

MINISTRY LAWS

volume 1

21

LAWS OF
MINISTRY

NIYI MAKINDE

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Volume 1

First published by Power Publishing House 2021

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First edition

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgement</i>	v
<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	vi
1 THE LAW OF ELEVATION	1
2 THE LAW OF FIRSTBORN	3
3 THE LAW OF SERVICE	5
4 THE LAW OF HONOR	7
5 THE LAW OF CONTENT	9
6 THE LAW OF LOYALTY	13
7 THE LAW OF STUDY	15
8 THE LAW OF PRAYER	17
9 THE LAW OF RELATIONSHIP	19
10 THE LAW OF DISCIPLINE	22
11 THE LAW OF BLESSING	24
12 THE LAW OF GIVING	26
13 THE LAW OF FAMILIARITY	29
14 THE LAW OF EXCELLENCE	31
15 THE LAW OF PATIENCE	33
16 THE LAW OF RETURN	35
17 THE LAW OF IDENTITY	37
18 THE LAW OF PREPARATION	39
19 THE LAW OF DELEGATION	41
20 THE LAW OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH	43
21 THE LAW OF CHANGE	45
<i>About the Author</i>	47

Acknowledgement

Consistent flow of inspiration from God brings directional progress to men. God is praised for the supply of inspiration.

The amazing **Emmanuel Ojodun** worked on the finality of this book while **Kehinde Otesile** designed the cover page. Both of you know I love you.

My love remains ever consistent to all pastors, leaders, and members of Rebirth Global Church. I love you!

INTRODUCTION

There are different kinds of ministers and ministries. Some ministers and ministries raise believers who love God, have nice character and consistent with attending services.

There are ministers and ministries who will not only raise those that loves God and have nice character. They nurture people's gift and set standards. They raise sound and mature people, men of impact and influence. It is from such that major voices and influences in a generation emerge.

Blessing people is different from raising people. God's ultimate plan is not for people to be blessed but for them to be raised. When you raise people, they can bless others. It is time church and ministry leaders are intentional with raising people who will grow and mature like them. We surely know that God is doing something unusual in the Body of Christ globally.

This book is written to empower the mind of ministers with certain laws that should be known. Laws are like principles, they don't change, you can only discover new ones. Every field and sphere have rules guiding affairs and activities there. There are laws guiding ministry. Actually, I have discovered and written over two hundred and forty-five laws guiding ministry. This is just the volume one of the laws and in this volume, you will learn twenty-one laws. Other volumes will unveil deeper and higher levels of the laws. I counsel you to get other volumes. Be

blessed as you read!

1

THE LAW OF ELEVATION

To elevate is to lift, exalt, promote, increase ranks...

For God to elevate you, you need humility. Scripture reveals that you should humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and He will lift you up in due seasons. Humility is the way to the top. God's hand will only come on those who humble themselves. There can't be genuine greatness when there is no humility.

For a man to elevate you, you need competence and consistent loyalty to leadership. Let whoever you follow know you are loyal. This is the wisdom behind elevation. If you are serving in a ministry, develop a high level of loyalty to the leadership. You should avoid joining rebellious folks to criticize, analyze and underrate the decision and action of the leadership. God cannot create events that will lead to your elevation through a man you have joined others to criticize. You must also be the best at what you do. Develop yourself to a point that it will be obvious to your leader that you are committed and competent. I pray you will be elevated!

For you to elevate you, you need prosperity. It takes prosperity

of resources to lift yourself to the level that you desire. Prosperity comes in form of riches, people, resources. Without financial prosperity, you cannot do some things that are needed for your elevation. You must prosper. All lifting will ultimately require prosperity.

For God to elevate you in ministry, you must be humble, competent and loyal to whoever you are serving with and possess prosperity. God will prove you before He promotes you. God will prove your humility before He creates your lifting. When God sees your humility this season, He will give you lifting in the following season. With lifting comes visibility, accessibility, prosperity and audibility. Others are laboring to be heard and seen, but when God lifts a man, such a person will be seen and heard effortlessly. There is an invisible force that only God can supply that will make you visible and audible.

THE LAW OF FIRSTBORN

There is the firstborn leader or minister and the firstborn ministry in every generation. God will always make someone the firstborn. No man can make himself the firstborn. God alone decides the firstborn. God doesn't decide the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 100th, etc. Others classify themselves into different categories.

God makes the first born and show him to others. The people that quickly and consistently follow that person are the ones that occupies 2nd, 3rd, 4th and so on. Those who rebel or arrogant to follow that person will later realize that ordinary people in the past will suddenly rise in influence.

This is ministry! God's working in every generation is consistent. God will raise one man as the pattern and model for others to follow. That man (firstborn) becomes the distributor of spiritual portions for others. It was Joshua that gave portion to the Israelites in the promised land. Even Caleb couldn't get his mountain until he went to Joshua. Caleb didn't go to God to give him his mountain but to a man. The firstborn distributes

spiritual portions through the words he speaks and writes. Only those who follow and listen to that person will get their portion. That's why God will always take enough time to hide and work on the firstborn so that such can have enough capacity, grace and anointing to distribute different spiritual portions to a generation.

