMP.

Departure means saying bye. You are saying bye to friends, family, desires etc. The Disciples of Christ chose to be fellow champions with Christ the champion of champions and they knew when to say bye. Immediately, they saw the one who could make them champions they just could not say no, they left all. They told mum, dad, son, daughter, job, friends etc. and they decided towards championship. Certainly, people around them would have wondered how absurd they were. However, they knew the direction. They followed Christ across mountains, over rivers, through valleys. They followed Christ through it all. You have to know that to be a champion you will have to say bye to some people, to some jobs, to head towards championship.

To get the training that will lead you to championship, there must be a setting aside of every hindrance that is likely to pull you down. During the training given to a nation's army the soldiers are taken to a place set apart for training

where there will not be any hindrance. The essence is so that the training is well absorbed by the soldiers. The soldiers within this period of the training keep their minds focused on the training to ensure the goal of the training is achieved. To be a champion, you have to set yourself apart from the normal lifestyle. Jesus showed a perfect example when *he set himself apart into a mountain to pray*. Jesus knew to stay ahead of the crowd he has to do much more by staying apart.

Those that yearn towards championships have to let go everything that weighs them down and they must look up to the source of light. Without choosing to begin the journey, you will not see the signpost. The signpost is on the road but you have to start the journey on this road. If you do not let go the weights, it is certain they will weight you as well as the bus down. You will be slowing your pace and you could possibly get tired fast. This means you may not reach championship. Ensure you locate the departure point at the right time and be sure it is with the right bus and certainly, you would be a champion before long.

When you have departed, you must not seek to return. Champions do not look behind. They continuously look unto Jesus the author and finisher of championship. If you look back towards where you came from and desire to return the same route then you are not fit for championship. However, the challenge, you will have to fight on. Being a champion does not come in a platter of diamonds. It takes a courageous plunging off a mountain's horrible route. A champion never says die. He just pushes on until he reaches that place of acclaim.

Now that you have decided to take the route towards championship, be certain that you will reach it. God has assured us of this championship but it depends on our ability to act as well as act fast. You will be a champion and be sure you will live the champion life.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCIPLINE

One virtue that has been found lacking in many championship desires is discipline. As they ride in the road to championship, they begin to enjoy the benefit of pursuing their desire. They lose their head. Pride takes one and they have not reached the final destination yet. As you head towards championship, fame begins to come in, and wealth is added. There is a tendency to wastefulness and pride. Champions are always very careful so that they do not carelessly lose what they had taken so long to build.

Before anyone can attain championship status, such a person would have consciously disciplined his/herself toward the goal of championship. Every driver on the road to championship knows that they must be

disciplined drives obeying all the rules that come with the road. Even if it seems they have seen the signpost to championship, they must drive cautiously in the road. There is no need one rushing. Discipline calms the nerves hair. Just riding calmly will get you there in no time. Champions became champions because they did love to be and they pursued earnestly with all discipline. They did not turn left or right. They faced their goal with all the tenacity they had. Discipline requires a level of steadfastness. There must be a conscious strive to have the head above water even if it seems the water wants to drown you.

From the very first step, all the way through this road, true champions acknowledge that the sure route to success come with mountain to climb, rivers to cross and valleys to get through. They acknowledge that the route to championship is thorny and that championship does not come on a platter of goal. They, therefore, discipline their minds towards the challenge they would face. Look out for the very successful role models, you see them an epitome of discipline. They are always on time at the bus stop of life.

They do not just jump when everyone is jumping in the wrong bus. They wait with patience until the right bus comes through. They do not follow the crowd. They always seem to stand alone when it seems everyone is getting along.

Discipline requires sacrifice. Sacrifice and disciplines are brothers. A champion who is discipline knows how to sacrifice. They give their all in pursuance of the set goal. They are ready to pay the price. However the cost, Champions knows that whatever input they may be making, it is certainly not equal to the benefit they would derive at the end of the storm. They have an uncommon driving that ensures all the right things are done to accomplish the championship feat.

Jesus was a disciplined master. He was himself controlled by the Holy Spirit. He only did and acted according to the leading of the spirit of God. Christ Jesus knew he was on an uncommon path of championship and so he had to be directed and well directed by the spirit of God his father. Christ knew what to say at

every time. He knew how to answer every man. We have such a master as a mentor. Just look unto Jesus to give that life a meaning.

