

MANAGERS | THINKERS | BELIEVERS | LEADERS | MINISTERS

YOU ARE DIFFERENT

Recognize Your Dynamics. Maximize Your Difference.

NIYI MAKINDE

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Niyi Makinde asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of this work.

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This book is dedicated to my grandmother: Morili Akinniyi

For her prayers, love for my family.

Thank you for your evergreen supports in the past years.

AND

To my kingdom brothers: Simon Chuks and Samuel Adamudu

These were my covers during my training and growth process.

*I appreciate your hospitality and motivation through the rough and
tough seasons.*

I love your hearts!

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Preface

Our world is filled with different philosophy, scientific and religious notions about the origin of man. The creationists' point of view is not the evolutionists' perspective.

The creationists believe in the existence of the Personality called *God* who made man out of dust. They concluded that nothing comes out of nothing. To them, someone is responsible for all we see in life. God is assumed by them to be the Supreme Being who created the universe and all in it. The account of creation as detailed in the Bible is widely accepted by lots of people. The creation account writer is Moses.

The evolutionists on the other hand believe that there is no being responsible for the creation of man. They are of the opinion that nothing and nobody contributed to the existence of man. Unlike the creationists who identified God as the Supreme Being and Adam as the first man created on earth, the evolutionists see mankind as creatures that originated from apes. They summarized that man evolves over time into advanced apes that gain consciousness suddenly and began to use his senses. The evolutionists have been unable to prove since their discovery the beginning of the first man - how and where he came from specifically, but only made their scientific assumptions and conception that man is an advanced animal. The major proponent of the evolution theory is Charles Darwin.

Either to subscribe to the creationists or evolutionists' view

is not the concentration of this book. The focus is to discuss *difference*. Everyman has this dynamic element fashioned into him - male or female. Countless books have been written and seminars organized on this discourse - *Difference*, but I'm of the opinion that the perspectives I want to share here will cause a paradigm shift in the lives of anyone who desperately desires to discover and advance themselves.

As a Christian, you are different in the world. You might be in the world but you are not of the world. Every Christian is a new creation and as such, your kind cannot be traced by the humanist, evolutionist or creationist. You are different as a Christian because you have the Life of God in you and His Spirit. Beyond these, there are other things which you have which are the focus of this book. I trust that God will grant you understanding to access the truth shared here.

This book will ultimately be useful for anyone who desires to understand the world of difference, recognize their difference and differences in people around them. It is insightful and enriched with secrets that will help readers maximize their potential. Leaders and executives of corporate organizations will draw out wisdom that can take their organization to the next level.

As you read, you are about to recognize your dynamics and learn how to maximize your difference. I know you will find it educating, enjoying and enfiring.

I believe in God! He is the creator of man. He created every man with a difference. Let's proceed to draw out wisdom from this book.

Acknowledgement

First, I acknowledge God the giver of inspiration and wisdom.

My ever-blossoming appreciation goes to my indefatigable parents: *Michael and Elizabeth Makinde* for their belief in me. I am eternally grateful to my dad who permitted me from my teenage years to create an environment that will facilitate and accelerate my growth. Thank you!

Thanks to my siblings in persons of *Blessings, Dare and Korede* for their understanding, especially, during those periods they needed their brother most but they couldn't access him. I love you so much.

Stephen Owoigbe, a pastor and mentor, was the channel through whom I discover my difference. He invested wisdom, instructions and corrections in me throughout my teenage years. He was the first person who gave me the platform to express myself. He was the one who trained and equipped me to be a preacher from age 10. Thank you for those years of training.

To my pastors: *S. A. Oloyede, S. O. Aderinola, G. O. Oloyede and Tobi Adeoye*, I honor you all. Thanks to *Pastor S. A. Oloyede* for being instrumental to my advancements in the kingdom.

These kingdom giants: *Tudor Bismark and Mike Murdock* are men whom I have not met in persons but have greatly imparted my life. Thank you for your labors.

I appreciate *Tobi Ilori and Prince Lawal* for all you do. Tobi actually gave the space for the completion of this work in his

house. Thanks to *Kemi Aduloju and Simi Ilori* for those sumptuous delicacies. I'm grateful to God for directing *Ayo Farayola and Dele Emiola* my way. Thanks for your regular motivations and encouragements.

Finally, I salute all my friends, partners and pastors of Rebirth Global Church. I love you all!

The Reality of Difference

Everything on Earth is Different from One Another

It is essential for us to identify the natural object on planet earth - land, natural resources (gold, crude oil, diamond, etc.), seas, plants, animals, human beings, etc. All these are different from one another. Everything you see on earth has a difference. The earth is one, yet, with many different objects and beings.

Land as an eternal object differs in nature. A part of the land is rocky while others are sandy. Some are clay while others are full of waters. It is the same land but has different manifestation in its appearance. A lucid understanding of this fact will help anyone who intends to build something on the land to clearly map out the area of land that is resourceful to his work. Why will someone prefer for a part of land but rejects the other - Difference! A farmer will not go to the rocky part of the land to plant a corn just as a builder will not go to the watery part of land to get granites. Understanding of Differences in land imparts a

vivid direction of the area to go based on individuals need. All lands are equal but every land is not equal. They are different because some parts have what other parts do not have and vice versa.

The natural resources found in nations differ from one another. All nations are equal but every nation is not equal. Some nations have crude oil as their natural resource while some have gold. Several nations are tremendously endowed with metals and irons while some have diamond. We can conclude that every nation has something others do not have. This fact makes nations differs from one another.

All animals are not equal. There difference is glaring and obvious to toddlers let alone mature minds. They are different in appearance, instinct, and capacity. In the world of animals, they understand differences. As small as soldier ants are, they have their uniqueness and qualities. A warfare strategy was even developed for the army through observation of the soldier ants. That is why they are called soldier ants.

Plants. Their difference needs no extensive details. Plants are different in their growth - they do not grow the same time. Their growth time differs from one another. In case of fruits - some are sweet, others are bitter but they are edible. Water melon is sweet but cucumber is not, yet, they are both good for proper health. Medical experts and agricultural technocrats have not explored all the differences in plants, yet quite a lot have been discovered. Discovery has no end; it's a continuous process that takes off from the end of the last discovery.

Mountains are different from one another. Some are taller, ancient and stronger than the others. The tallest mountain in the world is Everest. There are mountains in some cities, villages, nations but they don't attract the attention of tourists

while other mountains elsewhere have become the epicentres of tourism in their geographical sphere. Why? Simply - *difference*. I imagine why tourists leave the mountains in their communities to embark on an adventurous journey to a long distance to go watch the tallest mountain. Some of these tourists spend thousands of dollars on trip; some went along with their family - paid for flight, accommodation, feeding, transportation, etc. but why this excessive spending? Difference! It's the unique difference found in something that inspires people to leave the model (common) of same things around them or in their communities to another place to watch them.

God Created Difference

God created everything in life. There is difference in everything. Nothing on earth or in the universe is created the same. Our ability to identify everything on earth is a directive sign that difference exist. If everything - plants, animals, man, planets, inanimate objects are the same, how will you identify them from one another? In the plant kingdom, leaves and fruits differs. Fruits are produced through the seeds sown, so, its obvious that seeds are not the same. All seeds are different. For the bird kingdom, God created the vulture differently from the eagle. Amazingly, scientists have proven that we have ten planets. Each of these is different in shape and form. God made the light of the sun different from the moons, same with the stars. What a joy to realize God created everything differently! Man as a being created after the image of God is the only creature created after His kind while others were created after their kind.

Difference in the Godhead

The truth from the Bible is that there is a difference in the God-Head. The Godhead refers to the Father, Son and the Spirit. The God-Head is the same and different at same time. What a powerful mystery! But it is no longer a mystery because it has been explained from the Scriptures. The Father is the same as the son and same as the Spirit. They are inseparable. Jesus said My Father and I am one. But in actual sense, the Father is different from the Son and the Spirit. They are same and different! Jesus told His disciples that “the Father would send another comforter. Notice the word ‘another’. For example, if a pregnant woman has twins in her womb (a boy and girl) and she decides to come visit you at home, how many people visit you? It’s obviously correct that one person comes to visit you, but in reality, three people come to visit you. That’s the truth with the God-Head. It’s not three in one but three-one. They are equal in Persons but they are not equal in Personality. It was easy for God to create difference because there is difference with His Personality. You know it was not the Father who died for you but the son and you were not baptized with the son but with the Spirit. You see their difference, yet they are One.

What is Difference?

If I say ‘all men are different’, you will say yes. But what comes to heart is some are taller just as others are bigger. Some are blind while others can see. But these are physical components that do not require any explanation.

The difference we want to consider is more of internal than external. It has to do with what is within you. Placed within

every man is a difference that might not be found in the next person to you or your closest companion. We have over seven billion people in our world now. But it's thrilling to realize that no two people look alike within them.

Difference is the unique feature(s) which distinguish one person or thing from another.

The Force of Difference

All men are equal but everyone is not equal. Difference reveals uniqueness. If we are not different, nobody will need another person in his life. If all men are created to be equal in features, qualities and uniqueness, it therefore means all men will become the same entity, do same thing as others and as such you won't need the help of others. The reason two people think differently is because of the force of Difference within them.

Everyone is different. If you do not understand difference, you will find yourself competing with others in life.

We do not have the same character, instincts, gifting, skills, passion, value, wisdom, etc. Our background is different from one another. Exposure, knowledge, desires, decision, ideas, thoughts create our difference. Many have wondered why a set of twins acts differently from each other - *Difference*. Our difference affects the response and reactions to life and daily events. Some people are goal-getters while others are dream-makers - *Difference*. Every human on earth is born with a difference (personal, unique, innate qualities that distinguish you from others). As long as you are born with a gift, instinct, etc., you are definitely different. Do you realize that there is no man on earth who thinks like you? Though, some people can have the same perspective as yours, but that doesn't mean that

they think like you.

Beyond the qualities every human is born with, there are certain factors that also create difference in us. Your background, exposure, knowledge, vision, is never born with you; they are difference galleries you got after birth.

We are different from one another and that's the reason we don't have same view, we don't feel same way, we don't have equal knowledge, our wisdom is not equal. Greatness is perceived through the difference you perceived. There is difference in attitude and skills.

Your difference influences perception and perspectives. It channels your concentration and determines the areas your attention will be drawn to. That unique quality within you is the force that will create your influence and impact. You can never be relevant in life if you do not know what you can do with what you have within you. If you pray to God to make you different from other, I'm sure God will say, "look within you." It is this force of difference that will force certain ideas to flow towards your direction. Every human has instinct; it is your difference that boosts the energy and capacity of your instinct. People will be drawn to you because of the difference they perceive in you. This force gears your energy to direction other won't go. Whoever competes or strives with others is a blind in the world of greatness.

You recognize your difference through the passion you have. Anyone who has identified what he knows or can do better than others and develops it is guaranteed success in life. Sometimes, individuals may have the same potential but not equal in levels. You realize that one might have advanced while others have not.

Our difference is discovered, nurtured and developed. It determines the problem you see and the solution you will

create. Understanding difference will install in us the fact that everyman is important in life. Nobody is irrelevant! Never say anyone is empty. There is no empty man, we only have ignoramuses. God created you and I with something that will make us to be needed at different stages of life by people. While you are not sought after is either you have not discovered, nurtured or developed it.

Man is a being loaded with the ability to contribute to life what others do not have in them. You are a contributor. Difference is a force that will attract wealth or riches to you.

Imagination. You are a species with imaginative capacity but what you image in your mind is influenced by your difference. This turns your imagination alive in moments and mood, and empowers you to vividly visualize, systemize and analyze what you picture.

There are differences in moments, time, conversation, seasons, and organizations.

Your Difference Will Draw What You Don't Expect From Others

Your difference will not only draw good stuffs to you but will draw some other things. A man once said, "You can't draw attention and will not draw criticism, hatred and so on." You need to be ever ready for what your difference will draw to you. The truth is:

- Your difference will often agitate others
- Your difference makes others uncomfortable, miserable and angry at your presence
- Your difference will draw hatred from some people

- Your difference will stir jealousy and envy from others to you Your difference will draw criticism and attack to you.
- Your difference will always have an enemy
- Your difference will always make you uncomfortable with people, places and perspectives

To thrive, you must learn to respond to matters not react. Response to issues, people is a function of the mind but reaction is a product of emotion. Whenever you permit emotion to dictate your actions or words, you will eventually discover that you acted immature. What you must do regularly when your difference draws other things to you is to respond to it. Do you realize that silence is a response? There are some issues you don't respond to. Whatever you don't want to remember, you don't talk about it.

Three 'Fluences' Your Difference Creates

1. **Affluence:** Your difference is the key to all you desire to acquire in life. Your wealth, resources, riches, prosperity will come through your difference. There is something in you that can give you affluence.
2. **Influence:** Influence can only be gotten through your difference. It is your difference that earn you influence over others. Every man you see who has influence has only maximized his difference. Dont try to do what others are doing that earn them influence, look within you to discover what you can do better than others. You will always get influence in areas where everyone around you is weak. There is ability resident within you that can get you the influence you need.

3. **Confluence:** It is your difference that draws people to you. There is a virtue or ability in everyman which if discovered, nurtured and developed can draw others to him. If you don't express your uniqueness, nobody will come to you. For example, you don't go to Billy Graham's crusade for healing and you don't go to Benny Hinn's crusade to learn about the anti-christ. Evidently, there is difference in anointing. The differences in anointing, determine those who will come to you.

Difference Existed Before Names

There is the principle of arbitrariness which states that "there is no correlation between an object and the name given to it." In other words, nothing specifically indicates from an object the name given to it. For example, there is nothing from the items: speakers, chairs, trees, etc. which qualifies them for the names apportioned to them. Animals were created with their difference before they were named. The truth is that personality difference doesn't determine personality name-identification.

In our world today, there are anti-concept thinkers. An anti-concept thinker is someone who conceives and creates a concept different from the real concept. Such individuals declared that names give uniqueness or determine success but failed to realize that names only give identification and interpretation to our belief system.

The purpose of name is just to give identification. In a world of over seven billion people, you need an identity tag to identify people, places and objects although certain factors can be responsible for the names given to them. Some cars were named after the name of the founder or president of some

automobile companies. For example, Ford cars are named after Henry Ford.

Places. Nigeria was named by Queen Elizabeth because she felt this part of Africa belongs to the Niger Area. It's worthwhile to realize that the name *Nigeria* came from the word *Niger Area*. Before Nigeria was named, it has her natural resources, languages, people, culture, etc. Obviously, the name didn't change the unique qualities the nation has neither does the name affect her destiny. The purpose of the name is just to transfer the image of the country you're referring to mind. The names of places never make them special; rather, it is their difference that makes them special. No man buys a car because of the name, but for its quality and model - *Difference*.

Wrong Conception About Names

Have you heard the following statements: "Your name will make you great," "Your name determines your destiny," "When your name is changed, your life is changed," "Your name draws things to you," "Your name determines who you will become," "Your name is the prophecy of your future," "Names are spiritual," "Your name facilitates your problems," "Your name brought this curse to your life," "Everyone who bears this name never succeeds," "This name carries a curse," "Your name creates your success," "This name is for successful people," "If you want your children to be great, call them this name," "There is a familiar spirit that works with this name," "Don't marry anyone who bears this name," "Don't work with anyone who bears this name?"