If God has shown you that He made you the firstborn, you need to totally submit to God for one disobedience from you may cause the abortion of a generation. If you are not a firstborn, let God open your eyes to know the person God has sown as the seed in your generation. You know seed dies before it grows. It may be in the dying state that God may open your eyes to see that seed. When you locate such, run to such, follow closely and listen to his words always. Regularly show special honor and give gifts to open the heart of that person to you. Firstborns have the capacity, grace, anointing and authority to make the least the lead, can make last the first.

What firstborns do is that they show the pattern and path for others to follow. The firstborn in a generation or ministry circle is the first person to ever breakthrough in that order. Just as God proves them before He made them firstborn. Only those who watch, study, follow and listen to the first born will rise after the order of the first born. A contemporary Christian can't understand this. Only men of deep understanding can get this. You may not agree with me. But the emergence of mighty men and great voices after the order of the firstborn in years ahead will cause you to understand. Dear minister, ministry is not Greek and Hebrew. Learn the basics!

THE LAW OF SERVICE

Some are called to start a ministry while others are called to serve. Identify where you belong. Bishop David Oyedepo was called to start but Bishop David Abioye was called to serve. Rev. Chris Oyakhilome cannot have the influence he has if he was serving in a ministry while Rev. Tom Amehnikkeh cannot have the influence he has now if he has gone to start his ministry.

Both the person called to start a ministry and the one called to serve in a ministry are serving God. You are not important than others serving in the ministry because you are the founder. All founder must see themselves serving God. Has God called you to start? Then, do! Has he called you to serve, then, locate your place of service. Never do what you don't have the grace for.

The other day, a brother said anybody can start a ministry or church. I accepted it for a while. But after I saw certain events that happened afterwards, it became obvious to me that everybody is not called to start a ministry or church. I have discarded that statement. It's not true. The truth is that anybody

by the authority and equipping of the leadership can start the branch of a church or ministry. But to start an independent ministry, you have to be called and engraced to do such.

I used to think that money makes ministry until I heard Pastor David Ibiyeomie said “face what God has called you to do and money will run after you soon.” Having heard the story of his humble beginnings, I accepted his words. Read your bible and study church history, you will discover that Apostle Peter never started any church. Yet Paul that came afterwards planted many churches. In all, whether you start or serve, remember that according to the law of service, you are serving God!

THE LAW OF HONOR

Honor God, honor all men! Give double honor to spiritual leaders. The honor you should give your spiritual father and pastor should be more than the honor you give to the president of your country. When you kneel or prostrate before God, you are honoring God. When you kneel before a man of God, you are honoring the God in the man.

Rev. Chris Oyakhilome said at an event at Benson Idahosa University that whenever he speaks with Archbishop Margaret Idahosa on phone, he was always on his knees. That's honor! I was amazed to see that Rev. Chris Oyakhilome understands this aspect that many modern day preachers think is old fashioned. When relating with a spiritual authority over you, you must relate with a high sense of humility.

Don't be loosed or carried away when around or talking with the spiritual authority over you. Honor motivates the anointing on the anointed. You don't relate with a spiritual authority the way you relate with friends and colleagues. When a spiritual

authority sees you as a joker, family member and friend, such will always be natural towards you.

Bishop TD Jakes once said to pastors at a conference “move your world pastors and the next time your spiritual father wants to pray for you, go on your knees, pull out the anointing on him with an open heart. Let your heart say to God, speak through Your servant to me.”

You should create the culture of honor in the ministry or church. The leadership should give honor down while the membership should give double honor up. Honor has to be institutionalized in a ministry before it is passed from one generation to another.

I recommend the book I wrote titled “Understanding Honor” to you. You can recommend or give the book to everyone in your ministry. That will relieve you the burden of teaching men about honor.

THE LAW OF CONTENT

As a believer, your message is Christ but as a ministry, your message is specific. The message of your ministry or church is often centered around your vision or mandate. You must be bold to preach the message God gives you.

If you are a minister serving in a ministry or church, you don't preach a different message from what your leader is preaching. You will impart lives when you preach what your leader preaches or told you to preach. Jesus sent the disciples out two by two and told them the message to preach. Jesus preached the kingdom and He sent the twelve out to preach the same thing. A minister serving in a ministry will preach the same thing when he listens to his or her leader regularly. Until the message of the leadership of the ministry you belong becomes your message, you don't yet have the spirit of the ministry upon you. You have to learn early that the teaching of the ministry imparts the spirit of the ministry. Until you can preach and teach the teachings of your pastor, you don't yet have the spirit of that ministry. The spirit

of a ministry will rub off on you as you listen to the teaching and will rub off on others as you teach them what your pastor teaches.