Most times when people begin to enjoy the benefits of hard work, in pursuit of their desire, they always tend to lose their head. It is not surprising to realize the number of persons who have had their championship dreams out short by a mere show of indiscipline over the little they have seen able to achieve. There is a tendency towards reckless driving because we seem to have passed that part of the road where there are portholes. The road seems so smooth, that we forget the absolute driver and owner of our lives and then we may choose to hand over our vehicle to a new driver. Having much more does not mean reckless living. It means a change to pursue an even more directed life in Christ towards championships. Watch the so-called musical superstars. They always tend towards wastefulness and useless spending. Once they see success ahead, they tend to forget that where they have reached is just the start point of better things. They choose to waste and end up worse than they had begun. There is a need to

protect the resources that God has given as by showing a high sense of discipline.

When God created man, he made man a disciplined, responsible personality. Off course, man named all the animal and object and things God made. It took so much discipline for Adam to have been able to do that yet he accomplished what would seem as his first task towards taking championship over all God had made. Adam gave the cow, dog, cat, etc. their names. He disciplined himself to ensure there was no mistake.

CHAPTER SIX

DEVOTION

Devotion is one attribute that separates champions and achievers from the rest. From the word go, there must be a desire, a decision a disciplined mind and a devotion. Once you have decided to pursue that desire of being a champion and you are started on this path, there has to be devotion to following this success path. Nothing must take your mind off it. David's statement was clear. He knew he required devotion when he said quicken thou me in thy way, the way of championship. On the road to championship, you must be quickened to only this route. There is a need not to lose sight of the signboard and the direction. Every signboard shows a direction which is developed towards the route of championship.

To attain championships, you need to follow this devoted route.

Devotion requires an earnest determination, an uncommon quest, and an eye on the goal. Have you seen athletes preparing for a competition? They are so devoted to the pursuance of the goal. They spend weeks practicing in preparation for the Grande day. They do not welcome distractions. They ensure they are separated from the crowd in pursuance of their goal. Champions must be devoted if they must win and be champions indeed. Having achieved championship status, a devotion to staying on top is required to remain the championship status. Scholars are devoted to studying, writers are devoted to writing, singers are devoted to singing, and engineers are devoted to engineering. Any and every achievement requires devotion. Whatever you do, you can achieve championship only by devoting time to know more about it.

Every field of study has so much to offer the scholar under such fields. In the academics, there are qualifications you aspire to reach.

There is a new level of knowledge to be obtained as you climb in the academic ladder. As you devote your time to study, you get to know more and acquire the desired knowledge. Solomon the Wiseman was clear when he said *that whatever your mind sets to do, you will achieve it.* In another way, what your mind is devoted to doing can be done. Nothing is difficult to accomplish with a devoted mind. No challenge is too big for a mind that is committed and devoted to what it has set to do. A devoted mind always gets to get through their challenges with ease.

Many religions teach devotion. There seems to be a relationship between devotion and spirituality. As one devotes himself or herself to the study of a religion and its ethics or law, such a person develops the same level of the spirituality as those devoted to that religion. So then, many preachers and spiritual leaders teach their members to be devoted to their religion. This goes to show how much devotion is desired in any achievement of a certain state.

Take time to study many of these civil right activists. There is a common quality amongst them. They share a devotion to a cause of action. Whether it is HIV/AIDS, sickle cell, polio, woman/girl right, child education etc., they show a consideration passion and dedication in pursuit of the set goal of their organization. They spend most of their time in strategizing, planning, and implementing programs meant to pursue their expected goal. However challenging the hurdles on their way, they are driven by their devotion and before long; they are making position influence and effect.

Devoted persons do not have problems having people to back them up. People are caught up in their air of devotion. Once they set the pace, devoting person-hours and energy, they soon always get admirers who admire their qualities and characteristics. Before long, the advisers become followers and what had been a one-man movement becomes a national movement. Mohammed Gandhi, the reputed Hindu leader is an example of what a devoted mind can achieve; Gandhi did not need to live in a

grandiose palace to be influential. From his one bedroom with just a pen and paper and with a little cloak around his waist, he painted India red.

