

*Samuel Ufot Ekekere*



GET MOTIVATED TO WIN LIFE'S BATTLE

# *the GAME* of LIFE

ALL THE INSPIRATION TO WIN IN THE BATTLE OF LIFE



# THE GAME OF LIFE

©SAMUEL UFOT EKEKERE

Twitter @naijasoars

[www.facebook.com/naijasoars](http://www.facebook.com/naijasoars)

[ekekeresamuel@gmail.com](mailto:ekekeresamuel@gmail.com)

+2349055530115

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# INTRODUCTION

In the board game of life, we are each chess players. Every one of us has all the pieces we need in life but what matters is how the pieces are played. Life is a competitive game where all our pieces are at risk of being taken from us, all the things we hold dear. To not fall into this risk, you have to develop strategies to keep you winning.

There is a chance of losing. The difference for those who have continued to show prowess in life is how they have managed to come through some losses and still protect the most important things in their lives, the king.

For those who enjoy the chess game, you might have noticed the very strong similarities between the game you play and the issues of life. You might have played and achieved master status; there is a lesson in this game you so much love.

For those who have no idea of how the game of chess is played, you'd learn to love it and maybe you would desire to play it and carry its attributes

to issues relating to life. Like most sports game, the game of chess gives you a description of the technicalities that life presents. It provides a problem and the players compete against themselves to ensure they tackle the problems in good fate.

The chess board consists of a sequence of squares in sixty four squares with players, two at a time and thirty two pieces each of them having their relative style of play and function. The end goal though, which each player seeks to reach is the protection of the king piece by using virtually all the skills of the remaining fifteen pawns on each side.

Each player begins with sixteen pieces apiece; one king, one queen, two rooks, two knights, two bishops and eight pawns, each piece type moving differently with the objective being to 'checkmate' the opponent's king by placing it under an inescapable threat of capture. The game can be won by voluntary resignation which occurs when one player loses too much pieces or a checkmate or still a draw may result.

Chess strategy consists of setting and achieving long-term positioning advantages during the game while tactics concentrate on immediate maneuver. These two work hand in hand as the strategic goals are mostly achieved through tactics.

As you read this book, you will appreciate the lesson this novel game of life presents. You can be sure to learn one or more principles that will pedestal you to an even greater height. Read and be inspired into another realm in the game of life.

Benjamin franklin, former president of the United States wrote of the chess game. *The game of chess is not merely an idle amusement. Several very valuable qualities of mind, useful in the course of human life are to be acquired and strengthened by it so as to become habits ready in all occasions. For life is a kind of chess in which we often have points to gain and competitors or adversaries to contend with and which there a variety of good and ill events is.*

## *CHAPTER ONE*

# A GOAL

Every player who plays on the chess table sets his mind focused on one goal, to win. That is the primary goal. He comes prepared with a mind that is set towards winning. All those who have become chess masters had to defeat chains of players who were sometimes as good as they were.

As a player in life's game, you have to carry behind you the indispensable fact that someone has to win on that table for two. Your mind has to be focused towards the desired endpoint, winning.

The only people who win are those who come with a goal in mind. They come to win and will never accept defeat. The masters carry behind them the goal that they have to beat every player to become. They will even have to challenge other masters.

Apostle Paul was a master. He said of himself, I have fought a good fight and have finished my course and now there is laid for me a crown. Paul understood that there was a crown but the crown

wouldn't come easy. He had to fight a good fight, give a good picture of his ability, challenge the odds, ensure he won and then get the winning prize.

No true success ever occurs without the goal. The chess master understands that his focus is the prize and he keeps his eyes determined and fixed towards it.

Because of the goal, the players develop

- Tactics and
- Strategies

**TACTICS:** tactics refer to a sequence of moves that limits the opponent's options to his own gain. They are often short termed. The fact is there are often short term goals that have to be achieved while in the game of life in pursuit of the big goal.

