

A M E M O I R

THE ARCHER
NIYI MAKINDE

V O L U M E 1

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The Archer, Niyi Makinde 1

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*Dedicated to you our father, man of God and President of Rebirth
Global Church, Apostle Niyi Makinde on your 30th Birthday,
today, September 15, 2021. We love you deeply sir.*

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All gratitude to God, the Giver of life and of men.

Profound gratitude also to everyone who took out time to put words together to celebrate our esteemed man of God, and father. The accomplishment of this piece would not have been possible without the time dedicated by all the pastors and leaders of Rebirth Global Church. Kenny Otesile's creativity brought about the cover design. Omotayo Peace Akinyemi worked on the proofreading, editing and compilation.

Thank you all, and God bless you!

Note

This book, *The Archer, Niyi Makinde 1*, is a compendium of life and leadership lessons learned from Apostle Niyi Makinde. This script is put together, first to show how grateful we are for the gift of this legendary father—we understand the importance of celebrating God’s gift to us while he is with us—and to serve as an opportunity for others to glean upon the wisdom and working principles learned through people’s experiences and contacts with our esteemed man of God.

Gabriel Ayilara—Lead Pastor of Wisdom House, Daughter Church to Rebirth Global Church

This is one of the most difficult tasks I've had to take on. The reason is because as creative as I am, when it comes to describing or giving an account of Apostle Niyi, what he is and what his life has taught me, it is so difficult because he has done a lot and he's in a class all by himself. I've met many people in my life but I've not met yet, someone like him. So it is a very difficult thing to put a description to him. But I will try my best to do so.

In character development, I would say I've learned so much from Apostle Niyi because when you talk about character development, you have to be someone that is very, very disciplined and someone that is very self-controlled because you cannot really teach about character development if you are not disciplined. One of the basic and most important things that inspired character development in me was the way Apostle lived. We were in school together and he has always lived his

life in a certain way. And I tell you, there is a consistency of character in him. You know, back in those days while we would talk and chat all day and even go out to games, he has always maintained a very high level of focus. He would be in his room studying and I always said this; he was the first man I saw that consistently studies the dictionary. You know many of us consult the dictionary for meanings and definitions, but he had this dictionary then, I think it was Oxford or Longman, I can't really remember but I think it was even both and he was consistently studying words from that dictionary. I know that it really really took a lot to get to that point of character development. So each time I wanted to make a decision, I tell you, when it comes to character, I look at him like and think, how would he behave in this situation; how was he going to speak? I tell you, there are several things I've learned from him when it comes to character development.

In fact, when it comes to leadership as a whole there are several things but one of those things is "keen focus". Apostle is a person of focus. He's highly focused. There is this level of consistency that comes with his character. There's a consistent pattern of character regardless of the season and that has really affected me. So as a leader, when I come around people who I mentor, people that follow me, there is a level of character display you have to put on and I must say that I've learned these things first hand by observing the life of Apostle. One of the things I know Apostle does very keenly is observation. He is very very good at observing things. Anywhere Apostle gets to, he may not necessarily look like someone who is studying the environment but he does study everything in that environment. He notices every vibration. I've learned that from him. Whenever I get to an environment, I try as much as

possible to study the people in that environment, study their patterns of behavior, study the patterns of communication in that environment so as to blend in or stand out; it's either one of the two.

So on character development, I learned this by keenly observing his life, his gentility, meekness, humility, it's top-notch. Regardless of the high level of intellectual capacity Apostle has compared to others, he always finds a way to come low to relate with everybody and anybody. So the in the same way, I learned from him to regardless of what I know always find a common ground to relate with everybody and not just talk anyhow or look down on anybody. All these I've learned from observing his life.

When you also talk about the act of faith, Apostle's life is defined keenly by faith. His story is a story of a man that has known to trust God and work by his precepts. His story is such a one in which he has learned dependency on God and there is no way you would learn to depend on God without faith. The Bible says "he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV). Apostle's life has been a life of faith. There are several journeys that he has undertaken in his life that are pure journeys of faith. Talking about days on campus where we had nothing, when it seemed like we could not really forge ahead. There's this song Apostle usually sung much, and I took that song and I also loved to sing it as well. We would sing

*"I know that I can make it
I know I can stand
No Matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands..."*

That song really gave us meaning that regardless of where we were in life, our life was in God's hands. And it only takes people of faith to make such declarations. He that comes to Him must believe that He is, his life is in His hands and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. From the starting of the ministry to receiving the apostolic commission was by faith. Every step I have seen him take in this life I have always observed are of faith. And I tell you, if for nothing, it has inspired faith in my heart to believe God's due to me. And Apostle would always say to me each time we got to talk that God is faithful. He would always say that every of the word God has said to us would come to pass. That is a statement of someone that walks by faith. The time will come that we would speak like the writer of Acts of the Apostle. Just like of all that Jesus began to do and to teach, there will be an account of everything Apostle has done in this world and everything he has done for people. Personally I tell you, in ministry, of the fast growing church in Lagos, it's a journey of faith how we could start from nothing to where we are today. And that commission and assignment will not have kick-started if not for Apostle. He said to me, this is the assignment that we ought to take and I took it because I learned faith from him. I knew the power of starting from nothing and getting to something. And you know the Bible clearly states, "Though your beginning was small, Yet your latter end would increase abundantly" (Job 8:7 NKJV). Only people of faith can take that word for word and believe God still for everything they're about to go through and achieve. So Apostle is a great man of faith and I tell you, his faith has inspired faith in my life. Was it when he went to Port-Harcourt where he knew no one? A pure journey of faith. Or the days where God said don't receive this from this person

or go back to this place? Or the days where he left the city of Lagos back to Ijebu-Ode. And God said go and start in this place. They were all journeys of faith and that faith has inspired a great faith in my heart.

Then again in leadership and lifestyle, Apostle is such a one that I would say is a 360-degree leader. His capacity to influence those that are coming behind him, those that are beyond him and his contemporaries is such a one to emulate. Today, when I see all the set of people that have come around Apostle, it passes across a great lesson to me. That is such a great leader. You know, when you check the spiritual side, you would know that he's a first born in our generation. Apostle has successfully related with people ahead, and with his contemporaries. When you see someone that has successfully related with people that are following him, you know that such a one is an exemplary leader.

He is not an insecure leader. There are many leaders out there that are insecure. They don't want people under them to grow. They are so insecure of the things and the happenings around other leaders. He said to me, "Start a church in the city of Lagos." He could have said to me, "Son, I want you to come and serve in Rebirth Global." I would have gladly done that. I would have gladly served his vision. I would have gladly become loyal to the vision of Rebirth Global Church. Of course, I am still loyal and I still regard myself as an integral part of the Rebirth Global Church. But he said to me start this assignment and he is not insecure about it, about the things God is doing with us in the city of Lagos. As a matter of fact, people naturally withdraw from a leader that is insecure. But when you see people like us still submitting to the leadership of the man of God, Apostle, you know that we have seen him as a secure leader and someone

that we can count on. That even after taking seeds, we'll come back and report to him. Just like the 70 disciples came by and reported to Jesus, saying "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name" (Luke 10:17 NKJV). Apostle is such an exemplary leader in a class all by himself. He's a very secure one. I have seen that in him over the years. He is someone to submit to. He was not the one that said I should submit to him. It was God himself that said it to me. I still have that in my note somewhere in my library. God spoke to me saying "This is the one I want you to submit to. Submit to him!" And I do that effortlessly. It came with a lot of things. You know the devil would always want to come and spoil relationships but I held the word of God still that he is my leader. This is the one I'm going to follow! And I was not looking right and left, up and down looking for people with names to follow. I simply look at him, look at his lifestyle and I emulate such. He has taught me also not to be an insecure leader. I have leaders under me today that I want to succeed. I want them to fly. The church we are building today is not centered around keeping people. It is centered around training men and deploying them into the world. You know of course there would always be the ungrateful ones but you have to stand as a secure leader.

The last one I'm going to talk about is important. Let me talk about the spiritual principles for continual living. You see, one day, I think it was last year or two years ago, 2019 thereabout, Apostle came to Wisdom House. We were still holding meetings in the evening then. It was just a few of us then. We had no drums, keyboard or anything. It was just us the people. So he came around in July specifically. He came with a scripture to teach and I have never forgotten that scripture since then. He taught on Psalms 75:6-7 that says said; "For exaltation *comes*

neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. ⁷ But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another” (NKJV). He started to talk to us about the dimensions of God being the Judge in the lifting of men. So God is the Judge in the court that determines which men are lifted and which ones are put down. There are certain principles that qualifies us for lifting. One of those things is obedience to God, to the commands of God Himself. If you have studied the life of Apostle very well you will know that he’s a man of obedience. He’s not carried away by what people say or by the popular opinions. His goal has always been to obey God. And he has taught me that above everything, obedience and faithfulness to God are some of the things that qualify us for lifting. In as much as the decision to lift a man up and bring another one down is among the parameters of the justice system of God, there are things that qualify us for lifting. Apostle’s goal is to obey the commands of God. If you must obey the commands of God, you must know the commands of God. How do you now know those commands of God? One is by prayer. If you know Apostle, you would know that he’s a man of prayer. I know that he keeps prayer times very seriously. He takes prayer very seriously. He prays in the morning, prays at night, in the middle of the night, all the time. He’s such a man of prayer because through prayer, you download what is in God’s heart and you are able to execute them. Then the word of God; Apostle is a colossus of the word of God. He’s a walking scriptures I tell you. If there’s anything to know about Apostle, it is that he’s a man of great insight into the word of God. He’s such a one that knows the word. The instructions of God are embedded in the word of God. The *rhema* you can’t receive in the place of prayer, you have your scriptures to look into. You have to

know the laws of God, the voice of God before you can obey it. So obedience is the first, prayers, the second and the word of God, the third.

Then there are other things that we need to do. One of them is submitting to an authority. It is a deep secret in the kingdom for lifting. You will never hear Apostle on any platform speak ill about any minister. I have never heard that from Apostle. He has never defiled the temple of God whether physically or in men. He has never spoken ill of any man of God. Rather, he would keep quiet and let God be the judge. I have seen this lifestyle in him. There are deep principles he emulates. There are deep principles he represents in the kingdom of God. When he's speaking, I'm learning. When he's not, I'm still learning. I've learned to come around him. You know sometimes if I just come around him, probably I have something in my mind, I don't even need to discuss it but when I see the things he does, there's an atmosphere around him that suddenly melt all the troubles away. Apostle has demonstrated principles for continuous lifting in the kingdom and I've tried to list some of these things. You will never see Apostle cracking some unnecessary jokes, using the Bible or the name of Jesus to make jokes, you'll never see that and I have learned that from him.

It is my prayer that in this new season of Apostle's life, there would be a strong hand of God upon his life, and the heaven itself will drop megaphones to amplify his voice unto the nations of the world in the name of Jesus. I celebrate him greatly and I love to refer myself as the first born son of this house and I have a privilege of doing this. God bless everyone doing his work and God bless the Apostle of God, our father. May God keep him for us. Amen!