How? He was devoted to the cause he had set his heart to achieve, a free India of over 300million person. India did not need to be under the colonial ruler-ship of England because they had a freedom fighter in Gandhi. A man who devoted his time to making sure India was free.

Many circumstances have been changed because of a sincere devotion to duty. As part of business ethics, every employee of an establishment is expected to show allegiance to the company/established. It is unprofessional to work in an institution where you have no allegiance. You get weary over a short time. Devotion is very important to any ethical and enjoyable success. As you pursue achievement in any chosen career, do not forget there is a continuous expectation of you, a devotion to the principles of handiwork, a pursuit for excellence and a dedication to duty. It may not

seem you are gaining ground now but persist, devote more energy to it. You will get there before long.

Devotion requires a clear head and stability. Consider in the university. They study with devotion. They let go every distraction and ensure there is moderation. They remain stable. Some psychologists are of the opinion that for any mental development to take place, the personality involved must show a conscious effect in devoting all the needed or required characteristics of devotion, discipline and a mind that is desirous.

CHAPTER SEVEN

DEXTERITY

The road to championship is no easy road. It requires quite a lot of attributed. As you travel on this route, you will observe the varying situations you would find. You would meet mountains, you will have to go through valleys, you would have to cross oceans, or you would cross a bridge over rivers. Because the conditions vary, there is a need to have one attribute, dexterity. Have you seen the SUV or jeep? You have certainly seen one. You will observe that the vehicles are made for all weather and all situations. An SUV can get through a marshy region as much as a mountainous hilly region. Have you ever asked yourself why? The answer is they are made with dexterity in mind. The maker knows the entire

situation they expect the car to function in. and the vehicle does finds the hills easy meat as the marshy waters. You know what? Those cars show dexterity.

Life situations come in varying forms and changes occurs that are opposite from what you have been enjoying. The beauty of it is that God has made you capable. That is why Paul the apostle of Jesus Christ said that *he can do all things through Christ that strengthens him*. Whether the weather is hot or cold, Paul is right inside it showing calm tenacity and a dexterity to overcome them. However way the wind blew, dexterity got him through.

Dexterity comes with a need to adapt. As the situation changes, there is a need to change to suite the change. You might have been chanced to see the chameleon change its colors as its environment changes. It is trying to say, look, your changing cannot stop me, I can adapt. However hot or cold the weather is, God taught man the lesson of dexterity and decided to scatter man into all corner of the earth whether cold or hot.

If you watch a football team play, you will observe the changing style of play according to the team played with. You do not expect the coach to use the same strategy for every team. The coach would probably lose. Every true champion knows that the road to been champion will not be an easy one so he prepares his mind towards the changes that he/she may come across. He keeps his mind flexible to new knowledge and information. He does not claim to know it all. Rather he accepts the challenges, decided to acquire the right skills to get the challenge done and adapt to the many challenges that will come with it.

Dexterity requires a great skill of flexibility and strength. Whether in the river where rowing skills come handy or on the road where driving skills are necessary, flexibility is required coming through them.

Have you seen a hovercraft? It can move on water as much as land. It has a flexible and dexterous design that makes it adaptable to both land and water. It can steer the seawater as much as transverse the rigidity of the earth.

The signpost is directing you to possibilities that can only be achieved by the showing a high level of dexterity, however, the challenge.

To achieve any dream does not come easy. To dream seems easy, to desire is even easier but during the accomplishing stages, the challenges rear their head. You have to find the right rugged vehicle or face the problem of flat tires at some point. The road before you is rugged and so a cool level headed preparedness and flexibility are required to come through it unscathed.

Remember, there is no expressway to success. Even if the road looks smooth at the beginning, the thorny mountain parts of it are right ahead of course you might have seen roads in mountain regions. It is always challenging during on such routes but with dexterity you can. No mountain is too light you cannot reach and no river is too long to get across, so says the lyrics of Celine Dion with the right frame of mind you can get high there.