Goals vary in type and style. As you play in life's games, there are everyday challenges and encumbrances that require short term tactical offences. You have to learn to develop short term everyday goals while working towards your big goal. Tactics produces results for immediate short term goals which gives us strategic advantage for the



attainment of the future goal. It requires good vision and prolific foresight to create them. There are situations in life that demands your tactical ability

In the game of chess, the fundamental building blocks of tactics are moves sequences in which the opponent is unable to respond to all the threats, thus creating an opportunity for the attacker's advantage.

As matter of fact, while playing the game of life, we must develop tactics that is capable of helping us get through our everyday challenges. Each step we take on our way up presents one enormous mountain that has to be brought down. Our ability to take each mountain as they come defines our tactical prowess for our everyday goals.

**STRATEGIES:** For strategies, the goal is long termed requiring longer time to be realized creating a scenario where the opponent is less constrained to respond. We do set long term futuristic goals. They're often giant goals not immediately envisioned but characterized by a longer time frame based on the survival of immediate short term goals like In the game of chess where the goal is a

checkmate on the king or a winning move. You do have long term goals. Your strategies are aimed towards ensuring that that future goal is an achieved in the longer run.

While evaluating a position strategically, a player on a chess board takes into account such factors as the relative value of the pieces on the boards, pawn structure, king safety and position of pieces. There are many considerations you have to consider in making your goals and reaching them. Sometimes, we are too audacious in setting long-term goals that we do not consider or evaluate the options and opportunities available towards those goals. We often drive our minds towards setting grandiose goals that are unimaginable and beyond conception. Your goals must have a possibility index even if it is long-term. You must define strategic constraints and work out modalities through which the future goals could be achieved within the constraints and possibility index

Goals are a necessity. However small or short term, big or long term, they still require a depth of discipline to maneuver through to them. The chess

gamer realizes that whether they make small changes or big ones, the overall small goals achieved in the form of applying tactics leads to the achievement of the future enormous goal of winning the match. You do realize that the little achievement of now leads to the attainment of your big future goal. You must therefore strive earnestly to pursue with all the ability that you have to achieve, with all the zest in you.

Paul declares; I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me. The ability to do all things and achieve your set goals is in acknowledging the tactical and strategic impact that having Christ could do in your life. The enormous influence of Christ opens the new air of dynamic capability.

Jesus Christ knew the effect of having a goal. He came down to earth with a heavenly goal to win the world from Satan's dominion. The world was the prize. He had to develop a strategy for achieving such enormous goal by tactically starting with his twelve disciples each of which he tactically won through different methods. Christ though never played the game of chess; he realized however the

strategic differences in attributes of his twelve pieces, his disciples.

Just like the dynamic pieces of the chess game, the disciples each with their dynamic style and position sought to pursue earnestly the goal that Christ had set before them to protect the interest of the King God.

Take counsel in the words of Solomon in the final verses of his book the Ecclesiastes where he writes “let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, fear God and keep his commandment for this is the whole duty of man. Solomon was invariably saying that all the wise counsels he had made from the first chapter to the end were in a bid to solve the major issues of life in order to achieve the entire goal of fearing God and keeping his commandments.

Begin to set your goals now.

## *CHAPTER TWO*

# THE RIGHT POSITION

Taking a brief look at the chess board, it has been described in the introduction as having checks of two colours and 16 pieces on each side for the two players. You would have observed that the game involves correctly positioning of pieces.

Each piece has its position and the game does not start without the players having rightly positioned the pieces. It's the same in life. To be able to begin the battle that life presents, you have to be rightly positioned. There is a right place most suitable for you to begin your journey to conquering. Not everywhere is best to start, but somewhere has the perfect ingredients for your launch. Rockets are launched at an airspace base not in any airport.

Every piece is played from its rightful position else there would be technical imbalance in strategy.

When you launch from the wrong position, you end

up spending more time to achieve the goal. The grandmaster of life has rightly positioned you for the most impact you should be making.