Teju Taiwo—Managing Partner, Lexi Legal

I met Apostle Niyi Makinde first in February 2013 at Foursquare Students Fellowship, Olabisi Onabanjo University Chapter, Ago-Iwoye where he was serving as a keyboardist. A humble man, yet highly intelligent and observant, he became an inspiration to me and we got talking. However, the relationship started when he came to visit me at my place sometimes in March 2013, and that first meeting at my place birthed some of the lessons I'll be sharing in this space. Let me say that every meeting and conversation with Apostle Niyi Makinde since the time he visited me till date has always been from one level of wisdom inspired lessons to another. And I'm grateful for the privilege to pen some of these down that have guided me through my journey in destiny for those coming behind to glean from.

In March 2013, when Apostle came to visit me in my house back then on campus, we got talking and the first lesson learned from him that day was on The Process. Apostle likened the journey and destiny of every man using the typology of Joseph's

experience from the pit, to Potiphar's house, to the prison and finally to the palace. He explained that the journey of every man must first be characterized by a wilderness experience that would make them gravitate to holding on to God in obtaining their promise. Let me add here that at the time Apostle was sharing this big lesson with myself and some of my brothers in my room that day, we were just students who were yet to be exposed to life and its demands. But those lessons stood as an anchor some four years later when we became exposed to life and we had to go through our processes or wilderness experiences.

Let me say it is impossible to share all the lessons I have learned from Apostle because of limitation of space and time, but I'll do well to share those that have had profound impact in my journey. So I'll be sharing other lessons from my journey with Apostle some other time.

One of the most profound leadership lessons I learned from Apostle early in our journey, is that no man is greater than pride. At every obvious achievement, there's pride lurking somewhere that if you do not ask God to expose to you, a mighty fall is imminent.

Another profound lesson from Apostle Niyi Makinde was sometimes ago in 2015 when the devil tried to break the bond of our brotherhood. It is that never underestimate the mistakes and berating of men because they are ladders through which God uses to ascend men to the next level if you stay humble to learn. At this point in time, I saw how Apostle was maligned and in all human estimation brought low and bare before people who respected him. But then, I also saw how gracefully he took the humiliation and used it as a point of learning which he bounced back from. The result of his humility, to bear the

brunt of the shame is evident in the kind of results he pulls today.

One of the other lessons I learned from Apostle is the humility to serve people you may be supposedly higher than. In 2015, from the experience of my lesson 2 above, when I became the president of my fellowship then, Apostle had been in ministry more than I had been then and he was to serve within the central executive which could not happen due to some issues that occurred which is not a subject of this book. However, then I reached out to Apostle that we had dreams together of seeing the move of God in our leadership then and that birthing the move of God required consistent prayers. Upon meeting Apostle, we spoke on creating a structure and Apostle said I could always count on him. So at odd hours, I would call Apostle and Bishop Gabriel Ayilara and we would labor in prayers together at the fellowship till we saw the move of God birthed in our fellowship back then. I was awed by the humility displayed and how he never minded how this young boy called into ministry a year ago then could give instructions for them to carry out to the latter even beyond the instructions. The honor accorded to me and which Apostle made everyone connected to him accord me as the President of the fellowship then was humbling. May I also say, there were times Apostle carried my bags then which won't happen now, but the lesson is in the heart of humility and service which is what is lacking in most young ministers today. Apostle made me realize that ministry is bigger than anyone and God would use anyone who is available and humble to fulfill his will.

On one of our many conversations during the days of campus ministry, I was sharing how I wanted to see a move of God bigger than me as the President and one that would transcend

even my administration. Apostle shared a deep secret with me then which will be of immense benefit to young people in ministry. Apostle said everyone has a time in ministry and every ministry is limited within the scope of a generation even though the impact of ministry may transcend a generation, that when God makes you a spiritual voice of a generation, be careful never to make yourself a spiritual superstar. That struck a chord within my spirit and it reflected in my desire to raise men that would be able to do what and more than I can do if I'm not physically present. Apostle then advised that we centered the move around Jesus, but every man needs to participate which is how to ensure the move of God is birthed and transcends a generation. This also taught me to allow people express their God-given capacities which is how everyone grows in the ministry that God has committed to their hands. That period, owing to the advice of Apostle, was one of the most phenomenal time we had during our days of campus ministry.

I also learned from Apostle sometimes in 2017 when I was in Abuja observing my mandatory NYSC program. Upon conversing with Apostle for about an hour on the phone, Apostle said he was going on a ministerial journey to Port-Harcourt. I asked him if he had anyone in Port-Harcourt he would be staying with in executing the ministerial assignment, to my surprise he said no and that he was going on the journey by faith. He then shared the details of the meeting and off he went. Upon speaking, I learned the beauty of hearing and obeying the voice of God. He shared how he moved into prepared places and how God perfected his ministry which brought him before powerful people. At the time when he ought to start reaping the fruits and rewards of obedience, God called him out of where he had labored and as a man who had mastered

the art of obedience, he left and that made me understand the power of instructions. In fact, the whole essence of ministry life is centered around instructions because in ministry the expression of Christ to us is that He is our Lord and therefore his biddings become our expressions.

Sometimes at the beginning of this year, Apostle and I had a conversation on finances and Apostle asked me a question that sent me to instant thinking and the question was “Pastor Teju, what would you do with One Billion Dollars (\$1,000,000,000) if God blesses you with that now?” I searched deep within my spirit and there was no answer to this question and at most what that did was expose my deficiency in finance limitations to me. After many unsuccessful thoughts in wrapping my head around what I would do with that kind of money, Apostle then shared a powerful truth that if you cannot expressly think of what you could achieve with such kind of money, then you could never attract or command such level of finance, and that the first step to attracting and commanding wealth first lies in one’s mindset. Apostle made me realize never to see any money as too big or too much but rather to tie an assignment to every money that my thought can capture. He then said your mind is always capable of thinking the highest of the highest of finance or money, but the limitations of your mindsets can silence the thoughts of the supposed big money. I then learned a valuable truth that if my mind captures a trillion dollars, rather than dismiss it, I would rather think of tying an assignment or function to that money. I never understood the power of this mystery until I met with a billionaire business mogul that has handled assets worth over a billion dollars who shared that growing up, his parents consistently shouted him down on how he imaginarily calculated billions, and they were always like

this young boy is never scared of money. He said all felt like a joke until he started managing the money he was calculating in his imagination and that since then, he would rather think of how to spend money no matter how much than think any money is too much.

It was at this point I saw what Apostle said in theory in full practicum. This then revolutionized my mind on how the rich sees money and why they keep having more and more while the poor keeps being poor. It's all in the mindset and this has consistently been my approach to life and finances, and I've seen the results in this year 2021.

I must also mention again still on finances when I was planning to leave my full-time job to start my own law firm. I spoke with Apostle and he said something very instructive which has been a guiding light to me in my journey. On one of those days, Apostle said it is my responsibility to determine the cash flow of the firm and he said, always create a financial goal for your business so with that you have a target of which your head is consistently thinking how to achieve. I then told him that I had a financial goal and together we were able to outline the things that were needed to help achieve the set goals. He then went further to tell me that seemingly impossible goals are only achievable through taking baby steps and if I was not willing to take those steps of faith, I would achieve no results. Faith is also in actions and in steps. He then went further to tell me that I must also learn how to time my goals to help me track the measure of success the firm is recording.

I must lastly say this concerning my relationship amongst many things left unsaid for want of time and space. When I finally decided to go into relationship, I had an idea of who I wanted to be with, but the truth was I had questions despite the

conviction I had in my spirit and my questions was surrounded around what I could not see physically. But most importantly, I religiously wanted better confirmations such as hearing God despite the convictions of my heart which was not forthcoming. I had a conversation with Apostle telling him that firstly the lady in view does not match the entire qualities I want and that I have not heard from God as regards the relationship. Apostle answered me by making mention of certain things which I want you to read with caution for your learning. Firstly, Apostle said, “You have peace in your heart and you’re still looking for the voice of God?” He said “The peace represents God’s voice and it’s safe to bank on the peace of God.” Secondly, he mentioned that “It is never the intention of God to give a man what he wants in a woman but God gives a man a raw woman who through leadership and following God alongside the woman’s submission builds the kind of woman he desires in the woman that God has blessed him with.” Simple but very deep. The latter part was the deliverance I needed to finally decide on what I really wanted. I was in search for my desire and it was a case of either not meeting that desire or when I meet someone who meets my desire, the feelings are not mutual which led me to several unnecessary thoughts and heartaches. It was afterwards I learned that God always blesses men with potential and from taking up the lead as a man, the potential becomes a realistic desire. Men need to learn this. In fact, I can’t wait for Apostle to write a book espousing this subject as many young men in search of life partners need this deliverance.

There are so much I have learned from Apostle ranging from my personal life to ministry, business and finances. I am grateful to the entire team for allowing me a few space to share some of my key learnings in working with Apostle Niyi Makinde.

Once again, thank you so much.

Tunde Ajibesin—Acting Secretary
General, Rebirth Global Church; Lead
Pastor, Rebirth Global Church
Abeokuta

Apostle Niyi Makinde: A Spiritual Leader par
Excellence

It is a great privilege and honor to share my experience and wisdom gleaned from my esteemed father and man of God in person of Apostle Niyi Makinde. I give the glory to God for divine alignment with my man of God early in life. I sincerely treasure and honor your obedience to the call of ministry for in your light I see my light. Thanks for your investment, prayers and sacrifice. Your investment is an all-round and speaks every day. I believe you are planted in my life for growth, flourishing, excellence, speed, influence and greatness. Being under your spiritual leadership is a cover and blessings to me. I am a product of your training and building.

The platforms you created made the man of God in me roar. I remember one of the prayers you prayed over my life for season that goes thus, “the man of God in you come alive now.” However, the succeeding sub-headings shall capture the lessons and wisdom learned from my man of God so that the whole world and every dispensation, can be edified and strengthened. I desire the understanding of the things to do, flood your heart. I believe it will bring guidance to your heart as you read.

Counsel on Service in the Kingdom

One of the humble words of my man of God goes thus, “it is a privilege to be used by God and to serve in the kingdom.” Therefore, be grateful to God because He has planted you in the kingdom to serve. Service in the kingdom is the doorway to prominence and greatness in life. Don’t wait for people’s motivation to serve. Avoid eye service because we are all accountable to God and our reward comes from Him. My man of God will always say don’t expect thank you as a compliment to work done in the Kingdom. There are two things God will do for you which are lifting and blessings. Anywhere you are planted by God to serve, be such that serve diligently and be committed. I am a living testimony that it pays to serve and am grateful that I belong to Rebirth Global Church where I am planted to serve under the spiritual leadership of my man of God Apostle Niyi Makinde. Thanks for this great privilege to serve Sir. However, anywhere you are planted now to serve ensure you are committed and diligent with the responsibility committed to your trust.

