

FUNDAMENTAL KEYS

*Of*

SUCCESS

**ISAAC JOHN AKAGU**

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## FUNDAMENTAL KEYS OF SUCCESS

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Warning

Introduction

**Chapter 1:**

The key of Good Thinking

**Chapter 2:**

The key of Wise Planning

**Chapter 3:**

The key of Action

**Chapter 4:**

The key of Patience

**Chapter 5:**

The key of Giving

# **WARNING!**

This book will challenge you!

## INTRODUCTION

Success doesn't just happen; it has to be **created**. Also, nobody just becomes great; but deliberate steps must be taken by positive thinking people in order to break out of mediocrity. Success is **not a myth**. It however has principles which when followed, can convert a failure into a celebrity.

I tell you, there is no price for failure. If you want to fail; just do *nothing* and you will experience failure without measure. But if you must succeed, you must **do something**. You must take steps. You must act. You must be audacious.

Somebody said, *successful people do daily what unsuccessful people do only occasionally*. That is to say; successful people do consistently what unsuccessful people fail to do consistently –if at all they do it. I can tell you that *what you do consistently determines what you become perpetually*. Your success has to be **made to happen**. Success has keys and

when you take hold of the keys that unlock the doors of success, there's no stopping you.

This book is a modest volume but one that will place in your hands vital keys that will unlock rooms loaded with fortunes for you. If you will dare to pay more attention to these little things, you'll be surprised at the heights you can attain.

I believe you must have heard about so many principles of success and read so many things. However, I'll like to talk about a few things that are widely neglected and often regarded minor; yet they're very crucial to your success in life.

## CHAPTER 1

### The Key of GOOD THINKING

Many years ago, I saw a Toyota advert on TV. In that advert, there was a slogan from 1953. It reads “*Hǎo sīxiǎng, hǎo chǎnpǐn,*” and it’s translated “**Good Thinking, Good Product**”. From that moment, I developed this mentality that “*if anything good must come out of you, you must be given to good thinking.*”

In the world of manufacturing for example, there are different kinds of products. Some products are more outstanding than others. However, every outstanding product is a result of good thinking, -by the manufacturer(s).

Similarly, if you must become successful in whatever you do, you must not only be a thinker, you must be given to “good thinking”. **The level of your success is determined by the depth of your thinking.** The more you think well, the more you

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succeed. The less you think well, the less you succeed. Show me a great thinker and I will show you a man bound to have an accomplished life.

All around the world, people are frustrated with their lives and the way things are going; but they hardly devote time to thinking. And even those that dare to think often think on negative things; -probably about how things will not work out or about the current situations and crisis they are faced with. Very few actually engage in “good thinking”.

My mentor, Dr. David Oyedepo once mentioned that he has in his house a “thinking room”. In that room, he has thinking papers and a thinking pen. Whenever he goes there, he just meditates and notes down in his thinking paper the ideas that come to him. Those ideas soon turn out to become action plans that eventually create success stories.

## **SCRIPTURAL PERSPECTIVE**



One of the most famous kings of all time was the king called David. One day, he examined the whole universe and had this to say about God.

*“O Lord, how great are thy works and thy **thoughts are VERY DEEP**”<sup>1</sup>*

Here, David was in awe of God’s wonderful creation of the heavens and the earth and everything within it -including man. Then he concluded “...and thy thoughts are **very deep.**” Simply put; God was able to invent everything He did because He was given to *deep thinking*. Incredible, isn’t it?

David makes us to understand that everything we see in the universe; the sun, the stars, the planets, the moon, the earth... they are all wonderful. But more wonderful are the *thoughts* that caused all of them to be manufactured in the first place.

Many people will just not sit and think. So they run around in circles and get stuck in frustration. You need to control your mind and be focused on the things you want to achieve.

If you are not making progress in your life, then it's time to sit down and analyze why. Strategize how to move from where you are to where you should be. The deeper you think the higher you go. The less you think, the less you grow. It's a law.<sup>2</sup>

God says "*come now and let us **reason** together*"<sup>3</sup> He beckons on you to start *reasoning*. This is an advanced form of productive thinking. *Reasoning* simply means *thinking about something in a logical way in order to come up with a solution*. God therefore, is asking us to start thinking logically and making analysis about our lives, the steps we have taken so far and the steps we must take to move forward. He wants you to refine your approach in order to come up with more productive ways of succeeding.