The individuality of the pieces ensures that they play their roles independent of others. Your individuality too is defining the effect only you can make. Your style is dynamic and best suites the position in which the grand master has perfectly played you into. God himself made this comment about you; before you knew yourself, I have known you. He was reiterating the fact that he had made you and positioned you just at the right time in your mother's womb for the right place and purpose.

The pieces are never static on play. Every piece is subject to the mercy of the chess players' technical prowess. They change position as it suites the player in a bid to attack and capture the opponents pieces. Christ showed this example when he gave the order to his disciples to "go and preach the gospel to all nations". He was invariably telling his disciples that he is commissioning and moving them to capture souls outside their immediate country. The fact is, for you to make any impact; you will

have to move out of your comfort zone. You will have to change positions. That is the duty of the grandmaster that plays you his piece where he determines you would make the most impact.

The essence of the position is to get the other players piece while also protecting the piece that you use for the attack. Though sometimes, the pieces may be lost. It is for the overall goal of attaining the champion status of the game. One sure fact is God has positioned you to be very vital in the purpose he has set for you, though sometimes he could position you deliberately in a war torn or persecution infested region. This was the situation of the disciples and apostles after Jesus left the earth.

Jesus had given his disciples the mandate of reaching the world but had asked that they remain at Jerusalem until they be endued with enough power to take up the task. His notion was that when they were endued, they would obey his directive naturally to step into the entire world. Guess what! This did not happen. God had to force a wave of persecution to push them out. The goal had to be

protected “God’s interest.” Souls had to be won but the apostles also had to lose their lives too as the sacrifice. Every of the apostles died as martyrs except one. God wouldn’t have wished their death. No! But they were the sacrificial pieces upon which souls could have a surrendered life to Jesus and have the most priced eternal life

In life, we do often shift positions. Sometimes it is to our benefit while at other times, it is in sacrifice for a better position. We must realize like the game of chess that it is a must to change positions if you will have to reach the total good which God has made in the future

Paul the apostle wouldn’t have received acclaim if he remained the Pharisee that he was. No! He changed positions. Though he lost many privileges, those were the pieces he should lose so that he could confirm his prize

There are two types of positioning

- Static and
- Dynamic



**STATIC:** in this case, as in the case of chess, the pieces are limited to one spot but have the influence that their capacity has such as the king. The safety of the king is meant to be static only protected by his entourage of aides. There is something that has to be static. Our future goals have to be fully defined and seen as a whole unchanging lump. Its position as a spur and propellant should not have to change. It has to drive us into action to protect it.

Jesus our grand master understood that there were certain things that should have static positions. He had one, the fulfillment of God's goal and that was not going to change even when he had to die. He protected God's interest to the cross.

**DYNAMIC:** Some pieces are quite dynamic in their movement. They often have to make compulsory movements. Some have limited movements while others have generic movements. Something in our lives will always have to move and be repositioned. Friends, family will have to be repositioned. They will come and go. The people around us are bound to change. They are bound to be influenced by

circumstance and thus may choose to change positions and join you or change positions away from you. It is the sum good of the static goal. Pieces like the queen on the chess board often show very dynamic attributes. The queen stands as the final support and threshold for the king. It's same with the position of a wife around her husband. A woman is around her man to play a role no other person can play. She is well positioned as protector and shield of her husband. She has a variety of skills that others have individually. It is now the husband's duty to acknowledge this attributes in her and use it to his advantage. The man is also rightly positioned around her woman.

The individual position styles of the chess pieces are an acknowledgement of the fact that God has made us individuals with distinct ability and style meant to make us impact the world in a distinct way. Mr. A isn't Mr. B. they are distinct personalities who have come to make their individual impact felt in the game of life

In picking his disciples Jesus did not look for similarities. He picked fishermen as well as scholars,

tax collectors as well as doctors and he played them into God's chess game.