Insight on People Planted in my Life

Apostle Niyi Makinde clearly differentiate the people God put in my life from the people God plants in my life. If you will go far in life, trust God to plant people in your life early. The person and people God plants in your life are your greatest blessings and assets. Men are trees and they can be planted. A tree doesn't move or change location, so these people will not leave your life. They will be there forever. If people are not planted in your life early, there will be instability of helpers.

Those planted in you must remain planted. The real people that must remain forever in your life are those planted in you. May your eyes be opened to those planted in you! Therefore, your prayer for the people God has planted in your life is that the storm of life will not pull them down. Also, it takes sharp discernment for you to recognize these people fast. Desire the Lord to plant people that matter in your life early. Ask the Lord who is that person you have planted in my life to keep lifting, promoting, advancing and positioning me?

My Father's Counsel on Inspiration

As water is to a tree that is cut down, so also is inspiration to everyone that has gone down in life. When you are supplied with abundant inspiration, you will grow again. The only person that cannot grow again is one that cannot be inspired again. You don't need too much activities to rise in life, you just need the right inspiration.

You have lost touch with growth, the moment nothing inspires you again. When you are no longer inspired, you can no longer grow. Whatever tree is not watered will dry off. So is

everyone who is not inspired. Everyone and everything that is not inspired will soon expire. People lose momentum because they lost inspiration. You can have all the fact, strategy, it is inspiration that will push you into action.

Therefore, I understood that inspiration is a push within me that makes things happen. Such insight became evidence in my life because of the words of my man of God in respect to inspiration. I want you to be inspired always.

Exposition on Proverbs 4:23 by My Esteemed Man Of God

*Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it spring the issues of life.*
— Proverbs 4:23

Whatever enters your heart has entered your life. Thoughts are things. When a new thought enters your heart, a new thing has entered your life. Discard wrong thoughts by paying no attention to it. The light from this word of God shared by my man of God has helped in discarding wrong thoughts and being focus on my focus and responsibilities.

Counsel on Becoming Success Personified

Doing the right things is different from doing things right. No army win battle by strength but by strategies. Actions don't guarantee success, it is effective plans and strategies that brings success. You need to work plans before you work hard.

Also, listen to wise people. Wise people often use few words to help you learn and develop. They open your eyes to the world

you are blind to. They help you navigate difficult situations. They make you wiser than your years and experience.

God Is With the Moving Man

The above sub-heading is a programmed words in my heart by my father Apostle Niyi Makinde intentionally. The wisdom behind the words deal with action. The purpose of listening, knowledge and instruction is to do. When tasks are committed to your trust you must be such that move. However, until you move the glory of God will not be revealed. Therefore, you must be action oriented.

On Prayers: Build a Continuous and Effective Prayer Life

When it comes to prayer I am a product of training in the hands of my father Apostle Niyi Makinde. Yes! I am a trained prayer man. To be continuous and effective in prayer you need to be trained. Let me share some of the strategic wisdom which are poured into my heart by my esteemed father.

You must continue in prayers. All that the Lord has told you shall be birth in the place of prayer. The strategic instruction comes from the place of prayer. As you are continuous in prayer, you begin to fellowship with the angels of His presence. You attract people, resources, direction and guidance in the place of prayer. When you soak yourself in prayer strategic images, pictures, instructions flood your heart. Acts 6:4 says, “but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” This scripture captures the testimony and the lifestyle of the Apostles. Also, it’s the place of prayer you move

into your new glory. You activate the angelic operation in the place of prayer. You make things happen faster in the place of prayers.

Apostle Niyi Makinde's Counsel on Giving

This is one of the keys to kingdom prosperity the devil cannot tell you to give. Senses (self) cannot tell you to give. When you sow seed, look forward to reaping your harvest. When you give, you are more blessed. It is better to give than to receive.

Be Yourself

When my esteemed Man of God spoke this word I was edified and received help early in life. This words redeemed my life from competition. This word bring about focus and joy unlimited in my life. I understood that the Lord has given me land (sphere of influence) which I need to be focused. I encourage you to be yourself in all areas of life. Don't live your life to impress rather pleasing to God. Be yourself! Be yourself!

I believe your heart has been encouraged by reading through. I sincerely wish my esteemed Father and Man of God a happy birthday. I know today is special to you Sir. Thanks for your impact and legacy. I love you greatly Sir and God bless you more and more in Jesus' Name.

I remain loyal, committed and pledge my allegiance that I believe in Jesus, I belong to Rebirth Global Church. The church that has practical dominion in all areas of life. Therefore, I have practical dominion over all areas of life.

I am a minister and leader in Rebirth, I manifest the vision of

the church. I raise ministers and leaders for God. I manifest the mandate of the church. I heal the sick, do miracles and fulfill the ministry.

Tolu Olujobi

I was I cannot tell the story of growth into who I am without mentioning Apostle Niyi Makinde. It was only after I met him and understood his place in my life, that I became thankful that I attended Olabisi Onabanjo University. For someone who never wanted to attend the University, I am thankful I did because of Apostle Niyi Makinde and other wonderful people I met in Ibadan.

I met Apostle Niyi in 2014. We attended the same students fellowship. Funny enough, he was also in my department in school. That made him my senior colleague. At the time, he was just a member of the fellowship until I had to take GRI (Global Repositioning Institute) courses. I enrolled for GRI and when it was time to have a supervisor, Apostle Niyi became my supervisor. I can say, that was the beginning of a turnaround for me. Entering the University, I had never thought I was going to come across anyone who was going to be a Father figure to me but God orchestrated it, by sending me Apostle Niyi Makinde.

Apostle taught me through GRI class. I wrote a very comprehensive project and I even ended up having an A. My project

was the beginning of it all. Apostle taught me to put materials together and come up with my own thesis. *Lol*. It was a stretch for me. That stretch was put into other things as I came under his leadership when he became the President of the fellowship.

Before he became the President, I remember a particular night when we had a vigil in Church. Before the vigil, he called me and asked me what picture I has in mind. What I wanted to be and what picture of the future I had in mind. He said to me “If you did not study English, there is no other course you would have studied”. The major reason I remember that night was because it was a breaking point for me. It made me think on what I wanted to do and who I really was.

Serving under Apostle’s leadership was one of the best things that happened to me while on campus. During that time, I was literally stretched. I will take the things that Apostle taught me one after the other.

He made sure I rewrote a GRI course—The study of the Bible. I wrote a study pack under His leadership. He made sure I learned and grew. He would follow up and instruct on how to go chapter by chapter. Apostle is also a goal-getter. When he sets his mind to do it, he did it. I remember how he made sure that GRI was taught in all the five centers of FSF OOU at the time.

Living with Apostle for one year was amazing. In that one year, I saw him pray a lot and study even much more. He encouraged us to read our Bibles. I used to study my Bible regularly at that time and he motivated me to study everyday. Two occasions come to mind particularly.

One morning, I was reading my Bible and sleeping. The sleep was too good to ignore. But as I slept, he came, woke me up and encouraged me to go back to reading my Bible. I had no idea

he was watching me but after that time, whenever I had to read my Bible and I was sleeping, I would quickly wake up with that consciousness. Another time was when he gathered everyone in the house all of us a sudden and told us to share something we had learned from the Bible that particular day. From that time, I understood the importance of reading one's Bible daily. We had several of such meetings where Apostle will gather us together and teach us the word of God.

Apostle is Humble. I have seen him do other things that make me know that He is humble but a striking action for me is that on my 21st birthday, he anchored the small party I put together. I mean, he was my President at that time. He really did not have to but he did still and did it with all of His heart. I have seen him relate with people younger and others older, I have heard him talk about people. I have seen Apostle bow his head in Worship and lift His hands in praise. Apostle has taught me humility. He said to me "Never look down on anyone in life. People who are beneath you today can rise and be above you" He also taught me to honor all men. Regardless of who and what the person is, all men deserved to be honored. He not only taught me these things, I saw him live them out.

I had attended a Joint Believers Summit meeting early in 2015 where Pastor Ayo Ajani taught on the ABC of Ministry. From that meeting and before that time, I felt I was being called to something deeper. I am not sure but I believe that Apostle had been praying for me before that time but He called me and asked me what I learned from the meeting and from there, I began to tell him how I felt and what I thought. Apostle help me to see through the mind of God. He taught me how to go about the things that God instructed me to do. He helped me to interpret and build a structure around what God was saying to

me. He taught me how to translate it from God's Mind to my mind and to reality. All I know about Ministry and the study of God's Word was taught me by Apostle.

In one year that I stayed with Apostle, I saw him angry just once. He knows how to handle people and deal with each person. I don't know how Apostle does it. He carries everyone along and makes sure that everybody is on the same page. He is highly observant. Apart from having a spiritual sensation and knowing, Apostle can watch you and know certain things on your mind. That's how I feel (laugh out loud) I remember early in 2016 when I was having a rough time, he called me and said "I can see you are trying to be strong but deep within I know you are not so strong". He talked with me and helped me pass through that stage. Also, Apostle is highly confidential when the need to be arises. Sometimes, I wonder the many things he knows and stores in his heart without saying. Apostle's wisdom amazes me.

Lest I forget, Apostle is and can be very funny. Sometimes, I listen to his words and I laugh a lot. Other times, I replay things he has said and I laugh so much. I remember one time we had a meeting and when we finished the meeting, he sang the song, "*Tbi e sin mi de, mo mo pe mo le de be o, mo yin o logo o*" (Where you have helped to, I know I can't get there, I praise you) as against what is usually sung, "*Tbi e sin mi de, mi o mo pe mo le de be o, mo yin o logo o*" (Where you have helped me to, I never knew I could get there, I praise you). It was a very funny incident.

I have learned from him (by listening and observing) wisdom, faith, humility, relationship, kindness, doggedness, knowledge, instruction, listening, patience, diligence and many other virtues. I have learned the how to study God's Word and how to pray. We have had the most teachings of the Scripture in my

life from Apostle.

I could go on and on about the things I have learned and the things that have been passed down to me. Without Doubt, Apostle Niyi Makinde's life has been a blessing to me and countless others.

On this occasion, I say Thank you Apostle for being a father, a shoulder to lean on and a wing to fly on. Indeed, my life took a different turn because you are in it and I am certain, there are greater things to come.

Tobi Ilori

God brings you into greatness by putting you around great men, so you can learn and understand the demands and the price for greatness. I am grateful to God that He did this very early for me by allowing me to meet Apostle very early in my life from whom I have learned so much.

Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

— 1 Corinthians 4:15 (NIV)

This verse of the scripture clearly communicates who Apostle is to me. Apostle is my father and I am so blessed to be connected to him.

