

A person with a backpack stands on a rocky mountain peak, looking out at a vast, misty landscape with a large, jagged mountain peak in the background. The scene is atmospheric and inspiring, suggesting a journey or achievement.

SECRETS TO REMAINING AT
THE TOP

NIYI MAKINDE

NIYI MAKINDE

SECRETS TO REMAINING AT THE
TOP BY NIYI MAKINDE

Copyright © 2026 by Niyi Makinde

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise without written permission from the publisher. It is illegal to copy this book, post it to a website, or distribute it by any other means without permission.

First edition

This book was professionally typeset on Reedsy.

Find out more at reedsy.com

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	iv
1 THE FOUNDATION FOR REMAINING AT THE TOP	1
2 HUMILITY: THE PATHWAY TO REMAINING AT THE TOP	5
3 FORGIVENESS: AN ESSENTIAL SECRET TO REMAINING AT THE TOP	10
4 NEW VISIONS AND DREAMS: THE DRIVING FORCE FOR REMAINING AT...	17
5 SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIPS: A VITAL PRINCIPLE FOR REMAINING...	21
6 OBEDIENCE TO GOD: THE UNDENIABLE SECRET TO REMAINING AT THE...	29
<i>About the Author</i>	34
<i>Also by Niyi Makinde</i>	35

Preface

The Mandate of Stability

Everyone longs for the height. Society is filled with ambitious hearts striving to rise out of the valley—a place that is always congested with the masses—and step onto the mountaintop of success, impact, and visibility. Yet, a sober observation of life reveals a striking and heartbreaking reality: **while many aspire to reach the top, only a few actually arrive, and of those few, a fragile remnant manages to stay there.** So many who reach extraordinary heights eventually experience devastating falls. They rise today only to lose their footing tomorrow.

In writing ***The Secrets to Remaining at the Top***, my heart's intent is to address this profound gap between reaching a high position and possessing the capacity to stay there. I want to settle an unshakeable, foundational truth in your spirit right from the beginning: **God did not create you to be a seasonal success.** He did not lift you up into a place of visibility only to watch you fall back into obscurity. God is not only interested in your promotion; He is deeply committed to your stability.

Spiritual Position vs. Earthly Establishment

To walk in lasting success, we must understand the dual nature of our calling. In the spiritual realm, every believer in Christ Jesus has already been raised up and seated in the ultimate place of authority—the “**topmost top.**” Through Christ's

resurrection, your spiritual position is secured above all powers and principalities. However, God has also ordained “**high places**” for you on this earth—mountains of influence, leadership, professional excellence, and societal relevance where your light is meant to shine. Reaching these earthly heights brings visibility, but earthly results alone will never sustain you. Great achievements—whether academic distinction, financial wealth, or expanding enterprises—can carry you to the top, but they lack the structural weight to keep you grounded when the tests of elevation arrive. True stability requires divine principles.

The Blueprint for Lasting Elevation

This book is born out of deep spiritual reflection and practical wisdom that God taught me early in my journey. Within these chapters, we explore five fundamental keys designed to fortify your character and preserve your position at the top:

1. **Humility:** The absolute prerequisite for sustained lifting. Pride is an invisible poison that transforms God from your promoter into your opponent. Remaining humble preserves your character and keeps the hand of God beneath your feet.
2. **Forgiveness and Forbearance:** The essential safeguards for your heart and peace. At the top, offenses are inevitable. Learning to forgive quickly and practice forbearance keeps your mind free from bitterness, protecting the mental and spiritual fertility needed for ongoing creativity.
3. **New Visions and Dreams:** The perpetual engine of relevance. Yesterday’s accomplishments cannot power tomorrow’s progress. Fresh divine direction keeps you aligned with God’s timing and expanding His kingdom.
4. **Sustainable Relationships:** The covenant network of

growth. God uses strategic people—both forever covenant relationships and prophetic seasonal connections—to cover, counsel, and elevate you.

5. **Obedience to God:** The undeniable secret of longevity. Prompt, wholehearted obedience to divine instructions—whether directly from God’s Spirit or through recognized spiritual authority—is the ultimate anchor of your elevation.

As you turn these pages, open your heart to receive not merely information, but transformation. Reaching the top is a journey of process and divine help; remaining there is a lifestyle of applied spiritual wisdom. May the Lord grant you the grace to build a foundation so solid that when He lifts your head, you will flourish indefinitely to the glory of His Name.

1

THE FOUNDATION FOR REMAINING AT THE TOP

Understanding the Fundamental Truth

Everyone desires to reach the top. However, only a few actually get there, and sadly, only a handful of those who reach the top remain there. Many rise to great heights but eventually fall. Although many aspire to be at the top, only a few will attain it. God is the One who lifts people from the valley to the mountaintop. The valley is always crowded, and the lowlands are filled with many people. But when God brings you to the top, He gives you the capacity to advance to whatever height He has ordained for you. Bear this truth in mind: **God created you to be at the top.** You must pursue the top because no one is born there. Everyone who reaches the top finds a way there through God's help, preparation, and process. One thing for which I am deeply grateful to God is that He taught me certain truths early in life. The same God who lifts you to the top also has the authority to bring you down. Beyond that, there are certain attitudes and actions that can cause a person to fall from the top. Therefore, your goal should not only be to reach the top but also to remain

there. It is one thing to get to the top; it is another thing entirely to stay at the top.