When God positions or shifts you, know that it is for your absolute good.

## *CHAPTER THREE*

# UNITY OF PURPOSE

Each player begins the game with 16 pieces; one king, one queen, two rooks, two knights, two bishops and eight pawns. Each of this set of pieces move differently. The endpoint through is to ensure the checkmate of the opponents king or an outright win. The player sees the pieces as though different with their individual style but all in a bid to achieve the endpoint “a win.”

In life, the same principles are applied. Companies have different staff with different capacities but one objective. The fact that they have to admit lawyers, engineers, servants, drivers, into one fold is because they realize that if they must achieve their goal, they need the services of this people. The doctors don't say I am a doctor so should face my medical profession. The engineer does not say I am an engineer so I'm only concerned with my engineering profession. Rather everyone teams up with their different skills, united with purpose, the

purpose being to achieve the company's set objective.

Paul the master realized this when he said that there are diversities of gifts but the same spirit and there are differences in administration but the same lord.... For the body is not one member but many.... And God had set some in the church, apostles, prophets, and teachers, the essence being for the edification of the church.

A very good example of this principle is our body system all having individual parts; the eyes, mouth, nose, brain, head etc. each being distinct and having individual responsibilities yet working together to ensure the total existence of the human.

The fact that we are different with our personalities, gifts and temperament does not in any way reduce the fact that God has made as part of a team for the fulfillment of his own purpose.

In the chess game, the loss of a piece is detrimental to the overall success of the player. Each piece though unique whether minor or major has its effect on how the player plays and wins. If you lose

your hands, you know you have lost an important part of you. If you lose your eyes, you know you have lost something very important.

In a company, when one staff leaves, he often leaves a vacuum that has to be filled. The fact is, everyone has a role to play to the overall achievement of a task. But there is a need for unity with every person having at the back of our minds that there is an objective or purpose we are heading towards.

Paul expressed the fact that God has placed in us diversity of ministers who each have dynamic styles and gifts in the same church so that the church will be edified. God has positioned inside everyone diverse talents and gifts that are needed by another. We are not all independent of ourselves. We need the sure cooperation of others. Iron sharpens iron with a goal to increasing the cutting ability of the two irons.

You do have to realize that

- **Everyone's' different.** No two persons are the same. You do have to acknowledge the strength

of each person and their weakness and see how to get the best out of them. Moses was called by God and he was quick to acknowledge his inconsistency. But God found a help and support in Aaron who though had a gift that Moses lacked was not called. God fathomed that the goal and endpoint of having Israel out of Egypt could be accomplished by moving Aaron towards Moses and having them partner in unity of purpose.

You have a unique ability that is uniquely yours and God wants to use that ability to the fulfillment of his goal. You may not have all it may take to accomplish the goal but he places people and persons around you who have what you lack so as to ensure the endpoint is achieved.

- **Everyone has a role.** However bad a person may be, he is important to the overall plan to God. They may be lepers, but God can still fathom how to use lepers. God had to use lepers to save Israel from famine. There is a role for everyone especially when it is being played under God. That little child is as important as

the big minister. The unknown prayer warrior is as important as the presiding bishop. The cleaner is as important as the CEO. They may not all play equal roles but they all need each other.

One fact about the chess game is TEAM work of the pieces. Whether they are pawns or kings, they do have to be played as a team. As a team, together every one achieves much. One individual piece cannot tackle the whole team of the other opponent even if that piece is the queen with unique attributes. It will need the support and strength of every other piece.

There is no gainsaying the fact that as individuals, we may have enormous skills and talents but we do need the sometime irrelevant skills of others to push us forward.

The machines and automobiles of our world have many parts. Some are giants, others are minuet. You would observe that the minuet part of the engine that gets worn or bad can stop the entire engine or vehicle from working. Every part is important and each must work for the other for the progress of the whole.