I remember one time after I was ordained in the church, Apostle called me and spoke to me about humility. He said God is the one that lifts men and it isn't because of any special activity or a special gift that he decides to lift men, he lifts men

because he decides to. The criteria for experiencing continuous lifting in life is humility. God will always resist the proud. He said the proud has automatically set himself up against God. God is now the one who resists him from going up. The best way to stay humble is to know that you are not special. You are not better than everyone, the reason you are ahead is because of what God has put on your life. If he takes it away, you would become an ordinary man. So God is the one who has helped you to get to where you are. He ended by showing me Philippians 2:3 which says “Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself” (TLB). This doesn’t mean you are not good at what you do, this only puts perspective to things that you are not the only one who can do this, but God has allowed you to do it because he wants you to do it, not because you are so special in any way, it is just the mercy of God. Sustaining this mindset has really helped me. I have also seen Apostle sustain this mindset. He would never assume he knows it all. He allows everyone to speak and most times, he would allow you run with your thoughts and ideas, rather than impose his own.

I remember I got a call from Apostle one night, I can remember I was under pressure to deliver some things. I didn’t tell him but I believe the Holy Spirit revealed this to him, He asked me what was happening and I explained to him. Then he asked me to read 2 Corinthians 10:12. It says “For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (NKJV). Apostle explained to me that it was not a wise thing to compare your progress with that of others. This doesn’t mean you should be complacent but you should not use anyone’s life

as a yardstick to measure yourself, or compare what God is doing to you with others. These words helped me learn the ability to focus on my own life. Apostle would say thank God for what he is doing in other people's lives and what he is doing in your life too, but focus on your own life and never compare others with yourselves. When you compare yourself to others, you are setting yourself up for envy and envy is the beginning of stagnancy. When you envy others, you become blind to what God is doing and will do in your life. Compare yourself only to the picture of you that God is showing you. This is a key to advancement in life.

For me, little things make a lasting impact on me and make me know the kind of person you are. One thing I have learned from Apostle is having a big heart and being kind. Yes God makes the heart of men large and kind, but I know Apostle to be a very kind person. I remember about two years ago, I had to travel down from Sagamu to Ikeja to join the church branch in Lagos for service but I was not feeling so strong. I got to church quite early, then before the end of service, I noticed I was feeling very feverish and weak. I mean I was totally weak and I was already wondering how I was going to make it back to Sagamu that evening. I was in a dilemma honestly. I can never forget this. Apostle told Pastor Tope Osikoya to book a bolt ride for me from Lagos to Sagamu. I was in shock, I knew that would cost a lot but it is a reflection of who he is, of how kind he is to everyone and that taught me a lesson. It changed my mind totally about being a pastor. I learned something new that day. Regardless of what it is you are facing or going through you must be kind to others. It has an effect on the lives of other people.

Apostle is a great leader. I have seen Apostle make great

sacrifices for the work of God and personal tasks he has set out to achieve. While Apostle was pastoring our branch in Lagos, he always traveled down from Ibadan to Lagos and sometimes from Abeokuta every Sunday throughout that year. He was always punctual. I have seen the members of Lagos church do the same. They never come late and they come from far distances to church. I observed and thought about this. Then I came to a conclusion that the people learned to make that sacrifice because they saw Apostle do that, and God also touched their hearts. There and then I learned one key principle about leadership. Your followers and subordinates are watching you. The things you will see manifest in their lives are mostly “do as I do” instructions, not “do as I say” instructions. Apostle models new things. He makes sure he is doing those things before he asks you to do them and this has really had an impact on my life as I love to do first before I teach others.

Another episode was at one of our Connect meetings. I remember some pastors and I went to see him, and we had discussions late into the night. Apostle was available in that meeting till about 12:30am. We couldn't go back to our own rooms that night. So those of us there stayed in Apostle's apartment. I remember after the meeting he still attended to one or two people, and he had told us earlier he was traveling somewhere that morning to do somethings and also get back before his session in the evening. I am sure Apostle slept between 2:30 am and 3:00 am. He slept after everyone else. What amazed me was I woke up around 5:30am and heard Apostle praying from his room. I looked around and I observed that the rest of us were still asleep. This was someone that slept after everyone and was up before everyone again. I could hear him praying for the morning session he would not be

attending while the person that was to handle the session was still sleeping. That day, I understood that as a leader, you have to make sacrifices. You have to go far beyond everyone. I also was assured that day that I am under the right covering. Apostle would always give everyone the room and the chance to do great things. He is a leader that wants everyone around him to shine. He won't limit you but give you the room to grow and be who you are. I have heard him say countless time, we are not in ministry to be superstars; everyone must shine, everyone must be a leader in their spheres of influence, and he commits himself to making sure those things happen in our lives. Apostle invests so much in people so that they can have enough capacity to handle much. He once told me that we must handle all that God has given us well so that more can be added to us. It is when you handle what you have well that you are a good and faithful servant.

I end with this; I had just completed my university education and I was trying to find the next thing to do. There was this internship I applied for then at an investment bank and one of the requirements was to write an essay. I wrote this essay but I wasn't sure I had done a great job, I didn't know who talk to about this then. I spoke to Apostle and he told me to come over to his place. When I got there, he went through it, made suggestions, corrections, and pointed me in the direction of what materials to check for fresh ideas. I did all of this and he took his time to help me edit an 8-page essay even though he was very busy and had a lot to do. After that day, I understood never to take the privilege and the relationship for granted. It is rare to find people who are so concerned about you, who have your best interest at heart. I told myself I was going to make sure I became that kind of person too.

From then till today, Apostle still makes sure he points me in the direction of the things that will make me better in my career and ministry. Apostle still sends me books and would always encourage me to meet new people. His notes and messages to me are specially archived because I go back to them months after and they still speak to my current situations. Those words are ever living. Apostle is a well-rounded man, versatile in many things and has an unending depth of wisdom and counsel. Thank you sir, for being a blessing to us.

This script can never be enough to share with you the wisdom and the lessons I have learned from Apostle Niyi Makinde.

Dare Makinde

Apostle Niyi Makinde is a man of great benevolence. Apostle is the first born of our family and I'm so privileged to have him as my brother and also as my spiritual father. Since the early days of Apostle, staying together in the same house under our biological parents has always been a memorable experience for me.

Apostle is highly intelligent and very smart. One of the major attribute our parents really love about him is that he is very smart and very competent in getting tasks done.

Apostle is really an addicted lover of God without exaggeration right from his teenage stage. The first day Apostle started his preaching and ministering over 19 years ago is a day that can never be depleted and sincerely it was a great experience for us all then under his ministration. Apostle was vast in Bible competition right from his early days. As a contestant then, he won and came back with gifts innumerable. What I always say when reflecting on all these major achievements by Apostle is that he is a man that really knows too much.

Today by the grace of God, I am a true product of Apostle Niyi

Makinde. By the grace of God, we lived in a Christian home but growing up, I was only a church boy without the knowledge of God. My perspective about God and His kingdom became shaped accurately through the teaching and fatherhood of Apostle. I remember then and even till now, Apostle would sit me down for hours teaching me the word, praying with me and also imparting spiritual gifts. Many of the spiritual gifts I am seeing in my life today were imparted into me through Apostle. I remembered receiving his training and he gave me instruction to fast and pray and ask the Lord to show me my ministerial office. Doing as he instructed God revealed it unto us.

I have seen miracles of all kinds happen through Apostle. I had always seen ministers online ministering healing but I never experienced it until one time I saw raw healing grace manifest through Apostle. Truly Apostle has the grace for miracles, healings, signs and wonders. One time, I was in a severe situation and I prayed but things didn't change as I expected. One morning, Apostle called me and he prayed for me and instantly I saw a shift and that same week the miracle happened. Apostle functions with a high dimension of authority.

By the grace of God, I have the grace of a seer in the prophetic but I confess that Apostle remains my true prophet. He has a dynamic seeing grace that over the years now he sees things consistently in the spirit for me and even our entire family.

Apostle didn't just enter ministry suddenly. We stayed together for a long time. Since when he was a teenager, Apostle had loved praying so much and I believe God was using that to prepare him for ministry. He modeled an excellent prayer life to me as I watched him pray consistently daily.

Been a Pastor today, all that gave me the exposure and knowledge in the pastoral is all he taught me. I also learned the exact operation of leadership through his leadership lifestyle.

I believe so much in Apostle. Rebirth Global Church today remains my ultimate choice for kingdom service because Apostle told me many things said to him in private by the Lord and today I'm still in shock of the speedy manifestation of those words. Apostle would say to me, "Dare, open your Bible to...", and after opening to that passage, he would show me the code and the things God showed him that He's going to do in Rebirth Global Church.

Personally, I have learned all kind of life principles from Apostle and today they are really working for me. A big thank you to Apostle for all the books written by him. All his books have been the major point of spiritual, financial, psychological and physical acceleration for my life.

I would just love to say something Apostle has said that really blessed my life till today. He said "If you jump up, you would come down, but if you grow up, you would stay up." Truly today this has been a reality in my life.

In addition, Apostle is very caring, loving and an ardent giver. Apostle thank you so much for all you have done for me.

Bolu Adekoya

Apostle Niyi Makinde in introducing him I would say is a man of God. He has tarried in the presence of God, so much that the very nature of God has percolated into his being and has in turn shaped, reshaped and remodeled him into the person that exudes grace and Godly character. His passion for prayers and study of the word is matchless. I remember we once had to pray together. He had told me to lead prayers and in high spirit I started speaking in tongues and doing holy gymnastics. I was doing that expecting him to end the prayers and round up when he was tired but the prayers continued, in the same strength for 2 hours. I eventually ended it myself. If I hadn't then, we probably might still be praying now. He is a man who despite his busy schedule prioritizes prayers. He works an attainable schedule for his prayer life. Consistently, over the years he has midnight prayers from 2.00am till dawn and that is definitely not all the prayers in a day. He often takes days off from the public space, just to pray and study the word. He not only loves prayers, he actually prays. If there is anything he does well, if there is anything obvious to

the public that he does, he prays much more than that.

Since he prays much answers are not far from him. And revelations are not also scarce too. He is totally conscious, always expectant and highly intentional. He has a separate book for prophecies and for God's words. He keeps tab of every activity that happens in the place of prayer. He has on several occasions, corrected me about praying generalized prayers and laying emphasis on the need to be more specific and intentional about particular things when praying.

His life has been like a teaching guide for me over the years. Some of the lessons learned from his life are:

The summation of his life so far, is a result of what the word of God says. It is actually not difficult for him to change his mind about anything excepts the ones God has given a word on. The interesting thing is that almost every aspect of his life and actions are what God gave His words for and his slogan is, if God said it, then it is worthy of being followed through to the end. He is an ardent believer and doer of God's word. Irrespective of how difficult the situation seems, or how senseless it seems, once God has said it, He follows through. I have seen him leave juicy and sensible opportunities to follow what God says. If one would be this inclined to God, it only means that over and again, he tarries, travails and prevails in prayers always.

He dedicates much time to meditation. Alongside his zeal for prayers is the quest for knowledge which is fulfilled by his radical study of the word. He studies the word over and again and as much as he studies there is a daily time for meditation.