It is a rebellious spirit that makes a minister serving under another man in a ministry to preach a message that is anti to the message of the pastor. As a pastor, you should know that you don't yet have an assistant if he or she is too big to preach or teach the message of the ministry. One day, a pastor told his wife to preach a particular message one Sunday. When she got to the pulpit, she told the whole congregation that her husband told her to preach a message but she sensed God wants her to preach something else. That was how she abandoned the message her husband gave her and preached her own message. Let's be frank – that is a rebellious spirit. The question is that why did she not notify her husband that the message will change before she got to the pulpit? Such woman didn't know the implication of what she did. The fact is that in a way she has indirectly passed a wrong message to the congregation that what her husband gave her to preach wasn't the spiritual food that would feed their spiritual appetite that day. In a way, she has belittled the grace on her husband. The lesson for all ministers is that you should always focus on the content given to you by your pastor or leader and don't do otherwise.

Listen to the message of your church leader and let the spirit in those messages be loosed on you. If you are a leader of a ministry, go listen to the message of the firstborn in your generation. All spiritual sons and daughters should immerse themselves in the messages and teaching of their spiritual father except. I once heard Pastor David Ibiyeomie said a day would not go without him listening to a message of his spiritual father – Bishop David Oyedepo. He said he has been doing that for over

twenty-five years. That means he listens to his spiritual father for all the days in a year and on many occasion, he listens to him more than twice. Until you carry the message of your spiritual father, you may not carry his capacity. Teachings give more than grace and all, it gives capacity that cannot be denied. When you consistently listen to a man, you will be consistently empowered to think and act like that man.

In ministry, it takes time before you can begin to generate your message. Every minister first preached the message of another minister when they started out in ministry. Every great minister who now preach the message they received from God had at one time preached the message of another.

To genuinely have content in your spirit and mind, you must feed on books and messages of other ministers. But if you are serving in a ministry, you must avoid double or multiple identity or manifestation of multiple spirit. A person serving in a ministry or church needs to know that his or her content has to be specific. And if your content will be specific, it must be the content in the leadership of the ministry. It therefore means that you must dedicate more of your time to reading the books and listening to the messages of the leadership of the church where you belong.

For those serving in a ministry, listening to different preachers and ministers will lead to the manifestation of multiple spirit. Jesus said the words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. Every time you listen to an anointed preacher, you are receiving spirits through his or her words. If you really want to carry the spirits of the ministry, you should immerse yourself into the teaching and preaching of the leadership. When you listen to the teachings of the ministry where you belong, you will carry the flow of that ministry.

Only those who have the right content will have the fine spirit of a ministry.

6

THE LAW OF LOYALTY

You must be loyal to others and others have to be loyal to you. It must be vice versa. As a minister, conduct yourself in a way that your members will know you are loyal to God. Never permit anyone to speak evil or criticize any member or leader of your church. I learned this late in my life. Loyalty is proven during difficult times. You must never forget those who stood by you when things weren't going well. Learn to appreciate those people and do everything in your power to make them happy. You must be wise to do some things that will suggest to your leader that you are loyal.

Your loyalty is tested when you hear false news about your leader. Your loyalty is proven when false accusation is made against your follower. Loyalty will make you adhere consistently to whatever is instructed by the leader. If you are serving in a ministry, you must avoid doing things your way after the leadership already give directional guide of how things should be done.

You should never serve a leader you cannot die with. Peter said to Jesus, “I am ready to die with you.” Your loyalty is proven by your readiness to go through the tough and rough. If you cannot say the same thing your leader is saying, then, you are not loyal. If you find it easy to join rebellious people to analyze the mistake or fault of the leadership, then, you are not loyal. Loyalty will make you deaf your ears and blind your eyes to what others say about your leader negatively.

THE LAW OF STUDY

About six years ago, I was preaching and wanted to give a point with an illustration. Suddenly, I noticed there was a lady in that congregation that had told me something about herself. Wow... by understanding, I knew that if I made the point I wanted to make, the lady might have thought I used her as an illustration. I had to go off on the illustration and strategically made my point indirectly.

But, as I write, I discovered that I could write points that I may not be able to say when speaking. Jesus Himself spoke in parables and didn't communicate some things. You will grow fast if you give yourself to study. Whether Bibles, books, pdf, online, just read. Reading upgrade your mind. I don't have more time to read like I used to in the past, I had to create time and be disciplined with reading. Don't let your brain rust.

If you don't study, you cannot be studied. Every time you study, you are empowering your mind to become new. Too many ministers depend on the anointing. They only pray but don't

read or study. You've got to know that praying moves you in the power of God while understanding gotten through reading and studying moves you in the wisdom and counsel of God.

If you are pastor or minister in a ministry or church, it is wisdom for you to study your senior pastor or spiritual father, study his books and listen to his messages. That doesn't mean you shouldn't study materials from other ministers too. But you have to know that studying your Pastor's materials will grant you to contact the spirit of the ministry regularly. In a situation where your senior pastor doesn't write much, be diligent to study your scriptures and books that will enlighten you more.