See through the eyes of the chess player, you would understand the underlying principles that have made the greatest teams successful. Ask soccer coaches, they would tell you how relevant every player is to the fixing of the team's puzzle. Every player counts, you count and the other man counts too.

God knew why he never created you and dropped you in an empty world. He fixed you amongst people in order for you to associate with them and build a partnership aimed towards achieving his purpose. Jesus Christ the grandmaster says; I and my father are one. He wasn't claiming equality but unity of purpose

Strive to ensure you pull through every bit to ensure that next piece is a partner to the destination God has designed you for.

## *CHAPTER FOUR*

# **BE GUIDED BY THE RIGHT RULES**

The chess game is played by a set of rules. You have to know the rules to play. Life is filled with many rules to play you right. You have to be equipped with the right rules. These rules are the guiding principles that guide your every action. Paul puts it this way, where there are no rules, the people perish. Rule guide us to make the right steps towards the course of championship that we have set.

Moderators or referees often stand between players to ensure the chess game is played as required by the set down rules. We have an infinite moderator and referee of life in God who stands on the sides as we play watching out to see that we play by the rules. God has sanctioned

enabling rules. He had also given people; those we call our leaders to make out laws for the daily existence of man. Man has the rules of life to guide his every walk. We have the “reap and sow” rule and a host of other life rules which guide our conducts in the way we dress and are addressed in our communication, business etc.

Let’s see the rules of the chess game

- **The initial setup.** As a rule all the pieces have to be arranged just in the right positions. It is a guiding rule if we must achieve. We should not want to win an Olympic medal in a kitchen. This would be absurd. What is observed on the chessboard is the order in which the pieces are arranged. Orderliness should be a watchword for our lives. We are not striving for someone else’s position but rather we should be contented with the position God has placed us at.
- **Game play.** There are two sets of pieces on the board; the white pieces and the black pieces. The white pieces often start the game first followed by the black and then the game

is played interchangeably. The fact of life is the fact that everyone has got a turn. You play first and you leave the stage for another. You won't enjoy life if you were to play all alone. The very fact that each player must play his turn supports the fact that we are in a rotating world where turns are necessary if life must move smoothly.

The goal of the players is to win by checkmating the king. You too must seek to protect your interest in your life game. Your relationship with God is enough king to protect. Nothing can be a valuable as this relationship.

While the game is being played, there is a time limit or timer in place to manage the time wherein a player has to make his move. Once the time elapses, he would have to change turns. We have a time frame for our existence in life. While we play this game, we must realize that time and ensure we play within the stipulated time. Knowing that after this time when we are alive, we will not be

able to play in life. Others will take their turns.

- **Movement.** Each piece has its own kind of movement. We have the basic moves, castling moves, en passant moves etc. we are not meant to be copy cats. We are independent persons with independent goals and direction in life. Though we may be yearning for a common goal, we are unique in how we can reach those goals. We don't have to follow just one pattern. God has made us individually spectacular persons, different from any other person. We don't have to copy Mr. A. Mr.A is great but we can adapt our own qualities and still achieve the same goals.

Looking closely at the chess board game, each piece is limited by its own movement. It is not however the length of movement that wins a match. Same is life. Some people will have to travel far while others will have to stay in the comfort of their homes, some will go overseas while others will stay in their country of origin.

On the game , there is a movement called the pawn promotion where a pawn has a chance to be promoted once it advances to its eighth rank. We can be promoted by hard work. But we have to work really hard for excellence. Promotion only comes when we work hard. It is not automatic.

In life's game, there are life's rules that should guide us in our day to day activities. Our desire to achieve any great achievement should propel us to obeying the rules of engagement. We should not try the short cuts it does not pay. Yes everyone wants to win. If you must win, you must follow the direction of the traffic. Obey the rules of the game.