All these statements are beliefs and conceptions about names in our world today. The pundits and preachers of these spread

these with their mouth and clout. The conception that names affects destiny or makes great is not true. Such belief becomes powerful and effective just because it got into the thinking of the people and influenced their belief system. What you don't believe, you can't become! The subconscious minds of many who believe this concept have been wet and deep in an ocean of false belief. That's why thoughts flows out of their mind like a rushing stream that their names affects their destiny. What a mirage of self-deception. The fact is that names are powerful only when it is accepted by your belief system in your subconscious mind that it will affect you destiny, future, greatness. I have seen people who are called good and great names - names that visualize a better future or great personality but ended up as ordinary people. Visualization is not actualization. Names can make you to visualize greatness, success, honor and so on but cannot actualize it by itself. Imagine a woman named "Destiny" but died in penury without any impact. Think of a lady whose parent named "Glory" but died in prison. Which glory is that! Don't be deceived that you will be great because of your name. If you have a good name but sit around doing nothing, you will die poor and your name won't add any value to you.

I understand that some names can bring some fortunes, recognition and connection just because of the legacy, impact and influence of someone who bore the name in the past. The child of a great man can be acknowledged in public just because of the legacy of his father. Its true that when people get to realize that you have a link, relationship or connection with certain names, they may open some opportunities to you. But in essence, it is not the influence of the name, but the quality of the personality who bears the name.

My humble apology to preachers, who have taught that “you need a change of name to be great” No! That is not true and cannot. What believers or anyone in any circumstances need is not a change of name but a change of *thinking, habit, dressing, circle, environment, philosophy, etc.* I have seen those who changed names but their circumstances never change. I’m not saying you should not change your name if you feel like, but, I’m only proving that the most important thing is not what people identify you with but what you think, talk and do regularly.

You can name your child “Greatness” but, that will not make him great. Names doesn’t make great, it’s God who makes great. God even promised Abram that “He would make his name great.” Abram’s name did not make him great, God even promised to make his name great. Your name can be great, but your name will not make you great.

The bloke of speakers and preachers who theologically, systematically and pulpitably advocates that believers should pray to God to change their names asserts that God changed Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel. They identified in the New Testament that Jesus changed Peter’s name to Cephas just as Saul was renamed Paul. Doctrine! This should not be made a doctrine (teaching). Most parents in Christian circles have been taught to pray to receive the name of their children before birth because the names will influence the destiny of their children. They assert that Isaac, Jesus, John were divinely named before birth. Funny! But those preachers never told us that an angel named Ismael to Hagar during the gestation period. I hope you know Ismael was named divinely before birth. Isn’t it amazing to realize that God named Solomon “Jedidah” through Prophet Nathan? Though, he was called Jedidah but was known as Solomon. Scriptures show us that it was Pharaoh’s daughter

who gave Moses his name. But according to Jewish history, the baby was name 'Immanuel' by his parents for the three months he was indoor. If the truth about name is true, why did that change of name from 'God with us' (Moses) to 'draw out of water' (Immanuel) not affect the greatness of Moses? Joshua was formally Hoshua, it was Moses who renamed him to Joshua for reasons not known to us. Even after baptism by immersion, if your name is changed to another, that doesn't guarantee a change in your life until you put on the mentality of the new creation. Name changing does not change people and will not change you.

On no account should a preacher teach people to go change their name so their lives can change neither should they lead a prayer that inspires believers to call on God to change their name. Its vivid from scriptures that none of the people whose name was changed ever and never prayed for it. God changed the names of Abram and Sarai not because they prayed (of course, they did not) to Him but for His promise to them. Their names were given to communicate His promise to them not to change their problems. Jacob did not tell the angel to change his name. He only requested that He should bless him. If you want blessings like Jacob, simply request His blessing. Nobody should pray that God should change his name – *God doesn't answer such prayers.*

Jabez prayed to God not to change his name but to bless him and enlarge his coast... God granted his request. I hope you know that God changed the circumstances of Jabez, He didn't change his name. Even after God blessed him, and became more honorable than his brothers, his name still remained Jabez. What will you think of Job, if he had prayed to God to change his name because of his circumstances? Certainly, God would just be laughing where He was... the devil as well as everyone who

have read the story of Job would have laughed at him. All that happened to Job did not occur because of his name. Nothing will happen to you in life because of your name. Your name is not in the equation. It is your thinking, habit, actions and where God is taking you to that are the equation. All you will face in life is not because of where you are but because of where God is taking you to.

God Will Change You, Not Your Name

Whenever you pray to God to change your circumstances, you are telling God to change you. What God needs to change is you not your name. In actual fact, God doesn't step out to change the circumstances you prayed about, but will grant your request to change your circumstances. How? Simply by changing you! God changes you by influencing your thinking, mindset. He fills your heart with knowledge of habits you must change. God inspires you to take certain actions and connect you to individuals who can share wisdom with you that will enlighten you on what to do and how to accomplish it. You will be changed by the understanding of the need to change your character. Suddenly, the desire to acquire knowledge and skills that will empower you to do things differently is stirred up within you. God will change you by illuminating your heart to discover secrets of how things are done just by observing events or watching scenes and movements around you.

Norman Vincent Pearle said "God doesn't change circumstances, He changes people and changed people in turn change the circumstances!" The change you are praying for is all about what is happening *around you*, but the answer to your prayers is the change God will create *in you*. God does not deal with

things. Men do! God relates with whatever has life – men! You want a transformation in your life, then, stop looking at events around you and begin to look within you to discover the inner change that is appealing to you. Mike Murdock said ‘you change your life by changing your day.’ When you change what you do daily, your life will change. Routine is said to be the road to future. Prosperous people do regularly what poor people do occasionally. Your daily routine has a lot to do with what happens in your life. I must establish that *nothing will change around you until you change your approach*. You can’t see change if you sleep too much, lacks proficiency, have skill and character deficit. I discover that *many people have praying habit but lack changing habit*.

The Truth About Change

- Until you change nothing will change
- The Personality of God doesn’t change but His activities changes.
- Every season and century emerges with a change.
- Change is not automatic, it’s your decision. Until you decide to change, you can’t see change. The key to change in your life is decision. The forces of change begin to gather the day you make the decision to change.

You’re Different

Some folks came with an idea that all men are created equal. No! it’s a wrong phrase. Nobody is created equal. Your passion is different from mine just as your gifting, instincts, skills; quotients and so on will visibly be different from your best

friends. God created you to be different from every other man. We are not equal but different. Your difference is *inborn* and *inbuilt*. There are things that you have within you before you're born. Your giftings, talents, intelligence, temperament, were born with you - these are inborn differences. But there are differences that came after your birth. No man was born with his character, values, excellence, influence, etc. They are all inbuilt differences. Inbuilt differences are the ones you acquire, gather, nurture and develop as you grow in life. Everyman should nurture and develop both their inborn and inbuilt differences. But the difference between both is that while you discover inborn difference, you gather inbuilt difference. Your thinking, speaking and actions are different from others because of who you are. It should be established in your mind that there is a quality in you, which is not in the greatest man in the world. You're different from me and I am different from you.

What we value most in people is their base difference. Everybody should not do the same thing, go the same direction. You are wired to do specific things which others in your clique may not be moved to do. *You're different because you have an area of interest different from others.*

I remember, years ago at secondary school. My friends and I discussed the courses we want to study and the tertiary institutions we planned to attend. Courses like Medicine, Law, Mass Communication, and Accounting were mentioned. I remember I mentioned accounting because I was in commercial department then. But, there's this friend of ours who mentioned cinematography and that he wants to attend a school like that, I guessed it's an institute not even a university. He confidently said it, while others were boasting about their courses and school. I thought within me, why could this guy not use his sense to

mention a better course? Today, that guy is one of the people that earn my great respect because he understood what all his friends didn't know. He knew his area of interest... and as such went to the direction of his interest. That makes him different from us.

Students who don't enjoy the course they study are in such conditions because there is no correspondence between their difference (area of interest) and their course.

The first thing parents need to know in raising their children is that they are all different. Children react differently to instructions, corrections, duties, and friends. Most times, when parents compare a child to his or her siblings, they are indirectly creating an inferiority complex for the child because; there is nothing he will do to meet up with the strength zones of those who you compared him to. Qualities in each child differ, so, it is your duty to watch out for the differences in your children earlier and see how to relate with each of them based on your perceived differences.

The point is that you are different from others and they are different from you.

Therefore, dare to be different!

Discover Your Difference

One major thing you must do is to distinguish yourself. You're different and you must know your difference. You cannot have everything but what you have can bring all you want in life. You don't need all to get all, you only need what you have to get all you need. Putting your difference to work will make you to shine and bring you to limelight. There is space for everyone on earth, just know where you belong through your difference.

Most people want to be like others but you cannot develop who you are not. Until you know who you are, you can never develop to who you can be. *God wants you to shine, but you cannot shine everywhere.* You will shine in an area of your interest where you can perform better than others.

Your difference is who you're born to be. Don't be an all-purpose man. You are here for a definite purpose. We can't all be lawyers, we can't all be doctors, we can't all be pastors, we can't all be business man. There is something God created you for - that is your difference.

Your difference is that thing you can do comfortably without stress or sweat. Do you realize that what gives some people stress, others enjoy doing it? You will keep struggling to meet up with others in life when you want to do what others are doing without your keen interest and strength. If a business man begins to think that because he can run a large organization well, he can run a church or ministry too... such will end up in frustration. It looks as if both business organization and church/ministry organization looks the same, but in reality, they are not the same. To run both, you need a different mentality and personality. The personality and mentality of a pastor are different from a businessman's. A business man thinks of how to get more customers and make more money, a pastor thinks of how to win more souls and get finance to run the ministry. The difference of a business man makes him focus on the material stuffs, while that of the Pastor is on the spirituals. God created both to be a blessing to each other. The Pastor will minister to the spiritual need of the business man and the business man in turn minister to the material need of the Pastor. And of course, there are rare individuals who are business and ministry oriented at the same time.

Your Difference Needs an Environment to Survive

Which is powerful between a lion and fish? Of course, the lion is the king of the jungle. But the truth is that both are powerful, it's their environment that really matter. The lion is powerful on land while the fish is powerful in water. If you want to know that the fish is stronger and skilled at diving than lion, get a lion into water and you will be surprised. No lion can survive in water just as fish can't survive on land. Obviously, the survival of their difference is environmental specific. Same with man. What you can do better can't survive everywhere. A discovery of where your potential will fully manifest is needed.

The discovery of who you are determines the environment you will create. An academic teacher will start a school where academic knowledge can be imparted. But a spiritual teacher will create a school where spiritual knowledge can be imparted. Who you are determines the environment you will create. Differences in environment are as a result of the differences we have in individuals. As long as we are different in persons, our environment will be different. God created places not environment but men create environments. God created places before he created people. But people create environment in places.

Your Difference Will Always Need A Problem In Order to Thrive

No man prays for problems or expects to experience some unbearable circumstances. But the truth is that problems are needed to bring out the best out of us. It is a privilege to suffer, because what sufferings want to accomplish is to add wisdom to you. To change any circumstance, you must first change your thinking. Problems are stepping stones to the next level of your life. No man can rise above his level of desires in life. You need something that will create dissatisfaction, discomfort in you for your desires to increase. Problems are desires triggers.

Benefits of Problems

- It triggers creativity
- It turns on your desires
- It adds wisdom to you
- It causes your faith to rise. Your faith is not needed in moment of comfort or peace. It is needed in times of crisis and sufferings

The Wise Act - Reward Difference!

Difference is on different levels and what is done for each is to reward it. You must learn to reward difference! There is reward for difference. Whoever has discovered himself will surely be rewarded. The following are the rewards for difference:

- Honor
- Money

- Appreciation
- Influence
- Promotion
- Protection

The Dynamics of Difference

Difference Indicators

There are indicators that show the differences in people. The knowledge of these will help you trap the potential within you and identify where you belong. As you read on, you must intentionally identify where you belong in each of these indicators.

Difference needs difference. You need another person who has discovered himself and positioned himself in his world. Your difference will require others differences to help you. A pastor may have the vision and plan to embark on a church building project, but he needs architects, engineers who will carry out his vision and plans. Can the Pastor carry out the manual construction himself without the engineers? No! The civil engineer will need an electrical engineer to help do the wiring of a building. This is difference!

Difference: In Personality

Sadly, humans inadvertently see physique as personality. Interestingly, this is both internal and external. This difference is significant to how we see ourselves and how others see us. The tenor of this discourse here is on the internal.

Psychologists, doctors and researchers tell us that our personalities are clearly formed and defined even as toddlers. Studies indicate that by the time we are five years, most of our inner motivations, coping skills, and personal preferences have been established. Before we get to teenaged years, we have become most of who we are to become. No doubt, our personalities incline us toward relating to the world in a particular ways.

Every human is a variety of intelligences. Intelligence is connected to the personality of each man because it comes by birth. We don't have the same intelligence.

Some have more while others have less. This is inborn! According to Howard Garner at Harvard and the work of Charles Handy, there are ten intelligences which are:

1. **Verbal Intelligence:** This is your ability to speak, your command of language. The truth is that the more words you know and understand, the more complex thoughts and ideas you can form. Language skills are considered a key or measure of intelligence. *The truth is that we don't have the same verbal intelligence...*
2. **Mathematical Intelligence:** This is your ability to use numbers skillfully - to add, to subtract, divide and multiply. It helps you read financial statements and develop financial projection. It influences your knowledge of price, costs, expenses and financial ratio. It strengthens your financial

fluency. *We don't have the mathematical intelligence at the same level.*

3. **Physical Intelligence:** This is enjoyed by athletes who have extraordinary abilities of timing and coordination in the movement and use of their bodies. Every human is capable at sport or certain physical activities. Everyone has far more physical ability than you have ever used before. *We don't have this intelligence at same level. That's why some people can play football better while some can't.*
4. **Musical Intelligence:** This is an exceptional ability to create and express music. Many music artistes who can sing effortlessly because of this intelligence may find it difficult to perform in sport. *You can distinctly identify this intelligence at different level based on the use of voice, rhythm creation, etc. This also brings difference in personality.*
5. **Visual-Spatial Intelligence:** This is the ability to see and create shapes, forms and patterns. All engineers, painters, architects have used this intelligence – they have the capacity to visualize. This is the intelligence you use to visualize and see your goals in your mind's eye before they emerged in your reality. This is an intelligence or ability you can develop with practice. An architect will always combine this with mathematical intelligence. *Everybody has this intelligence but not at the same level.*
6. **Interpersonal Intelligence:** It is the ability to communicate, negotiate, influence and persuade others. It is characterized by a high degree of sensitivity to the thoughts, feelings, motivations, and desires of others. A person with high interpersonal intelligence has the ability to interact with people effectively to get things done. Successful managers, team leaders, military officers usually have interpersonal

intelligence developed with a very high degree. It is the most important single ability of every successful politician. The most effective business people, consultants and professional demonstrate this intelligence constantly. *When you consider everyone in your team or circle, does everyone demonstrate this intelligence? I'm sure No! Some leaders are not effective because they don't put this intelligence to work. Differences in personality of leaders or people in your reference group can be greatly determined by Interpersonal intelligence.*

7. **Intrapersonal Intelligence:** This is the ability to be aware of yourself, who you are and who you are not, what you want and what you don't want. People with high level of Intrapersonal intelligence are good at introspection. They reflect on their thinking and feelings. As a result of understanding themselves, they are more effective in dealing with others. This is where inferiority complex is developed. If you want to relate with your worth, develop this intelligence. *Have you ever seen a poor man who is confident and proud of himself? Yes, I have seen some. It is this intelligence that empowers you to see yourself as you are and worth. Why will someone people look down on themselves while others esteem themselves? It is this intelligence. This intelligence affects our personality.*
8. **Entrepreneurial Intelligence:** This is the ability to see market opportunities and then bring the various resources together to produce products and services that can be sold at profits. It helps individuals to take initiative and create a business trend that thrives beyond. For example, Tommy Hilfiger and his friend went to India. They both sat somewhere and watch a massive crowd moving, every one of them on barefoot. His friend said "Oh, there is so

much poverty in this place, this people are suffering.” But Tommy said to himself, “I think this people (so great in population) can make me a millionaire. All I need to do is to bring shoes and sell to them.” So he went back home, went to a shoe manufacturing company and asked them to produce plastic shoes for him. You see two men in the same environment, under same circumstances, but while one saw problems, the other saw an opportunity to make money. *The difference in the personality of the two friends is Entrepreneurial Intelligence. Everyone may not have it at the same level but each can develop it.*

9. **Intuitive Intelligence:** The ability to sense the rightness or wrongness of a situation, to judge people quickly and accurately and come up with ideas and insights separately from your logic and training. Women’s intuition is respected than men’s. Why we respect women’s intuition is because women themselves listen to and trust their intuition more than men do. Your intuitive intelligence is inborn and can increase with use. The more you listen to and trust your intuition, the sharper and more accurate it becomes. As you use intuition more, you will receive more and better answer from it. *Often, some people can pick things than the others do. This also differentiates our personality from one another. We are not all equal at the level of intuition.*
10. **Abstract Intelligence:** It is also known as conceptual intelligence. This is the kind of intelligence possessed by Albert Einstein who could see himself riding on a beam of light and as a result was able to formulate the theory of relativity, which completely revolutionized the field of physics. *Computer gurus use this intelligence to create things. Agricultural technocrats that will thrive in the 21st century*

must develop this intelligence.