He studies the word so much because of what he believes. He has this to say about the word of God:

1. It is one of the ways of receiving answers to prayer. It

- is the most reliable ways of receiving answers from God. Unbelief cannot come when we receive an answer from the word of God, as the received word combats unbelief.
2. The voice of God through the word of God is powerful. When you hear the voice of God through His word, power enters you. Receiving the word releases power into you.
 3. What is gotten from the word cannot be denied.

Then again, there's how to talk. He is so trained not to say negative things. Never will anyone hear a negative word from him. He knows the power of words and would rather recreate through his words than reaffirm what the plans of the enemy is. He is so disciplined with how he talks and what he says. I remember in the earlier days as friends he would ask me questions and I would say I didn't know. Then he starts with teaching me about the mind of Christ and how much of knowledge I have in Christ.

Also, patience and restrain; the saying patience is virtue is exemplified in his life. Never have I seen someone with so much control over his emotions and actions like he has, be it the patience as in the ability to wait on God for the fulfillment of His promises or the patience in relating with people, restrains as in enduring hardness of all sort as a good soldier of Christ. He definitely restrains himself so much from getting angry. He once quoted anger rests in the bosom of fools. He repeatedly says he isn't a fool and no one would make him acts as one.

He doesn't give space for lazy words. No unfruitful words comes out of his mouth. As mere as "I don't know" is not allowed around him. He takes the words he says seriously.

He isn't a man of the present. His vision is very vast. He is not the type to judge a situation from the standpoint of what is

happening at the moment. He sees from the future. So while one is still being affected and disturbed by the current situation, he fulfills. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

He is highly disciplined and focused. One of his habits for as long as I can remember is planing his days and months and weeks. So every night preceding a new day, he writes a plan for the next day and as much as possible follows it to the latter. I was so shocked to learn that he plans to call. So if he is to call a person tomorrow, he writes down the time to call and how long the call lasts, etc. He often says some of the answers to our prayers is in our hand. So when we pray “God please help me to pray more”, he believes God will help in prayers but discipline would help you to at least start and get to the place of prayers.

On fasting, if there is a definition of living a fasted life, it is him. I learned how to fast from Apostle Niyi, and to the glory of God he is not the type to fast small small days like 7 or 21 when He can fast 120 or 240 days. His fasted life made me yearn for God and engage in fasting and study too. For the last two years I can boldly say he fasted for about 80% of the year. Little wonder he is an epitome of answered prayers.

Many more of his attributes are humility, faith, giving, leadership, etc. He is highly excellence oriented.

My favorite quote of his is “There are two things God will not do for you—what He has already done and what he already gave you the power to do.”

So there is this story. We had a gift exchange program in the church which I was in charge of. Members had to pick their partners and get them gifts. On the Sunday, the gifts were to be shared. About two people did not get gifts; their partners

did not come to church. I had to fill in for that and get them gifts. After it all, I noticed one of the church leaders also did not get a gift. I apologized and pacified him to wait with me till the service ended that I was going to go get a gift.

We got to the shop which was a clothing store, I told him to pick anything he wanted. I was really praying within that He would pick a really cheap shirt. I mean, I had spent a lot already. Eventually, not only did he go for the most expensive shirt in the shop, he was also pleading I got a pair of jean trousers for him. I was quite displeased and insisted he picked what he wanted on time. I paid and we left the shop. I was really resenting him at heart. I saw what he bought for the partner he picked. The price is three times lesser than what I ended up buying for him. That was the third gift I was gifting that day for crying out loud. I called Apostle Niyi later that night to narrate my ordeal. I was pissed. Apostle laughed and congratulated me on wasting my money. I was like no, it is giving, it is a seed and I will reap it bountifully. He said no, did I see my state of heart when giving the gift. He said it was a waste of money, that whenever I gave and I didn't give the right way, I have wasted resources yet again. He taught me to deal with my heart before giving anything to anyone. He taught me to always search my motive. Once I can't give cheerfully I have no business giving at all. He had lectured us severally on giving once and again, but this was yet a new one for me. Since I knew giving was inevitable for me, I had to work on my mind and learn how to give freely and cheerfully without resentment.

He quotes, "It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth."

Bode Oluwafemi—Lead Pastor, Rebirth Global Church, Ijebu-Ode

The Archer

It is a great privilege and honor, which I do not take for granted, to share lessons, wisdom and experiences learned from the life of the esteemed man of God in person of Apostle Niyi Makinde.

I am eternally grateful to God for orchestrating my meeting with my man of God early in life. In fact, if I had not met him my life could have been miserable. Thank you sir, for yielding to the call of God. It is your answer to the call that has made my life meaningful and beautiful today. The seeds you sow in me is growing and bearing good fruit. I believe that God sent you to me to bring fragrance into my life. Your good work, investment and impartation upon my life speaks. I enjoy growth, flourishing, speed and lifting today because of your presence in my life which cannot be undermined.

God said “let there be light and there was light”, you called

forth greatness in me and today, I am GREAT. Consistently, for a season you won't stop calling me "Great Man" whenever we talk on phone or chat. I knew you were imprinting a picture in me, I once called your attention and asked you the reason for calling me that, you didn't give a reply, rather you said I should not ask again. Daddy! Today the picture has fully formed in me and with a humble heart of gratitude, I celebrate you today on your birthday.

I use this medium to write and to impact others, some of the lessons and wisdom learned from my man of God. Out of the abundance you have impacted to me I will be sharing little to the whole world and the dispensation to come for them to get blessed just as I have. This would also birth generations of Great men and women.

Counsel on Focus and Consistency

Apostle Niyi Makinde once said, "focus on your focus so you can become the focus". Often I have learned at the feet of my man of God to be focused. Until you focus on the task committed into your hands you can't see desired results. However, for you to be focused on your task you have to be diligent. Diligence makes you to be focused and consistent. If you are not diligent with your task, you will lose focus. "A diligent hand shall rule", if you are not diligent, you cannot rule, diligence fuel you to be focused. I will share more insight on lesson learned on diligent shortly.

Focused people are those God lift up and trust with His power, presence and the lives of many. When you are focused, you have passed one of the exams that makes God trust men with His presence and lives. I can boldly say that we are celebrating

my man of God today because he is focused. Focused on the assignment God has committed into his hands and by that, more lives are committed in his care. “In the multitude of people the King is honored”, we all can see what focus has brought to his life today.

Honor! This is applicable to every area of life. As a business man, if you are focused, more customers and places will be opened to you. Why I am taking my time to shed more light on this is because distractions will always come but being focused on your task will distract your distraction. I remember my man of God shared with me, on how he was called to another ministry to pastor a church there, this is a church where everything will be made available for him. I mean accommodation, feeding, clothing among others are available for him just for him to pray and go to church and preach every Sunday, salary is intact and this was a season in his life that he was in some difficult situation. This was at the time a seeming route to escape. You see as good as those things sound, they were distraction to him as at that time. His focus on the task God has committed into his hands, not giving in to distractions but pressing on the path the Lord has put him. All these has caused him to be a man worthy to be celebrated by Kings and rulers on a day like this. Be Focused!

Counsel On Service

My man of God will always say, there are many ways to the top but the fastest way to the top is to serve.

Service to God

“It is a privilege to be a pastor and serve in the Kingdom” he said. Be glad that you find a place to serve in the house of the Lord, service to God comes with a reward of blessing and lifting. Don't rely on the accolades of men on this journey.

Service to Man

If you can't serve men, men can't serve you. If you are too big to serve you are too small to be served. Service brings lifting and it defines your loyalty and commitment. Before God takes you to the palace to become a king, He first takes you there to serve. I am privileged to serve in Rebirth Global Church under the spiritual leadership of my esteemed man of God Apostle Niyi Makinde, daddy I am eternally grateful for the privilege to serve.

My Father's Counsel on Diligence

I talked about diligence earlier, I see the need to shed more light on this as I have received from my man of God, Apostle Niyi Makinde. Daddy, I sincerely want to say thank you again for investing in my life. I will share two scriptures that I caught from my man of God as regards diligence

not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
— Romans 12:11

Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, And trust in Mount Samaria, Notable persons in the chief nation, To whom

the house of Israel comes!

— Amos 6:1

The book of Romans says “not lagging in diligence, serving the Lord”. In every service, diligence is required. Serving the Lord, serving in a company, Serving yourself, in all, diligence is required. It fuels your focus and continuity. If you are not diligent with the vision you can not accomplish the vision. Diligence is the key to prominence. The book of Amos says “woe to him who is at ease in Zion”, to be at ease is to be idle. God is not pleased with the lazy people. Never be lazy! Find something to do. Even though what you are doing might not show desired results yet, keep doing it. I shared with you how things were not going the way it should with the man of God years back and distraction came in as pleasure, it was through diligence that he was able to cross that bridge. You must be diligent. Diligence at everything you do. What do you lack? Whatever you lack, you can get through diligence. You might not be intelligent but if you are diligent you will be intelligent. If you are not competent, be diligent. When and where you are diligent, you will be competent. Diligence is a force that strengthens consistency. Diligence will make you to be consistent when pressure set in. Diligence enhances commitment. Diligence make you do what you don't have passion for. Diligent people are hardworking people. If you oversleep today you will over suffer tomorrow. How you work today determines where you stand tomorrow. Proverb 22: 29. Be diligent!

Insights on Intelligence, Being Radical, Charisma and Obedience

Intelligence

My father shared insight with me on intelligence, he said walk with intelligent people. Your intelligent is known not by what you know but through the way you think. Be anointed and be intelligent too. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of intelligence

Being Radical

You can be radical but not relevant. It is possible for a man to be a radical in foolishness. Don't be such man. It is not about being radical it is about being relevant. Be radical but then be relevant. If you don't know anything you can't go far. If you know too much (when you think you know too much) you can't go far. Sometimes, your enemy is that you think you know too much. Thinking you know too much won't allow you to learn more. That kind of mindset is a robber. Don't substitute your relevance with being radical.

Charisma

You can be charismatic but be creative. If you are charismatic pray to God to give you creative people and ability. People don't pay attention to what you are doing they pay attention to how you are doing it. Build your gift when you build your gift be creative with it.

Obedience

Apostle said, obedience is superior to intelligence. No double promotion in the realms of the spirit but there can be double promotion in the physical world. You can jump steps in life through obedience. Be intelligent but be more obedient. Obedience can be very painful but it is gainful. If you are obedient, it doesn't matter those people that have gone ahead of you you can overtake them. If you are obedient you will be very smart. The Holy Spirit instructs your mind, the ability to yield is obedience.

Insight on the Power of Giving

Apostle's counsel is that giving is key to Kingdom prosperity. All believers has been blessed with all spiritual blessings but to be more blessed you have to give. It is more blessed to give than to receive. Giving open door for more blessings. Ensure that nothing is too big for you to give. Whatever you want to get give for it. Don't live beyond your limit, give beyond your limit.