## **THINKINERS GENERATE IDEAS**

A popular writer once titled his book "*Ideas Rule the World*". I like add to that by saying that ideas created the world in the first place.

There was a problem. There was chaos and disorder on the earth and God (the Father) needed a manager to put things right. Then he called the other two in the God-head (the Son and the Holy Spirit) and he said “I have an idea.... *Let us make man*”<sup>4</sup> That idea was one of the most productive idea history ever recorded. Its results remain unmatched till today.

You know what; mediocrity can be turned around into resounding success just by getting ideas and working with them. Recently, I have seen how ideas born in a garage have turned out into multi-million dollar ventures and companies. *But only those given to good thinking can be inspired with great ideas.*

Many years ago, it was really difficult travelling around the world, especially over the seas. Those that eventually moved across continents spent so many days and even months on the oceans.

Then two brothers came up with an idea. They probably thought; *if we can create a machine that could fly over the seas;*

*people would cross continents in record time.* They thought so deep and their productive thoughts gave birth to the airplane technology we all enjoy today.

When you are confronted with stagnation, sit down and think deeply. There were four lepers at the gate of *Samaria*. People were dying of hunger and more people were going to die. Then these four guys said among themselves; *“we mustn’t sit here until we die.”*<sup>5</sup> An idea was born in the process and champions emerged out of them.

One day, a group of people brought a prostitute to Jesus (in order to test him). *“What should we do to her?”*<sup>6</sup> They asked. Then Jesus stooped down to think deeply; *to reason with God*. When he got up, all of them ran away. The truth is; deep thinkers are always threats to circumstances. When a deep thinker faces a challenge, he steps on it so easily.

There are so many graduates in Nigeria today who are struggling so badly. However, very few of them are given to deep thinking. When you keep waiting *...and waiting* for a job

you may never get one. All you need do is to sit down and think about what to do to create a financial future for yourself.

Opportunities are everywhere. You just need to recognize them and think deeply; about what to do with them. Abraham Lincoln said ***“we can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.”*** If you must change your level, you must see things differently.

A wise king called Solomon once said *“as a he thinks in his heart, so is he.”*<sup>7</sup> You are a product of the *type or nature* of your thinking. Your ultimate destiny is shaped by the depth of your thoughts. Friend, it’s time to wake up. Stop running up and down. Settle down and draw the course of your future. It is good thinking that yields good products. Permit me to repeat that slogan from the Toyota advert - ***“Good Thinking, Good Product”***.

## SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

1. Psalms 92:5
2. Romans 11:33
3. Isaiah 1:18
4. Genesis 1:26
5. 2 Kings 7:3-13
6. John 8:5
7. Proverbs 23:7

## CHAPTER 2

### **The Key of WISE PLANNING**

Growing up, I observed my dad a lot. He always had a diary at every point in time. But unlike most people who kept only records of past events in their diaries, my dad kept both past records and **plans** for things he intended to accomplish in the **future**. Most of those intentions had dates attached to them. He always had a short term and long term goal. In his diaries, he always drew out strategies for accomplishing desired goal. He was simply a planner.

Jesus made quite some interesting remarks about planning. Look what He says:

*“But don’t begin until you **count the cost**. For who would begin construction of a building without first **getting estimates** and the **checking to see** if he has enough money to pay the bills?”<sup>1</sup>*

Jesus in this verse quickly highlights the fact that *many people have great intentions but only few actually sit down to plan first*. In another version, He said *“...for which of you intending...”* Simply put, intentions are not enough to grant you your heart desires. You are not successful because you have intentions. Everybody has intentions including beggars on the streets. Only those who sit down to plan would eventually have success.

If you have intentions to do things that will get you into great heights, you must sit down first and *“count the cost.....”* Too many people even pray and forget about planning. But *prayer without planning is playing without knowing*. When you’ve got a big idea to do something great and you don’t sit down to strategize how to go about it, your idea may never grow bigger than the brain cell that conceived it in your head. It’s time to start counting the cost.

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The wise King Solomon said “*the wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way...*”<sup>2</sup> that is; you’ve got to strategize *the way* to accomplish your intentions. That’s what makes you a wise man. It’s not enough to know what you want to do, you’ve got to know how (the way) to do it and that’s what dubs you a prudent man or woman.