Your combination of intelligences makes you a potential genius and makes you different from everyone else who have ever lived.

The above intelligences reveal the differences in personality. The efficacies of these are for you to thick or identify the ones that you have or use regularly. Then, seek how to improve the other intelligences that are not functional in you. Everyone has all these intelligences but not at the same level. Constant practice, knowledge are their activators.

Strength zone is a major factor in the discovery of personality difference. Among all these intelligences, there are at least two which will be the strength zones of every human. Your task after discovery is to develop and nurture them to a level where you are positioned to be irreplaceable whenever and wherever that intelligence is needed. That strength zone is your major difference from others. What we pay for is intelligences! If someone put his music intelligence to work, he would be paid or rewarded for it. Parents should ensure they help their children discover their intelligence earlier in life so they can grow it and use it.

Quotients

Quotient is inborn. It is another factor that defines our personality. Though, it is inborn, but it needs knowledge to draw out its full potential.

What is Quotient? It is defined as the amount or degree of a quality, feelings, and so on in a person, thing or situation. Every quotient is highly sensitive to something but they do not direct their sensitivity on the same thing. Quotient is extremely

broad in definition, types, principles and functions. We will just explore the aspects that are relatively needed. For the purpose of our discourse, I want to identify eleven out of many Quotients. They are:

- **Intelligence Quotient (IQ):** Many people are familiar with this. Other scholars call it Intellectual Quotient. In 1912, IQ came into existence. Intelligence quotient tests your general ability to comprehend ideas and process information. It is the level of human intelligence that is manifested in a persons mastery of knowledge, powers of observation, memory, thinking ability, imagination, and creativity. Anyone with IQ can analyze problems and has problem-solving ability. It is continuous learning that improves IQ.
- **Emotional Quotient (EQ):** it refers to how you relate with other people. Your response and reaction to people, their needs, desires, and questions are regulated by this quotient. EQ came up in 1980. It is EQ that will help you develop, maintain, and nurture meaningful relationships with other people. With a high EQ, you are will be able to discern when you should display empathy and compassion versus toughness and firmness. Every team leader and manager must have EQ. Most people with a strong IQ cannot relate with the feeling of others. This intelligence is highly sensitive to people's need. Its perceptive capacity can identify those who need to be honored publicly and those who need to be appreciated privately. It can pick those who desire position from those who seek fulfillment. Everyone has this quotient but not at same level but different level. Essentially, this quotient differentiates our personality.
- **Connectivity Quotient (CQ):** This is basically the degree of

your capacity to connect with other people. It facilitates multiple connections. You can have a high IQ and EQ, if you don't have CQ, you will have limited connection. All politicians are CQ personality. This quotient will teach you what you should do, give or say to attract the attention of people to you. It distinctly teaches you how to get the heart of people connected to you. The key to connecting to people are three: ***you say something to them, you do something for them, and you give something to them.*** If you want to connect with everyone in a community, go give gifts to them or promise to do something for them. Everyone who has a sense of honor will always connect to people. Honor is connectivity key as well as giving. Giving is a key that opens door for multidimensional connection to you. People love to form association with a giver. Yourself loves to form clique with those that will add to you not take from you. If you know how to assist people, you have this quotient. If you want to connect to any great man, trust your instinct to tell you what to give such. Then, go give the gift - monetary or an object. You will soon discover that great men connect to givers.

- **Adaptability Quotient (AQ):** This is your ability to adapt to any change, system, culture, tradition or rule. Some people find it difficult to adapt easily. Change is constant. You should be able to adapt to change when the need arises. Many have been frustrated because they could not adapt to a system or culture they found themselves. Adapting to the lifestyle of others can affect the mood, actions and reactions of some. Individual with this quality finds it easy to relate to any environment or system they found themselves. For example, contemporary public speakers have this quotient

because it helps them fit into any setting regardless of the age or status of their audience. Most wives found it difficult to easily adapt to the style of their husband. One factor with this quotient is that it enlightens you through observation. It directs you to watch and observe how things are done. Personality difference shows here because you know that some people find it difficult to adapt to change. Christians need to improve this quotient because it will help how they adapt to the lifestyle of others. Some Christians cannot relate with unbelievers in their workplace, neighborhood and family. No! Christianity is not isolation. Jesus related and identified with everyone. Why should you say you cant relate with someone because of his appearance or mode of dressing. I understand that there can be extremities but God wants you do relate with people regardless of how they appear. If you dont develop your adaptability capacity, you will realize later that you have only related, made friends with those who are like you. Learn to freely flow with other types of people.

- **eXecution Quotient (XQ):** This is the ability to get things done as planned at the stipulated time or given period. XQ came up in 1985. It is about getting things done. The focus of this is to answer the question, how can we do what needs to be done? Those who are high in XQ are proficient in prioritizing projects, actions and items that need completing. A high XQ individual is adept at formulating implementation plans and structuring processes and system required for implementation. Those who have the execution intelligence know how to plan and organize people in such a way that they are able to deliver results that secures the existence. Planning and organizing are integral parts of XQ. Anyone

who always seeks the implementation of a plan, agreement has execution quotient.

- **Financial Quotient (FQ):** This is an unusual intelligence that drives people to do something that can earn them money. All successful business men have this intelligence. They can intelligently generate ideas that can fetch them money. It is an inborn capacity that drives people to desire money. The thinking pattern of everyone who has this intelligence is centered on making more money. There are some people who think and talk about money regularly, if one doesn't understand how this quotient runs, it will affect and cause you to judge them as covetous people. If you see a teenager who is already thinking of how to make money or business to do at age thirteen to fifteen, then, you must know that such has a high financial intelligence. If you have a strong IQ but low FQ, you can't maximize your potential for wealth. Therefore, what you must do is to get someone into your life that has a FQ and can help you in turn. Those with this intelligence are effective managers and business consultant. If you have those with this intelligence in your board, your organization will always have money because there will be flood of ideas on how to make money.
- **Moral Quotient (MQ):** This refers to the level of a persons virtue or moral character which includes caring, respect, tolerance, forgiveness, honesty, responsibility, peace, loyalty, courtesy, humor and other virtues.
- **Health Quotient (HQ):** It refers to individuals with health awareness, health knowledge. Health is the greatest wealth in life, as health is the business of power, and so is the one behind. This intelligence enhances the sensitivity of possessor of it to their health and that of others. Parents

with this quotient use it to monitor their children. In the ancient time, individuals know the foods that are reactive and dangerous to their body systems. This is a vibrating quotient that turns in your sensitivity to movement in your bodies. It is this intelligence that ancient men apply in the making of herbal medicine. How they understood the combination of leaves, fruits, to make herbs is a sole result of this intelligence.

- **Political Quotient (PQ):** This quotient is a blend of how hard you work and how smart you play. It enhances your decision making capacity. When working on a task or project, those with strong Political Quotients work smart by staying organized; prioritizing meetings; and maintaining open communication.
- **Leadership Quotient (LQ):** This is a combination of other quotients. Leadership is a function of one's intellectual ability, emotional awareness and execution performance. The summation model is $LQ = IQ + EQ + XQ$. It should be clear now why only a few emerge as leaders. Leadership combines three main Quotients to form one.
- **Spiritual Quotient (SQ):** Dreams, intuition, knowing, perception, and predictions are all connected to the spiritual. There are people who have a high spiritual quotient. You don't need to be a pastor or an herbalist before you have it. Every human have it but not on same level. Those that do spiritual task have this intelligence at a high level. Do you realize that even in a family where they worship idols, whenever the leader is gone, and it's time to appoint another leader that will continue the lineage, the gods will always request for a specific person? The god will mention the name of the person she wants. This is because the god wants

someone who has a spiritual intelligence. This might look funny but that is the truth.

Even in the case of God, He doesn't make everybody a prophet. Every great spiritual leader has a strong spiritual quotient that makes it easy for them to relate with the spiritual even when it frightens others. Why will a person find it easy to fast for days without eating – spiritual intelligence. Why most people find it difficult to do spiritual work is because they don't have this intelligence. You don't need to force yourself to have what is not created with you. Of course, everybody should be spiritual but God has built some capacity into some people that makes them tune to the spiritual easily.

All Christians can be intelligent spiritually because God is within them. If you are not sound spiritually as a Christian, it is not because you don't have spiritual intelligence, it is because you don't know the word and don't fellowship with the Spirit of God. A Christian doesn't need any spiritual intelligence. Your spirituality as a Christian is not connected to any spiritual quotient. It is connected to the person of the Holy Spirit that is resident within you. You don't need any spiritual intelligence to relate with the spiritual world, you can always fellowship with the Spirit of God that is resident within you. We are not just human beings but spirit beings. God is spirit and the bible says 'as many as believe in Him to them He gave power to become sons of God.' The same Bible book writer says in another passage, 'brethren, what manner of love the Father bestowed on us that we should be called the children of God.' As long as you are a child of God, you already have what is more than SQ. You already have God's quotient (GQ). No man can equate spiritual quotient to God's quotient. Therefore, Christian should

not apply spiritual quotient to their lives but God's quotient. The level of God's quotient that you have within is dependent on the measure of the word of God you have inside of you. The day you believe and confess Jesus, God's quotient is imparted to you. You don't need to pray that God should give you His quotient, just believe in Jesus and keep feeding on the word. The essence of God's intelligence which is resident on the inside of every believer is to make them think and behave like God.

As Christians, Having the Holy Spirit Within You Grants You Access to God's Quotient (GQ)

We are in a world where humans' quotients differ from one another. Some who have IQ do not have FQ just as a man can be high in EQ but low in AQ. But for Christians, they do not need to seek the other quotients they lack because the quotients' giver is within them. Often, we don't know what we have. We belittle the Person of God on our inside. As long as you have God within you, you have access to all the quotients. As a believer, what you need to draw from the spirit is His leading which comes to your heart through, prompting, thoughts, ideas, spontaneous imaginative pictures and images. Every inspiration you receive from God is an aspect of human quotients. It is noteworthy to realize that you need to feed your quotient with knowledge for it to function well. But when you read the word of God, thoughts that are inspirational are pop up within you and you just know the next thing to do. Sometimes, you may just unconsciously eavesdrops the discussion of some fellows and a knowing will just flood your heart about what you need to do.

As a Christian, if you look down on yourself because you don't have a particular quotient, it only suggests that you're

an ignoramus. What you lack is not quotient but God's leading which is divine inspiration. What you have as a Christian is not any identifiable human quotient but God's quotient.

How can a new creation like you view your life in the perspectives of human quotients? Sorry, quotients are not applicable to new creations. We can only accept this if research can prove to us the quotients of new creations. As believers, we have to look ourselves in light of Gods word, not according to any scientific or psychological research. The only research that can show who you are as a believer is from Gods word – not science or psychology. You are different as a believer, therefore, dare to be different. Never see yourself as what science shows. A believers identity should not be from research but from the word.

Temperament

In psychology, temperament deals with aspects of an individual personality. It is biologically base, not learned or acquired. It can be recognized in a baby within the first weeks after birth. Temperament also shows our personality differences. We have different temperament. What is Temperament? It is a way of classifying people's emotional attitude. It is the foundation of human personality. It is the emotional part of someone's character, especially how likely they are to be happy or angry, respond or react, etc.

Personality and temperament are not synonymous. Temperament is one of many facets of a persons overall personality. Two people may have identical temperament, but could be completely different in every other way. As humans, we have access to a wide spectrum of different emotion. We all get angry, happy, and sad and so on. But certain temperament

gears towards some emotional traits regularly. For example, the choleric temperament is more prone to anger than the other temperament. However, we all get angry from time to time. Being angry and being choleric are not synonymous, just as being happy and being sanguine are not synonymous.

Personality Types

There are four personality types which are also known as temperament systems. They are *Melancholic*, *Sanguine*, *Choleric* and *Phlegmatic*

Melancholic: They love their friends and families. They are creative, social and seek to contribute to the community. Being extremely orderly and accurate, they are perfect managers. Their ideal careers are: *management, accounting, social work, administration, writing, editing, photography, scientific research.*

Sanguine: They tend to be lovely, optimistic, buoyant and carefree. They love adventure and have a high risk tolerance. They are very poor at tolerating boredom and will seek variety good entertainment. This trait may affect their romantic relationships. Because this temperament is prone to pleasure-seeking behaviors, often, their constant craving may lead to overeating and weight problems. They are very creative and may become great artists. They are fantastic entertainers and will do well if they choose entertainment career. Their natural abilities will serve them well if they do job related to: marketing, travel, fashion, cooking, sport, etc.

Choleric: This is usually goal-oriented. They are very savvy, analytical and logical. They are extremely practical and straightforward. They dislike small talks and enjoy deep and meaningful conversations. They would rather be alone than spend their

time with shallow people. Their ideal jobs are: *management, technology, statistics, engineering, programming and business.*

Phlegmatic: This is usually a people's person. They seek interpersonal harmony and close relationship. They are loyal spouses and loving parents. They preserve their relationship with old friends, distant family members and neighbors. They are very much into charity and helping others. Ideal career for Phlegmatic are: *Nursing, teaching, psychology or counseling, child development and social services.*

Temperament can further be identified as:

Introverts: Melancholic and Phlegmatic

Extroverts: Sanguine and Choleric

Blends of Temperament

We can describe people in form of blends. The blends consist of a primary and secondary temperament, such as Sanguine-Phlegmatic or Melancholic-Choleric. The order is important. A Melancholic-Choleric is noticeably different from a CholericMelancholic. The primary temperament describes the most obvious part of a person's personality. The blend doesn't refer to half of each.

Temperaments are the formulation of our emotional nature which stays constantly throughout life from birth until death. Our views, tastes, perspectives change but not temperament. They are determined by nature not nurture. You don't judge who a person is by their temperament, you only get why they do things through their temperament.

Research studies have shown that many people become more introverted in their personalities as a coping mechanism resulting from the relational assaults of childhood.