The popular saying goes “*No thorns, no crown*”. Imagine a thorn on your legs. It would itch and make your legs swell. However, you have to get through this thorn. Dexterity thus creates the strong-leathered skin upon which your movement through the thorn is dependent. So then, the thorn is like another leaf when we show a high level of dexterity. It is great you’ve seen the signpost and are following it but you have to be aware of the challenges and boost your energy to following it through no matter what comes. Whatever befalls on the path must fall to you. Carry this mindset, do not fret, catch on your strength, it sure will take you through.

In a particular part of Africa among the Igbo of Nigeria, there is a particular dictum they say to show their strength and tenacity against any injury. They would say “*odeeshi*”. “*Odeeshi*” means strength and dexterity. Whenever a person is hit, the ability to stand the challenge and continue fighting is the quality of the “*odeeshi*” that persons has. There is something to learn from this. In God, there is a need to develop a strong strength drive to stand against the winds and storms that will rise against you.

As a good soldier on the road to championships, you must fight on. Do you Remember Paul's words to Timothy? You must *fight the good fight* and like Paul, *finish the cause*. The race may be rough and tiring but you have fins to swim, claws to tear, sticky hand to hold, and affirm your way to the top.

CHAPTER EIGHT

DESTINY

It is my destiny to win, someone once said about a competition he was involved in. We are all destined to win and everyone is. God threw that open to all. God said to man, multiply and conquer. It is in man's destiny to be champions. Destiny has been defined by one dictionary as certain already known future occurrence. See what God said of Isaiah "*before your mother bore you, I had called you*". What this means is that God gave him a call even before he knew himself. God knew he would be what he would. God knew his destiny. God knows what you would be. He had fashioned and modeled your future already. He knows you are destined to be a champion because. When you are on the road to championships, there is a known destiny. That destiny is championship. As you wait at the bus stop for the bus to come take you, as you step into the bus, as it drives off, as you get into the mountains road, as you drive over swampy land, there is a purported future you want to claim,

your championship Destiny. It is in you to win says a renowned minister of God pastor Chris Oyakhilome.

God knew you would be, passing the route. This championship path is part of your destiny. It is the only way to getting to the achieved point. Your championship status is already defined. The comfort at the other end of the travail is already known. Now all you just have to do is tell yourself you have to be there at that destined point. Remember the destiny is a picture, future already nurtured and created not just in mind but also in what you see around you. You have created the picture and that picture is already made in the future. Nevertheless, you have to obtain it. To obtain it, you need God. Remember Isaiah had to tell God here I am'. God knows our destiny. He created it and gave it life. You are only leaning in because you believe in that destiny.

It is in my destiny to be a doctor; I am destined to be rich, he is destined to success, etc. are all phrases often used by man in relating themselves with destiny. As a desirée champion,

there is a destiny that you must strive to accomplish. If there was no destiny, you will not be going through all the challenges.

Destiny can also be marred by taking the wrong action. Imagine a football team with all the best players in the world. It has players who have achieved success by no mean feats over the years. Now, they are on their way to championship and a team, the players choose to womanize, forget the training and drink their way. They would be whipped like chickens. Even if in them is the capacity to win, their failure to work together could mar their achievement.

Everyone has a great destiny. You are not left out. God is good at giving this out. He gives destiny like parks of water. In short, he gave it before you know you were yourself but the task is to take the initiative, to walk your way to it.

Do you know many persons do not know what their destiny looks like? They cannot picture the future ahead. They have no painted image of what that future looks like. They live their life to

chance. They hope on whatever comes. But God knows the end from the beginning. God said that already. You may not have the money or wealth that will drive the world In pursuit of you but God is fixing you up along the way in his own purposed destiny. You may hope for only little things but God's word for you is that his thoughts for you *are thoughts of good not of evil to bring you an expected end.*

Man has no part in your destiny. The highway can contain only you at a time. The drive and passion that can come with a heart to achieve championships is not dependent on the precedence of some human personalities. God placed you on that highway so that you can achieve what you want to achieve. God cannot be wrong. God does not fix things; he makes and will make perfect all he has promised to do.