Insight on Humility

Humility is the key to rising in life. Humility is a lifting strategy. It is humility that makes people known in the Kingdom not power, anointing or money. Humility is not measured by how you relate with people ahead of you but also people behind you When you are humble to men, men will favor you. When you are humble to God, God will favor you. When you are humble, God will take you to places. Process will teach the proud to be

humble. What you don't learn from people you will learn the hard way. God resists the proud. The more God lift you up, the more you should be humble. Humility will make you gentle. Humility makes a simple man.

Insight on Instruction

Apostle shared insights on instruction, he said obedience to instruction is what draws goodness to you. Instruction is the vehicle that moves your desires to you. God doesn't give things, he gives word. To receive the word is to receive what the word represent. Constant fellowship with God brings God's instruction to you. To receive instruction is to receive his thought and reasoning. Peace has to be in your heart before instructions can come in. Hold on to instruction. Letting go of instruction is letting go of your miracle. You can't be instructed and not be exalted. You are giving the Holy Spirit to be instructed by him. God gives the holy Spirit the Holy Spirit gives instructions to you. When you are instructed all mountain becomes plain to you. How God teaches a man what to do is by instructing the man. Through instruction comes knowledge. You know things by instruction. True knowledge comes by instruction. The link between you current level and your desired destination is instruction. To be instructed is to be prospered. God will instruct you in the way you should go but he will not force you to go in that way. It's left to you to follow. All divine instructions are shortcut to next level. It is a real blessing to be blessed by the Lord, success will be natural to you if you are instructed by the Lord. When God gives you an instruction he has given you a blessing, it is your obedience to that instruction that brings manifestation of that blessing. The

principle that leads to abundance is instruction. Instruction will make you work at the pace of God. Missing instruction is missing direction. Instruction gives direction you work by knowledge, you run by favor, you fly by instruction.

Apostle's Insight on Wealth

Poverty has a way of destroying people's life. You must show to poverty that you hate it. It is God that gives power to get wealth ask of the Lord to give you power to get wealth. God transfers wealth. God can give you wealth.

I'm convinced and fully persuaded that reading through this piece has been a great blessing to your spirit. No doubt your life has just been shifted to the next level.

With heartfelt wishes, I celebrate with my esteemed father and man of God, Happy birthday sir. No doubt today is special to you Sir. Thanks for your impact and legacy. I love you greatly Sir and God bless you more and more in Jesus Name.

I remain loyal, committed and pledge my allegiance that I believe in Jesus as my Lord, I belong to Apostle Niyi Makinde, I belong to Rebirth Global Church. The church that has practical dominion in all areas of life. Therefore, I have practical dominion over all areas of life.

I am a minister and leader in Rebirth, I manifest the vision of the church. I raise **MINISTERS** and **LEADERS** to the Lord. I manifest the mandate of the church. I heal the **SICK**, do **MIRACLES** and fulfill the **MINISTRY**.

Pelumi Elusakin—Lead Pastor, Rebirth Global Church, Ibadan

Great men will always be loved and celebrated. It is an honor to write this at this time and celebrate a great man, my global man. I have had a lot to learn from my passionate and open minded man of God. I remember I first saw him on the street next to my hostel then in school while I was at 100 level. I greeted him as I wondered at his height and he responded well not knowing who I was. Some months later, I saw him in the campus fellowship he was a part of then and I wondered within myself how some people truly have humility in them. Well, I have seen him relate well with the high and lofty. I have also seen him comfortably relate with those whose sights are set on becoming high and lofty too. The lesson I learned here is no matter what you have become and what you have achieved you should be able to relate with all as men because we all still are men anyway.

I started attending some meetings he held around my school after he finished from school with a friend who was a president of his fellowship and we began hearing many things we didn't

know about. The wisdom we drew from consistently sitting under his teachings is that God intended for us to be very great and that our being juvenile wouldn't stop him from doing that, and as such we needed to start seeing ourselves as great individuals and intentionally work towards it. We heard this in our teen years and it really was the needed guide at the time. The story of the number of books he read in a year particularly challenged me to do much more than I did at the time. I went studying a lot and that has really put me into an informed position. He particularly has shown with his life that God could do something with us and we didn't need to attain a particular older age before we began being intentional about achieving it. He has achieved so much with young people, I believe this is true over and over again. Right after leaving those meetings, I began studying beyond my school books and also telling others about the other side in us that would be stretched after school and that we needed to start developing from school. His prayer life was another thing that sent I and some friends back in school, to take certain prayer decisions that I am still grateful for till date.

Apostle has a way of making you see life beyond the conventional way. He particularly talks about how the educational system though good cages one in that it doesn't teach how to make income from what is learned. So, he encourages people to look inwardly knowing that many people did not study what they wanted to in school. By looking inwardly, many are able to create other sources of income for themselves so as to help them live their best lives. There is hardly anyone who listens to Apostle who operates only with one source of income. Apostle is both concerned about our spiritual and physical welfare. It's so amazing! He knows that the subject of our finances is very

important and he is one person (and one of my first choice of persons) that would step out to give a balance to this topic so boldly. Apostle though in ministry is very current about happenings in the world and having taken time to study on those subject matters, he has some significant and enlightening things to say. So, I learned that being a believer doesn't translate to being dull, ignorant and boring. He would later teach us how that Apostle Paul read poems that were not relating to the scriptures and all that. He has taught me to be a voracious reader and not just make decisions by feelings but from a very informed perspective.

There are many other things to share in encounters, insights from the Bible and teachings on the prophetic that have helped me in no small measure but knowing that I have written all the above in love and honor, I choose to round it up here. I celebrate you now and always God's global man.

Bola Oladele—President, Rebirth Women Ministry; CEO, Relish Kitchen

When I look at Apostle Niyi Makinde, I admire him so much as a friend and as a leader. Over the years of knowing him, he has impacted my life and a lot of others' through his words and actions. A man like him never forgets his humble beginning and prides in what he has come to achieve.

He fondly calls me “P. B.” or “Mama B”. I have learned a lot from him. His counsels and prayers always come in time and seasons of my life when I need them. He’s a good listener and not quick to talk just because he wants to. He’s an observer, a big one at that. I do not regret my work with him from the days of FSF to being in Rebirth Global.

I appreciate him so much for all he does for us and do not take God’s grace upon him for granted.

Ayo Adesina—Chancellor, Rebirth Women Ministry; CEO, Ayo Adesina Consulting

Lessons Learned from Apostle Niyi Makinde

In the entirety of my life as a person, I have not seen such a man as Apostle. He is a man that is full of principles and ancient wisdom. I came in contact with him in 2014 and he has been a blessing to me ever since. I remember seeing him and all I could think about is avoiding him as he has such a presence that I cannot explain with words. We eventually got closer and ever since, I have learned and still keep learning so much from him. I will be sharing a few of the things I learned from him below.

Papa, as he is fondly called by many of us, has taught me to be God fearing in all that I do as he always maintains that before you consider pleasing any man, you should please God, because in your pleasing God, you would please men too. This has been

a principle that I have operated with, still keep operating with and will continue to operate with as I have found it to be true.

I learned from him hard-work, diligence, dedication and discipline. In all my years, I have not seen a man as hard-working, diligent, dedicated and disciplined as Apostle is. I was opportune to live with him for a year at some point and I could say that his tenacity towards work is one of a kind being the last to sleep and the first to wake up, and this is evident by the numbers of books he has written as an individual.

Lastly, among other things learned from him is submissiveness or as one would love to put it, humility. If you have met with Papa, you would know that he is a man that is full of information, both spiritual and physical, and yet he would always relate with all and sundry despite all that he knows. He does not look down on you because of this.

Personal Stories and Encounters with Apostle Niyi Makinde

Some years back, some people colluded against Apostle and denied him of a position that many believed should have been given to him. A lot of people reacted to the the fact that he wasn't given that position. But I remember that in my conversation with Papa about this event he never for once reacted negatively to the turn of events and rather was focused on being better and achieving his dreams. I remember him telling me that he was denied the position but that is not going to stop him from working towards his goal as there is a bigger picture he has. From this, I got the wisdom that regardless of what people do to you, instead of being bitter, just focus on being better and you would be amazed at how events would unfold. Ruminating

later on this, I believe Papa caught this wisdom from Joseph (smiles).

In 2018, I was going through a rough patch and I called Papa to inform him with tears in my eyes of the unpleasant events that happened to me. He encouraged me to be strong and not faint. He then told me of happenings and events that have happened to him too and how many taught that would be the end of him but how God showed up for him. Some of the wisdom shared are as follows:

- Regardless of the situations or events happening in my life, I should never think that God has forsaken me but keep my trust in Him and see how He would turn up for me.
- Events may happen that may not project the promises of God to me but I should never lose sight of the word that God has given me.
- Regardless of the mockery or criticism I might face from those around me due to unpleasant events happening, I should keep my focus on the goal ahead.

Apostle Niyi Makinde (The Archer) has at various times and season in my life impacted me with so much wisdom that has shape my life and still keeps shaping my life to be the person I can be. His words have been at various times arrowed to help me attain the heights God has predetermined for me and I cannot be grateful enough for this.

I celebrate and love you sir. Cheers to many years ahead papa.

Godwin Adekoya—Self Productivity
Coach, Business Strategist &
Investment Manager

Apostle Niyi Makinde—The King of Men!

For unto us a man is born and unto us a king is given. He would be the king of men! He would be the father to many. He has thought leaders, ministers of the word, praise and worship ministers, influencers and shakers of the world. He would be a voice to be hearkened unto!

There are men and there are men of value;

There are fathers and there are exceptional fathers;

There are leaders and there are leaders' moulders;

There are pacesetters and there are standards;

There are wise men and there are men full of wisdom;

There are men given to the word and there are men who live with the word;

There are men who are a force and there are men who are

the force;

There are men who love God for what He can do for them and there are men who are just sold out to the kingdom of God;

There are men who try to be knowledgeable and there are men who are filled with all understanding and knowledge;

There are men and there are Men;

Of each of these, my father, Apostle Niyi Makinde is the latter. He isn't just any man, he is The Archer.

Let me go back in time. In 2015, I was home at school and indoor as usual as I would always be if I am not at school or church fellowship. I heard a knock on my door and I thought to myself, "Who could it be?" My best friend who stayed in the same building with me would never knock the door to enter and I wasn't expecting a visitor. I waited a while and the knock came again. I responded and approached the door and lo and behold, it was the President of our church fellowship, all the way from the main campus at Ago-Iwoye. I was surprised. He came with our campus pastor (the university I attended, Olabisi Onabanjo University, had a multi-campus system).

He smiled and came in. We spoke for a while. We all laughed, played and shared wonderful experiences as leaders. He then requested for a personal time with me. Everyone in the room excused us and he mentioned certain things that I won't ever forget. Those things were only known to me and it was in regards to my future. That was my first experience with Apostle Niyi Makinde.