Should a Christian Depend on Temperament?

Though, the study of Temperament has been factored into Christianity. Yet, it is essential to state categorically that, Christians should not apply this temperamental system and principles to their life. I'm not a conservative neither am I trying to propose a mundane idea. I have done an extensive research and studied psychological notions from various scholars.

Have you heard of zodiac signs? You can find out about it. All these are products of astrological knowledge. Temperament has never been given a unanimous philosophy. Various research and theories have been proven but not balanced. The basic truth is that the origin of Temperament came from astrology. Christians who are psychologist by profession were the ones who looked into scriptures to bring out personalities that mirror the exact personality type in temperament.

For years, I believed that temperament is real and I still do. But I don't believe it is applicable to a Christian. I have even taught at fellow Christians and on various platforms. But as I researched and looked upon God's word, I realize that it's wrong for a Christian to apply temperament to his or her life. Doing such is practicing astrology in Christianity indirectly.

There are two kinds of life in every living being – animals and humans which are bios and psuche. Bios life refers to the biological or physical life while psuche simply mean the soulish (soulful) life. Psuche is the Greek word for soul. Psuche is the life which makes man a living; the life of the soul. Everything about psychology is connected to "psuche." All the courses and subjects taught in schools and professions are connected to these two kinds of life – bios and psuche. Every human has these two kinds of life. Bios refers to your body life while psuche refers

to you mind or mental (sense) life. The Greek word “psuche” is the same as the English word “psyche.” In the Bible, there are three kinds of words used for life which are: **bios**, **psuche** and **zoe**. There is another kind of life that is only available to Gods children (Christians) alone – that is ZOE. This is the God kind of life. Zoe is the eternal life all Christians have within them. The study of temperament is carried out on psuche not on zoe. All Christian should live on the God-kind of life. Therefore, you should always see yourself from the perspective of zoe not psuche. And it is only the word of God that can reveal zoe, there is no research that can reveals it.

When you believe and confess Jesus, you’re no longer a sanguine, Choleric, Melancholic or Phlegmatic. YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN! If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away, Behold all things are become new. Christ is not just a person, He is a place. All Christians are INSIDE of Christ. When you came into Christ, you become a new creation, a being that has never existed before. How can a new creation still be a Phlegmatic or sanguine when the bible says “Old things are passed away?” For a Christian to see himself in the light of Temperament is a loss of identity. A new is a new. Temperament is of the old nature. An atheist can be choleric just as an agnostic can be a sanguine or whatever but not a Christian. Acquisition of the knowledge of Temperament for me is just to have the knowledge not to glean any wisdom out of it for my daily living. It’s unfortunate that preachers and teachers teach temperament on pulpits and platform and then instruct believers to thick the aspects they belong or their type. Sorry! Thats wrong. Christians don’t belong to any of the personality type, they belong to Christ type. Paul said ‘I have been crucified with Christ, no longer I live but Christ lives in me...’ In other words, the sanguine, Choleric,

Melancholic, and Phlegmatic have been crucified with Christ. It is Christ that now lives in you. The fruits of the spirit are the character traits of Christ. Paul said put on the new man. How? The new man is a mentality. The mentality of a new creation, new person, new specie... evidently, what Paul meant was that you should put on the thinking of the new person in Christ. As a Christian, when you still think you are a choleric or sanguine or any type of temperament, you are thinking like an old man. The old man is the natural man. The natural man has the character traits of temperament but the spiritual man is not the natural or old man. He is the new man. The spiritual man doesn't feed on the teaching or study of temperament. He sees himself in the light of the word of God. He is what the word of God says he is.

Of course, I know when you became a Christian, your mind doesn't change. That's why we are told to be transformed by the renewal of our mind. To renew means to reprogram, re-fix, re-educate, reform. It is an activity of putting knowledge that informs us on what to do. All the belief about your personality type before you were saved could be correct, but after you have been saved, you need to delete them by disbelieving them, and believing what is said about you in the word, then, you are undergoing transformation.

Stop calling yourself what God doesn't call you. He doesn't call you a sanguine, Choleric, Melancholic, Phlegmatic. He calls you a His son!

Difference: In Character

Character is not discovered within you, you create and develop it. No man was born with character. Jim Rohn said, *Character is a quality that embodies many important traits such as integrity,*

courage, perseverance, confidence, and wisdom. Unlike your fingerprints that you were born with and can't change, character is something that you create within yourself and must take responsibility for changing.

The character values and principles found in businesses, governments, education and churches around the globe are developed by certain people who understood and believed that character value. Fundamentally, character growth determines the height of your personal growth. And without personal growth, you can never reach your potential.

A survey of questionnaire called "characteristics of Admired Leaders" shows that *honesty* is the character admired in leaders. Honesty is the core of good character because it is the quality that most enhances or damages personal reputation.

It is should not be surprising to discover that our character shapes our personality. And we are different in character. *Generosity, integrity, honesty, humility, criticism, forgiveness, pride, are all characters.* You realize some are trustworthy, others are not - *character*. Certain persons are proud, while some are humble - *character*.

Unfortunately, most people focus too much on competence and too little on character. Should you be competent? Yes! But this cannot replace character. How often do people fail to keep appointments? Why are some people too full of themselves - proud? How often do people fail to grow not because they didn't have time to read but because they chose to spend their money and time on something else that was not important? All these shortcomings are the result of character not capacity. Your character molds your personality. As long as we don't have equal character, we will definitely be different in persons.

Many people are rich in their pocket, yet not rich on the inside.

You must recognize that money without a strong character foundation can lead not to success but ruin. If you have doubt, just look at the number of famous child actors and young pop stars who have crashed and burned.

You can always improve your character. Our reputation comes from what others believe about our outside. Our character represents who we are on the inside. The adjustment or improvement of your character is a force that can redefine your person. It is a change within to without. If we desire to grow and reach out potential, we must pay more attention to our character than our success. To change your character, change your habit. Dan Coats says, *habit is the battleground of character*.

A man once said,

Sow a thought and you reap an action;

Sow an action and you reap a habit; Sow a habit and you reap a character;

Sow a character and you reap your destiny.

Everyman's character will be manifested in the atmosphere of the following:

- Trust
- Power
- Privilege
- Emotion
- Relationship

Difference: In Giftings

Giftng is either natural or supernatural abilities. Every man is gifted in an area or more. This knowledge informs us that every human is a born-leader. There is a gift within you that

can position you for leadership in your world. God's plan is that your gifting should make you known to your world. Nobody is meant to dominate people! You are meant to dominate an area of your gifting. When you dominate an area of gifting, you will attract people. Sadly, many are seeking how to attract people to them instead of focusing on their gift and the gift in turn attracts people to them. We don't all have the same gift and in a situation where two people have same kind of gift, they don't have it at the same level because they can't have the same knowledge, style or skill. *The greatest thing God gave you before birth is your gift. But the greatest you can have after birth is God Himself.*

Your gifts doesn't strengthen you, it depletes you. Your gift is not for you but for others. Your gift will feed others and in turn; it will deplete and spend you. That's why you can't be operating your gifts all the time. Your gift draws from you. No man can be the preacher, prophet, author, singer all the time. You can't be your gift all the time. All gifted individuals – you included – must understand the principle of self investment. You need to find a place, system, and relationship that will feed you and your gift regularly to keep up.

Difference: In Skill

What is skill? It's an ability to do something well which comes through learning and practice. Skill is never inborn, you have to learn it and do practice in consistent basis to perfect it. A skill can be developed and put to use. Some companies are not after academic qualifications any longer for employment. Skill has become the main requirement for employment in certain organization. There are management skills, technical skills, reading skills, writing skills, listening skills, communication

skills, interpersonal and Intrapersonal skills, language skills, and so on.

Skill is an ability while style is a method. You don't need style if you don't have the skill. This ability to do things effectively comes through learning, training, practice and rehearsal. Gift is also an ability. But the difference between gift and skill is that, you were born with gift but you acquire skills. You can be gifted but not skilled. When you discover your gift, you need to feed yourself with the knowledge that will equip you to maximize your potential through skills. The more you learn and put your knowledge to work, the more skilled you are.

Money making is a skill. Every human can learn how to make money. If you want to thrive in your business, you must keep learning how to make money. There is no one method to making money. The reason is because every man is an ideagenerating organism. There are rare individuals in our world with the ability to make money. Most tycoons learned it while a few generated it. You can learn something that can attract huge money to you.

Difference: In Knowledge

Knowledge is information! You either get it through learning, observation or experience. Because we don't have the same background, experiences and visit same places, definitely our knowledge will be different from one another. What you know determines what you believe and you will eventually become your belief. Have you wondered why some people do something that intimidates others? The answer is not farfetched! Their capacity? No! Not in every cases. The one reason is because one has information that others don't have. As long as we don't have access to the same information, then we are different in

knowledge.

Mentors pass pieces of information to their protégé regularly. People read books from different authors and attend different conferences. Social media is full of information that can enrich and pollute the mind with knowledge simultaneously. As long as we feed on different information sources, we cannot have the same knowledge.

Even in a career, there is specialization. There is specialized knowledge which is only meant for those who are specialists in a field. Researchers have generated multiple streams of knowledge which are either anachronistic or relevant.

Knowledge Grows Exponentially

Over seven hundred years ago, Roger Bacon of England was considered the last Universal man. He was thought to be current with all the knowledge and science of the day. He in his days knew almost everything there. He knew everything that was taught academically.

Truth is, at that time, the amount of knowledge available was limited. There were very few books. There were few scientists, philosophers, researchers, writing and teaching. Today, it is impossible for one person to know everything about one subject.

There are many specialization today.

If you want your knowledge to increase, you must avoid 'intelligence trap'. Intelligence trap is also known as the prison of knowledge. This is when a man thinks that all he needs to know is all he has known. Sorry! How is it possible for you to have all the knowledge you need now? That is a mirage of self-deception. You need to have a source that feeds you regularly. Your inner growth is dependent on information that comes in

regularly. Two things makes people grow, *food and knowledge*. Food makes your body grows, while knowledge grows your inner self or better call it, 'inner man'.

The inward growth of human is on different scale. The best place to get knowledge is where others are ahead of you and the best people that can grant you knowledge often times are those who are ahead of you. *It is not always comfortable but it is always profitable to associate with people larger than ourselves*. The reason is because of the access to information sources that some have and others lack. If you want to grow through knowledge, do the following:

- *Spend time with great people;*
- *Visit great places;*
- *Attend great events –seminars and conferences;*
- *Read great books;*
- *Listen to great tapes;*
- *Go for trainings in your field.*

The Greatest Passion

The greatest passion you should develop is not for vision or fulfillment. It's not the passion for relevance or commitment. Your greatest passion should be for learning. It is the acquisition of information on regular basis that opens us up to think beyond the spot. If you have the passion for learning, you will always grow beyond you.

Difference: In Desires

Desire is a driver! Every human has a desire. No man was born with desires. You got desires after birth as you grow in life. Everything you do in life is a product of your desire. Desire is a force that set the motion for decision and focus. All human desires can be summarized with four words: Wealth, fame, honor and health. Your wants or needs in life will be connected to any of these four. Human desires determine the direction of their decision and focus. It is desires that create the flow of the kind of idea you have. Your desire is the prophecy of what you will be in life.

For desires to produce its results, it requires your decision. If you don't match your desires with qualitative decisions, nothing will happen. Desires without decision is a wish. It is decision that stirs you to move in the direction of your desires.

Desires need focus and diligence. You can't get your desires until your focus follows after your decision. When you focus on your focus, you will soon be the focus.

Difference: In Style

Styles are methods! It is a way of doing things or systems through which you get things done. Every ability, be it gift or skill needs a style. It is your style that determines your culture. Styles are blends of ideas. There are teaching styles, leadership style, communication style, fashion style, relational style etc. Your style is often determined by the people who have the greatest influence over you. It is not wrong to imitate the style of others, but often times, we fail to realize that our style is better than others we imitate.

Your concept create your style. Imitation creates your style. Your thinking can generate a style for you. Consistent practice can develop a style unconsciously. You have a style in any area you have a method of doing things.

Our method is always different. Leaders of organizations do not delegate duties same way. Styles of delegation differ from style of communication. Everybody has a style of communication but only a few have the skill. There are styles of preaching, organizing, etc. There are styles for building relationships. Everyone has a style but not everyone has a skill.

Difference: In Value

Value is an idea! Our perspective about the rightness or wrongness of events of life differs from one another. Value are your idea about what is wrong or right or important in life. This is the main factor that determines how we see ourselves. It shapes either high self-esteem or low self-esteem in us. No man can rise beyond his self-esteem. Self-esteem is the single most significant key to a person's behavior. No factor is more important in people's psychological development and motivation than the value judgments they make about themselves. Your Self-esteem can affect your desires. If your desire is at the level of 20 but your self-esteem is a 10, you will never perform at the level of a 20. You will perform as a 10 or lower. No one can outperform his self image.

Values might have been adopted in whole or in part by our early-childhood training and exposure to cultural morals, most of us have branded a unique hybrid version of values resulting from our own integration of personal priorities and public responsibilities. Your values might be honesty or loyalty reserved

for a particular group. Others may value integrity in businesses or fidelity to spouses. Some values may be family-oriented rules whereby they hold high esteem for relatives, extending a place to stay or whatever they need.

Value helps us to know who we are at the core of our being; the solid ground beneath the many roles we play that can experience erosion and can change with the seasons.

It is your value that gives you a sense of love, respect, happiness. Value creates fear, sorrow, sense of inadequacies within you. Everyone can reflect on who they are. Self-trust, self-respect and self-confidence are all our values which influences our self esteem. The truth is anyone who lacks Self-trust, self-respect and self-confidence; obviously, self-esteem deficiency will limit such no matter what other assets such possess. Your values are the things that give you a sense of self-respect and pride. They become the standard by which you will or will not keep friends near you. Friends must live up to respect these values or risk being excommunicated from your circle, as these is the guiding principles by which you live your life.

Values simply refers to what you see about yourself and how you see yourself. No man was born with a value. You created and will keep creating it till death. The understanding of self-concept will help us to trap the knowledge of value in an extensive details.

The Self Concept

The theory of self-concept is considered the greatest breakthrough in the field of human potential in the 20th century. This is the idea that each person develops a bundle of beliefs regarding oneself starting at birth. Your self-concept then

becomes the master program of your subconscious computer, determining everything you think, say, feel and do.

No child is born with self-concept. The child is born with no self-concept at all.

Everything you are today is the result of an idea or impression you took in and accepted as true.

Get this: **you are not what you think you are but what you think, you are.**

Three Parts of the Self-Concept

1. **Your self-ideal:** This is made up of all your hopes, dreams, visions and ideals. It is composed of virtues, values and qualities that you most admire in yourself and others. This is the person you would most like to become if you could be a perfect person in every way. Great men and people of character are very clear about their values, visions and ideals.
2. **Your self-image:** This is the way you see yourself and think about yourself. It is often called “inner mirror”. The discovery of self-image is pioneer by Maxwell Maltz. By visualizing and imaging yourself performing at your best in an upcoming situation, you send a message to your subconscious mind. Your subconscious mind accepts this message as a command, and then coordinate your thoughts, words and actions so they fit a pattern consistent with a picture you created.
3. **Self-esteem:** This is the emotional component of your personality. It is best defined as “how much you like yourself.” Your Self-esteem is the ‘reactor core’ of your personality. It is the energy source that determines your

levels of confidence and enthusiasm. The more you like yourself, the better you perform at anything you attempt. Your level of self-esteem determines the quality of your relationship with others.