God has given everyone a great destiny but this is at someone else's displeasure. Satan loves to rubbish God's purpose in every man's life. Satan tries to inplant this destiny into man. He did that from the beginning when he dealt man an heavy blow that took man away from been

enjoying the bliss of an earth Eden if not for God's purposed destiny. Man would have accepted the devil's sweet looking but rotten inside apple. The devil is still doing same today, killing and destroying people's future. There is a hedge that God has placed around us. The hedge in this battle for your destiny is Jesus. Jesus finished the battle in your life and destiny and ensured Satan remains the eternal loser.

The battle for your destined championships is tense but you win all the same. All you need to do is keep a cool head and let God show you the edge. Whatever happens, once you acknowledge the options that God is giving you, you will sense the air of peace that he gives. The kind of peace you would know when you have your destiny right there seated in God's arms. You cannot afford to lose that destiny, that picture you have always seen cannot be lost now. You have to ensure it is protected. Protect your destiny, engage the right attitude and see you achieve and then the world will say, we knew we saw it, it was in his destiny to be a champion.

CHAPTER NINE

DANGERS

On the road to championship, there are many dangers. Dangers are part of every circumstance that life presents. A familiarity with roads will show the many dangers that it presents. From stiff bends to potholes, from over speeding to death, there is a chance that you would have come past any of these. As you drive on champion's road, you will meet many dangers. As you journey on this championship, your mind must be prepared for this dangers and this means there has to be a guard.

There is a tendency to overspeed. When the road seems too smooth, you may be tempted to accelerate to a very high velocity. When the going is good, our minds may direct us to wasteful spending and living on the high speedway. Womanizing, alcoholism, promiscuity becomes the order of the day and the path to championship status. There is need for you to

drive calmly. You never can tell there just might be a pothole out there.

Potholes come in varying sizes. Some are large and gully like while some are small. However the size, they still pose some dangers to drivers on this road. Potholes can be considered as temptations. Temptations come in various sizes but they are temptations all the same. Just as drivers dodge potholes, you must not hesitate to escape temptations when they come. They may seem little but can be very deadly. Temptation is an attraction in such a way as to kill your championship dream and sincerely you will not want to let it take chance of you. As you drive lookout for potholes, the road may seem smooth but the devil puts these potholes of temptation to ensure you lose focus.

Always checkout for the warning signs on the roads. Many times while driving, you would have noticed road signs warning of impending danger ahead. What the signs are actually saying is 'slow down'; your championship may come to an end if you don't. On the championship road, there are many warning signs. They may not be

written in the form of road signs but the bearers are road signs anyway. The bearers are the persons God is placing on every path on your way up to encourage, stir you up and strengthen you. They are the courageous men and women who God is using to be a source of inspiration to you. Always listen to them for God has placed them there to guard you up through this road.

A man prayed, “may your road be rough”. Now you may wonder what a prayer this is. The road should be straight and easy. You may have asked yourself why the roads connecting cities, towns are not straight. Why do they have to be curved? The designers of roads know that inside man there is a tendency to over speed and so to check that tendency, they chose to design roads that way. The man who said this knew that the best in life do not come cheaply and easy. It would take shorter time and cost less to build a straight road but lives would be wasted. True champions come on a different terrain. You have to swivel your way through. It does not come easy. So much hard work is required.

The road bumps. Sometimes you get angry at road bumps. You would say in your mind, why are this road bumps here? The essence is to control your speeding. There is a temptation to over speed and to curtail or check it, speed breaks are placed. There is a tendency you want to rush to the top. You want to get there very fast. The truth is championship status is only enjoyed when you walk carefully up there. There is a saying "*what you rush into will rush you out*" thus is true. If you do want to enjoy the ease of every level of championship, you need the break. At the break, enjoy the scene of the environment and then continue success and championship will walk with you through.

Those traffic lights at the junction, you sometimes wish they were not there. You would have loved the scenario where you are gone without any break. But the lights is keeping you waiting for a few minutes. You hate it now because you are having an appointment you are already late to. Get it straight. The traffic lights are to guide you. On a journey in which everyone desires to reach it, there need to get through the initial route. You do not have to

rush in at the very important junction else, you may get an accident. The junction leads to many routes and everyone is getting through different routes thinking it will get them to championship but the most important route is that you must patiently wait to get the green light to enter into.

There are many dangers ahead. The real challengers know this remain cool headed as they drive on this special path. They do not rush to finish first but like the proverbial tortoise are slow and steady which ultimately win the race. Your business is not in finishing fast but finishing well.