THE LAW OF PRAYER

Ministers know a lot on prayers. Just pray regularly. Let your heart be in constant communion with the Lord. You command divine attention more when you pray. In prayers, you make things happen. A minister that doesn't pray often will soon become a mini-star!

Prayer is a command. All praying ministry are power ministry. Naturally, all praying minister should end up becoming leading ministers. The reason many will not end up leading is because only few will execute whatever they receive from God. Prayer is not a substitute for laziness. Prayer itself is work that no lazy person can undertake.

The law of prayer informs that all ministers should pray for their members and leaders. You are expected to mention the name and occupation of your members. In a situation where the congregation is too much, you should create a praying system that will make prayer to be constant in the church or ministry. It is in prayer that we grow from inability to great ability.

In ministry, prayer is about being consistent. It is the consistency that really matters. Prayers backed up with fasting are highly effective to access spiritual breakthroughs in height unreached. Every time you pray for the ministry and members, you are raising your level to a higher level.

THE LAW OF RELATIONSHIP

Relationship is key to your advancement. Everyman needs quality relationship that will help and lifts him. From my teenage, I knew I have people's skill and also relationship-oriented. For close to two years, I learned about Connectivity Quotient (CQ). I can relate with anybody at any level.

Few years ago, some people really hurt me. I almost got offended but God really helped me. The Holy Spirit spoke to me, be with me for these years (number withheld for private reasons) and I will take away the relationship you brought into your life yourself and you will know the ones that I brought into your life myself. It was that day I understood clearly that relationships are divine and the ones you work out yourself may end up hurting you. In the last few years, having obeyed what God told me, even though the years are not completed, I have been able to identify few people that I know God brought into my life.

Some of those people, I am not relating with yet as I should

but as a man under divine authority, I have to follow God. You see in relationship; the people you relate with matter in life. The fact is that the people God brings into your life will always understand you. They understand your person very well. If you don't identify the relationship that should not be in your life before God lifts you, you are doomed! Watch, every strategic relationship God puts in your life has a major role to play.

Any relationship that distance or lack of consistent communication doesn't affect is divine. As a minister I have discovered that anyone who counsels others against you should not be in your life. Don't be deceived by the term relationship. You need people but you don't need all people. Joseph doesn't need everybody in Egypt to be successful. He only need the Chief butler that will remember him and the king that will lift him. Love everybody but relate with few. If you can get it right in relationship with people, you will get it right in ministry.

As a minister, you should know that your assignment is to people. You should relate with your friends but you are assigned to some people. Wisdom will teach you to give more attention to some people more than some in your congregation. The reason you have to be sensitive to this aspect is because some of your future leaders are in your current members. It is sensitivity to identify the future leaders in your congregation and your intentional relationship with them that will lead to their future leadership. All emergence into leadership started with relationship with a leader.

If you are serving in a ministry, you need to understand patterns and flows. You must identify the guest ministers that can flow with your ministry. Everybody don't have your flow. A serving minister should be sensitive to recognize the ministers his leader doesn't flow with. You must never be a friend to the

enemy or critic of your leader. Anyone who doesn't honor your pastor well doesn't deserve your relationship.

In relating with your members, you must set boundaries. You don't talk with your members the way you joke with your friends. A younger minister should be able to respect elderly members. When I started out in ministry, I call elderly women *mummy* and elderly men *daddy*. I still do till today. In relationship with different people, you cannot get respect when you don't give respect.

THE LAW OF DISCIPLINE

A minister must be disciplined. You don't talk anyhow. You must select your words. You don't speak slang. Avoid slang. One time, I was almost speaking slang unconsciously before I adjusted myself. How will a minister be speaking slang? Never permit foul words to come out of your lips. Discipline yourself not to argue with anyone. Don't eat anyhow. Don't joke anyhow. Yea, be friendly and funny, but set jurisdiction. Be yourself but be disciplined.

In ministry, you have to be an example of discipline to others. People will desire to be like you when they see you as a disciplined person. Discipline is not being harsh but exercising self-control. Until you are able to control your words and action, you are not yet discipline.

If you cannot keep secret, you are not disciplined. If you cannot be on time, you lack discipline. Never promote anyone whose level of discipline you haven't verified. All lazy people are undisciplined people. Undisciplined people are the ones that

bring disunity into a group.

THE LAW OF BLESSING

There are spiritual blessings and seasonal blessings. What you received from the Father at salvation are spiritual blessings. But, God daily loads you with benefits... These are called seasonal blessings. This comes in form of wisdom, properties, money, people, achievements.

When you tell God to bless you, you are asking for the blessings of the season. The minister and ministry will always need seasonal blessings to advance. This law says you have to pray, plan, work, exercise faith to get these kinds of blessings. What Jesus did grants you access to spiritual blessings but what you do grants access to seasonal blessings. The only exception to this is when a spiritual authority speaks by anointing and authority to make things happen. Anointed words open up seasonal blessings.