## CHAPTER FIVE

# LIFE HAS STRATA

The chess game is symbolic of the stratified life. All men though equal, some are more equal than others. Life is in levels where we have the poor symbolized by the pawns, the rich advisers symbolized by the knights, the bishops symbolizing religion, the soldiers symbolized by the rooks, leadership symbolized by the queen and king. Every one plays different roles.

- **The pawns.** This could be described as the poor or servants. They are the errand men and women who often are the most prone in society. They face the brunt of negative policies made by the men at the top. No one desires this level but they always are around. It's a natural phenomenon of life. Jesus made this clear to the disciples when he said "the poor will always be amongst you". As a matter of fact, there will always be people who will suffer from a disoriented public

system. Even when the system is a perfect system, these set of persons will always be there to get the dirty job done.

- **Rook.** The rooks are soldiers. They are always around to maintain order. They serve as protection for all citizens. In every society, there are often set down rules and guides its members. The innate nature of man is to break rules and rubbish them. The rooks or soldiers act to ensure that order and the rule guiding the state are followed. Against external forces from other states, the rooks stand to defend her state. It is very important component of the society.
- **Bishop.** The bishop symbolizes religion. In modern society as in ancient times, there has always being a line connecting religion and the state. Religion has played a very important part in the history of many countries whether it is Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism etc. States and governments have and a strong connection with religious components. At the time of Jesus, there were Sadducees and Pharisees



who were the bishops of the time. They had enormous power with the political government of the romans at the time and they influenced Government. Many nations today are synonymous with certain religion. India is known for Hinduism, the British for Anglican, Italy for catholic, Ethiopia for Ethiopian orthodox religion, Arabs for Islam, and Jamaica for Rastafarian religion. Religion and has always being an important factor in government.

- **Knight.** The knights are the advisers around the leadership. A ruler cannot rule without his advisers who are often noble and knowledgeable persons. They are also specialist in their areas where their advice is sought for. They are a necessity for the smooth running of the government. If the leader fails to get the right advice, he could be heading for doom and bad leadership. This is why presidents and leaders of government often do all they can to ensure they get the right persons to carry out the task of governance. They are aware that this person

stand as representatives of the ruler so he has to select choice persons of whom he is satisfied will offer good advice and representation.

No leader can work alone. He needs people who he will get encouragement from as he strives to build a change making government.

The knights often know they have huge responsibility on their hands to ensure the task expected of them by the leader is carried out. Though their knowledge is vital to the smooth running of government, they are to follow the leadership and offer their advice when needed. In today's political system, they could be seen as senators or representatives, ministers or commissioners as well as other aids

- **The queen.** The queen is the closest person to the king. In the case of a masculine leader, his wife is often the closest. In the case where the leader has no wife or is a female, the husband or close friend play the role of queen. The queen's role as in the game of chess versatile. She is a last resort of hope

and a final source of strength where others are limited by their position. The queen can and often goes all the way to protect the king. Her powers are unlimited and it's on her shoulders the king finds solace.

The queen often has the first knowledge of the ideas the king is pondering in his mind about. Because of her very closeness to the king, she bears the secrets of the leader and must be there always to protect the interest of the king. If she fails, there is high chance that the king could fail.

- **The king.** The king is superior leader and commander in chief. He is the source of ideas required to run the government. Though he has so much knowledge, he still has to trust in the capacity of his assistants, advisers, friends and the people he is meant to govern. The king is often a knowledgeable person, one who others look up to. He has to be exemplary and a model for others. His movement on the chess board is in relation to his movement in real life where he is the last to bolt. Others have to be sure of his safety

outside before he moves. He has to stay put till the fight or war is ended. Once he is dead, the fight ends. He is an inspiration to every other person under him. During periods of conflict, his presence assures those under him that they can go on and win. His position at the center of the board shows how central he is to the running of the state. He does not have an opinion, he is the opinion.

The different strata of government all have their roles but they recognize that the goal is the common good. None of them is too important though each play quantified roles. There is and always respect for each strata. The leader respects the bishops, pawn, rooks , knights and the queen. They each have their powers and things could go sour if any one chooses not to play their part effectively.