Spiritual Top vs. Earthly Top

There is a spiritual top, and there is an earthly top. The spiritual top refers to the highest place of authority in the universe. Every believer is already at the top in the spiritual realm through Christ Jesus. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” As long as you are in Christ, His victory is your victory, and His resurrection is your resurrection. Jesus Christ ascended to the highest place of authority—the “**topmost top**.” Therefore, all believers in Christ Jesus share in that position. If you are a believer, you are already seated with Christ in the highest spiritual position. However, there are also top places on earth. The top in the heavenly realm is different from the top on earth. Isaiah 2:2 says: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.” This Scripture reveals that there are top places on the earth that God has prepared for people. Those who occupy such positions are regarded as “**top individuals**.” Visibility in life is connected to the top. Getting to the top is one of the secrets to becoming visible. While every believer is already at the spiritual top through Christ, each person must also pursue God’s purpose to reach the place of influence, relevance, and impact ordained for them on the earth.

Remaining at the Top Is Beyond Earthly Results

Habakkuk 3:19 (KJV) says: “The LORD God is my strength,

and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places..." The God you serve is able to position you in your high places and keep you there. Achieving results may take you to the top, but results alone cannot keep you there. It takes more than one achievement to remain at the top. Even then, a person can continue to achieve great results and still fall. Results are simply **achievements and successes**. For example, graduating with excellent grades is an achievement. Increasing your financial income is an achievement. Acquiring valuable properties is an achievement. Building successful businesses, launching outstanding products, or making notable contributions to society are all remarkable accomplishments. These achievements can bring you to the top, but they do not guarantee that you will remain there. I have seen people graduate with outstanding results, acquire great wealth, build businesses, and accomplish extraordinary things, yet later lose everything and fall from their position. We have also seen political leaders rise to prominence today and lose their influence tomorrow. It is not God's desire for you to rise today and fall tomorrow. God's will is for you to rise and remain at the top. He desires to establish you in your high places and sustain you there. The only exception is when a person allows wickedness, pride, or other destructive attitudes to take root in the heart. God is not only interested in your success; He is also committed to your stability. His desire is that you rise, remain established, and continue to flourish.

Your Head Being Lifted

Psalm 27:6 declares: "And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the

Lord.” When God lifts your head above your enemies, He places you in a position of visibility, honor, and distinction. A lifted head is a picture of being established at the top. Ecclesiastes 3 teaches that there is a time and season for every purpose under heaven. However, the Scripture does not speak of a divinely appointed time to rise and then a time to fall. God’s desire is not for you to rise today and fall tomorrow. Reaching the top is not the end of the journey. There are important lessons you must learn to remain there. As long as you remain submitted to God and do not rebel against Him, you position yourself for lasting stability. When you consistently apply the principles God has taught you, you will remain at the top. Lasting success comes not only from reaching the top but also from understanding and practicing the principles that keep you there.

HUMILITY: THE PATHWAY TO REMAINING AT THE TOP

Humility: The Secret to Remaining at the Top

If you desire to remain at the top, you must remain humble. Humility is one of the greatest secrets to lasting success. It is not enough to reach the top; humility is what keeps you there. The Bible teaches us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and He will lift us up in due time. Those who remain humble position themselves for continual promotion. Psalm 75:6–7 says: “For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.” Promotion comes from God alone. He has the sovereign authority to lift one person and bring down another. He can lift the younger above the elder, a friend above another friend, or even a child above a parent. God is supreme in all His decisions. One way God brings a person down is by raising someone else above them. God is not unjust or wicked. Rather, when a person becomes proud, God withdraws His hand of promotion and begins to elevate another who is willing to remain humble. In this way, the one who was once

ahead is overtaken by the one whom God chooses to exalt. First Samuel 2:7 declares: “The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.” If you want to remain at the top, you must remain humble before God. He looks for humility before He grants promotion. Pride attracts downfall, but humility attracts God’s lifting. Therefore, guard your heart against pride, because the God who lifts people up is also able to bring them low.

God Pulls Down the Proud

Daniel 4:37 says: “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.” God is able to bring down those who walk in pride. These were the words of King Nebuchadnezzar, one of the most influential rulers of his time. Through his own experience, he acknowledged that no matter a person’s position, status, or level of influence, God is able to humble the proud. God does not bring down the righteous because of their righteousness; He resists those whose hearts are filled with pride. Pride is dangerous because it places a person in opposition to God. Those who speak and act with arrogance position themselves for a fall. When people are brought low, they often withdraw from public attention because of the challenges they are facing. As believers, we should never mock those who experience setbacks or failures. Instead, we should respond with humility, compassion, and prayer. The moment pride takes root in your heart, you place yourself in danger of being brought low. One of the clearest examples is Lucifer. He desired to exalt himself above the throne of God, and because of his pride, he was cast down. If you desire to remain at the top, guard your heart against pride. Humility attracts God’s lifting, but pride invites His judgment.

Pride Begins in the Heart

Pride begins as a thought in the heart before it is expressed through words or actions. People who speak proudly first entertain proud thoughts within themselves. When you begin to think that you are more important than others or look down on people, God sees the pride that exists in your heart. The Word of God has the power to expose and remove pride from the heart. If you desire God to keep you at the top—whether in a position of authority, influence, or leadership—you must remain humble all the days of your life. Never think, speak, or act proudly. Do not consider yourself superior to others or assume that some people are beneath your status or position. This does not mean you should lose your self-confidence or healthy self-esteem. It is right to believe that, by God's grace, you are capable of accomplishing great things. However, you must never allow that confidence to become a sense of superiority over others. The moment you begin to see yourself as better than others, pride has found a place in your heart. When God sees pride in a person's heart, He may withdraw His hand of promotion and turn His attention to those whom that person has looked down on. If you desire to be continually lifted by the Lord, do not allow pride to take root in your heart. Choose humility instead. Humility is one of the greatest secrets to remaining at the top. When God upholds you, no person and no power of darkness can bring you down. If you remain genuinely humble before God and people, He will continue to lift and establish you. Guard your heart carefully. Let humility dwell within you, and never permit thoughts that could cause God to regard you as proud.