CHAPTER TEN

DOUBTS

While driving on a route you have never passed through before, there is always what seems like a constant doubt racing through your mind. Am I making the right choice? Am I taking the correct path? Is this road actually leading to safe land? This doubt elopes every day. There is a picture you have painted and you want to reach there but you are not too sure of the route that leads there. You seem confuse and doubtful.

It's great knowing you are not the only one in such dilemmas. Thomas had doubts. Even Jesus acknowledged that Thomas was indeed a doubter. Thomas maybe might have doubted if Jesus was truly the son of God or if Jesus was truly the way to eternal life. Jesus after his death had to prove to Thomas. It is certainly normal that these doubts will come but the true champions know how to check their doubts. They lay solid on the infringing words of Paul the apostle *"I can do all things through Christ that*

strengthens me". They say *God has not given me a spirit of fear but of a sound mind*. They face their doubts with the tenacity of purpose. They stand to face the risk whatever befalls. They see beyond the plains of their doubts when you begin to doubt, you begin to sink. Real achievers have no place for doubts. There is no space for it in their dictionary. Peter while in the ship with the other disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea and he said "Lord can I come?" off course Jesus told him to come along and he climbed into the sea and began to walk but immediately doubts entered his heart he began to sink.

Doubts are like busted holes in a ship that allows water into the ship and sink the ship altogether. Just like Peter began to sink, if you allow doubts in your mind, the ship leading you to champions land would sink. Peter needed the trust of Jesus. And you also need a special trust to pull you out. Doubts is a canker that kills real time championship. Once the seed of doubt is sowed, you begin to lose self-confidence. This is true with sports teams. There is a certain degree of truth in the fact that once a winning team

allows doubts to enter into the heart, there is a certainty that they will always lose.

Doubt is an acronym for

D- Danger ahead

There is true danger ahead when we allow doubt in. Just like Peter was sinking to his death, you naturally hit bumps and summersault before long. You must, therefore, look out for doubts and crush it before it poses a danger.

O-Off direction

You may be on a path of championship but doubt comes in to pull you off this path. Doubt makes victorious men faithless,mediocre. Doubt pulls you off track. Rather than see yourself as a giant, you tend to doubt your ability and become an ant.

U- Understanding little

There is this belittling of ability that doubt brings. Imagine a car that has the ability to run 150kms/hr. The owner though sees the capacity of the vehicle but doubts it, he may never run past 100km/h because he feels the vehicle may lose control at such speeds. Of course, the manufacturers have ensured its safety and balance at such speeds but the driver fails to understand this because he allows doubts in.

B-Believe Anything

You'd natural believe anything when you doubt what you believe in. once there is no strong grounds for faith and confidence and doubt steals in you'd accept anything as truth and end up in a statement.

T- Team destroyer

Any team that allows doubts in any of its ranks creates a loophole through which that team is ultimately defeated or

fails. Strong teams know that their greatest weakness will be to doubt the strength of their side. No one who is doubtful is fit to enter into the kingdom. You are fit and strong but you must battle doubt to get through.

S-Success undermined

Finally, doubt undermines success. That success you are running after is a success well rehearse and win if doubt flees but doubt normally steals in and eats every joy that success gives. Doubt is a canker worm and it must be fought and won. Do not leave in mediocrity when you can live up and surpass. Get on a perfect yet challenging championship ride. Tell doubt bye.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

DELIBERATE ACTION

Championship requires taking a bold, deliberate step. You have looked at the cost, understudied it and decided, well whatever the cost, you are good to go. The road to championship requires a cognitive ability of action. I want to drive to success camp. If I would love to reach championship city, I would have to board a bus, ship, or plane to this city. Championship city may be out there and it seems everyone heading there but if I do not jump into the bus to this destination, I would remain at the same place where I was.

No matter how desirous you would love to stay in success city, without a deliberate strategic plan to get there you will be nowhere. Success is not achieved by a sleeping cocoon. You have to wake up from that slumber, wash your face, pick up your clothes and get going. I must reach

the top but I must prepare hard. I must choose to pay the cost and the absolute cost. Scholars in the university know this principle. For them to get through each course, they would have to study hard. They know too that if they do not, they would naturally end up with F's and perhaps extra years. To escape this they subject themselves to a deliberate action to study night after night, day after day.