To access certain seasonal blessings, you should engage the principle of sowing seeds. Blessings are harvest. You cannot harvest when you don't plant seed into the ground. It is more

blessed to give than to receive. Every time you want a kind of blessing, look for a ministry or minister that you consider a fertile ground and sow your seed.

One time, we were planning for a program and I desired a level of excellence. What I did was to look for a ministry that had the level of excellence I desired and I sowed certain amount as financial seed into that ministry with understanding that I will harvest the kind of excellence that I desired. My seed is a faith work. What I have simply done is that I have indirectly told God to see the kind of excellence in the ministry I sowed my seed and expected him to influence the mind of every leader in our ministry to begin to work towards producing that kind of excellence. Eventually, I harvested that excellence in a way that exceeded my expectation.

You see, the ignition of a car doesn't get ignited by shouting but by applying the key and igniting it. The car door will never open by shouting, you have to apply the key. Too many ministers don't know how to provoke certain blessings over their ministry or church. You see, pastors of churches that gives seed of their church to their spiritual fathers are not foolish. Whoever you give your seed doesn't need your money or what you give, you need his ground. All grounds are not the same. So, also, all ministers are not the same. As a minister, don't expect consistent flow of blessings when you don't sow seeds regularly. You don't pray in a harvest when you haven't planted something in the ground.

There are times that you have to open seasons of blessings over your ministry though sowing seeds. Prayer is what waters the seed. Any time you are trusting God for the harvest of any kind of blessing, plant a seed ahead of the season you expect the blessings.

THE LAW OF GIVING

If you want to quickly breakthrough into financial dominion, give more than your present capacity. I made up my mind not to preach giving but I later realized that that will hinder believers from doing the things needed for their increase. If you are a minister, don't make the mistake I made in the past. Be bold to teach and encourage your people to give. Just show them from the word the benefits of giving. Don't exaggerate and manipulate. My mistake in the past was that I didn't teach people to give except when I counsel people in privacy. I didn't tell them because I didn't want them to see me as a preacher that needed their money. As I grew, I discovered that I practiced giving but few people I knew were not giving. I thought one day that this people are not givers but the Spirit of God corrected me that they were givers, I was the one that didn't share the revelation of giving with them. I took time to study the givers that I knew. Evidently, I saw the difference between them from those who don't give. I observed that the givers are always

thinking about God blessing them with huge riches why the non-givers are just complacent. As believers, giving should be our nature.

Don't teach people to give if you're not a giver yourself. God will make you an authority over what you do. If possible, be the highest giver in your church. As a minister or pastor, exercise your faith for big things by giving big. Stop giving ten thousand as offerings when you can give fifty thousand.

You've got to break out of tradition. Give according to your capacity but sometimes, you've got to stretch. If your church gives tithe, don't joke with it. When you give, never assume you give to your church. You give to God. Where some are still struggling with giving, some others trust God to bless them heavily to finance Kingdom work. Dear minister, be an example of a giving to others

All ministers need to understand that they are not blessed by what is given to them but by what they give. If you are not a giver, God cannot move the heart of others to give to you. It is those who give that others are commanded by God to give to. Any pastor or minister that is not a giver can never be a fruitful ground where seeds can be sown. As a minister of God, giving impresses God to release His blessings on you to make you a fruitful ground where others can sow their seed. You are not qualified to be made a field until you are addicted to giving. Your giving to God is a silent and non-verbal request to God to release the blessings that makes one a good ground.

As a pastor, the best way to make your members give is not by preaching and teaching them to give. Yes, you should teach them. But I found out that the best way to make your people give is be a giver yourself. When you release what is in your hand or bank account, God will speak to the heart of your people to give.

A major decision I made early in ministry is to give more than teach more on giving. Many of those who teach more on giving are expecting that money will flow in if only their members can give. But the ministers who give more always know that God will move the heart of their members to give when they give more. If you teach on giving, and the members don't have what to give, nothing will still come in. A better and sure way to have more and more is to give more and more. This is not an attempt to discourage teaching on giving, but to show you how it works. Your teaching on giving should not be more than your giving. Until you become a giver yourself, the giving grace such that was bestowed on the Macedonian church will never be released on your people. Teaching releases the grace, but only a pastor who has the giving grace can impart the giving grace.

THE LAW OF FAMILIARITY

You must know how to handle familiarity. The level at which you bless people reduces when they get too familiar with you. When people know too much about you, see you every day or Sunday, they may get too familiar with the minister. It's familiarity with the minister that makes people often cherish guest ministers. God's unction on you will be affected in an atmosphere of familiarity. Ask Jesus if He could do much in His own city.

Thank God for the people who know much about you as a minister but are not familiar with you. When familiarity sets in, people will dishonor you, they see you as equal in ministry, they assume that there is nothing you know that they don't know and there's nothing you do that they can't do. Always watch out for familiarity in your ministry. If you are a leader, it won't come from your members but the ones you have allowed into your privacy or know your story. That's why you must qualify who access you.