God: The Judge

God is the Judge. He is the One who brings down the proud and

exalts the humble. The person God lifts is the one who humbles himself. God honors those who demonstrate humility in both their hearts and their actions. You do not need a prophet to tell you that pride leads to a fall. A proud person who refuses to repent will eventually be brought low. If you allow pride to take root in your heart, you position yourself for a downfall. Remember, pride begins as a thought before it becomes an action. It starts with the way you think about yourself and others. When you begin to believe that you are more important than everyone else, it is a clear sign that pride is taking hold of your heart, and it must be dealt with immediately. Positions of prominence, influence, and honor can easily give room for pride if you are not watchful. Therefore, guard your heart diligently. No matter how high God lifts you, remain humble before Him and before people. It is humility that preserves your place at the top.

Beware of Earthly Accomplishments

Be careful not to allow your earthly accomplishments to become the source of your pride. The more you become absorbed with yourself, the more pride will grow in your heart. Never allow your success, progress, or achievements to get into your head. Many people become full of themselves because they think too highly of themselves. Guard your heart against pride, and deliberately put on humility. Always remember that every achievement is possible because of God's grace. Pride separates a person from both God and people. It hinders fellowship with God and damages relationships with others. Therefore, no matter how much God blesses or promotes you, remain humble. Humility will preserve your character, your influence, and your place at the top.

Beware of People's Praises

Be careful of the praises of people. If you are not watchful, people's praise can lead to pride and arrogance. When people begin to celebrate or commend you, do not become carried away. Instead, be intentional about giving all the glory to God. Remember that every good thing you have accomplished is by His grace. Do not allow the praise of people to control your heart or influence your attitude. Receive appreciation with gratitude, but always remain humble before God and others. Humility will keep you grounded, even when others speak highly of you.

FORGIVENESS: AN ESSENTIAL SECRET TO REMAINING AT THE TOP

Forgiving People Easily at the Top

If you desire to remain at the top, you must learn to forgive people quickly and sincerely. As a leader, employer, or person in authority, you must develop a forgiving heart. Forgiveness is one of the qualities that helps you remain at the top. You may not need forgiveness to get to the top, but you will certainly need it to stay there. When you are at the top, people will offend you. They will criticize you, misunderstand your actions, and assign wrong motives to your decisions. Some will gossip about you, while others may fail to give you the honor and respect you deserve. There will even be people who believe you should seek their permission before making certain decisions. The higher you rise, the greater the possibility of experiencing offense. Those you trust the most may become the ones who hurt you the deepest. In such moments, your response should be forgiveness. Forgiveness does not always require discussing the matter with the offender. It begins with making a deliberate decision in your heart to let go of the offense and release the person. The true

test of forgiveness comes when you are in a position to influence the future of those who offended you. When you have the authority to decide whether they are promoted, recommended, or given an opportunity, your actions will reveal whether you have genuinely forgiven them. Do not deceive yourself into thinking you have forgiven someone if resentment still controls your decisions. Genuine forgiveness becomes evident when you choose to act with fairness rather than bitterness. You cannot remain at the top without facing offenses. Thus, if you desire lasting success and influence, make forgiveness a consistent way of life.

The Only One Who Will Never Offend You

The only One who will never offend you is God. At one time or another, people will offend you. Your leaders may offend you. Your colleagues may offend you. Your close friends and trusted associates may hurt you. Even those under your leadership may disappoint you. This is a reality of life at every level. If you desire to keep advancing, you must learn to forgive quickly. Forgiveness is not only for the benefit of others; it is also for your own growth and progress. Your creativity thrives in a heart that is free from offense. A mind that is constantly occupied with what others have done cannot function at its best. Do not allow people to use your mind as a refuse dump where hurts, bitterness, and negative thoughts are stored. Instead, let your mind be fertile ground for creativity, wisdom, and fresh ideas. A heart filled with forgiveness is more open to divine inspiration and greater accomplishments. There is far more to achieve in life than to spend your time dwelling on offenses. When you refuse to forgive, you harm yourself more than the person who offended you. In many cases, those who hurt you may not even

realize what they have done. They continue with their lives, enjoying peace and making progress, while the offended person remains burdened by resentment. Hence, choose the way of forgiveness. Especially as a leader, learn to forgive easily. A forgiving heart preserves your peace, protects your creativity, and positions you for continual growth and lasting influence.

Making Restitution with God

When some people offend others, their conscience convicts them, and they go to God in repentance to seek His forgiveness. Once they have genuinely repented, they receive peace, and the matter is settled in their hearts. In some cases, they may not return to the person they offended to make restitution, yet they continue to move forward in life. The wisdom here is that while some people resolve their offenses before God and move on, others continue to hold those same offenses in their hearts. The one who refuses to forgive often suffers more than the one who caused the offense. Therefore, make it a habit to forgive people sincerely and quickly. Do not allow bitterness to remain in your heart. As you grow in spiritual maturity, develop the capacity to live above offense. Aim to reach the point where you are not easily offended, regardless of what people say or do. A heart that is free from offense enjoys peace, remains productive, and is always ready for God's next assignment.