Not everyone can be the king, soldier, queen or bishop. But one has to strive and work hard to climb the levels and strata. There is absolute chance that with hard work, a pawn can reach the position of a king.

## *CHAPTER SIX*

# THE CHESS PLAYERS

Have you seen a very good chess player? They are often very tact in the knowledge of the game. They sink their head in the game letting go any distraction that may be caused by any external influence. If you do want to learn concentration, go sit where a game of chess is being played the nerves of the players are so intertwined to the game. The resolve is victory.

Chess players exemplify the attribute of champions. They are focused and determined to face any obstacle. They know they have to make sound judgment and they won't waste limited resources on things that won't matter.

Life requires that we spend judiciously precious resources at our disposal. We thus have to train our minds to be subject to the right character attribute, one of focus and determination.

Some games could run for hours while others may just be for minutes. This depends on the quality of the challenger. In life, we expect that there would be good times as well as challenging difficult times. We have to be dogged to challenge the odds that life presents whether it is the very swift easy going lifestyle or the challenging difficult terminal challenges.

Chess players understand that to play the game perfectly, they have to play and abide by the set down rules of the game. Life has rules that we have to perfect if we will have to play it right. We can't expect to win if we don't play right.

Chess players don't just learn the rules of the game, they also develop themselves on tactic and strategies. They consistently increase knowledge on how best to play the game. Their major goal is to become grandmasters. We must not be content with just playing in the game of life, rather we must strive to play in a masterly manner. We have to learn to perfect our strategies to ensure we get the best out of life. It is not just winning that matters, becoming the best at winning matters much more.

Every chess player on the board wants to win. He is inspired by the desire to win. That is the propelling forces. In life, our drive should be to win. This desire should be the driver to the top. We must be soaked in this desire and let it engulf us. We are not searching for the “average” draw but a “win it all” solution.

Chess players who want to be grand masters challenge in competition. The true test of a player is when he has played and has being able to defeat serious challenger. We can't expect to get something big in the wrong place. If we must succeed in a global dimension, we would have to be positioned for a global audience. If you must be renowned, you must know how to do big things, you must know how to defeat champions. It is only by challenging big odds that we become champions. We must strive hard to challenge great odds.

Chess players think a lot while they play. Their brain is constantly calculating the next move and how best it would suite their goal. They don't just make a move, because the other person has made one, rather they consider the gain of their every move

relative to the challenge posed by the other player. The next move you are about to take must be considered in the light of its effect on how you fare in the game of life. There is no need to rush into decisions when you have not taken time to study and know the outcome of such decisions. We cannot afford to rush in and face the daily consequences of rushing out. Our decisions in life should be quantified on how best it would help us relative to the challenges posed by life. We need count the cost and always consider the quality of life that we are protecting. Every step or move you make in life counts to your overall success. You therefore have to be decisive and thoughtful when you do make that move decision because it will count.

Chess players do often realize the place of their intuition over every other factor surrounding them on game of chess. They maximize its use and often have to take the decision being guided by their hearts. Our future depends very much on how we can take those decisions. They may seem little but the fact is we have to be take responsibility and



make those major decisions in our lives and let our hearts guide us rather than the influences of those standing around us. Jesus Christ our perfect example enjoins us to guard our hearts for out of them are the issues of life. Our hearts has to be protected so as to guide us right.

A Chess player who wants to be a grand master knows the right tools they need is their chessboard. He needs a set of complete pieces. They acknowledge that the game is incomplete without a complete set of pieces. All pieces must be complete. We must have all the tools to propel us to the height we want to reach.

It's one thing having all the tools, it's another knowing how to apply the tools. We must guard ourselves with all the right knowledge; everything that we will need to put us at advantage. There is no chance for loopholes, we must seek to perfect our spot by ensuring all the needed knowledge to achieve a task is obtained.