The Power of Inner Dialogue

This is otherwise known as self-talk. Whenever you want to change or improve any of the three parts of self-concept, you can always use inner dialogue to influence it.

Develop your self-talk to the level where you always see good things about yourself.

It's clear that your values are created by your self-ideal, self-image and self-esteem. Since daily events, backgrounds, education, etc. influence how we see ourselves, then, we will be different.

Difference: In Influence

Influence is power! What power? It is the power to affect the way someone or something develops, behave or think without using direct force or orders. Anything or anyone that can affect your behavior, thinking and development either positively or negatively has influence over you. Don't forget: Influence is power. That power is inside of every human – the power to affect people's behavior, thinking and growth is in you. It's your decision to use it positively or negatively. Every man is influenced somehow, somewhere by someone or something. You're where you are today because of the influences on you. Influence is your ability to mold your understanding into people without coercion. It is your difference from others that earn you

influence over them.

The Dynamics of difference educates us that every human is different in influence. Some people have a higher level of influence while others have a lower level of it. We are different because wicked fellows have negative or bad influences while the good ones have positive influences. Get this: *it is your difference from others that earn you influence over them.* There is something God has given you that can give you influence. *God created you but you have to create your influence.* We all need to acknowledge the fact that we are born to be influential. *You cannot buy influence neither can you inherit it, you can only create it.* Age is not a barrier to influence. Many of the great men in our world today, gained their influence at their early age.

Three Streams of Influence

- You get influence through what you tell people (either through speaking or writing) – communication
- You get influence through what you do for people – do something
- You get influence through what you give to people – generosity

If you can communicate to the people what will benefit their lives, do something they can't do themselves to assist or help them, and give them gifts to meet their needs, you can influence them. Check influential persons, *they either know what others don't know or do what others don't do or give what others don't give.* Politicians are so skilled in using two of the three streams to influence the people: *communication and giving.* If you don't have much knowledge, ensure you are very generous... you will

see that your influence will have no limit. You don't get influence through gossips, slandering etc. You need to share secrets, wisdom that can get what they need – anyone who can do this is creating his or her influence gradually. Don't just give people any gift. Ensure you are sensitive to their needs. Influence won't come your way when you give what someone doesn't need or value. Smartly discern their needs and find out whether they will value what you are about to offer.

I don't subscribe to the definition of leadership as influence. Of course, a leader should be able to influence effectively. But leadership is more than influence. Everyone influences someone daily in our world but that's not leadership. Influence by itself is not leadership. A church member can influence a pastor to do something. Does that makes the member a leader? No! The fact is that you can have influence without leading. If truly a person can gain influence without leading a team or group, then leadership is not influence. I understand what is called positional leadership, and I'm not talking about that here. The definition of leadership as influence was given just to shift the shallow perspective of people about leadership from positional level to the other.

Leadership needs vision but influence doesn't need vision. You don't need to get a vision before you start influencing people. I can influence someone because I love them or for their loyalty. I don't need vision to cause certain influences. A teacher who teaches students in class directly and indirectly influences all the students. Does a teacher need to get vision before he influences his students? No! There are many influential persons who lack execution quotient. They are very influential but don't know how to execute projects. That's not a leader!

Influence is a powerful thing and the management of it is

fundamental. When people trust you, you have influence over them. Such power can seduce unwary leaders into using people to achieve their own selfish ends. Influence used for selfish purpose is nothing more than crass manipulation and political scheming. Never use your influence to manipulate people.

We are different in influence because the power in each of us runs in different directions on different streams. While some can communicate well, others can make things to happen through what they do.

Difference: In Experiences

Experiences give us track record in life. We all have track records for either success or failure.

The background of individuals create their experience. Some came from a poor home while others had an affluent background. Backgrounds have a way of influencing our values. It shapes our perspective to either esteem ourselves or shatter our beings. For example, those born in the village often times develop inferiority complex when they found themselves among contemporary people. Inferiority complex is not inborn but inbuilt. Your background should not enfeeble your courage. The purpose of your background is to add qualities to you - wisdom, humility, reaction, etc. Great men don't talk like their background, but like their future. Your background is to make you see something differently which you can't see everywhere. Where you come from has introduced many images, occurrences, experiences, challenges, opportunities which you can recall anytime in future when you need to glean out wisdom.

Many people have experienced some disappointments, failures, setbacks in their lives. What individual faces in life

determines what they see about life... it also affects how they see it. Some people have been molested, raped, slandered, maltreated, etc.

The best you can do is to let go of any experience that is not relevant to where you are going. Why you will go through tough times in life is to navigate faster and higher. Sad experiences causes faith to rise on your inside to soar higher. You don't need faith when all is going on well, you only need faith when all is tough. You will never know how big your faith is until you pass through what is more than you can bear.

Difference: In Affluence

Affluence refers to riches and wealth! We don't have the same financial income. We don't receive the same remuneration. Our streams of income differs.

The writer of Ecclesiastics says 'God gives riches and wealth'. God doesn't give money. Money is a legal tender for exchange. God didn't make money, man did! And God didn't plan that any man should be poor but people stay poor because they have never identify what God gives them that can be exchanged for money. God will make you rich through the following.

- *Your dreams can make you rich*
- *Your gifting can make you rich*
- *Your wisdom can make you rich*
- *Your work can make you rich*
- *Your knowledge can make you rich*
- *Your skill can make you rich*
- *Your friends can make you rich*
- *Your investment will make you rich*

Difference: In Excellence

Perfection is the highest level of Excellence. Anything or anyone who is excellent will always reflect high quality. Excellence is a mentality, mindset and lifestyle. It is a journey and movement. It is not a state or destination. Excellence is personality base. It should never be generalized. Every man is excellent in one area or the other. What is excellent to me may not be excellent to you. But it is better if we can live excellence in all areas of life.

First, you need to define what excellence is to you. When you talk about being excellent, what comes to the mind of many is: *dressing or appearance*. But what they fail to realize is that you can have excellence in appearance but not be excellent in punctuality. Excellence in wealth is not the same as excellence in health. Your excellence is the highest quality you are capable of performing.

Areas of Excellence

- Excellence in attitude
- Excellence in character
- Excellence in conversation and speech
- Excellence in delegation
- Excellence in leadership
- Excellence in decision-making
- Excellence in reaction and response
- Excellence in developing relationship
- Excellence in appearance
- Excellence in punctuality
- Excellence in organizing and arranging
- Excellence in followership

- Excellence in management
- Excellence in wealth
- Excellence in health

There is an instinct for excellence born with every man that makes individual craves to be excellent in some areas of mentioned above. You can also learn excellence in areas you don't have instinct for.

Excellence is learned through:

- What you see – observation and models;
- What you experience;
- What you are taught – mentorship.

To learn excellence, you must learn to observe what excellent people do and how they do it. Asking questions from those excellent personalities in areas you want to improve will build the knowledge of that area in you. One of many ways to be excellent is to identify people of excellence and pursue them for counsel. Watch excellence when you are around it.

The Truth about Excellence

- You can hide a mistake, but you can't hide excellence.
- You can't hate excellence, you can only be jealous of it.
- Excellence requires change. You must recognize that excellence is a continuous change.
- Today's excellence will be tomorrow's common or mediocrity.

The Rewards of Excellence

Excellence has a reward. The rewards are two:

- You will be pursued. Excellence will cause people to seek you, pursue you. You will be reached.
- You will be paid differently from others. The pay for excellence is not at the same level with that of mediocrity. Refuse to be a mediocrity.

Evaluation of Excellence

- You evaluate excellence by reputation
- You evaluate it by longevity

Excellence Produces Difference

Whether we accept it or not, the fact still remains that excellence produces differences. You cannot be great in every aspect of Excellence. You have to decide the areas you want to be higher in and lesser in. The capacity to be excellent in every area is in everyone, desires will stir it up.

Excellence as is indicator of your difference. You need to identify where you are excellent and not. Then, decide to improve those areas where you are not by listing the names of people around you or those you know who are excellent in those areas. Pursue them for counsel or just observe them - study them. For me, what I do is to observe those I discover are excellent. And that has greatly helped me. It can help you too!

Difference: In Connections

We are all different because of who we know. Everyman is four person away from everyone in the world. The connection you have determines your circle and circles. The contacts in your phone are your network and your network is your net worth. Your association determines your destination. Your connection is the prophecy of the opportunity that will come your way. This aspect impacts recommendations. The law of connection and law of recommendation say “you cant be recommended when you are not connected.” Most people are seeking to raise money for themselves instead of raising friends who will in turn raise money for them. Every man needs some multidimensional and multi-level connections that can lift them up.

Difference: In Wisdom

Wisdom is a collection of experiences, knowledge, events that transpires in ones life. There is no human who was born with wisdom. The difference between knowledge and wisdom is understanding. A man of wisdom has understanding. Knowledge is revelation, understanding is interpretation, wisdom is application. Wisdom is not something you are born with. Instinct is what you are born with not wisdom. You have to *pursue, reach out to it, listen, receive it*. Since no man was born with wisdom, definitely, we cannot have the same wisdom. We are not equal in wisdom.

The Portals of Wisdom

These are media through which we access wisdom.

- Observation is a portal that grants access to wisdom
- Training is a portal that grants access to wisdom
- Experience is a portal that grants access to wisdom
- Pain is a portal that grants access to wisdom
- Practice is a portal that grant access to wisdom
- Asking questions is a portal that grants access to wisdom
- Reading is a portal that grants access to wisdom
- Listening is a portal that grants access to wisdom
- Intelligent followership is a portal that grants access to wisdom
- Failure is an access to wisdom

Wisdom:

- Can be given by God
- Can be explained
- Can be taught
- Can be seen
- Can be caught
- Can be accessed
- Can be multiplied... through continuous learning

Differences in Wisdom

There are different types of wisdom. You will always have wisdom towards what you like doing. It is possible to have wisdom for something and not have wisdom for another thing.

Let's examine differences in wisdom.

- ***There's Wisdom That Produces Favour:*** Most people pray for favour but they don't have the wisdom that produces favor. Wisdom comes before favor. The wisdom for favor is that you will say, do or give something to someone or some people that will open their heart to you before they favor you. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream before he was favored. Esther danced before she was favored. Until you demonstrate the wisdom that produces favor, hearts that should favor you will not be opened to favor you. Therefore, after praying for favor, you need to ask, what do I need to do to be favored. This wisdom is the key that will open the door (heart) that will favor you.
- ***There's Wisdom for Marriage:*** For you to live peaceably with your spouse, you need wisdom. Your spouse was raised in a different environment, has different backgrounds, exposure, etc. You get the wisdom for marriage through those who have godly and wonderful marriage via observation and asking them questions. You can also get the wisdom through books or from the Bible. It is possible for a man to have the wisdom for other things and not have this wisdom. Any home that is separated lacks wisdom for marriage. It is this wisdom that will teach you how to relate with your spouse and children. It helps you to deal with your spouse with understanding.
- ***There's Wisdom for Wealth:*** This is when you can create wealth for yourself without stress. There are secrets behind wealth creation. You will know how to acquire more wealth, multiply it and create multiple streams of income for yourself. This wisdom is needed by everyone. Joseph has this

wisdom, same with Solomon. All managers, leaders, CEOs needs this wisdom. If you don't want your business profit to be static, you need this kind of wisdom. The purpose of this wisdom is to teach you how to use what you have to acquire wealth.

- ***There's Wisdom for Leadership:*** Leadership is all about movement and progress. This wisdom will help you move your team, organization forward. Anyone you see who display this wisdom will always excel in leadership. Even, when you pray for it, you still have to watch how leaders lead. The answer to your prayers is that God will cause you to see or hear something somewhere and somehow that will open your understanding to what you need to do. Every leader, Pastor, manager, CEOs, president, need this kind of wisdom. If you want your ministry or organization to move higher, get this wisdom.
- ***There's Wisdom That Produces Multiple Connection:*** read about connectivity Quotient.

Difference: In Responsibility

Responsibilities are duties! We dont have the same duty. God and man do not distribute equal duties. Even there is difference in a collective responsibility. A collective responsibility is one shared equally by a group. Every collective responsibility has within it the sole and ultimate responsibility. There are always differences in responsibilities between two people or groups. Lets identify groups with different responsibilities:

- Husband and wife
- Superior and subordinate

- Pastors and associate pastors
- A leader and a follower
- Teachers and students
- Executive leaders and citizens
- Parents and children

It is known to all that the thinking of a leader will always be different from that of a follower. The responsibility of a husband cannot be equated to that of the wife.

Difference Zones

This states that:

1. You must never study your weakness, study your difference.
2. You recognize the differences in people around you.
3. You must identify what each person around you has contributed to your life.
4. Search for difference because everything you don't have is in someone close to you.

Identify:

Those God has used to bless you

- Who has God appointed to create financial streams in your life?
- Who has God appointed to create mentorship streams in your life?
- Who has God appointed to create wisdom streams to your life?

- Who has God created to create influence streams to your life?

It is good to identify those who are investing time, corrections, mentorship, money in you and what has been your return?

Difference Makers

Beneath the heart of everyman is the desire for recognition and relevance. History is full of difference makers who have done the unimaginable.

Reference Group

The social psychologist, Dr. David McClelland of Harvard said, “The people with whom you habitually associate are called your „reference group and these people determines as much as ninety nine percent of your success or failure in life.”

Your reference group are the people you consider yourself to be similar to. For example, the members of your church are part of your reference group.

Why most graduates failed in life is because they had returned to the same group of people they had been associating with before they had taken the advanced courses. As a result, they went back to the same old ways, old habits, old customs and manners of living. Because they were immersed in their old

reference groups, nothing changed for them. Over time, through process of absorption, you will adopt their attitudes, mannerisms, ways of speaking, level of aspirations, and even their style of dress. Your reference group will exact an inordinate influence on the kind of person you become. You will adjust your goals, behaviors and thoughts to be consistent with what you feel they will approve of.

You cannot be a difference maker if you return or keep staying in that static group that is not moving and changing. The mistake most graduates made was that they thought they could change their reference group after school but later discovered that their reference group exacted much influence on them to change them. You cannot change where you are coming from; you can only change where you are going. No man can change the environment where he is born. You can't change anything that knows your history.

Action Plan: Create a New Reference Group

If you really want to be a difference maker, you must make decision today to begin to associate in every area of your life, with other men and women whom you admire, respect and look up to. Difference making starts with strategic connection with different people. This people will shift your thinking pattern, empower your visualization, enliven your focus, inspire your desires, etc.

You've got to make a final resolution within you to associate with people that will stretch you, shift you and speed you. These are people you enjoy and from whom you can learn.

Will you want your children to be like the people who were your reference group in the past or now? Do you esteem the people

you relate with that you will want your children to absorb their persons? The kind of people you should relate with are people you will want your children to be like. Men who are moving thinkers, blends of ideas, contemporarily relevant, visionaries and get-it-done personalities. Relate, work and socialize with the kind of people that you want your children to be like when they grow up.

If you take time to think now, there are people who you admire, respect who are not far from your reach that you can connect to now in order to form new reference group. Many people have identified these people but don't know how to connect to them.

How to Connect With New People You Want to Form a New Reference Group With

Ninety-nine of everything you're needing will require pursue. Some of the people you want to connect to are waiting on you to pursue them. The price for connecting is reaching. You can't connect to people you don't reach out to. Whatever you want in life is in someone, you have to pursue that person. If you want knowledge, you have to connect to someone. You want mentorship, connect to someone. Whatever you want in life requires you to connect to someone. When you pray that God should send someone your way to help you, God answers your prayers by placing a name or image of someone in your heart whom you need to connect. But you're expecting that person to come to you. No! You will have to reach out to that person. There is something you have that can get the attention of those you want to connect to.