Grow and Build Yourself to the Level Where Nobody Offends You

One of the highest levels of spiritual maturity is to grow to the point where you are not easily offended. Build yourself to the level where you understand that everyone you relate to is human and capable of making mistakes. Since people are imperfect,

they will sometimes say or do things that may hurt or disappoint you. As you mature, you should reach the point where you are no longer controlled by offense. This is a higher level than merely forgiving people after they have offended you. It is a level where you understand human nature and choose not to allow offenses to take root in your heart. When you live at this level, your heart remains free to receive fresh inspiration, divine insight, and creativity. You will continue to grow and advance because your mind is not occupied with bitterness or resentment. If you discover that some people are criticizing you, mocking you, seeking your downfall, or even working against you, do not allow anger to rule your heart. Recognize that they are human and respond with wisdom. Forgive them, remain discerning in your dealings with them, and make wise decisions without harboring resentment. Choose to become a person who forgives easily. Grow to the point where people's actions no longer control your peace. When you refuse to allow offenses to settle in your heart, you position yourself for continual progress. Holding on to offenses clouds your mind and hinders your ability to receive the wisdom, direction, and insights you need to remain at the top.

Prepare Your Mind to Be Offended at the Top

Prepare your mind for the reality that, as you rise to the top, people will offend and hurt you. Offenses are part of leadership and influence. If someone who has offended you later needs your help, do not withhold your support because of the past. Be willing to help, assist, and even defend those who have wronged you when it is the right thing to do. Such a response reflects the character of Christ and positions you to receive God's favor, mercy, and continued promotion. Do not allow people's words,

actions, reactions, or behavior to keep you in a state of offense. Choose forgiveness over bitterness and love over resentment. A person who remains free from offense is better positioned to remain at the top and continue advancing in God's purpose.

Forgiveness vs. Forbearance

Forgiveness and forbearance are closely related, but they are not the same. Forgiveness is the decision to release an offense and let go of resentment. Forbearance, on the other hand, is the willingness to patiently bear with the weaknesses, shortcomings, and imperfections of others. A truly forgiving heart will naturally practice forbearance. If you can genuinely forgive, you should also be able to bear with people in love. If you desire to remain at the top, you must learn not only to forgive others but also to exercise forbearance toward them. People will have weaknesses, make mistakes, and sometimes disappoint you. Rather than allowing their actions to offend or discourage you, choose to respond with patience, wisdom, and grace. One of the highest levels of spiritual maturity is reaching the point where people's actions no longer control your emotions or disturb your peace. They may do things you dislike, but you remain steady, discerning, and unoffended. This does not mean you ignore wisdom or become careless in your relationships. Instead, you respond with caution where necessary while keeping your heart free from bitterness. So, if you desire to live above offense and remain at the top, you must grow beyond forgiveness into forbearance. Forgiveness releases past offenses, while forbearance enables you to live peacefully with the imperfections of others.

Certain Truths About Forbearance

The following truths will help you understand and practice forbearance:

1. **Forbearance means accommodating the weaknesses of others.** When people offend you, choose to let go of the offense in your heart. If you can patiently bear with the weaknesses and shortcomings of others, you are practicing forbearance.

2. **Forbearance is understanding human nature.** Recognize that people are imperfect and capable of making mistakes. When you understand this truth, their actions will not easily move or hurt you. You accept that, as human beings, people may sometimes offend one another.

3. **Forbearance is choosing not to be controlled by offense.** It is reaching the point where you do not allow people's actions to rob you of your peace. Instead, you patiently bear with them while maintaining a right attitude.

4. **Forbearance requires spiritual maturity.** To attain this level, you must understand that people will sometimes repeat actions that may hurt or disappoint you. Even so, you choose to respond with patience, grace, and wisdom rather than resentment.

5. **Forbearance helps you see the good in people.** It enables you to look beyond their weaknesses and appreciate their strengths. At this level, you do not stop being kind because of another person's imperfections. Instead, you learn to accommodate the limitations of others while exercising wisdom in your relationships.

6. **Forbearance does not keep a record of offenses.** When you practice forbearance, you do not go about discussing the wrongs people have done to you. Sometimes, people talk about their hurts simply to gain sympathy or pity. Instead, choose to let go completely. If you desire to keep advancing in life, you

must learn to bear with others.

7. The person who hurts you today may become a blessing tomorrow. This truth should encourage you to practice forbearance. Some of the people who disappoint or hurt you today may genuinely love and support you in the future. Others may later receive greater understanding through God's Word and experience a transformation in their thinking and behavior. Many people act according to the level of knowledge they possess at a particular time. As they grow in wisdom and maturity, they often change. Therefore, do not write people off because of their past actions.

8. Forbearance chooses love over resentment. When you practice forbearance, you continue to love people regardless of what they say or do against you. Some may speak against you or even work for your downfall, yet your responsibility is to respond with Christlike love. Continue to care for them whenever the opportunity arises. Do not be quick to label people as wicked. Instead, show them love, exercise wisdom, and make room for their weaknesses. Go beyond merely forgiving others—learn to forbear with them.