The young man Joseph, while interpreting Pharaoh’s dream, raised an alarm of a famine that was to come in “*seven years’ time*” So they started storing up food for a famine that was seven years ahead. He specifically told them that they would all perish unless they start preparing for that famine.<sup>3</sup>

The reason why many people die poor is because during the course of their lives, they tackle events only when they unfold. Many times, people are not ready for mere eventualities, let alone planning for their own future.

You don’t allow events to take you unawares. You’ve got to be prepared at every point in time. Adults always said to us while we were growing that; “*exams of life have no time-table.*”

You have to plan ahead. You've got to sit down and count the cost.

One apostle named Paul said this: *"let all things be done decently and in order."*<sup>4</sup> Many people will head nowhere in life because they live a disorderly life. Friend, you've got to order the course of your life. Put every step and every stage in order. That's what will grant you speed and accomplishment in life.

In the creation story for example, we are told that Before God created fish, He created the sea; otherwise fish would not have a habitat to survive. Also, before He created man, He created the earth; otherwise man would have nowhere to live. He's a God of order, and He expects us, His children to be orderly.

Oh you have a dream of owning a big business or organization. Great idea! Great dream! But you must go and learn how to manage and increase money. You've got to attend some leadership training. You have to read some books about people who have succeeded in business. You've got to pass

through several stages to get there. You've got to order your way into that dream.

You cannot become a medical doctor before you attend a medical school. That would be out of order. You have to go through medical school before you become a medical doctor. You cannot become a lawyer before you attend law school. It's the other way round. You must first go through law school before you become a lawyer.

Everything must be done, according to Paul, *decently and in order*. You have to pay attention to the order of your life and that's where planning comes in. *Planning helps you to put every stage of your life in order*. It helps you to prioritize properly for posterity. Planning helps you to get rid of confusion. The reason why many people get easily confused at cross roads is because they haven't sat down to draw up the order and the course through which their intensions should be accomplished. This is very important!

It was King Solomon that also said *“it is Gods privilege to conceal things but the king’s privilege to discover them.”*<sup>5</sup> God has already established matters concerning your destiny. However, it is your duty to discover those matters –through wise planning so as to ensure that those matters come to pass.

He also said *“Prepare thy work without and make it fit for thyself in the field; **and afterward, build thine house**”*.<sup>6</sup> Preparations must be done before building. O yes you must prepare first. Make things *“fit”* for yourself. Then build your destiny. Never take any step in life that you are not prepared for. It’s easy to make decisions. But be careful embarking on adventures unprepared.

Finally, you must know that you need divine help to plan properly. You are nothing without the hand of God. He’s the Supreme Being. Many people make informed decision and still fail in life. It’s not enough to make informed decisions. You need *“inspired”* decisions

Inspiration is when the Holy Spirit controls your mind in making major decision in your life. So information is not enough. Inspiration is what you need.

You can be informed and fail, but you can't be inspired and fail. "*A man's heart deviseth his ways* (in an informed manner); *but the Lord directeth his steps* (through inspiration)"-emphasis mine.<sup>7</sup>

So you can draw your plans and that's ok. But you must yearn for divine direction –from God.

## **SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES**

1. Luke 14:28 (TLB)

2. Proverbs 14:8

3. Genesis 41:25-37

4. 1 Corinthians 14:40

5. Proverbs 25:2 (NLT)

6. Proverbs 24:27

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## 7. Proverbs 16:9

### CHAPTER 3

#### **The Key of ACTION**

Years back in secondary school; I often participated in the track and field events; and my preferences were long jump and 3000 meters. As at that time, being a teenager, it was just for the fun of it.

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I learned over the years however, that no one finds inspiration to run a 3000 meters race until he or she knows that there's going to be a prize for the winner. The reason is clear. The 3000m is a long race. It will tire you without doubt and only the promise of an award would keep you on the track hoping for the best.

Life, like the 3000m, is quite an adventure. And guess what, there is a prize at the end of it. However, only those that will dare to stay on the track for that long, and perhaps to the end, will obtain the prize.