You connect to people through:

- **Honour:** This is a key that opens the heart of people to you quickly. Whoever you honor will always want you to be around him. Honor is always felt by the heart, that's why you have to be sincere with it. If you pretend about it, you will be discovered. Honor is a seed that has reward. It is the force of honor that will make men to go extra mile to help you. Do you realize that honor is a free gift that God gave you to get whatever you want, reach out to whoever you want to connect to. Honor is a gift in your hand that you can give someone to get whatever you want from them. Get this: *not everyone is equal in your life and therefore, giving and showing honor must be understood as each person's stature requires a corresponding honor.* It's not normal for you to give everyone equal honor in your life. Even among your friends, there is no equality in sharing honor. You need to be wise enough to give extra honor to your friends that deserves it. As you honor people, you're connecting to them.
- **Questions:** Asking is the price for receiving. When you are around those who are ahead of you, what you should do is to ask them questions. This is the key that opens the door to the world of individuals. You must just be sensitive not to waste people's time.
- **Gifts(monetary or materials):** It is this gift that makes room for you, not your gifting as its assumed. What you give install your personality in the heart of people. You cannot be in the right or growing reference group if you're not a giver.
- **Support, Help or Assistance:** When you render support or assistance to someone freely, you have created for yourself an opportunity to always access them. Anyone you give your time, energy and resources to freely will grant you access

to his world. The law of cause and effect will play on you when you first help or assist someone you want for form a reference group with. The effect of it fosters relationship and connection that are strong.

- **Appreciation:** Don't be sycophants. But everyone loves to be appreciated for what they have done. This is a key for consistent access to the heart of people. If you are the kind who always acknowledge people for what they have done in public and it is known to them, you will always have access to them.

Your Difference Needs a Strategic Environment to Thrive

The first step towards success is taken when you refuse to be a captive of the environment you first find yourself in. Your difference needs an environment where it can thrive well. One of the ways to judge whether you are growing and in a conducive growth environment is to discern whether *you are looking forward to what you are doing or looking backward to what you have done*. Elmer Towns taught that, "if our environment is cold, we are cold. If it's hot, we are hot."

What you can do better cannot be needed everywhere. It's so amazing how most people don't put the matters of environment into consideration. You need an environment that:

- can stretch, shift and speed your difference;
- can value and add value to your difference;
- can desire and demand your difference;
- can acknowledge and appreciate your difference;
- can reward your difference.

On consistent basis we need to grow if we want to reach the zenith of our potentials. Your growth sometimes will require you to change your environment. If you want to grow, spend time with great people, visit great places, attending great events, read great books, listen to great tapes.

We can tell the quality of our health, attitude and income by looking at the people around you. You will notice, you start to eat what they eat, talk like they talked, read like they read, think like they think, watch what they watch and dress like they dress. Obviously, these qualities rub on us and influence our differences.

If you're unable to locate any strategic environment that can maximize or grow your difference, then, create one.

Emergence of Difference Makers

Nobody is born a difference maker, they emerged

Changes doesn't come, it emerge! The purpose you have been through all kinds of hell is to emerge. Emergence is when something or someone begins to be known or noticed. It is also when someone comes out of a difficult experience. To emerge means to come out of somewhere or something. It is time for you to emerge. You need to come to the limelight and make a difference at the global scene. There is something in you that can create or make a difference. It is that thing that needs to emerge.

Three Factors Affect Your Emergence

- **People:** Difference making is always connected to people. This people are two kinds - those that will lift you up or announce you, and those that will benefit from you. Every time you want to move ahead, those are the two kinds of people that will come your way. The third kind of people will come up after you emerged, they are the haters, critics and attackers. Never be angry with this kind of people, their presence around your life is a proof that you're truly doing the right thing. How will you draw attention and not draw others things with it? If you draw attention, you have drawn hatred, criticism along with it. You have to know from today, that the purpose of haters and critics is to confirm that you are on the right track. when you emerge, other things ~ criticism, hatred, slandering, enemies, will emerge with you. Your duty is to focus on your task and on the first two kinds of people. Give no attention to the third kind of people. People are ladder that you climb to the top. It takes someone at the top to take you to the top. Your emergence or rising needs some people that can lift you up, recommend you, connect you, give you huge finance, share uncommon success secrets with you. God is the author of relationship. All you need is someone and one day. Until some people see that hidden difference in you, your rising might be affected. You need the eyes of an eagle to identify those God has sent your way to cause your emergence so you can make difference in your world. *When it is time to make difference at stages and seasons of life, you will always need new people, relationship and connection.*
- **Places:** Places are full of worlds and environments. There

are three kinds of places: *the place above you, the place you are now and the place beneath you*. Emergence is connected to placement. Sometimes, you might be inspired to move to another place to start something there or moved to create another branch of what you run somewhere else. There are places before people, but God put people in places. You need to always find out if the places you are will be the environment for your flourishing. Where you are determines who sees you, and those who see you determine the favour that comes into your life.

- **Perspective:** This is connected to your thinking or your point of views. Before you rise in life, your thinking must first rise within you. As God changes you, the way you think has to change. Every change of level requires change of thinking. When you are about to emerge, you have to get God in alignment with what He is doing in your life. Always change your thinking because if you go to the next level with the old mentality, you will be limited. God will change your thinking before He promotes you. To increase your capacity internally, you must change how you think and your actions. It's essential for you to stop thinking, can I, and starts thinking, how can I. New people and places will require new points of view.

Factors That Improve Your Life

1. **Mentoring:** Your best friend is comfortable with your past; your mentor is comfortable with your future. When friends see what you do right, your mentor see what you do wrong. The word *mentor* is actually the name of a man. Odysseus the Greek warrior employed a teacher called *Mentor* to

train his child. It was from this man that the word was coined out. Mentoring is accelerated wisdom. The purpose of mentoring is to accelerate you. It speed up people's growth to maturity, increase their desires to learn and excel, it assists them to correctly recognize and develop their gifts and talents. The purpose of mentoring is to take success beyond significance. The truth is that you can have mentors in every areas of your life. Carefully select people that will add wisdom to your life in every aspect of life. Mentoring comes by teaching through listening and reading.

2. **Modelling:** We improve our lives by accessing different models that are relevant to what we want to do. This is imitating what is done elsewhere. If you want excellence in your life or work, you need to recognize those who are excellent in their life or work, observe them and imitate them. Modeling is getting wisdom through observation. There are people who have done what you want to do, follow their track, watch them, take them as your model. The issue with some people is that they want to create new things. But you must realize that there is no new things on earth. Every new idea is a blends of existing ones fashioned into one. Every organization should have a model they look up to. And you must know how to change models quickly when the needs arises. Some great organizations, companies, churches have lost relevance because their models are not updated. You must know how to adjust and restructure when you perceive the need for it. If you want progress, avoid rigidity to assemble and assimilate new models.
3. **Memory:** You need a memory where visions, goals, and plans can be stored and recalled anytime it is needed. What

comes to mind when you see *memory* – brain, computer, phone,? Memory is more than that. You must have a memory for your life, organization, company, ministry, team, etc. Memory here refers to a record book where you keep details. If you save it on your computer, what's the tendency that you won't lose it when it gets damaged? Most people believe their brain can stored up every information, of course, yes. But can you recall all from your brain anytime you need it? No! The smallest ink is better than the sharpest brain. God created your memory; you can also create different memories. Books are memories where all ideas, information, visions, plan are recorded. Ensure you have a notepad(s) that can serve as your memory.

Difference Makers of the 21st Century: Mentors or Models

We have too many mentors but few models.

There is difference between mentoring and modeling. Whatever we cant model, we cannot teach it. Those we need today are those who will serve as models to us not just mentors. Unfortunately, most people knows how to change mentors but dont know how to change models. Some of those who are called mentors are not modeling what they teach. Speaking is different from doing. The demand of this century is not for those who transfer knowledge through speaking but through what they do. Mentorship is listen to what I say, modeling is watch what I do. I have seen many who have been acknowledged as great mentors but poor models. Many marriage counselors have knowledge, ideas and are full of marriage principles, but have crumbled home.

Models are those you watch to see how things are done. It is hard to improve when you have no one but yourself to follow. If you want to become the person you desired to be, you need to find models who are ahead of you to learn from. You can discover mentors from books but not models. If you don't have models, you will ultimately be going in circles. Everyone will become like the people you admire and the models you follow. It takes a model to produce a model. Every model is already a mentor because, modeling is teaching with practicality. You can teach what you know but can only produce who you are. As you grow and rise in life, you must develop the skill of paying less attention to what men say to watching what they do. Teaching people (mentoring) what to do is easy. Showing them (modeling) is much more difficult. We need mentors but our greatest need in this century is models.

You must not just be a mentor, you should be a model at the same time. It is good to be knowledgeable but better to lead by examples. Every mentor should model what they mentor. You need to do things that will help people to learn by watching you more than they learn by hearing you. The most important lessons of your life should not be in any text or lectures but in the example of your life. Your life is the best training centre where people can learn. Don't teach humility and be proud, don't teach unity and be rebellious.

Agents of Change

Every man changes but only few create changes.

Seasons change, people change, places change, philosophy change, answers change – everything and everyone change except one: God.

Change is constant and needed! But whenever there is need for change some individual needs to arise as the agents of change to create and cause the change. There is no change in system that is automatic. Some people took the decision to stand out – these are the difference maker. The difference you desire, visualize in your home, community, company, organization, church will not happen by itself. You will create it. So amazing that you are the person you are longing for to create the difference.

Change is disruptive. You cannot bring about change without bringing disruption to existing structures. Change challenges institutions, organizations, ideas and philosophies. It ask the questions that makes traditionalists and conservatives uncomfortable. The truth is that no good idea go unchallenged and if you are going to break into next level, it will cost you something. There is a cost for the next level you desire. There are two factors you have to make a change which are – NOW and YOU. As a difference maker, you must understand that you have „now „ and „you to make the change you want. There are certain qualities that indicate agents of change. They are listed below:

1. Agents of change reject the status quo but embraces change. They long to create what they visualize within them that can make difference in their world. Whenever you are not satisfied with the status quo, you have been qualified an agent of change. You only need to make decision and act!
2. Agents of change do not accept the ordinary. They resists the trends of the past and seek to create a new one.
3. Agents of change make decisions that will revolutionize everyone and everything. They can inspire many to step into decisions and create a change that will bring about a difference. Somebody or some people need to make a

decision before change can be created.

4. Agents of change know how to position themselves strategically for the change that is coming. They understand that positioning is the preparation for what is about to happen next.
5. Agents of change are risk takers and catalysts for change. They are never comfortable and will not until they accomplish the desires of their heart.

Every Man is a World; Therefore, Know the World Around You

People in your life represent a world. Each individual has a realm or sphere of influence they access easily. Whenever God wants to move you into growth and add more influence into your life, He introduces you to a new relationship. What you need is not only to understand the individual's name but the world that person represents. Most people are so blind that all they know about people is their name, but don't know the world they belong. The career, passion, knowledge, gifts of everyone indicates the world they belong. Each friend represents a world to us, it is by meeting the true friend that a new world is born.

You are a world! Your world is a reflection of your inner self. The way you dress now, the condition of your mode of vehicle, your wardrobe, and kitchen is a reflection of your inner self.

Your world is a reflection of your knowledge because if you know more you wouldn't be where you are. So, you need to learn how to acquire and transmit knowledge. Our responsibility is to move people from one level to another and that can only come by knowledge, and that comes in several ways.

Your world is a reflection of your wisdom. Your wisdom is

always on display. When you pray to God for wisdom, one of the ways God gives you wisdom is to introduce you to an individual or new relationship, a new relationship is then added to your life. Anytime a new relationship is added to your life, it is not about the individual but their world. Therefore, when you come into somebodys life, it is imperative that you start examining their world. When you begin to see the world of other people, your answer to your prayers for wisdom has been answered.

Your world determines the difference you will make. No man can create a difference in the world if you dont know the world you represent. Every world requires a next level mentality. Here are five major areas your world will require you to touch.

Next Level Mentality

You are possessed with the next level mentality in your world when:

- You change your thinking consistently – Instill
- You change your habit – Increase
- You change your talking – Improve
- You change your priority – Install
- You change your dressing – Invest

You Have An Instinct

You and I have instinct. Instinct is the natural ability to know what is not learned. As long as you have it, you can make a difference. Many of those who made a difference in their world were people who use their instinct. Your instinct needs growth engines.

Three Growth Engines of Instinct

1. Trust it.
2. Acknowledge it.
3. Yield to it.

With your instinct, you can create a difference, even, when you don't have the needed knowledge or skill to create it. If you have the instinct for anything, you can hire the intellect and the skill to do it.

Do These Consistently

Think Differently, Talk Differently and Do Things Differently

Think Differently: The world doesn't recognize common men but uncommon. All difference makers belong to the class of uncommon men. If you want to be different from everyone in your world, community, society, church, family, company or organization, you must ensure you think differently regularly. It takes a different thinking to produce a different result. Whatever kind of difference you want to create will start from your thinking. I have heard emphasis on the need to think right, but I want to tell you not just to think right, but learn to think differently – think high, think years ahead, think outside the box, think beyond the existing structures and systems. What will differentiate your vision, leadership, organization, and you from others is your ability not just to have a different thought but to think differently. *There is distant space between thinking a different thoughts and thinking differently.*

Talk Differently: The power of life and death is in the tongue. It is not just psychological but spiritual also to say that your life is

in your mouth. The first time words was spoken in the bible was for creation not for communication. You are expected to use your mouth to create whatever you want in your life. When Jesus was nailed on the cross, His hands and legs had been nailed but his mouth was left untouched. It was by the words of His mouth that He declared „it is finished. After you start thinking differently, your talking must change. In moments of crisis, when others are complaining, talk differently from what others are saying. The Bible says “when men say there is a casting down, you shall say there is a lifting up.” This passage shows us that when everyone begins to speak based on the present circumstances; you should begin to speak based on your expectations. Notice, when men SAY there is a casting down, you shall SAY there is a lifting up.”

It essential you watch the way you talk because words are simply inner-images transferring devices. When I say, “cat,” I transfer an image from the inside of me to you. You dont sit there thinking “C-A-T.” You see an inner picture or image of cat. If I say “white cat,” I have modify that image. So , when we speak, we are actually exchanging pictures. Our speaking has the capacity to express our thinking and as well influence it.

Do Things Differently: There is a huge chasm between embarking on a different project and doing a project differently. Most people know how to do different things – they embark on projects often as they feel like. But only few know how to do things differently. Anyone who knows how to do different things, multiple projects without putting into consideration the touch of difference in all they do cannot advanced and be pursued. People will even pursue a man who knows how to do one thing but can do them differently every time. As long as you know how to think and talk differently, then, you can always do things with new approaches. Moses parted the Red Sea with his

rod but Joshua parted River Jordan with the Ark. Elijah parted the River Jordan with his cloth but Jesus didn't need to part the river, He walked on it. You see each of these people doing the same thing but employing new approaches to getting it done. If your company or organization is in an environment where you have rivals, you know that competition is the order of the day for all of you. What will differentiate you from them is your ability to do things differently from others in a way that is obvious to your customers or clients. Ensure you consistently change your approaches, systems and models to meet up with this part. Position yourself systematically that people will pay or reward you for what you do differently.