NEW VISIONS AND DREAMS: THE DRIVING FORCE FOR REMAINING AT THE TOP

New Visions and Dreams

If you desire to remain at the top, you must continually embrace new visions and dreams. You also need to be sensitive to what God requires of you at your current level. Remember, a vision and a dream helped you reach the top. However, it is fresh visions and new dreams that will keep you there. Many people fail to remain at the top because they stop dreaming, growing, and pursuing new possibilities. If your past achievements are still your greatest source of excitement, you may struggle to remain at the top. Thank God for what He has done, but do not become satisfied with yesterday's accomplishments. Keep believing God for new dreams and greater assignments. Be discerning with every vision or idea you receive. Not every vision is meant for immediate action. Some visions are for the present season, while others are appointed for the future. Wisdom helps you recognize the right time to pursue each one. New visions

and fresh dreams keep you relevant, productive, and growing. As long as God continues to give you new direction, you will continue to make meaningful progress. Take time to meditate on the visions God gives you. A vision that is not carefully nurtured may never be fulfilled. Every great accomplishment begins as a seed in the heart before it becomes a reality. For a vision to grow and mature, it requires exposure, knowledge, wisdom, patience, insight, and the necessary resources. As you faithfully develop what God has placed within you, He will position you to remain fruitful and effective at the top.

Become a Blessing to Others Through Vision

Not every vision or idea God places in your heart is meant for you to carry out personally. Sometimes, He gives you an idea because it is meant for someone else who has been called to execute it. In such cases, your responsibility is to share the vision with the right person. Be willing to become a blessing to others by sharing the insights, ideas, and visions God entrusts to you. What may seem like a simple thought to you could become the answer to someone else's prayers. Before taking any step, always seek to know God's mind. Ensure that every new vision and dream has divine approval before you begin its execution. Remember, your mind is capable of generating many ideas, but not every idea originates from God. If you pursue every idea that comes into your mind, you may become busy with things God never assigned to you. Therefore, cultivate spiritual sensitivity. Learn to discern whether a vision is truly from the Lord and whether it is meant for you to accomplish or to share with someone else. Walking in God's purpose requires both discernment and obedience.

In the Multitude of Counsel

One reason people seek mentors, wise counselors, and elders is to receive guidance before acting on new ideas. Do not rush into action simply because you have received a new vision. Give it time to grow and mature in your heart. Allow your vision to be nurtured through prayer, meditation, and godly counsel. By the time you step out to execute it, you should have clarity and confidence rather than feeling as though you are venturing into the unknown. Be careful not to do the right thing at the wrong time. A good vision pursued outside God's timing may not produce the desired result. Therefore, learn to wait for the right season and seek wisdom before taking action. New visions and dreams are essential if you want to remain at the top. They keep you growing, relevant, and effective. If you desire to keep advancing, you must continually identify the new things God is leading you to do. You cannot make progress by remaining in the same place or relying only on yesterday's achievements. New visions and fresh dreams keep you focused on your assignment, faithful to your responsibilities, and effective in your position of influence and authority.

Changes to Make Concerning New Visions and Dreams

New visions and dreams help you identify the changes you need to make in your life, your work, your leadership, and the society in which you serve. One of the marks of vision is the ability to discern what needs to change. Vision shows you what to stop doing, what to continue doing, and what to begin doing. However, you must also be sensitive to God's timing. You may recognize a necessary change, but the right time to implement it may not have come. Wisdom is knowing not only what to do but also when to do it. Developing new visions and dreams also

requires you to see from the perspective of others. Some people claim to have vision, yet they never take time to understand the views and experiences of those around them. Learn to listen to people with an open heart. As you develop the habit of listening, God may use the insights, experiences, and observations of others to reveal the changes you need to make. A teachable spirit and a listening ear will help you receive fresh vision and remain effective at the top.

SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIPS: A VITAL PRINCIPLE FOR REMAINING AT THE TOP

Identify the Relationships You Need

To remain at the top, you need the right relationships. Not every relationship is necessary, but the right ones are essential for lasting success. For some people, two, three, or four strategic relationships may be enough to sustain them. For others, even one God-ordained relationship can make a lifetime of difference. There are certain truths and opportunities that may never be communicated to you directly. This is why relationships are important. God is the Author of relationships, and He uses people as channels of wisdom, encouragement, correction, and blessing. Not all relationships are the same. Each one serves a different purpose. Even those who understand this truth sometimes struggle to relate well with the people God has placed in their lives. Learn to recognize what God has deposited in others. God has not given everyone the same gifts, wisdom, or grace. He distributes different abilities and resources to different people

so that they can become a blessing to one another. Consequently, do not focus on having many relationships. Instead, seek to identify and nurture the relationships God has ordained to help you remain fruitful, effective, and established at the top.

Not All Relationships Are the Same

Not all relationships have the same influence on your life. Some relationships will pull you down, while others will lift you up. There are also relationships that God has ordained to help you remain at the top. Therefore, be wise in choosing and maintaining your relationships. Value the people God has placed in your life for your growth, stability, and purpose. At the same time, never make it your goal to bring anyone down. The principle of sowing and reaping applies to everyone. Whatever a person sows, that person will also reap. If you deliberately seek the downfall of others, you should not be surprised when the same measure is returned to you. Even if no human being is able to bring you down, remember that God is the supreme Judge. He is able to humble anyone who walks in pride or delights in the downfall of others. Never boast that no one can bring you down while secretly working against the progress of others. Instead, choose to encourage, support, and lift people up. As you become a blessing to others, God will establish you and help you remain at the top.

Be Discerning

You need discernment to recognize the relationships that God has ordained to sustain and strengthen you. Ask God to open your eyes so that you can identify such relationships. Once God reveals the right people to you, He will also grant you favor in their sight. However, favor alone is not enough. You must

build the character needed to nurture and sustain those relationships. Be intentional about developing the attitudes and habits that strengthen godly relationships. Consistently demonstrate humility, integrity, loyalty, gratitude, and faithfulness. These qualities inspire trust and help preserve relationships that God has designed to support your growth and keep you at the top. Discernment helps you recognize the right relationships, while godly character enables you to maintain them.