As he spoke that faithful day, all my thoughts were "Who is this man and how come he knows so much about me?" As my usual practice, I kept him on my radar and I closely paid attention to him.

My first personal experience with The Archer can't be forgotten by me because that's how the bond was created for us unknowingly to me. Maybe he already knew what would come, who knows. I am grateful to be associated with him and I really love him.

Unmatched Patience

If you are wondering why I really do have a long lasting level of patience with people and don't take rejections badly, The Archer thought me indirectly. Remember this lyrics from one of Nathaniel Bassey's songs which goes "He was patient till I came, running back into his arms..." That's the perfect illustration of the start of my father and son relationship with Apostle Niyi Makinde.

Before I evolved into who I am now, I was the shy and usually withdrawn person. I was extremely choosy about who I would speak to and who got into my closed circle. I loved everyone but I wasn't going to be used by people for their selfish reasons. So I built an invisible wall between me and anyone who cared to suddenly become close to me and that's how I felt with our man of God when he initially would call to check up on me and share some knowledge and instructions from God with me. I believed them and respected him, but I just wasn't there yet.

I graduated and everyone seemed to move on with their life, until this fateful day in 2019, when he called me again. We spoke for a while and had a lovely moment catching up. I thanked him for the call and afterwards, I had to ask my best friend who was closer to him then, "What's up with this person; where is he now?" My best friend did share what he knew and I kept the information to myself. The calls became more frequent

from then on and it was of both sides now. I had broken down the wall or let me say God broke it down without me knowing because now, I needed The Archer more than he did me. I didn't know this as at then but my level of respect, love and appreciation had soared. We got very close and when I truly knew this man of God was patient and humble was when I declined him twice.

It was the early days of Wisdom House, a sister church to Rebirth Global Church. I was supposed to be at certain meetings but I was naive and had thoughts like "Are these people worth it? I would travel from the whole of Ikeja to the Island just for a 2/3-hour meeting?". I said to myself, "No" and I took my phone and lied. I gave him a pleasant excuse (I'm sure you know those excuses that cannot be debunked and people would even be compassionate to you and feel compelled to be remorseful with you. That's the one I gave.

Guess what? Our man of God said it was fine. He even prayed with me. He sent me pictures of the meeting and gave a detailed breakdown of the meeting discussion. I was humbled and I knew there was something different about this man. He was doing what I would do to other people even when I knew they weren't doing the right thing.

I was so sorry and remorseful that I lied. I wasn't a liar and in fact, I rarely lied (can't remember when last I did before then). I believe the Devil must have seen what was ahead and just wanted to flaw it. That's the only reasonable explanation I could give.

Another meeting was scheduled. This time I couldn't make it because of some personal family obligations. I truthfully explained to him and he understood almost instantly. He called me when he arrived at the meeting. Sent me pictures again.

Gave me a full breakdown of the meeting and I was again amazed and I had to openly ask him, “Why me?” He laughed. He said “There is more to us than you know now”. He requested we met for two days at one of his friends’ place. I agreed because I wanted to know more about this man and why he was so patient, understanding and calm with me. I remember he told me that someone close to him also asked “Why this guy?” I was the least expected to be so special. You can be sure that I left his place filled with wisdom, insight and deep revelations. You can’t be with this man of God and not learn something new.

There is so much clarity and light around him. And of course, plenty strength! Those moments really taught me a whole lot about patience, caring for people, understanding people, sincere love and respect. I knew he could see through me and would have known that I was always one excuse away but he was so patient and calm with me. He didn’t pressure me, force me, intimidate me or cajole me. He rather allowed me see the light myself and embrace the truth. If I didn’t know about the love of God before I met Apostle Niyi Makinde, I would have called him “Jesus Reincarnated”. Have I seen him angry? No! Even when he knows I have faulted, he still loves me and he is even gracious about it. What greater way to experience Christ than this! All my early experiences with Apostle Niyi Makinde led me to the light and truth of who we are meant to be; a father and his son.

Men like Apostle Niyi Makinde are very rare and should never be taken for granted. I am only among the 1% who got away with it and I am grateful God really helped me quickly because I could have missed an opportunity of a lifetime to be helped. Being a spiritual figure hasn’t stopped our father from disciplining me to be highly productive and exceptional.

Asides how much I loved to invest in knowledge, Apostle made me love seeking for wisdom and deep insights more. Is there a month Apostle wouldn't send me a book to read or tell me to listen to certain messages or research someone? I don't think so! Learning became more fun for me when I wanted to match Apostle's study level. Yes, I knew how much books he read in a month and I wanted to beat his records. I knew I was on a goose chase when he read over 1000 books at the end of the year. I said to myself "You better not kill yourself." Remembering that now makes me laugh. However, my depth and hunger for knowledge, insight and wisdom was deepened after my several encounters with Apostle.

Apostle is a man of depth. He could speak about any sector at a moment notice. He is widely vast and he is still humble to learn. If you know me, you now know why I have an insatiable depth for knowledge, insight and wisdom. I can't be a bastard! I know my spiritual father and I am his son. Learn from him. Develop a depth and seek to be highly valuable. You won't become great and influential by just prayers. There is a system that keeps everything in check. There is a participatory role you must play to cause prophecy to come true upon you and see that your destiny is fulfilled. Remember how Jesus wanted the cup to pass over him but he couldn't because he needed to carry the cross to fulfill the purpose of salvation for mankind. In the same vein, take stand and invest heavily in yourself. Apostle is not even yet at his peak but he is prepared for his peak already and he is unflinching in consistency of all that is required of him. Truthfully, I admire him and I hope we learn from not just his spiritual influence but how much work he does to get to that level. For all that we have is a combination of both faith and work.

Lastly, I must confess Apostle is a giver! I know people are meant to give but I have met some strange people and Apostle won't stop to bewilder me! As much as I know, people are supposed to give to men of God; this man of God wouldn't stop giving. Guess what he once told me when I asked about it? He said "It's more blessed to give than to receive." Well, what do you expect me to say more! Because I am his son, I am privileged to know how he sometimes delegates his finance and I must tell you, APOSTLE GIVES! And I mean in tens and hundreds of thousand. No amount is too large for him to give. He doesn't even know how to stop. His tithe isn't just 10% and whenever he finds a fruitful ground to sow, he plants a seed. I want you to extract lessons from his lifestyle and apply to your life. There is so much to say and I just want to limit them to these few things.

Thank you for giving yourself to God papa! God bless you king of men!

Major Extracts:

- Express the love of God to others.
- Be diligent in your works.
- Give and Give!

Mike Hassan—Head, Rebirth Business Community

Apostle Niyi Makinde is a man of great wisdom, influence, humility and excellence. I can say he's a man after God's heart. The first time I came in contact with him was back then in the university days where we discussed in few minutes about my business visions. We've been in contact ever since. While he was still the General Secretary back at the fellowship in school, FSF OOU, Apostle was the first person who gave me the platform to speak to a large number of people. He's a man who believes in me so so much and chastises me all the time too. I appreciate the long nights calls of advice, care, and love. I'm thankful for days he calls my attention to important matters. Oh, Apostle Niyi Makinde is such a selfless man! I can boldly say today, I'm so grateful our paths crossed.

While in school, Apostle, knowing he would be going into full time ministry figured out those he was going to work with outside the school walls, and I'm so happy and blessed to part of his God-given vision. Apostle represents a lot to me. A mentor, friend, father, consultant and model, which he also represents

to many others. I truly respect the grace of God upon his life, and the great impact he has in the life of so many.

Continue to be your person, and continually yield to the leading of the father. I see you travel the world, impacting lives. We are Rebirth, We are global! With great joy in my heart, I join the hosts of heaven to celebrate a great icon today! I pray that you move from strength to strength, have more grace to function. I pray the vision the Lord has committed into your hands will not falter . And lastly, I pray the Lord grant your heart desires. Happy birthday to you, Apostle Niyi Makinde.

Kenny Otesile

I first met Apostle in person around October, 2016, about the time I gained admission into the university. He graduated from the same university I gained admission into and together with a friend only visited the apartment I stayed at. It was my first contact with him, yet it became very personal. Little did I know that we would go on to become a spiritual family—a father (Apostle) and his son (I).

My relationship became much more personal with The Archer about two years after our first contact when God spoke to me in my prayers to go meet him and discuss some things with him. Actually, that was when God brought me into our ministry to begin to serve in some respects. Well, he had been expecting me since a week earlier to then even though he didn't know it was me. I know what God told me, Apostle knew what he heard from God, and we both confirmed that I was the coming young man. Nothing shakes my conviction that Apostle is both my man of God and father in the faith till Jesus comes. God too has acknowledged it. By prophecy, I know I am a nation—Apostle is a father to a nation, and to other nations.

Very sincerely, words would fail me to tell of how much I love my father, The Archer. I love Apostle so much to the point of been criticized because of it. Yet, I have never gone back on loving him, nor regretted it. I love Apostle not only because he is my spiritual father and man of God; I love him for three things—God established my love for him and his for me, he chose to love me, and I chose to love him back. Yes, I am so particular about my love for my father; it is the greatest treasure between him and me, not whatever He would do for me or me for him. Like John, I am his beloved. He is my beloved father and lord too. I'm smiling in gratitude as I write this.

More than We See

*Here is why I use stories when I speak to the people. I say,
“They look, but they don’t really see.
They listen, but they don’t really hear or understand.
— Matthew 13:13 (NIRV)*

A truth I have come to realize about life is this—many things are not truly as they seem to the natural sight. Life—everything—is truly spiritual; everything we see in the natural is only shadow of the spiritual. The scripture above says “They look, but they don’t really see.” Note that it is not that they don’t see anything at all; it is just that they don’t really see because they see the natural without seeing the spiritual. Real sight is of the spiritual. Also, “they listen, but they don’t really hear or understand.” Again, they hear something but not the real thing. The Message says “they can stare till doomsday and not see it, listen till they’re blue in the face and not get it.”

God favored me and made me to see early that Apostle is more

than who and what I knew him to be. Since my eye was opened to the reality of Apostle's personality, I began to relate with him with a deeper level of understanding and consciousness of the spiritual side of things with him. I have found Apostle to be a man full of spiritual power, authority, grace, and more—a prince with God. It's not just about being a man of God. It is about how well you rank spiritually.

It is a truth that there is ranking—both spiritual and natural—among men. Folks who refuse this fact are either ignorant or arrogant. If all men were equal, then all men should be able to command equal levels of results. There are men whose words carry greater weight than some others', and Apostle is one. Some say it is all about what you know; that people lack results because of knowledge problem. It is more than knowledge problem because you can know all revelation and still not be able to command an equal level of results with those who have advanced spiritually through prayers and God's lifting. You who know that it is knowledge problem, what is the knowledge that you have gained that makes you command results like men of stature?

Too Much Wisdom

I would have not written well enough about Apostle if I didn't write about his wisdom, although there are other things that space would not permit me to include in this writing. What a man Apostle is! I'm not talking about some manipulative "wisdom"; I'm talking about genuine wisdom. He's got it.