Different Laws

There are universal laws, spiritual laws and moral laws. These laws are not the same as they are even different from each other. This purpose of this is to show us that there are differences in laws and when they are broken, you will experience the consequences. We will only discuss the ten laws. They are more than these numbers but our focus is just to get the ones that relevant to us as difference makers.

The Law of Substitution: It says your mind can lay hold on only one thought at a time, positive or negative. You can substitute a positive thought for a negative thought whenever you choose. You can apply this law by deliberately thinking about something positive whenever you want to cancel out a thought or feeling that makes you angry or unhappy. If as a Christian, you find yourself always having pornographic images in your mind regularly, this is the law you apply. How? Whenever, you come to your consciousness after being lost in imagination for

minutes, you should begin to think about another thing. Doing that will indirectly inform your subconscious mind that you are not interested in it again. What you do in essence is to substitute that wrong thoughts or imagination with the one you want by thinking about another thing.

The Law of Habit: This states that any thought or action that you repeat over and over again will eventually become your new habit. Whatever habit you want to change will work when you repeat a thought or action consistently that can yield that habit.

The Law of Emotion: It states that a stronger emotion will dominate and override a weaker emotion, and which ever emotion you concentrate on grows and becomes stronger. If you withdraw your mental energy from a person or situation that makes you sad or angry by refusing to think about it, the emotion connected with that situation dies away. The application of this law will work for those who have broken relationship. The truth is that love can be killed. How?

You stop thinking about that person. You do this by calling the law of substitution here to liberate you. Whenever the thought of the person comes to your heart, replace the thought by thinking on another thing.

The Law of Belief: This informs that whatever you believe with convictions becomes your reality. It therefore means that whatever you dont desire to be your reality, don't believe it.

The Law of Attraction: This law says you are a living magnet. You will invariably attract into your life the people, ideas, opportunities and circumstances in harmony with your dominant thought. Your dominant thought is what you think about regularly, and this mainly symbolizes your desire. Your desires will attract everything else that will be in your life.

The Law of Difference: The law of difference states that you

will be pursued based on your difference and it in turn determines your success, income, etc.

The Law of Authority: It states that the authority you have over you determines your provision, protection and promotion

The Law of Reward: This law states that you set the level of the good things that come your way.

The Law of Logic and Rational: If its true over here, the law says it is true over there. For example, God didn't make one species of cow, he makes lots of cattle. God made various species of the cat family. He didn't make one insect, but different one. So, the law says God is generous. So, the law says if God is generous to some people over there, He will be generous to some us over here. Whenever we are in lack, we violated this law.

The Law of Kind: Everything has their kind. If you want a certain kinds of kind, you have to breed in the class of that kind. When a mosquito and mosquito come together, they dont produce a cow. Kinds attract kind, kinds produces a kind. If you are poor that means you breed in the poverty kind.

Maximizing Your Difference for Greatness

We have established that God makes great. But you must realize that He has deposited in you what will make you great - *your Difference*. What will make you great is within you. What makes greatness is the recognition of difference. You can never be great if you don't know the difference that lies within you. You don't become great by knowing your difference. You become great by putting it to work. Unfortunately, many people have discovered their uniqueness from others. They already know what they can do better in life but are not making any move towards the direction of their discovery. The discovery of your gifting, knowledge will not make you great by itself. You need to demonstrate it. Nobody knows you are gifted until you demonstrate it. The world rewards difference but will never reward what you know but what you do. Even, if you have knowledge, until you transfer it, display it or put it to work either to start something or create something, you will not be paid for it. Nobody becomes great through what they know, but what they do.

Greatness has no limit. God has never created the limit for greatness for anyone – individual creates their limit. Greatness is usually perceived by the difference you perceive.

Solomon said “I communed with my heart, saying ‘I have attained greatness...” You have to do something to attain greatness.

What is greatness? It's the quality of your personality. It's a presence that cannot be resisted. Greatness has a presence which can be felt everywhere it goes. Great men do not announce themselves when they get to a place – they are recognized. You can inherit wealth, position, a house but you can't inherit greatness. Whenever God wants to make a man great, He gives such individual something he can use to draw greatness to his life. God doesn't give greatness, He only makes great. He makes people great when they use what He has given them. Nobody is born great neither is any born ordinary. But we have great and ordinary individuals in our world today. The similarity between the great and ordinary people is that God gives each of them something. The difference between them is that the great use what they are given by God to attract greatness into their lives while the ordinary are expecting a miracle to make them great – they lack the initiatives to use what God has given them. Let's identify what God gives people to make them great.

Greatness comes through Vision

Vision creates greatness! Vision is your ability to see from within you what you can be, have and do. There is no man who was born with a vision. Every Visionary got vision as they grow in life. Vision, I don't mean an opening into the supernatural, but a mental picture or an insight. Vision is your ability to open

your inner eyes to see through your imagination what you can become, what you can do (start, create, build) and what you can have (possess). Many people have prayed that God should make them great, some others have a strong desires for it. The answer to your prayers or desires is that God will inspire you to create your business, build big organization, create employment opportunities for people. For some others, God will inspire them to start a ministry or church while some will only be inspired to convene an empowerment programme, conference or seminar to impart and bless lives.

How to Get a Vision for Greatness

The key to your greatness is in that thoughts or pictures of what to do or create that comes to your heart regularly. When it's said that your greatness is within you: it simply suggest the fact that there is a thought or picture in your heart that suggest you can and should do something. Thoughts are things. Every thought is pregnant with an idea. Every great achievement in life begins with a thought. Every man-made object, equipment, resources was once a thought in the mind of someone. Magnificent buildings, picturesque edifice today that are complimented were ones the thoughts in the heart of someone. That thought, idea, innovation within you is the greatness you can and should birth in your world. I didn't know earlier that *every God says comes in form of an idea*. Some people may argue this fact - but the truth is that what some claimed God told them to do and they did which launched them into greatness has been done by another man who didn't say "God says" in the past and also yielded greatness. Most of those who did great things in the past concluded that they only responded to the ideas in their heart. Everything you

will ever do in life will come to you inform of an idea or thoughts. Therefore, visions come through thoughts, ideas or pictures in your heart. It's on rare occasions that great men received what they did through dreams or supernatural visions.

How I Got the Vision for Ministry Years Ago

I remember few years ago, it came to my heart to organize a meeting with few young men, I yielded to that thought in my heart and I sent a message to all the young men I could access, of course, few came, many didn't come but we held the meeting, it went well. Another time, a thought came to my heart to organize a retreat, I did. I was at a programme with a friend of mine when I received the name of our ministry. But it came as a thoughts in my heart and I know this is God speaking to me. May I ask, can the devil tell a man to start a ministry? Can the devil or human part of man give a man the name of a ministry? I don't think that can be. If God had placed the thoughts in my heart to go start a business, I mean, if the idea I had to organize programmes was to start a business, I would have done so. I know my world that I stand for Ministry, Leadership, Knowledge and Wisdom. Therefore, the world I belong determines the thoughts that will come to my heart. We've established that your difference creates the flow of ideas and thoughts to you. Another man who belongs to the world of business will always have the flow of ideas on the kind of business to start or create. While a ministry person is thinking of how to reach out to people - how to get across to people, a business man will be thinking of how to get, make, and increase money. Someone who belongs to the world of music can't be thinking of how to organize retreats or summits. Such will be thinking of how to release an album, get to studio,

organize a concert, etc. Two people who are together don't think the same thing and do not have same idea. The reason for such is their difference. Thoughts, ideas are channels through which God gets vision across to us. Vision may look alike but there is difference in every vision. What some people actually call vision is nothing but imitation. Imitation is not bad. Paul even told the church to imitate him just as he imitates Christ. The secret is that imitation doesn't make great. It only makes you second to the person you are imitating. It's vision that makes great.

Warning: If God doesn't lead you to start a ministry or church, don't do.

Greatness Comes through Prosperity, Philanthropy and Giving

There are three channels of prosperity:

1. Prosperity Comes by Inheritance.
2. Prosperity Comes by Creativity.
3. Prosperity Comes by Productivity.

God will give you great riches and wealth so you can use it to attain greatness. The front liners of greatness across the globe are philanthropist. Rich men have money, great men gives it out. Giving is one of the ways through which God announces people to their world. I have said, God doesn't gives money, He gives riches and wealth. God will give you riches and wealth so you can use it to draw greatness to your life. You can be very rich but not great. Greatness comes when as a rich person you share what you have with others. Great men are those who have the welfare of the people in heart. The money you have

is to draw greatness to your life. The fact that you have huge money doesn't mean you will be great automatically. You have to use what God has given you to facilitate greatness to your life. There is nothing like the gift of greatness neither does God gives greatness. He only makes great and will do that with you by inspiring you to share your riches and wealth. Your greatness is known through the numbers of people you have raised, people you have helped, those who know or have heard about you. It's time you begin to mobilize people and resources to go to the prison, visit orphanages, home and feed the old widows, help the speech, sight and auditory impaired. What is most important of these is what God want you to use what you have to attain greatness. There is greatness in numbers. Greatness is connected to numbers. One secret I want you to apply is to join a team of philanthropists who are powerful, influential and progressive. When you connect with those who are going to the top, you will get to the top.

The Bible says "a mans gift makes room for him and brings him before great men." This is not your gifting or talents. It's your generosity. It is what you give like money, cars, houses that makes room for you and bring you before great men. Whenever God wants to connect you to great people, He puts in your hand what you can give out as a gift that they will cherish. When the heart of any man is closed to you, the key to open his heart is a gift. Most people are going from place to place to connect with men instead of them to seek out a precious gift they can give such people. Great men are givers already, therefore, those who are like them knows how to easily connect to them. If you want to be in the association of great men, it's your giving that will open the door easily for you. Don't go around great men seeking what to get from them. You should be the one seeking what to

give them.

To be great: give scholarship, donate huge money to individuals or communities, feed the poor, build schools for your community, renovate classrooms and hospitals in your city and so on. That's how to become great. Greatness is not that you are blessed but that you are a blessing.

When I hear what a man desire to do in life with his money or resources, I can tell if such will be great or not. Have you heard someone said, "I want to be rich so I can build houses across the continents of the world." Others are filled with thoughts of living a comfortable life, thinking of how to reserve enough money for their children in bank. All these plans are good but will not make you great. Greatness is not focusing on yourself or your need. It is focusing on the life of others. Selfish individuals can be rich and wealthy but cant be great. It's a wrong assumption to equate wealth to greatness. If you don't use what you have to bless, provide, help, feed people around you and beyond your physical reach, you cannot be great. Popularity or fame is not greatness. Many notorious guys are popular, known by everyone in a city or state. Will you call them great?

Greatness Comes through Giftings

Every man is gifted! I do not refer to the spiritual gifts but the natural ability given to every individual to do exceptional things. Look within you to realize what is in you that will make you great. The reason your gifting are not sought after is because you have not mature them. There is nothing like the gift of greatness. But God has given you a gift through which when put to work He can make you great through it. You gifting or talent itself cannot make you great without you putting it to

work. Like I said earlier, greatness is not when you are blessed but when you become a blessing. You are already blessed with your gifts but you have to use it to be a blessing to others. We've established that we don't have same gifting. There is a unique gift you have that can uplift you to the acme. Interpretation of dream took Joseph to the palace but dancing took Esther to the palace. It was David's ability to play instruments that took him to the palace. You don't need another great man's gifting to attain greatness because all you need to climb to the zenith are already deposited in you. It is lack of exposure and ignorance that makes people trivialize their gifts. If you have knowledge, why not put to work by organizing a teaching class or program for people. If you don't create the future you want, you endure the future you get. You create your future in the direction of your gifting. If you are gifted with writing, why don't you start writing today. Until you begin to put your gift to work, forces of progress will not assemble to recognize and acknowledge it. You must understand that nobody looks for raw gifting but mature ones. It takes time to mature your gift through constant practice, diligence, acquisition of skills and so on. Your gifting needs skills which will be acquired with time by you.

You gifting needs a style which you will develop with time. There's nothing like the gift of skills or style. You acquire skills and develop style.

Gifting are never the same. There can be many people with same kind of gift but it will be different from one another. The reason is because gifting has a specialization which is determined by the skills, style, knowledge or experience of the gifted individual. Whether you like it or not, your skill, style, knowledge and experience will influence your gift. Since it is not possible for everyone to have the same skill, style, knowledge

or experience, then, it is obvious that there will be differences in same gifting. The skill of your gifting is determined by your practice or preparation. The style of it will be imparted through observation by those you watch, read or listen to. The knowledge of your gifting comes through your instinct, teachers or trainers while the experience of it is received through daily life events.

Have you heard of the priority of gifting? There are cases where an individual is multi gifted or highly gifted in many areas. Such a phenomenon must know how to prioritize gifting. Jack of all trades, master of non. You must intentionally identify the gifts you want to concentrate on. The secret to attain greatness is that you can build your gifting in all areas but ensure you are known with one particular gift majorly. We are in a world where people pursue an individual for one thing not everything.

Therefore, select one gift you want to be known for and create a space with pace for it.

Greatness Comes through Wisdom

God will give you wisdom to attain greatness. Wisdom is always on display every day, everywhere and every time. Anytime a man prays for wisdom concerning something, the answer to such prayers is that God will open his understanding to watch something around him or hear a statement that will trigger wisdom in him. There is general wisdom and specific wisdom. The ignorance of many is that they are not specific with their prayers for wisdom. When you prayed to God to give you wisdom, God would have loved to ask you, "what kind of wisdom?" The wisdom for business is different from the wisdom for marriage. The wisdom for Ministry is not the wisdom for diplomacy. God needs you to ask for the kind of wisdom you want. Solomon was

very specific with the kind of wisdom he wanted. It's better to ask for wisdom for leadership of the nation, wisdom to build a godly home, wisdom for reign in your field.

It is the kind of wisdom that you have that will make people to pursue you. Wisdom can be discovered through two channels: *speech and sight*. You can either express (speak) or display (show) wisdom. Some people can show wisdom through gigantic projects while some others can only speak or share wisdom. The latter often lacks the initiatives to take action, but, there are some prominent personalities that can both share and show wisdom. The wisdom of Ahitophel is expressed through speaking. The wisdom of Bezalel for artistic work is displayed through construction. Ahitophel might not be able to put wisdom into action, but can speak wisdom that when put to action can create indelible results. Bezalel on the other hand might not be able to speak or share wisdom, he might even be a poor communicator, but he knows how to put wisdom on display. He could create things that perfectly reflect wisdom.

There are some rare individuals that can both speak and show wisdom. Such was Solomon whose wisdom was seen by queen Sheba. The bible says "the queen saw the wisdom of Solomon." Obviously, wisdom can be seen. The infallible organization of officers in Solomon's palace was a display of wisdom. If you have read the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastics, you will see how wisdom is coded on paper. Preacher Solomon vastly encoded ancient truth that are eternally relevant, ubiquitously applicable. There is no century laws or principles that can nullify the wisdom shared by Solomon. Obviously, God made Solomon great through the wisdom given him.

You need to ask yourself, what wisdom do I have? If you have the wisdom for business, that is what will make you great. If you

have the wisdom for ministry, that is what will make you great. If you have the wisdom for building or construction, that's what will make you great. If you have the wisdom for politics, that is what will make you great. Get this: *you will always have wisdom towards what you like doing.*

Your Difference Cannot Be Maximized Until You Do Something

You don't maximize your difference by knowing it, but by doing something. Do you realize that what you accomplish easily can be mount Everest to another man. You will always have wisdom towards what you can do best. Therefore, don't sit down expecting a miracle to happen. Miracle happens when you act in correspondence with your faith. Take action, make a move and do something. Don't wait for something big to occur. Start where you are with what you have and that will always lead you into something greater. If you think you are too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito. Many people are waiting on God when God is waiting on them. But they failed to realize that our God is a moving God. The first time the Holy Spirit was introduced in the Bible, He was moving. Don't wait on God doing nothing. Move, take action because that's what God is waiting for you to do. God will never join a static chariot, He joins progressive, moving individuals. Until you move, nothing will move.