It's great being a player of life. Players acknowledge they must always be at their best if they must. You are a life player and you have to win. You have to

strive to place yourself at the advantageous point  
where only champions reign.

## *CHAPTER SEVEN*

# **THE SPIRITUAL LIFE WAR**

The chess board can be likened to two combatants, children of light against those of darkness. The differences in white and black modifies the belief in the stark difference between the conditions that the colours exemplify. Believers are the white pieces while the children of the Satan are the black pieces. These sets of people are constantly at war against each other. The battle often ends with casualties on both ends; the fall out of pieces on both ends. Both sides are in cadres or groupings. For the devil's side are the sinners, principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and principalities. For God's army, we have laymen, pastors, evangelists, bishops, preachers, teachers etc. These two camps are often at war against themselves . At the center of the war is the interest between both camps, each one trying to capture the other from their camps.

- The king. The devil, Satan stands as king in the black camp. God stands as king in the camp of believers. The battle between God and Satan had risen when Satan lifted his head in pride against God and was thrown down dragging with him one third of the angels. The devil has continually reared its ugly head but God has always proved a standard against him. God will always prove a standard against him
- Queen. Jesus Christ stands as queen for the believers. It is through him that all can reach God the king. Every one that wants to meet God must have to go through him. In the devil's camp, he has the queen of the coast. These are sub-lieutenants that report to the devil directly. They are the immediate messengers of the devil.
- Knights. They are the elders in heaven who stand in as advisers back by the Holy Spirit. The knights are constantly praising God before God's throne. The devil also has his knights. They advise the devil on ideas and

strategies through which they can stop the will of God amongst believers

- Rooks. Godly angels serve as rooks. They guard believers and serve as messengers transmitting believers' needs to heaven and sending down blessing from God down to earth. The devil also has his angels. They are the spirit of destruction and death roaming the streets to capture unsuspecting believers.
- Bishop. Bishops are the true ministers of God. They are the pastors, evangelist, prophets who are carrying out the word of God just the way God deserves it. The devil's camp also has its bishops. They work under the cloak of being pastors and ministers to perpetrate the work of the devil
- Pawns. In the God side, they are the day to day believers who are striving towards heavenly perfection they work towards doing God's purpose on the earth. On the other side, they are agents of Satan in human form. Their mission is to disrupt God's purpose and to bring men to their camp.

The battle between God's camp and the devil's camp has continued to rage. It's a daring war that has had casualties on both ends. While the war ensues, believers are often being enjoined to be on their guard. Paul acknowledged this fact when he said "for we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, rulers of darkness etc." The devil's camp are not resting on their oars, they are constantly pushing to ensure they win. We must not let the devils' camp win. We should thus guard ourselves with the right weapons; breast plate of faith, sword of the spirit, helmet of salvation etc.

Satan is determined to make a wreck of God's camp. But because God stands unconquerable, he stares defeat with his eyes. As believers, we must realize that we are backed by a strong force in God. His word is the strongest tool we can ever have the strongest weapon. We need to feed on it and have adequate knowledge on how to face the challenges that life brings. His word gives succor, hope, happiness, and joy.

God has assured and is reassuring that we can trust him to see us through the challenges that life brings. He says “ come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. The best rest we can have and we need is God’s. The rest of God is assuring us. We can cast our entire burden and leave it there before his table.

As a believer, you are fully positioned forward whether you like it or yes. You are considered a soldier of Christ. Like true soldiers of Christ, let us “guard ourselves and fight this fight. Though the challenges seem enormous, we are well able and very well capable to challenge the odds.

The skills required of believers are prayers and the word of God. The devil and his host are continuously working tooth and nail to pull down believers. The word of Jesus summarizes it; the devil cometh to kill, steal and destroy but I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.

So far as we find ourselves in the earth, we are encumbered by enormous challenges but we can be rest assured that we will have solace in Jesus Christ.

Amen.