Sometimes, I wonder if Apostle is a perfect portrait of who Jesus was on the earth. Maybe sometimes I want to think and say he is perfect, and I see nothing wrong with that. Maybe

I overthink things, but I think I've related with him on too personal a level to do. Or maybe he's a just perfect imperfection since they say no one is perfect. Apostle is my perfect model.

I have since realized that Apostle is full of wisdom. His wisdom is just too much. Nothing spectacular has to prove too much wisdom, but words, actions and decisions show it. I have seen that Apostle's wisdom spans different kinds of life situations and spheres. I have compared him to who the Bible calls a wise man and I have seen that he is so full of wisdom. This is why I take lots of my life's concerns to him to seek his counsel. Some people are advisors because of their positions, certain results they have or their status as men of God; others give sound counsel because they are truly wise.

I would have loved to state one or more scenarios in which Apostle demonstrated much wisdom, but there are too many; it has become the normal now. His patience, fatherhood, speech, approach to correction, dealings with life, etc. all show his depth of wisdom. What I would recommend is that you get his books on wisdom. On wisdom, he has written *Wisdom-Power* and *Wisdom for All-Round*, and because he writes so much—at the moment of writing, his books are well over 90—I believe there are more to come.

Some people say you don't need the counsel of others. They are only ignorant and arrogant. I wonder why people are usually not willing to admit that some people are better. The Bible says "Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the **better**" (Hebrews 7:7 NKJV, emphasis added). They claim no one is better than the other. That is the voice of foolishness—a voice that could speak contrary to what the Bible says. If we are to investigate them, we would realize that they themselves desire to be the better. You will never become better

by following the path of criticisms against the better.

A Model to Follow

The Archer gives me no reason not to demonstrate the words of Paul, the Apostle who said, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV). If I was to think of anyone who mirrors Christ's personality, it would be Apostle Niyi. Apostle gives me a model personality to desire to be like. His life shows that that you are a human does not mean you cannot NOT live carnally.

One of the things I believe to live for in life is to become a better person by the day in body, soul and spirit. I believe if I can follow a man who is mature in these parts, I would soon become mature in them too. The following is not as important as the lessons to be learned and observations to be made therein. I constantly gaze upon the premise in which I am rooted for light that could be drawn. So far, I have not regretted following; it has been one of the most beneficial decisions I have made in my life.

Below outlined are a summary of very few out of the countless insights I have learned from The Archer:

1. There is the Person of God; there is His power too; but many are not aware of His principles. Don't just seek to know His Person and demonstrate His power; also choose to know and follow His principles.
2. See people the way God sees them.
3. Believe everything God has told you.
4. Nothing is impossible. Impossibility is an opinion.
5. All you need to start that thing is not all you think you need

but actually all you have. What God would do everywhere, He would start somewhere. Start where you are. Start with what you have.

6. Honor your parents. Treat your parents now how you want your children to treat you in the future. Give to your parents.
7. Don't just believe in God and love Him; also fear Him. The secret of the Lord is with those that fear Him.
8. There are kingdom secrets for many things. There are kingdom secrets for prosperity.
9. The Bible says "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The more you give to God and to men, the more blessings you attract to yourself.
10. God is not interested in your spiritual life alone; He is interested in other areas of your life too—your business, your academics, etc.
11. Service is a key to being lifted in the kingdom.
12. All things created on the earth are created twice—first in the heart of man and then on the earth. Never attempt to do on the earth what you have not achieved in your heart.
13. That you are saved or anointed doesn't mean you cannot be afflicted. The Bible says "Many are the afflictions of the righteous man"; "If anyone is afflicted, let Him pray."
14. What many call their process (or wilderness) is not actually their process but affliction. Embrace the process but refuse to be afflicted.
15. Your speaking is powerful. When you speak things, you create worlds. God created everything by speaking it.
16. You end up looking like who you listen to. If you listen to everyone, you will become no one.

If I were to write everything I have learned from Apostle and expand on them, I would exhaust the pages of this book. The lessons I have written are just to show the kind of man I follow and the kind of people his followers are becoming.

Ayo Farayola—Lead Pastor, Rebirth Global Church, Abuja

My soul bless the Lord for his special benefit—Apostle Niyi Makinde. Of the many benefits, after Jesus and the Holy Spirit, having Apostle Niyi Makinde in my life is my next greatest benefit.

It was Johnson Oatman who wrote in his song, “Count your many blessings and name them one by one”. The truth is one man can be many blessings. Papa, you are my many blessings. David was such. When you looked for a priest, you would find David. You need a psalmist, warrior, king, father, trainer—just name it, you would find it in him. In one of Apostle Niyi Makinde’s words; “God takes you through everything so you can become everything.” Now you see why I say he is my many blessing. God didn’t just bless him; He has made him a blessing to everyone.

One of the culture I hold so much is appreciation. However, it is not enough to say just “Thank you.” Be specific with mentioning what the other has done for your. This is naming your blessing. On this note, I will be naming my many blessings.

Many times, the only physical representation of hope to me is Apostle Niyi. The fact that he is in my life has given me the boldness, hope and energy to face whatever life throws at me.

The Well

Just like the woman of Samaria, my life was void, unstable and full of confusion. I only had a desire for God's work but was never serious with personal walk with God. While trying to work on my music skills, suddenly God decided to bless me; Apostle Niyi Makinde came in into my life. I got to know him through his close friend who was my fellowship's president. Apostle had just started his music school with his friend, and I, being a lover of music and musical instruments decided to subscribe to his music training after being told about it. I never knew that was a set-up for redirection and greater things.

Lesson: Become all things to all people, so you might by all means save some.

What I mean is this—as a leader, you must exercise patience at its highest level while dealing with people. Apostle's level of patience and adaptability is high. Whenever I remember those days at the music school and how I disrupted his music classes, I just laugh at myself. Apostle can wait for you for two years so you could grow. I have practically seen him do that. He would never despise or underestimate anyone. While exercising patience, what he does is to create a platform that furnishes the growth. He knows how to deal with everyone based on their level of understanding.

In one of his quotes, he said "Every man represents a world.

The first thing you should know when you meet a man is not his name but his world.” Thank you Papa for your patience towards me. You saw what I could become and you patiently trained me and are still grooming me for greatness. If you had not waited, I wouldn’t have come this far.

Lesson: Never force your leadership on people. Trust the Lord to place your leadership in the heart of the people.

The dialogue between Jesus and the woman of Samaria shows the three stages you may go before people acknowledge who you truly are to them in classes of a Sir, a Prophet and their Messiah; one of the reasons you need patience when dealing with people. The woman at the well first referred to Jesus as a Sir. May you not relate with your helper as an ordinary friend. May you not turn who should father you to a brother. Regardless of how you address Apostle Niyi, he never worries or moves. Instead, He would be the one respecting you. He does that from his heart. “Bro Ayo”, he would call me. He was just all after how everyone’s life around him would become better. All of that began to make me acknowledge him and respect him more. Apostle would always create time from no time to speak to you, encourage you and advise you. As a leader focus on helping people around you become better. By so doing, you create your leadership in their heart. This wisdom has helped me so much.

“Thy Rod and Thy Staff They Comfort Me”

It is the Psalmist who said “The LORD is my Shepherd.” The Lord is our Chief Shepherd. Apostle Niyi is the direct shepherd the Chief Shepherd gave to me, to guard and guide me. You are blessed and a true son of your father if you can be chastened and corrected. Count it a blessing if Apostle rebukes you. I’m privilege to be trained and chastened by my father.

In addition to that, another word Apostle uses when it comes to correction is Proverbs 9:7 which says “He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself”.

Lesson: Never get to a level you cant be corrected or rebuked.

It is always a great privilege to be corrected by my father. While others praise me, Apostle would call me aside. He is a doctor. He discerned the seed of pride and then sat me down and talked sense into my head. Never allow people’s praises get into your head. As a leader, the more you are lifted, the more you should remain humble. Be more conscious of how you relate with people. I wish some persons know the hard side of Papa. He doesn’t take nonsense when relating with matured leaders. Blessed are you if He rebukes you. I tell you the truth and I lie not; if you serve under a leader and he rebukes you, count it as an expression of love to you (Proverbs 3:12). How I know that I’m loved is when I’m corrected by Apostle. He knows how to use his rod (words). He corrects you with scriptures and you would see how unwise you are. Blessed are you if he teaches you out of the word.

Lesson: *Fear God, and also fear men.*

This statement saved me from future trouble I would have ignorantly put myself in. I had organized a prayer conference on the campus in Kano and Apostle would be ministering. Then one thing lead to another and I wasn't happy with the way the meeting was handled by the campus fellowship leadership and the way they didn't honor my father. That night, my deepest concern was how the time of the innocent congregation was wasted. I was furious and crying. I need to say this, especially to young leaders on campus—learn to train your heart not to be tempted to kill the gifts God has placed around you. They are with you to build together with you. Whatever gift you don't value, God would soon take away from you. Learn to see people who serve with you at any level beyond your now. Some gifts (people who serve with you) come around you for a season, and others for reasons.

Back to the story, when it got to my time to pray, I then picked up the microphone and confronted the wrongs of the leadership. With my prideful introduction, I said, "I don't fear any man; I only fear God that sent me!". I wish you could see how bold I was. After the meeting that night, Apostle Niyi Makinde called me and sat me down. I even thought he would praise me and tell me "Well done son!" But no! He didn't. He told me straightaway to my face, "The statement you made was wrong. You can say this on the campus and go off scot-free but if you made this statement in the city. what you would have done would be to have set yourself up." Fear God and also fear men. God determines who rises and who falls. But God has also invested His authority in some men and those men can also decide who will rise and who will fall. This counsel

actually helped me to see authority differently. Many young preachers have fallen into this trap. That you have little oil and you listened to hundred messages does not give you the audacity to talk anyhow to authority and fathers. Many young minsters have with their hands, pecked their progress unknowingly due this.

“Honor All Men”—1 Peter 2:17

He shared this scripture with me in 2015, and I have seen it practically in his life too. I learned how to honor men from Apostle Niyi Makinde. He literally honors all the elders. Apostle greets virtually anyone he meets both the young and old. I remember at *Connect*, the annual confluence, while everyone is far asleep, Apostle walks round the auditorium to be sure everyone and everything is safe.

Space won't permit me to talk about your legendary acts father. However, I would like to say my heartfelt thank you for showing us how to live. Thank you for tarrying long with the word and prayers. In your light, we see light. The only reason we are making impact and difference is because you yielded to the call and consecrated yourself for this great task. Thank you, our Joshua. God gave you to us so you could lead us into our promised land. As your true son and the Peter/John of this great family, with this privilege I've been accorded, it's my candid prayer that the Lord flood you with more light and wisdom. The Lord's hand remain stronger on you. The Lord gird your with increasing strength for the greater tasks ahead. This day, I wish you happy birthday sir!