The Two Hemispheres of Sustainable Relationships

There are two hemispheres of sustainable relationships:

1. **Forever Relationships**
2. **Seasonal Relationships**

Understanding the difference between forever and seasonal relationships will help you value people appropriately, avoid unnecessary disappointment, and relate with wisdom according to God's purpose.

Forever Relationships

Some relationships are covenant relationships. Although there may not be a formal covenant spoken between the individuals, there is a deep agreement and unity of heart that binds them together. Their hearts are joined by a shared purpose, commitment, and mutual trust. Forever relationships are not easily abandoned. Even when challenges arise, you do not walk away from them casually. If you attempt to leave such a relationship without God's leading, you may find that your heart is troubled and lacks peace. These relationships are gifts from God. They are designed to provide strength, encouragement, accountability, and support throughout the different seasons of life. Because of their value, they should be cherished, nurtured,

and protected. So, when God brings a forever relationship into your life, do not take it for granted. Invest in it with love, loyalty, faithfulness, and honor. Such relationships are often part of God's plan to establish you and help you remain at the top.

The Two Sides of Forever Relationships

1. The Relationship Between a Spiritual Father and a Spiritual Son

One of the strongest examples of a forever relationship is the relationship between a spiritual father and a spiritual son. This is a covenant relationship that God often uses to preserve, strengthen, and sustain His people. Unlike many relationships in politics or business, where leadership and influence can change rapidly, a genuine spiritual father-son relationship is built on spiritual commitment, shared purpose, and divine assignment. It is designed to nurture spiritual growth and provide stability throughout life's journey. A mentoring relationship may change with time, but a true spiritual father-son relationship carries a deeper level of spiritual responsibility and commitment. God can use such a relationship to help establish and sustain a person. The spiritual covering provided through a spiritual father is often expressed in three major ways:

i. Provision

A spiritual father can provide revelation, godly wisdom, timely counsel, direction, valuable connections, resources, and vision. Through such guidance, you receive the insight needed to grow and remain effective.

ii. Protection

A spiritual father provides spiritual covering through prayer and godly oversight. Such prayers strengthen, preserve, and help guard you against many battles that seek to hinder your

progress. God often uses this relationship to preserve His children and keep them advancing in His purpose. Many fathers in the faith understood the value of this spiritual dimension. However, many in the present generation have yet to fully appreciate its significance. Through godly spiritual covering, many unseen dangers are averted, and many lives are preserved.

iii. **Promotion**

God also uses this relationship as a channel of promotion. A spiritual father may give timely instructions, correction, encouragement, or direction that opens the door to new levels of growth and influence. For this reason, you should identify and value the relationships God has ordained to strengthen and establish you. Guard such relationships with humility, honor, and faithfulness. They often provide the wisdom and accountability needed to remain at the top. A spiritual father may not always minister publicly, but God often uses what happens in private—through prayers, counsel, and personal instruction—to sustain the lives of those who are genuinely connected to him. Many times, a simple instruction received and obeyed becomes the key to a new season of promotion and greater influence.

2. **The Relationship Between Two Covenant Friends**

Another example of a forever relationship is the covenant relationship between two friends. A biblical example is the relationship between **David and Jonathan**. Their friendship was built on love, loyalty, trust, and covenant commitment rather than personal gain or competition. In our world today, such covenant friendships are uncommon. Many friendships are weakened by envy, pride, rivalry, and selfish ambition. When these attitudes are left unchecked, they eventually lead to misunderstanding and separation. For a friendship to endure and remain strong,

both individuals must intentionally deal with issues such as pride, jealousy, competition, and strife. They must celebrate each other's success instead of competing with one another. In many friendships, one person may advance more rapidly than the other because of God's grace and purpose. If this reality is not accepted with humility, rivalry can develop. One person may begin striving to outshine the other, and this often creates tension that eventually damages the relationship. Consequently, lasting friendships require humility, contentment, and mutual honor. Both friends must understand that God assigns different measures of grace, influence, and responsibility to different people. Instead of competing, they should support one another and rejoice in each other's progress. When a friendship is built on covenant love rather than comparison, it can withstand the test of time and become a source of strength, encouragement, and lasting blessing.

Seasonal Relationships

Seasonal relationships are prophetic in nature. God brings these relationships into your life for a specific purpose and for a particular season. They are designed to accomplish certain assignments before naturally coming to an end. Such relationships have the capacity to open doors, impart wisdom, provide encouragement, create opportunities, or help you accomplish God's purpose for that season. Once their assignment has been fulfilled, the relationship may change or come to a close without conflict or bitterness. Seasonal relationships may come in the form of friends, business partners, associates, mentors, colleagues, or strategic connections. When you recognize and embrace these relationships, they can become channels of God's blessings and help you remain fruitful and effective.

There is also another aspect of seasonal relationships that you can intentionally cultivate. These may be called **opportunity relationships**. They are relationships you deliberately build because of the opportunities, knowledge, or value they represent. Opportunity relationships require wisdom and intentionality. You should prayerfully evaluate the relationships that will help you fulfill your God-given assignment. Identify people who can provide guidance, open doors, make recommendations, or connect you with opportunities that align with God's purpose for your life. As you build such relationships, remain discerning and appreciative. Be sensitive to the opportunities God brings through people, and value every relationship according to the purpose for which He has brought it into your life.