Success is not achieved by coercion. A father does not force a child to success. The father may advise on the importance of education but it is in the willingness of that child take a step to achieve academic brilliance. Success is not forced, it is taking responsibility. You are responsible for your success. Sportsmen know that to win a championship, they would have to train and practice. A deliberate action of practicing is a necessity to achieve these feats. Records are not broken overnight. It begins with a seed of desire. A deliberate action must be taken.

On the road to championship, someone may come along to say this route is impossible but a

deliberate action of championships stirs your ship through the stormy seas. That road is rough but a deliberate active mind tells you, you can get through this by taking bold steps.

No frontline achiever celebrated today slept at the time of action. While others slept, like the ants they toiled the ground. They took decisive steps. They look ahead into the future are decided they would take the right steps by bringing the future's load of hard work today. There is no vocation that does not require action. There has to be action to propel that vocation. Only mediocre dare stand aloof when they should be acting. Champions do not stand to watch, champions act and are watched.

Our actors are celebrated because they act howbeit a created role. Poised by their quest to produce movies that would look real, they give themselves deliberately to the role. Whatever talent is deposited in you, there has to be a deliberate action to kick-start the talent to activeness.

Your best is right there only if you would refuse to let it lay fallow. You have to get busy at something. That dream has to be stirred up. Once going to space was a mere dream. Someone took action and started what became an aspiration. Before long in 1967 man conquered space. Though it seemed tedious and challenging but once the first step of action is taken, the next step becomes easy. As you make progress each step of the way, reaching the top even becomes easier than you once thought. Now space travel is like a child's play to today's ever-growing scientific world.

Enough! Wake up!! Do not sleep any longer. It is time to take that action that will build your future all the way to championship.

CHAPTER TWELVE

DARK TUNNELS

As you drive along championship route, you will come across dark tunnels. Are you wondering dark tunnels? Yes, dark tunnels abound on championship route. Tunnels are always found in mountains regions where the mountains are bored to allow roads to be constructed through them. At the beginning of the tunnel, it seems lighted but as we travel through the tunnel, towards the middle, we come across a dark section. The section of the tunnel is sometimes scary. This challenging time occurs to test our capacity to move on. This situation develops our consciousness to see the world from a different perspective.

Challenging times are bound to happen in life but like the proverbial saying, there is light at the end of the tunnel no matter how long the tunnel goes. It is no tunnel if there is no light at

the other end. No champion has had it good all the way. Circumstances come to test our resilience. All the celebrated superstars and models one time or the other had challenging moments to deal with. Did they stop driving because the path was dark? No! They drove on through it. They persisted. Today they are celebrated but those dark times are not usually recorded.

History is not short of persons who succeeded against the odds they had to go through. They earnestly contended and finally prevailed. There have to be dark tunnels to get through any mountain to the other side. Tunnels often are one way by which man has been able to surmount mountains. A new version of R Kelly's song will be "no mountain is too thick for a tunnel to get through"

Ask those men and women you celebrate, and they will tell you they had to go through challenging dark tunnels. Yes, one thing about tunnels is that there is surely light at the other end. Your vision may be blurred but continue, you'd see the streak of light.

Many persons struggle to get through and finally they do. But some persons don't. Some get into the tunnel but around the mid-point where it seems the darkness will overcome them; they give up and return the path they came from. Dark tunnels are normal. It is perseverance that takes you through them.

Caution has to be taken in dark tunnels so that you do not hit stones or break foot. Of course, these are the dangers to be expected while passing through this tunnel.

How about carrying with you a lamp? A lamp is very helpful in the tunnels. The lamp is the Grace of God you need to take you through the tunnels. During difficult times, you will need a lamp for direction. The lamp of God's word will take you through these tunnels. God's word will come handy and helpful.

How about a guide? Yes, you need a guide. The Holy Spirit of God is a guide that God gives us to sweat our path from falling off. God pours on us wisdom to get through tunnels. That

wisdom comes through the guidance of His spirit.