Paul the apostle speaking by inspiration said *"know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize, **so run, that ye may obtain...**"*<sup>1</sup>

Paul readily notes here that at the end of every race, there is a prize to obtain. And that's for sure. Note also that life is a race and you are not designed by God to be a spectator in this race. You were not made to stay out there and cheer up those in the race. God's intention for you is that you'll be a participant

in the race. The implication of that is; you have a chance of obtaining the prize. Don't settle for less; you're not meant to be left out. There is no partiality with God as long as you play your part.

But Paul state clearly that “...*so run, that ye may obtain*”. In other words, you cannot obtain without running and you cannot run and not obtaining as well. Either way, you must *run*.

We talked about planning in the previous chapter as paramount to your success. However, plans not pursued are of no good. How do I mean? I mean *taking action!* Stand up and put your plans to work.

You sit down to *plan*, but you must stand up now and *act*. **Planning without action would make a dreamer frustrated.** Many have dreams, a few have gone ahead to create plans for accomplishing those dreams, and a few yet have gone the extra mile of taking action.

You can't afford to sit there and wish for things to happen simply because you have big goals. It is your action that



differentiates you from the beggar on the street. You may be a graduate wearing nice coats, but if you don't act on your dreams and plans, you're no different from a beggar. Don't die a camouflage.

Habakkuk 2:2 has become a memory verse among Christians today. It's a shame however that like it is called, "memory verse," it remains stuck only in their memories. Very few people actually act accordingly.

*"...write a vision, make it plain upon tablets, **that he may run that readeth it**".* Many have had visions and nice goals (through deep thinking). Many others have *made plain upon tablets* their goals (that is; well drawn-out plans). Only few however are actually *running* with their vision. Only few are taking action. That's why only few are *obtaining* the *prize*.

You will only have your laziness to blames if you don't succeed. Stop folding your arms and saying *"there is no capital to start up the business I want to do"*. There are several ways to raise capital. You only need to sit down and think, then stand

up and act. If you show me a diligent man, I will show you a man who must succeed no matter what?

Don't fold your hands and say "*nobody is willing to give me the support I need*". If you *stand up*, you will attract people's support. People no longer support mere intensions. They want to see how serious you are by your actions. Laziness repels people. Wise and calculated action makes a man attractive to potential helpers. Your problem is not money or people. Your problem is your own laziness.

The writer of Hebrews said.... ***Let us run with patience, the race that is set before us.***<sup>2</sup> It would be shameful to leave this world when your time is up without making unforgettable impact. Only your great accomplishment however can put you on the list of those that made impact; and only giant strides (defined by deliberate and audacious actions) can help you to those accomplishments.

This is a wakeup call. Too many are asleep. You are not moving forward and the reason is because you are still asleep.

Remember the four lepers at the gates of Samaria. I talked about team in chapter 1. There was the risk of dying on getting into the city, but they knew they would still die of hunger if they remained where they were. Then they said to themselves and I paraphrase; *if we don't go for the fear of dying, we will still die here, so why don't we go anyway? We will go, they said. We will take actions. We will not sit here and fold our arms. We can't just die here!* So they entered into the city, and they did not die. Rather, they returned with plenty.

Friend, laziness kills. It does, really. Get over your self-pity and your predicament. Start taking action on your plans now.

## **SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES**

1. 1 Corinthians 9:24

2. Hebrews 12:1

## CHAPTER 4

### **The Key of UNDYING PASSION**

Passion is the fuel of destiny. It is often said that where there is no vision, the people perish; but then where there is no

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passion, the vision perishes. Without passion, destiny is left to mere chances. Passion is the propeller of destiny. Passion is what drives an individual for fulfillment. Passion is the fire that burns within you for accomplishment.

To lack passion is to be a walking-dead man. No matter how colourful your destiny is by potential, when passion is absent, frustration becomes the result. What you don't love cannot last in your hands. Similarly, if you are not driven toward your vision through passion, it can never come into fruition. You can't change what you are comfortable with; therefore, you cannot break out of where you are into where you should be until you are driven by something on your inside.

There was a woman called Mary Slessor. She's popular in Nigeria as the missionary that put a stop to the infanticide of twin babies. It was a common practice in many rural areas decades ago. She however had this vision, but was also driven by passion. She wanted to put an end to that cruel tradition even if it would cost her life.