Never take dishonor for granted. It is familiarity that makes a pastor or minister in a ministry report the leadership to pastors or leaders of another ministry when that minister is not the spiritual father of the leader reported. It's possible for people to know much about you and not be familiar with you. I have proven this. I have people who know me in and out but are not daft to permit familiarity to set in. You must not be familiar with people. You must honor the grace and anointing of others.

A simple way to avoid familiarity is to avoid unnecessary joke and irrelevant conversations. You should be funny, but you must know that you are a man of God, and not a comedian. Too much joke will reduce you to a clown and that will make you to be taken for granted. You should create a welcoming atmosphere, smile, laugh, reduce the tension of the atmosphere with a little comic, but you must watch what you say or act. There are conversations that are not needed. If you are a talkative pastor or minister, familiarity will set in. Rather than waste your time in discussing irrelevant matters, you should give your time to fellowship with the Lord, listen to messages that will bless your life or read books that will advance you.

THE LAW OF EXCELLENCE

Excellence attract God and man. You can't hate or hide excellence. Excellence is the highest level of perfection. It is not a destination but a journey. Both the minister and ministry must be excellent.

Excellence is beyond dressing or appearance. There's excellence in speech, arrangements, relationship, planning etc. Excellence requires money, resources but much more, insight. There are things you can do with a little amount of money when you have an excellent spirit and mindset. A main lesson I have learned is to be excellent. A ministry that is not excellent cannot be attractive.

Excellence shouldn't be a burden to you. Don't put unnecessary burden on yourself to make it happen when you don't yet have the resources. Be wise. Don't borrow loan to be excellent. The other day, a pastor went to borrow loan from a cleric in another religion to do crusade all in the name of excellence. At the end, he brought shame to the name of God. The key is to

always improve the setting and arrangements of your house and church weekly.

The proof of excellence in your church is that you do and show new things weekly. Excellence is a message you preach without talking. No man knows how fine the mind of the pastor and leaders are until he sees the excellence they display. The arrangements of chairs, sitting postures of ministers and members should be well fixed in an attractive way. God looks at the heart but men look at the face. If your face is not attractive but your heart is attractive, you still cannot command the attention of some kind of people. Excellence will always show the face of your ministry to others.

There is a difference between the spirit of excellence and mind of excellence. You may have the spirit but don't have the mind. You have the mind of excellence through exposure. The spirit of excellence functions within you through creativity but the mind of excellence functions through exposure. The better way to be excellent as ministers or a church is to exposure your mind to the excellence of others. This is why you need to grow your observation power. If you attend any ministry or church, you should open your eyes to observe their excellence. You must always identify what they do better that you can take home to also improve your ministry. You don't only attend a program to receive the revelation and graces imparted there. You must also observe their excellence.

THE LAW OF PATIENCE

If you are not patient, you can't last in ministry. That's why God will never call an impatient person into ministry. He that believe doesn't make haste. It's through patience that you inherit the promise. Don't compare yourself to others. Thank God for them and believe your time is coming.

God calls men for men but He prepares the called in a time for a time. Never permit anyone to make you to feel as though you are not making progress. You must not just be satisfied with your level, but you must be patient. There are men who were the main voices on the radar in the 80s that are not heard today but still alive. And there are those who were not heard in the 80s but are the main voice today. Be patient! Patience is a sign of humility.

"A little one shall become a thousand and a small one a strong nation, I the Lord will hasten it in its time." That is God's word through Prophet Isaiah. The increase you desire will happen in a time. God Himself has determined the time and He alone will

hasten it when the time comes.

You've got to remember that the vision is yet for an appointed time. The appointed time is not the time to start the vision but the time for the fulfilment of the vision. The appointed time is when God will fulfill what He has promised. That is the reason you have to be patient.

When you are patient, you may only see the progress of others. Patience will not make you see the little or great progress you are making; it will only propel you to wait for the progress you are expecting. Patience doesn't refer to idleness or laziness. It is saying that you will continue doing your work while you expect God to do what only Him can do. I have learned that all patient people have the trait of greatness. Until you are patient, you are not ready for greatness.

Pastors of young ministry need to be bold. Never permit those who haven't pastored a church before or not in ministry make you feel as though you are not making progress. You will never find anyone who has pastored a church or pastoring a church make you feel as though you are not making progress.

THE LAW OF RETURN

God does great things through people that return the glory to Him. You may pray and fast, but never attribute anything God does through you to your fasting and prayer. Never appear before people as one anointed fellow coming to show that he is anointed. Only childish ministers do such. Mature ministers have learned that humility before God is a way to sustain the consistent flow of the anointing on the anointed.

When the blind see, lame walk, deaf hears, affliction destroyed, you have to boldly tell the people that it's God not you that does the work but God. You've got to mean it from your heart. If you do, God will do more through you. Always give the glory to God. Never attempt to appear as a star when the supernatural happens. Anytime great miracles, healings happen, always say in and from your heart that it is God. You lose the flow when you take the glory that belongs to God.

Until you return the glory to God regularly, you may not experience consistent flow of virtue from Him to others through

you. God is not looking for those that will use Him, He is seeking those that will praise Him. Every time you return the glory to Him, you will step into the blessings He has for you.