Why fear? There is nothing to fear or worry about for indeed whatever comes in the tunnels of life; God will pour upon you the grace to overcome.

That light you want to see at the end of the tunnel is just one-step from this dark part. There will be a streak of light, and soon a ray of light. Do not give up just yet.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

DARE

Dare!! Very familiar word isn't it? Whenever a task seems impossible to do, you'd normally hear the word 'dare man'. Daring is a challenge. On the road to championship, there is so much to dare. There are so many challenges to face, too many mountains to climb and too many rivers to cross. There was once a time when transportation by air, ocean etc was impossible. People imagined the impossibility and decided that the impossibility will exist no more. They decided to try the impossible, they challenged the odd, and they dared.

All great achievers have always dared. Champions are men who dare, and they had to take a challenge that seemed insurmountable and powered by a poise to get over the challenge, got over it.

The world is looking for men and women who can dare; people who will stand for what is considered right against the crowd of impossibility. Joshua, a valiant soldier had gone to spy out Jericho with Caleb and the rest of the ten; they were amazed by the size of the Canaanite and encumber by the walls of Jericho. The task seemed impossible and the other ten gave in to fear, but Joshua and Caleb dared to get over Jericho and Caleb dared to get over Jericho. They both became the rallying point upon which Jericho was defeated, imagine what would have happened if they had not dared.

To dare entails coming through intriguing moments and choosing to stand and fight till the victory is won. A little man like David and the Giant Goliath explains what daring could do. Goliath had stood, a great giant looking over the host of Israel one to challenge him. The host of Israel and even Saul the king the biggest of all Israelites could not stand this man, but David strolled into the camp. He had been working on the championship road and he reached the point where he would compete for the prize. Here Goliath stood. Israel was

shaking but. David dared to stand up against Goliath. David dared to kill Goliath.

Those who dare always have behind them a couple of other persons that will dare too. David had other men who kill giants too like him. David had broken the jinx and others followed suit. Those who dare will naturally lead.

Daring involves a two-way directional movement. You can dare either to make a positive change or dare to make a negative impact. You may be opportune to have come across a quarrel where one person dares the other to a duel. This daring character is an example of a use of useful energy in a negative way. Of course, daring involves the use of energy though in this case a wrong use.

Some persons have been tagged daredevils for their intimidating and crminating character and attributes. These persons breed fear in the hearts of those around them and they pose a threat to the safety of people around them.

Daring in this sense destroys the positive influence that one could possibly have.

Champions know how to dare when to dare and how to dare. That is what separates them from others. Everyone dares but the perfect timing is necessary to achieve and conquer to move ahead.

Inside you is the strength to dare. God has imputed in you the right amount of energy you will need to overcome your fear. All he expects from you is a little bit of faith. Remember Jesus said, if you have faith as a mustard seed, It means if you can dare a little, you will see your mountains fall like a pack of cards. You do not have to fight but you can dare.

On this signpost to championship, daring a little may just be the next bold step you will have to take to be the champion you want to be.

TO DARE MEANS

D- Dealing with fears

A-Acting against the fears

R-Responding positively against the fear

E-Experiencing championship

So then, the next time you come across a challenge that seems intimidating and impossible remember ‘just dare’.



CHAPTER FOURTEEN

DESPERATE?

In the increasingly fast world, we find ourselves today in, we desire fast results. Increasingly we are desperate to achieve our set of goals and objectives. It is great to have a desire and goal and to plan to achieve that goal but many seem to choose the fast lane. We want it and fast. The tendency to drive on this lane has made some fall into the traps of desperation.

Many are usually attracted by the nature of the fast lanes that they give into overspeeding. A car driver drives on the road at neck bending speeds, fails to recognize the presence of speed bumps and ends up dead. His life would have been preserved if only he had been patient enough to heed to the warning of speed breaks.

There is always a tendency to indulge ourselves in carrying out actions that are inappropriate

when we are desperate. Desperation kills thoughtfulness and creative thinking. Most times, whenever we are trying to carry out an action in the air of desperation, we tend to lose focus and direction and fail to get the kind of results we need further leading to frustration.

Being desperate creates a new different mindset, one developed only by looseness. A driver on the road to championship must ease himself and realize that the journey to championship has a path that must be trodden.