One day on her way into one of those remote villages, she was warned to turn back otherwise she would get herself killed. But she responded “Onward, I dare not look back!” She was ready to die for what she believed in.

Passion is not finding something to live for; passion is finding something to die for. Passion is pursuing your vision with everything inside you. Slessor eventually died in Nigeria, but she died fulfilled. Today, she’s a song on the lips of every Nigerian generation as the woman who did not only live for something, but died for it. The good thing is that she died accomplished.

Passion means refusing to look back in spite of the potential horrors you may face trying to fulfill your purpose. Passion is moving “Onward” like Slessor said, despising your fears and aggressively approaching your destiny. Passion is indeed the fuel of destiny.

There was a man called John Knox. He is renowned as the reformer that brought the great and unending revival to the

nation of Scotland. It was however a task that took a lot from him. But he was driven by passion and his passion for this vision reflected in one of his popular prayers. He prayed in those days saying “O Lord, Give me Scotland or I die”.

Wow! That was all he craved for. That was all he lived for and that was what he was ready to die for. In fact, I believe by that prayer, he meant “God, you are either giving me this nation or you’re killing me! There’s no other reason for me to be alive. I want to bring revival to this land and if you’re not going to make this happen for me, then kill me!” God heard this desperate cry from a passionate man and granted his desires. He’s not going to be forgotten in a hurry. Passionate people live on. They never really die.

Mother Theresa had so much passion for the weak, especially children. She was ready to accommodate all of them. She would often tell those who were carrying unwanted pregnancies not to abort the babies; but asked them to go ahead and give birth, then bring the babies to her. That was her

passion. She was ready to die for this cause. She can never be forgotten in a hurry.

Try to find what burns in your heart, what moves you, what stirs you up, what makes your heart to jump. That's probably passion and is the key that will unlock your destiny. When you have found it, pursue it tirelessly, vigorously, earnestly and relentlessly.

## **How to Fuel Your Passion**

### **Keep an eye on your goals:**

The truth is, the more you keep an eye on your goals for life; the more you develop the zest to accomplish them. If you take your eyes off your aspirations, you'll lose the passion for pursuit.

Maintaining focus is the key to increasing your passion. When you start trying to be like other people, you will get distracted and lose the zeal to pursue your own vision.

We are told in the Bible that the only reason why Jesus Christ could endure the sufferings he went through was because he

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kept focusing on the future (Hebrews 12:2, 1 Peter 2:11). According to those verses, it was “the joy that was set before Him” that made Him to “endure the cross” and “despise the shame” He was subjected to. Through focus, He was able to gather the passion He needed to fulfill His destiny; in spite of the persecutions He faced.

Friend, it doesn't matter what your aspirations are; you need to get zealous about them if you want to accomplish any of them. It's not enough to have a vision. You also need an inner drive to bring your vision into reality. It is pursuit that makes vision real and it is passion that provides the energy for pursuit.

## **Avoid Competition**

One remarkable truth I discovered is that there's no need competing with anyone since we all have different assignments. All we need do is focus on our unique goals and aspirations to get them fulfilled. I'm not trying to be a musician, so I need not

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be envious of any of them nor create enmity between me and them.

At the root of enmity is envy and at the root of envy is unhealthy competition. Why get jealous over someone else who is not heading your way? Everybody's future is unique to him or her. We may share ideas but we are heading different directions so we must get rid of envy and focus on achieving our own goals.

Growing up many years back, we were told the story about a dog 'X' with a bone in his mouth who ran to a pond in search of water. On getting to the pond, he saw another dog 'Y' inside the water with a bone in his mouth too. Dog 'X' became envious of dog 'Y' in the water and tried to snatch the bone dog 'Y's' mouth. When he opened his mouth to bark at dog 'Y', his own bone fell into the water and then he realized that dog 'Y' in the water was just a reflection of himself. That's what envy can do. You lose everything you have when you become envious of others.

Envy is an enemy of passion. Envy only promotes strife, but focus fuels passion and passion fuels pursuit and pursuit fuels accomplishment. So, instead of getting bothered over other people's progress, fix your eyes on your own dreams and channel all your energy towards them. You can fuel your own passion through focus.