You Need Wisdom

You need wisdom to identify, early in life, the things you must consistently do to preserve the relationships that help sustain you at the top. As you grow and advance, learn what is required to maintain the strategic relationships God has placed in your life. These are relationships that contribute to your growth, purpose, and lasting influence. Nurturing such relationships is one of the keys to remaining at the top. Never adopt the attitude that you do not need people. God often fulfills His purposes through relationships. Some relationships require intentional investment through **honor, faithful service, genuine love, thoughtful gifts, regular communication, and unwavering loyalty**. Daniel 5:19 says: "And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down." This

passage reminds us that God places certain people in positions of great influence and authority. Through them, He opens doors, grants opportunities, and raises others to higher levels of responsibility. Therefore, learn to value the relationships God has ordained for your life. Some relationships endure because they are continually nurtured with love, honor, loyalty, service, and generosity. The consistent investment you make in these relationships often determines their strength and longevity. Ultimately, the highest wisdom is to live in such a way that God continually moves the hearts of the right people toward you. As you walk in humility, faithfulness, and honor, God will grant you favor with strategic people and preserve the relationships that help you remain fruitful and established at the top.

OBEDIENCE TO GOD: THE UNDENIABLE SECRET TO REMAINING AT THE TOP

Obedience to God

Obedience to God is one of the greatest keys to remaining at the top. The prophet Samuel told King Saul that **obedience is better than sacrifice**. When you obey God's instructions, He establishes you and keeps you where He has placed you. Sometimes, God's instructions will not come directly to you. He may choose to speak through a spiritual leader or one of His servants. For example, the instruction to destroy the Amalekites did not come directly to Saul. God spoke to Samuel, and Samuel delivered the message to the king. Saul's responsibility was to obey. Many people miss seasons of promotion because they disregard or despise the instructions God sends to them. Others remain stagnant because they refuse to act on divine direction. Delayed obedience often results in delayed progress. Thus, cultivate a heart that is quick to obey God. Whether His instruction comes directly through His Word, by the Holy Spirit,

or through a godly leader, respond with faith and obedience. Consistent obedience keeps you established at the top.

Be Willing to Obey Instructions

Be a person who is always ready to obey instructions, whether they come directly from God or through the people He has placed in your life. When God connects you to a spiritual leader who provides guidance and covering, He may choose to communicate important instructions through that person. Therefore, never despise godly counsel or divine direction. If you desire continual advancement in life, cultivate a heart of obedience. Instructions are often God's means of preserving, guiding, and promoting His people. Many people miss important seasons of their lives because they ignore or delay acting on the instructions God gives them. In the Kingdom of God, spiritual maturity is not measured by claiming to hear God more than others. It is demonstrated by a willingness to obey what God has already spoken. When God gives an instruction, your responsibility is to act on it. Consider the account of the pool of Bethesda. The man explained to Jesus that whenever the water was stirred, the first person to enter the pool received healing. This teaches an important principle: **when God releases an opportunity or an instruction, you may not be the only one who receives it. Someone else, perhaps in another place, may also receive the same direction. The difference is often made by the person who responds first in faith and obedience.** Many people hesitate, overthink, or delay when instructions are given. Others respond promptly. Be among those who obey without unnecessary delay. Every divine instruction carries the potential for a miracle. When you respond with faith and obedience, you position yourself to experience the blessing God has prepared for you.

Never Despise Instructions

Many people remain stagnant in life because they once despised or ignored an instruction God gave them. Choose to believe and obey the instructions God places before you. Some people delay obedience because they are waiting for another confirmation from God. However, when God has clearly spoken through His Word, His Spirit, or a trusted spiritual leader, wisdom is to respond in faith and obedience. Deuteronomy 28:1 declares: “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.” Obedience remains one of the greatest secrets to reaching the top and, more importantly, remaining there. The instructions you faithfully obey can produce undeniable testimonies, breakthroughs, signs, and wonders in your life. Accordingly, maintain a tender heart that is always willing to obey God’s instructions. Never treat divine instructions lightly. They are powerful instruments for your growth, promotion, and advancement in every area of life. David also charged Solomon to value and keep the instructions he received. In the same way, the instructions God gives you—whether in your private time with Him, through His Word, by the Holy Spirit, or through a godly spiritual leader—are given for your profit and progress. They accomplish their purpose only when they are obeyed. Cultivate relationships with people whose godly counsel you can trust. There should be trustworthy voices in your life that you are willing to listen to when they speak according to God’s will. As you consistently practice humility, forgiveness, forbearance, fresh vision, godly relationships, and obedience to divine instructions, you position yourself not only to reach the top but also to remain there and fulfill God’s purpose

for your life.

Anchored at the Top

We have explored the timeless principles that govern true, lasting success in the Kingdom of God. Throughout this treatise, one central message echoes with absolute clarity: **God's desire is not for you to rise today and fall tomorrow, but to rise, remain established, and continually flourish.**

It is easy to look at the world around us and believe that political power, intellectual brilliance, or financial leverage are the ultimate guardians of success. Yet, history continually reminds us that earthly achievements, when divorced from divine wisdom, are fragile. The same God who lifts a man from the valley holds the sovereign authority to bring down the proud and establish the humble. Your place at the top is preserved not by human might, but by your deliberate decision to walk in alignment with Kingdom realities.