When you magnify God before His people, He will exalt you before them. The day you stop magnifying God before His people is the day He stops exalting you before them. Don't attempt to be a hero apart from God. Attempting to prove to people that you have something special and can do something special apart from God will end you in shame.

One of the ways to deal with pride is to return the glory to Him. The best way to appear important is not by claiming you have one special grace, it is by making it known to all that whatever great things happen through your ministry is really from God. God has a unique way of amplifying those who magnify Him. If you can apply the law of return regularly by returning His glory, praise and adoration to Him, He will always amplify your small effort in a great way.

The law of return also says that you must always return into communion with the Lord every time. You must always return into your fellowship every morning.

More so, it is essential that you return appreciation to those who have blessed you tremendously. You have to create a way of returning appreciation to your man of God. When a man gives you his time to teach and impart you, you should find a way to appreciate the investment of that man.

THE LAW OF IDENTITY

You need to find out where you belong. Are you an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher? When you know who you are, then, train your gift. The other day, someone told me he's a prophet. Having heard him, I later confirmed by the Spirit that he is a pastor. Today, I don't even know the whereabouts of that man. Don't guess your ministry gift.

During my university days, everyone seemed to be called a pastor. And many just went out with that mentality, only for them to discover years later that their ministry gift is not that of a pastor but other ministry gift. Find out who God design you to be and let the authority over you confirms it.

Your identity is who God has created you to be. You have to know who you are before you show who you are. Your identity is not what you say about yourself but what you show about yourself.

The reason you need to know your ministry gift is so you can identify how to train what God has given you. There are

specialized knowledge for ministers. I remember when I stepped into the prophetic, I needed to get the rudiments and understand the gift of a prophet. Later, I when I stepped into the apostolic, I needed to learn about the duties of an apostle. Looking back today, I realized the reason I gave myself to learning about those offices was because I discovered my ministry gifts early.

Also, it is expedient you identify the face you want your ministry to wear. Your ministry cannot appear like some ministry. There is nothing new under the sun. In other words, there is no new ministry in the universe. Every ministry is a continuation of an existent ministry. Whether you like it or not, the fact is that the pattern of the ministry God has given you is already in existence in another ministry. The day you locate that ministry, you have located the identity of your ministry. God guides people. He will show you the ministry that is a mirror of your ministry. The moment you identify that ministry, give yourself study that ministry.

THE LAW OF PREPARATION

Don't waste the time of people. You've got to prepare. Never get to the pulpit unprepared. Even if you will preach to yourself, prepare. You need prayers and study to prepare a message. Your message is not on google but from God. You can't be an effective minister if google is your option to get the message to preach to the people. When you preach from Google, you will speak to the head of people but when you speak from the rivers of your spirit, you touch their heart.

Quality preparation is the key to quality delivery. Anointing doesn't hinder preparation. That you are anointed doesn't mean you should not prepare. Preparation comes before manifestation. God takes time to prepare men before He reveals men.

Sometimes, preparation can be painful. When God wants to prepare a man, He will take such person through a distinct process that will lead to the transformation of that man. Preparation births transformation. Transformation is when you change from the inside out. It is in the process of preparation

that God will change who you used to be to who you need to be.

When God decides to prepare you, you will definitely change. In preparation, you don't change you, God change you. Often, preparation leads to redirection. God will often redirect you when He is preparing you. The moment you embrace His redirection; you have embraced His preparation. God is known for raising people in obscurity. God will hide you when He is preparing you.

Sometimes, early manifestation is a signal that God hasn't invested much into a person. That is the truth. When God marked a man to build massive capacity in that man, He will take enough time to prepare the man. Often time, it may appear to the man that the preparation is taken longer time. But if the man can be patient and permit God to finish what He has started, such a man will become an iconic and legendary phenomenon that others will desire to be like.

The season of your preparation is the time for learning and impartation. You can only impart what is part of you. God will drag your way certain ministers who carry the gifts and graces needed for the assignment He is preparing you for so that so they can impart you. You need more than knowledge to carry out God's assignment to you. You need grace to accomplish it.

THE LAW OF DELEGATION

You pray for the anointing and stir it up in you but you train for administration. Build your capacity for leadership, management and administration. Anointing function better where there's effective administration. Nothing frustrate an anointed person than poor administration. The anointing pulls people in, administration fix them in.

As the leader, an attempt to do everything yourself will frustrate your life. If you will last in ministry, you must master the art of delegation. There is nothing you do that someone else cannot do. You should always grow people to a level where they can do what you do. You should grow people to a level where they can do task without your supervision.

If you are serving in a ministry, you need to be sensitive to what your leader wants you to do. You must pay attention to details when task is delegated to you. You have to be dedicated for some major task to be delegated to you. No effective leader will delegate great task to you when he knows your dedication

is not much. Wise leaders prove the dedication of people before they delegate sensitive task to them.