Chapter 5

## **The Key of PATIENCE**

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One of the most interesting admonitions in the bible was given by the apostle Paul. He said:

*“If we hope for that (what) we see not, then do we with  
patience **wait for it**”<sup>1</sup>*

We can quickly conclude from this verse that your future is in an unseen realm. It belongs to the realm of hope. You are not there yet, so you must wait patiently until the time of its fulfillment.

If you want to be successful in life, you must learn the virtue of patience. After you have created your plans, drawn out your goals and taken the necessary actions you must take to have a fulfilled life, you must wait for when each vision gets accomplished. Every vision has an appointed time. It's ok to play your part ahead of the time, but you must **wait** for the time.

One very big reason why people make a mess of their lives today is because of impatience. Many graduates today have picked up guns and are on the highways robbing. They just

can't wait until they make it. Some of them lose their lives in the process.

Many young girls are into prostitution right now. They believe things will never work out, so if they are ever going to survive they must exchange their bodies for money. They end up facing grave consequences later-on in their lives.

Most of the auto accidents you see or hear about on highways today happen simply because drivers have become too impatient. Often times we hear observers here in Nigeria say things like *"It was dangerous overtaking that caused the accident"*. But what makes drivers to overtake dangerously? – impatience! They just can't wait for the right time to overtake.

That is how it is with life. Many people on their way to destiny crash-land because of their impatience. Haven't you seen or heard about bright young people who got into jail just because they got involved in internet frauds. The truth is, at the heart of every act of misconduct on anyone's path to greatness is impatience. Watch it because it kills faster than cancer.

Paul's admonition is that if we must get to the future we desire, which of course we can't see, then we must learn to wait.

When God led the children of Israel out of Egypt, hundreds of thousands of them failed to get to Canaan. They all died in the wilderness. We were told that they murmured, complained and even worshiped other gods.

Those actions provoked God to anger, hence causing Him to deny them entry into the land that they were promised. But impatience was at the heart of all their provocative actions. Many of us today behave like the Israelites in the wilderness.

We get so bored with the process of life that we get out of our way to do things we would not do on a normal day. Most of the curses people suffer from today are self-inflicted, and impatience sits at the heart of it.

In the previous chapter, I talked about the need to "*run with patience*"<sup>2</sup> the race that is set before us. Well, that seems conflicting.

How do you run patiently? Running should be an aggressive action. When you run in a 100m race for example, you should be swift and fast enough to beat all your opponents. But the bible reference there gives us a contrary view. It tells us to run patiently. That's a paradox.

It means that when we get really obsessed with our dreams and plans, we must pay attention to the fact that time is a crucial circle in which every aspiration is confined.

Just like it takes time to build a house (even when you've got all the money), it also takes time to fulfill your dreams even though you've done all you need to do.

So, what do you do when you've done all you should do? My answer is *wait!* Patience is what to do when you've done all you should do." It's one of the fruits of the spirit.<sup>3</sup> That means spirit filled people are patient in heart. You must learn to wait on God to play his part. He makes everything beautiful in its time. That means everything has a time like we often say. The

wise king said *“to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven”*.<sup>4</sup>

Simply put, purpose must pass through a process before it comes into fruition -and process takes time. That is why impatient people never accomplish their goals. They just can't wait for the right time. They get out of way to do things they should not do. They want what we often call quick success.

Two incredible bible phrases are found in the bible. It reads *“rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulations ...”*<sup>5</sup> This is very crucial. Note the key words:

- Rejoicing
- Hope
- Patient
- Tribulations

You have hope because you know that as long as you are alive, you can become successful if you maximize the opportunities that come your way. It makes you happy and gives you reasons to look ahead with optimism.



But you must also be conscious of the fact that the process leading to a great life is not easy. That's the meaning of the word *tribulation*. Patience is however the only virtue that can help you survive and go through tribulations without being tossed out of the way. Hence the phrases "*rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulations*" That is, fix your mind on the future, but wait for your time of accomplishment.

I read this from the bible: "*and every man that striveth for mastery, is temperate in all things...*"<sup>6</sup> You want to be a master? You must learn temperance. You are always in a hurry, that's why you end up with nothing. Temperance is the key to mastery.

James said "*blessed is the man that endures temptations, for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life*".<sup>7</sup> Endurance is the watchword of champions. "Temptation" as used in this verse symbolizes the process you need to go through before you become successful. You need endurance. It's the conquerors virtue.