A Call to Continuous Alignment

As you conclude this book, remember that the principles shared in these chapters are not one-time actions; they are daily spiritual habits:

- **Walk in Perpetual Humility:** Guard your heart diligently against the subtle thoughts of self-importance. Receive the praise of men with gratitude, but immediately pass all the glory back to God, recognizing that every accomplishment is a product of His grace.
- **Keep Your Heart Free from Offense:** Refuse to let your mind become a garbage dump for offenses, hurt, or bitterness. Exercise forbearance toward the weaknesses of others, knowing that a heart free of resentment remains a fertile

ground for divine wisdom, peace, and fresh inspiration.

- **Pursue Fresh Divine Dreams:** Never allow yesterday's victories to make you complacent today. Continually seek God's face for new visions, test every insight with godly counsel, and step out in God's perfect timing to remain effective and relevant.
- **Value and Nurture Your Relationships:** Recognize the individuals God has brought into your life—spiritual coverings, covenant friends, and seasonal connections. Protect these relationships with loyalty, honor, humility, and intentional investment.
- **Obey God Without Delay:** Treat divine instructions with absolute reverence. Whether spoken directly to your heart through the Scriptures or conveyed through spiritual leadership, quick and complete obedience remains your ultimate guarantee of stability and promotion.

A Final Charge

My prayer for you is that you will not merely be a reader of these truths, but a doer of the Word. May the Lord God who makes your feet like hinds' feet guide you securely upon your high places. May He grant you the discernment to navigate every season, the character to sustain every promotion, and the wisdom to honor Him at every level of your elevation.

Go forth into your domain of influence—in ministry, business, governance, academia, and family life. Take your place at the top, stand firm by the grace of God, and remain a steady beacon of His light, righteousness, and glory for generations to come.

You are ordained to reach the top, and by divine grace, you will remain there!



About the Author

Niyi Makinde is an apostle, author, and crusader. He has written hundreds of books on a variety of subjects, writing with high inspiration and creative wisdom. His work comes highly recommended by great leaders, and as a minister, he is widely known for healings and miracles.

He is the Founder and General Overseer of The Rebirth Global Church Family (RGCF), a network of churches across the globe. He also founded Connect Global, a platform dedicated to networking and equipping Christian ministers and leaders worldwide. Apostle Niyi Makinde hosts the annual Connect Confluence, a global gathering that brings together many believers, churches, and ministries.

Highly esteemed and respected by great leaders, he is known for his simplicity, integrity, and uncommon wisdom. Many consider him to be one of the wisest and greatest among men. He serves as a father figure and provides oversight to numerous churches, ministries, and Christian networks.

Also by Niyi Makinde

1. You Are Different
2. Divine Instructions
3. 12 Laws of Divine Instructions
4. Breaking Life's Code
5. The Revolutionary Apostle
6. 53 Laws of Excellence
7. Church Shift
8. Business Sense
9. Dealing with Human Enemies
10. Wisdom for All-Round
11. Wisdom Power
12. Prayer Force 1
13. Prayer Force 2
14. Multiply
15. Tithing
16. Phronesis for Dating
17. Dating, Marriage and Sex
18. Spiritual Fatherhood
19. Managing Divine People
20. Understanding Honor
21. Flourish and Grow 1
22. Flourish and Grow 2
23. The Faith Dimension 1
24. Ministry Laws 1
25. Secrets to Supernatural (Financial) Abundance
26. Running like the Deer
27. Making Things Happen
28. You Are a Seer

29. 79 Insights Into Favor
- 30 .New Creation
31. Prayer Education
32. 20 Facts about the Human Spirit
33. Supernatural Visions
34. Understanding Church Systems
35. 11 Facts about the Human Mind
36. The Holy Spirit
37. Dominion in the Realm of Abundance
38. Soul Winning Manual
39. Maintaining Sound Health
40. Faith for Abundance
41. New Levels
42. Wisdom for Abundance
43. The Power of Meditation
44. Understanding Supernatural Dreams
45. Stop Multiplying in Affliction
46. Communication Ethics
47. Ministry Ethics 1
48. Warfare for Honor
49. Wave of Increase
50. Praise for Favor
51. Ministers Training Manual
52. Breaking the Joy Code
53. The Power of His Name
54. You Are a Wonder
55. Roar and Soar
56. The Minister and the Ministry
57. Grace Factor
58. Subdue and Dominate
59. Overtake

60. Victory over Affliction 1
61. The Power of Patience
62. Stand Out
63. Shining like the Sun
64. 30 Channels of Wealth
65. Breaking into Laughter
66. Enjoying Health
67. Stronger than the Stronger
68. Battle for Wealth
69. Wealth Transfer
70. Maximum Protection
71. Power Dimensions 1
72. The Power to Become
73. The Power to Get Wealth
74. The Power to Prosper
75. The Power to Dominate
76. The Power to Be on Time
77. The Power to Live Long
78. The Power to Deliver
79. The Power to Bless
80. Raising the Dead
81. The Power to Heal
82. The Power to Separate
83. Power Activators
84. The Essence of Obedience
85. The Power of Words
86. The Power of Diligence
87. Financial Prosperity
88. Business Success
89. On Top
90. How to Live Long

91. Warfare for Long Life
92. The Hand of God
93. On Pornography
94. 11 Streams of Healing
95. Fresh Insights
96. Money Sense
97. Be Creative
98. No Limit
99. Expand
100. The Headship Anointing
101. Manifesting Excellence
102. Decoding the Blessing of Tithing
103. Pastors Manual on Marriage Matters
104. Understanding Spiritual Father-Son Relationship in Ministry
105. The Art of Leadership
106. Visioning
107. People Skills
108. Forever on Top
109. The Greatest
110. From Vision To Action
111. Apostolic Insights (Volume I-V)
112. Superior Exploit
113. Ruling Sense