Never delegate task to anyone in their area of weakness. Delegation should follow strength. You give people task in the area where they have strength. It is better you train people's weaknesses and turn their weaknesses into strength before you delegate task to them in their area of weaknesses. God doesn't give task to people in the area they are weak. It is with knowledge that you turn weaknesses into strength.

THE LAW OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH

May that day not come that you can no longer be imparted. May that day not come that spiritual authority will not lay hand on your head again to release fresh blessing of the moment. May that day not come that nobody can prophesy to you again. May that day not come you can't be called into special prayer meeting. May that day not come that you can't be given instructions again. May that day not come that you lose appetite to attend meetings and conferences that will build you up.

You must keep learning and advancing. You must open your heart to be imparted and blessed. Only those who keep knowing keep growing. Whatever cannot stop your learning cannot stop your advance. Sometimes, what you don't know is powerful than what you know. You are not at this current level because of what you know. You are at your current level because of what you don't know. The day you know something new, you will shift beyond this current level to a whole new level.

Your physical growth has limit, but your spiritual and mental growth has no limit. If you can't lack consistent inspiration, you won't stop growing. You stop growing the day you stop having inspiration. Inspiration will not make you grow. Inspiration is a force and catalyst to take actions needed for your growth. With inspiration, you will read and listen to vital information needed for your advance.

Sometimes, inspiration won't come to do somethings. You may not have the drive to do certain things, that is where diligence comes in. whatever you don't have inspiration for, you can do it with diligence. Inspiration is doing it because you feel like doing it, diligence is doing it because you should do it. Anything inspiration can drive you to do, diligence can also drive you to do it. Sometimes, you need to step into action to learn, read, listen before the inspiration can come.

I have learned that nothing can stop the advancement of a man who learns and pray. Learning is not enough, you need to pray too. You must carefully select the information you permit to enter into your mind. One piece of information can disrupt what God is building in your life. The reason you must consciously listen to the messages of the ministry you belong is so you can flow with the advance of the ministry.

THE LAW OF CHANGE

Change is the evidence of life. The road to success is always under construction. Yesterday's formula for success is often tomorrow's recipe for failure. Only fools and dead men don't change their mind. Fools won't and dead men can't.

A minister should be ready to adapt to the current of the season. This doesn't mean you should lower your standard, it only means you should be ready to make changes as need be. The fact is that growth depends on your willingness to experience change. In life and ministry, it is either you change or you are changed. Those who are too rigid to change will end up being changed with time.

In ministry, you should be ready to change your administrative structure when need be. You should be ready to change your appearance when need be. You just have to be ready to make change. You must be careful not to permit other people's opinion to keep you on the same spot. When God calls on you to make a particular change, if you pull back because you are

intimidated by what others will say, you will miss your season.

There is no everlasting man of God. You have a limited time on earth. You have to be wise to adapt to needed changes to be relevant. You must not change everything, but there will always be need for you to make some changes. If you consider other people's criticism, you may miss your season.

You must always be tuned to God to know the changes He wants you to make every season. Every season comes with fresh instruction. In God's instruction lies your position and elevation. What is God telling you to stop and what is He telling you to start now? If you can know this, you will stay relevant.

If you are serving in a ministry, you must regularly be in the flow. The moment the leadership turn to another direction; you should turn too. You don't have to wait on God to instruct you specifically to do things that are instructed by the leadership except matters you perceive are contrary to the scripture. Whatever the leadership command you to change, you have to adjust to make the change. The day you start doing things your own way in a ministry where you are serving, you have started manifesting a rebellious spirit. Rebellion is doing it your own way when the leadership commands it should be done in a certain way. It is better you make a change today.



About the Author

Niyi Makinde is a leadership expert, quotient coach, consultant, author and a Christian minister with an apostolic calling. His passion is to raise Christian ministers and leaders like himself, as well as to help organisations and businesses maximize their potentials.

Apostle Niyi Makinde has been in Christian ministry for over fifteen years. He is the President of Rebirth Global Church, a network of churches across the globe on a mission to empower believers to fulfill their God-given tasks on earth. He is an apostolic oversight and covering for many other ministries, networks and churches.

Also by Niyi Makinde

Apostle Niyi Makinde as an Author has written several insightful and powerful books. among which are:

1. Divine Instructions
2. 12 Laws of Divine Instructions
3. Breaking Life Code
4. Revolutionary Apostle
5. Power to Prosper
6. Power to Become
7. 53 Laws of Excellence
8. Church Shift
9. Business Sense
10. Dealing With Human Enemies
11. Wisdom For All Round
12. Wisdom Power
13. Prayer Force Volume 1
14. Multiply
15. Tithing
16. You are Different
17. Phronesis For Dating
18. Dating, Marriage and Sex
19. Managing Divine People
20. Power to Get Wealth
21. Spiritual Fatherhood
22. Managing Divine People
23. Understanding Honor
24. Flourish And Grow Volume 1
25. Faith Dimension volume 1
26. Your Reality Today (Daily Devotional)