Please realize that God has promised you success.<sup>8</sup> But you've got to do God's will by rejoicing in hope -the hope that you will attain the heights God has promised. Keep your hope alive. Endure the process but remain optimistic as you wait.

## **SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES**

### **1. Romans 8:25**

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2. Hebrews 12:1

3. Galatians 5:22

4. Ecclesiastes 3:1

5. Romans 12:2

6. 1 Corinthians 9:25

7. James 1:12

8. Jeremiah 29:11

## CHAPTER 6

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## The Key of the FLOWING RIVER

Finally, my dear reader, I want you to realize that just as success comes, it can be taken away from you if you don't know how to maintain it. You have to know how to keep bringing success and being successful. Many become successful but never remain successful because they don't understand the principle of the "*flowing river*".

We know that the reason why river water (or some river water) remains ever fresh is because it flows. It's not stagnant. Stagnant water smells. It spoils. Many people's success has become a smelly success because it does not flow. You have to allow your success flow otherwise you will soon turn it into a failure.

You might be wondering, "What does he mean?" This is what I mean: Learn to ***give back*** if you want the streams of success to keep flowing in your life. When you let go, you create room for more to come in. Those who don't give back, never grow up in accomplishments.

You are not rich because you have several millions in your account. You become rich when your million start to affect other people's lives positively. It's all about impacting lives with your wealth. It's often said; *"if you eat alone, you will die alone"*.

While that statement might sound to you like a resolution of defeat or a consolation of a poor man, you have to look at it from the other angle -from God's angle. In the Bible, we are told that *"there is he that scatters, yet increases..."*<sup>1</sup>

If you want to increase, you have to scatter first. You have to give. You have to be a blessing to others around you. Stingy people never get to the heights. If they manage to get there, they soon start crumbling. Most of the foundations we see and hear about around the world today are owed by people who understand this principle. They know within themselves that *"if I must get richer, I must keep reaching out to others"*.

That's what I mean by the *flowing river*. Start cultivating the habit of blessing others even in your low estate. That's what will take you to the *high estates* of life.

While I was a student in the university, the Holy Spirit said to me one day *"you're not to keep anything you have, let it flow to others, that's the only way to enjoy endless flows"*. It makes a whole lot of sense. It is often said that *"the pipe that allows water to flow through it will never lack water itself"*.

Start thinking beyond yourself and start thinking about others. Start affecting lives. Start influencing others. Start reaching out. That's the key to sustainable blessing.

## SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE

1. Proverbs 11:24

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## HAVE YOU MET JESUS YET?

Success is simply impossible without knowing Jesus.

If you haven't met Jesus and you want to know Him; pray this prayer aloud with me as you repeat these words.

*Lord Jesus*

*Come into my heart*

*Be my Lord and Savior*

*Write my Name in the book of life*

*I choose to love and serve you from hence forth*

*Thank you Lord; for saving me. Amen!*

If you prayed that prayer, then I congratulate you. You have taken the first step toward a successful life. My admonition to you is to get yourself attached to a bible believing church and get yourself planted there. Also, you must keep reading your Bible (get one if you don't have any) and pray consistently.

God bless you richly.



## **THANKS FOR READING MY BOOK**

I believe you were impacted as you read through this book. My mandate is to reach everyone on the continent with this book which is designed to incite positive actions that will help you break out of poverty. But achieving this is daunting considering the financial demand of printing and publishing on such a large scale.

That's why I need your support. Your seeds and donations are always received thankfully. To make a donation or sow a seed from anywhere in the world, use the information below.

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***JESUS IS LORD!***

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

We are in a world that operates by keys. The most powerful person on earth is the one that has the key to what everyone else is looking for. Everybody wants success. But very few people have the keys that unlock success. “There is no price for failure. If you want to fail; just do *nothing* and you will experience failure. But if you must succeed, you must *do something*. This book is a modest volume but one that will place in your hands crucial universal keys that will unlock rooms loaded with fortunes to you.”

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Isaac John Akagu** (B.Sc.) is a teacher, preacher, motivator and speaker at meetings and groups. He has held positions in fellowships on campus and youth groups. He is also a passionate writer of Christian inspirational and motivational books, some of which have been published widely online. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Geography and Planning from *Kogi State University, Nigeria* and also has a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education.

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