Your Choice is in Your Power

No man can choose his parent, events of daily life, birth date and death date, birth nationality, etc. but there are choices we can make on regular basis. Human beings have within them the power to make choices. You are where you are today because of the choices you made in the past and where you will be in future will be determined by the choices you make today.

Choices You Can Make and Change

1. **Your Focus Is Your Choice:** You are responsible for what you give your attention to. Your focus will create your feelings and whatever you are feeling is produced by your focus. Everyone is empowered to choose what they give their focus to. Your focus is your personal decision and you can stop, take time to change your focus. Whatever gets your attention will get your focus. Attention creates your focus, therefore, choose what you attend to and change what you attend to if need be. You can never be today what you were yesterday if you had changed your attention yesterday. What you will be and where you will be tomorrow is an offspring of what and where you give your attention to today. If you don't like the direction of your life, redirect your thinking to another direction you like.
2. **Your Decision Is Your Choice:** As long as you have a will, you can make a decision. The difference between you and success is your decision. It is decision that triggers actions. Every indecisive person can never go anywhere. No decision, no destination. A man may have a vision,

faith that match the vision, grace to accomplish it, if he doesn't make the quality decision to step out, nothing will happen. We are skilled in vision-factor, planning-factor, organizing factor, etc., but we need to now learn the decision-making factor. God will never descend to decide for you. It's your duty to align yourself with what He tells you to do by making decision to act. The connecting link between vision and action is decision. Decision is a space and pace creator. It is a force that regulates all the systems of the body to rise to accomplish an assigned or proposed task. When a man stands up from bed, it is because he decided to. When you sit at the dining table to eat, it is because you decided to eat. It is your decision to go to work daily. If you have habitually cultivated the habit of decision making on routine events of life, then, you must understand that you have the choice to make decision to get your vision done. Nothing will move until you move, but you cannot move until you make decision.

3. ***The Change You Make Is Your Choice:*** After birth, every change that will ever happen to a man will be from him. If you want to grow in physical stature, there are food you eat that can facilitate that. Although, I understand that human genes are responsible for that also. But there are food that either makes a body to grow taller or fatter. Every aspect of human life can be changed. Organizations, companies, churches, homes, nations, states, communities can be changed. The change will not come from outside – inside but from inside- outside. Whatever you can tolerate, you can never change. Until you get angry with something, you cannot change it.
4. ***You Relationships Are Your Choices:*** The people in your life

are those you permitted. As you grow and know, you get to discern that certain people are not needed in your life. The purpose of relationship is to add to you. Whenever God want to add anything to your life or give you anything, He will send a relationship that can deliver that thing to you. Some relationship are authored by God to be eternal while the others are seasonal. Criticism, hatred, slandering, disagreements and problems are catalysts God uses to get us out of relationship that have expired. Many relationship we keep often times are hindering the next relationship to come in. relationships are blessings in shadows. Relationships in your life represent blessings. Relationships are keys that opens the doors to access every world. The purpose of relationships is for **provision, protection and promotion**. The dynamics of relationship reveals that as levels of relationship are not equal so their reward will not be equal. Never force any relationship on yourself. You have the right and power to get unwanted and unworthy relationships out of your life whenever you sense the need for it. It is your choice!

5. **Your Appearance Is Your Choice:** The responsibility of what to wear, how to wear, when and where to wear it lies in your choice. Religious dressing prescription is not by force. It is a code that you chose to subscribe to. God doesn't put anyone under the bondage of dressing. Men do! We are never given any standard of a particular dressing in the bible, all the modes of dressing we have are man-made. Codes for dressing are choices of religious leaders – some to distinguish their religion from the others, while others for distinguishing denominations or organizations. All you put on your body are what you have the choice over. Your

choice should always inspire you to embrace excellence in appearance. Even if you attend a church where they gave codes, it is still your choice to abide by it. Therefore, choose to appear well and reflect the glory of God.

6. **Your Education Is Your Choice:** The level you want to attain in education is your choice. Funny! Some people are waiting on God to tell them courses to enroll for. I have heard some said they will never further their studies until God tells them to do so. This is disgusting... why will you wait on God to tell you to do man's stuff? If you have a diploma, a degree, PhD, all is your choice. No man can go beyond the level of his aspiration. The terminal of your aspiration is the limit you created yourself. It is not lack of capacity that made you stopped at that level of education, it is your choice. You can still acquire more degree if you choose to. Therefore, make a choice today to enroll for professional courses, go for your masters degree, pursue that PhD, etc.
7. **Your Career Is Your Choice:** You got employed in that job because you chose to work there. The course you studied at the university was basically your choice. If you do not have interest in your career, you can change it. Nobody should be involved in a career that doesn't give him or her personal enjoyment and fulfillment. You should enjoy your career and not endure it.
8. **Your Character Is Your Choice:** Do you have integrity, humility, sincerity, trust, loyalty, etc.? it is what you chose. There are some people who cant but always be punctual. Why do individuals find it difficult not to keep appointments with others? I have seen leaders who easily tell lies and deceive people? A friend told me one day, „how he influenced

someone not to invite a particular leader and minister to their meeting. – I thought, if with all you have done, some other people have done same to you, then, you will be nowhere to be reckoned with. All these are character deficit, but it was their choice. They chose to live that kind of life.

9. ***Your Team Is Your Choice:*** You have the right to appoint people who will serve in your board, team and councils. Always ensure you appoint individuals to their strength zones. Fix them where they have the strongest ability. In the matter of choosing people who will serve in your team, always consider these three Cs: ***character, competence and chemistry***. Don't permit anyone to cunningly force you to include them in your team, choose those that your instinct picks based on the three Cs.
10. ***Your Belief Is Your Choice:*** Everyone chooses what he believes. Every man believes something. Even the atheists believe something. They atheist believe that there is no God – it is a belief! You are entitled and empowered to choose who and what to believe. It is possible for you to believe what people says but don't trust their character. You will eventually become what you believe. You are where you are today because of what you believe. Somebody said something to you and you chose to believe it. Someday, you will believe somebody and that day will decide what you become the rest of your life. You become a Christian because you are convinced of the Spirit and you chose to believe that conviction of your heart which prompted you to believe and confess Jesus as your lord. Never believe the wrong thing in your life. It is the prophecy that you believe that will come to pass. If you don't want any words or prophecy to come to pass in your life, don't believe it.

How you terminate a belief is to declare with your mouth that you do not believe it. Anything you speak against, you cannot believe it. Period!

11. **You Thinking Is Your Choice:** The ancient wise man said in his proverb, “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.” It is the man that does the thinking. Whatever you dont think cant take over you. God directs thoughts to the heart of men, same with the devil, the dwelling and direct attention of man on those thoughts makes it thinking. Thinking is a thought that has been given attention. Why is thinking a choice? Majorly because, you will have to give your focus to a thought to make it a think. A thought can come to your heart but when you dont believe it attention you wont think about it. Obviously, you choose what you think about. When a thought or idea comes to mind, but failed to think about it, then, that thought will fade away from your heart and another will come.
12. **Your Habit Is Your Choice:** Human habits are so powerful. Habits are more powerful than desires. It is Gods easiest way to help you succeed. You change your habit by changing your actions. As long as you have power to stop an action and start another, then, you have power over your habits. There are good habits and bad ones. Both are products of regular actions. Your habit is a choice because you choose what you do regularly.

How to Accelerate a Vision

Two things that accelerate visions are:

1. Communication

2. Connection

The efficacy of Communication – *Do the following:*

- Communicate the vision
- Communicate the deadline
- Communicate the challenges ahead
- Communicate the opportunities
- Communicate the roles
- Communicate the reward

For Connection:

- Connect with people at knowledge level
- Connect with people at skill level
- Connect with people at thinking level
- Connect with people at finance level
- Connect with people at status/influence level
- Connect with people at vision level
- Connect with people at value level
- Connect with people at gift level

Strategic Positioning

- Position yourself for partnership
- Position yourself for influence
- Position yourself for leadership
- Position yourself for connection
- Position yourself for change
- Position yourself for opportunities
- Position yourself for growth

Seven Kinds of Lack You Must Deal With

1. Lack of finance (money)
2. Lack of knowledge
3. Lack of wisdom
4. Lack of quality relationship
5. Lack of job
6. Lack of sound health
7. Lack of skills

For lack of job, if you are unable to find one, create one.

You Are Different

As a Believer, You Are Different In the World

Stephen R. Covey said *“we are not human beings on a spiritual journey but a spiritual being on a human journey.”* We have the natural man and the spiritual man. Every man who is not a Christian is a natural man. This sounds ridiculous, right! Because, you think, what about the herbalist, psychics, necromancers, diviners, etc., are they not spiritual beings? According to the bible, they are natural man. Only those who have believed and confessed Jesus are spiritual in God’s sight.

Every Christian has God as his Father. You are God’s children and as such, you are different from everyone who is not a believer in the world. God is not the Father of our human flesh, but the Father of our spirits. He is God to everyone in the world but is both God and Father to every believer. What a privilege you have to have God as your Father.

There is a life in every believer which can never be found in

a worldly person or unbelievers. That life is the God-kind of life... Zoe. This is the life that was imparted to your spirit when you believed in Jesus. While everyone in the world has bios and psuche, all believers have an additional life which they receive from God. And that life is the eternal life inside of you. Eternal life is not the life you will live in heaven but the life you live on earth now. It is wrong to assume that the life we will live after death is eternal life. No! Eternal life is the life of God which He put into your spirit when you were saved. He wants you to live his life here on earth. Therefore, when you move on earth, you must develop a consciousness that there is something inside of you which is not created with any man; it is only imparted at your rebirth. All Christians have bios, psuche and zoe but everyone in the world who hasn't known the Lord have only bios and psuche. Glory to God, you are different!

Another difference is that you have the Person of God inside of you. The person of God refers to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Most Christian believes that they have only the Holy Spirit within them. They didn't know that the presence of the Spirit of God within them is also the presence of Christ and the Father. Paul said *"I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me..."* You have to come to the understanding that Christ lives in you. Most people only know that they are in Christ because they bible says, *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation..."* but they have not come to the zenith of truth that Christ is resident within them. If you know you are in Him, you have to know, He is in you also. John said, *"By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit."* As long as the spirit of God is in you, the Father is in you.

All Christian are mobile temple where God-head dwells. When you move everywhere, God moves with you. Everywhere you

go, God is there. That is why believers don't need to pray the prayers of Moses that *"if you don't go with us, we will not go."* No, He is already in you, just move on... Everyone in the world may see you as an ordinary person but you must always develop the consciousness that you carry God on your inside. You don't just have the life of God in you; you have God Himself inside of you. So, you are different.

Believers' Difference Galleries

It's essential to understand that Jesus told the signs that will follow those who believe. These signs Jesus talked about doesn't follow everyone on earth. Only believers have it, and as such they are different from every other human on earth. Let's examine a few things believers can do that others cannot do.

1. ***You can cast out devils in Jesus' Name:*** Jesus told his disciples to go into all the worlds to preach the gospel to every creature. Then, He told them the signs that will follow everyone that believe the gospel. If you are a believer, one of the signs that you believed is that you can cast out demons. So amazing that Jesus said *"in My name."* It is not because you have been a believer for long or your commitment to God's service that will empower you to cast out devils. No! It is the name of Jesus that enforces your decree. The book of Philippians informs us that *"God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name that is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow..."* when you call the name of Jesus, every devil must bow. The worldly or unbelievers can't cast out devils in His name. Why? It is because they have not believed in

the name. The name of Jesus can't be effective on the lips of unbelievers. That's why the seven sons of Sceva were accused by the demon possessed man, who are you? The possessed man said, "*Jesus I know, Paul I know...*" the reason he knew Paul wasn't because he was an apostle or specially anointed but because he was a believer. You are different and as such, you can cast out devils. Whenever, you trace devil in your business, family, etc. cast it out in the name of Jesus. Whenever, you are in a place, and you discover that someone has devils in his or her body, you can cast it out in the name of Jesus. Sadly, casting out demons has been seen as the duty of pastors or some individuals, but the truth is that every believer can cast out devils as long as you believe. Do you know there is nothing like deliverance ministry in the New Testament? Yes! This is because every Christian has what can cast out devils – the name of Jesus! Some individuals would have cast out devils but they have been hunted in their mind that if they dare do, the evil spirit will oppress them. This is just one of the tricks of the devil, it is a mirage. Nothing can happen to you after you cast out the devil. As long as you have the spirit of God within you, no demon can possess your body. They can only suggest to your mind and you have the power to resist their suggestions.

2. ***All Believers Can And Should Speak With New Tongues:*** Isn't it glorious to discover that Jesus Himself said those who believe will speak with new tongues. Do you know that tongue first showed up in the gospel book – mark precisely – before it showed up in Acts? Jesus was the first person who talked about tongues. If you are a believer, you should speak with tongues. On the day of Pentecost, it was all

believers present that spoke with tongues including the mother of Jesus. Paul told the Corinthian believers, *"I wish you all spoke with tongues."* You notice he said all. He later said *"I thank my God that I spoke with tongues more than you all."* Do you realize that it was all in the Corinthian church that spoke with tongues? That's how to know a believer. An herbalist can't speak with tongues because, it comes from the spirit man and since his spirit is not alive to God, he can't speak with tongues. As long as you can speak with tongues, you are different. Actually, speaking with tongues is an act of faith... you just respond to the promptings of your spirit and begin to vocalize what comes out of you. It is a spontaneous flow that gushed out of your spirit to your lips. If you have never spoken with tongue before now and you have believed in Jesus, you can do it today. All you need is to pray that God should grant you the utterance of the spirit. After your prayers, begin to say whatever comes to your lips. You may wonder you don't know the meaning... yes! Same with all who speak. Paul said *"he who speaks in a tongue doesn't speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."* When you speak in a tongue, you are speaking mysteries in the spirit. Mysteries are secrets... it is beyond the knowledge and capture of the sense. When most people pray, you hear the repetition of *"do it, do it, do it, do it, do it..."* just because they don't know the next thing to say again. Instead of repeating all these words, why not pray in the tongues... go beyond your mind to your spirit. You are different because, you can pray in tongues, therefore, use what you have. Praying in tongues regularly will edify you and build up your spirit. Tongue is actually

one of the spiritual growth engines that we have to grow ourselves spiritually. Someone may ask, what if I don't speak with tongue, am I not different? Yes you are. But, you have capacity to speak it within you, therefore, use it.

3. **You Can Prophecy:** In the Old Testament, only special kinds of people are empowered to prophesy but in the New Testament all believers can prophesy. There are two aspects of prophecy: *fore telling and forth telling*. Those who have the grace of a prophet can fore tell, but all believers can forth tell. That is when you speak words that flow out of you spontaneously. Paul said, *"I wish you all spoke with tongues, even more that you prophesy, for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues..."* Believers are not to go around telling individuals what will happen next day or week to people. They shouldn't go around predicting events. They are expected to prophesy. They should speak forth words that will comfort people, exhort people and edify people. For example, you can be with a fellow believer who is passing through a tough time, you might not even be aware of the person's circumstances and it comes to your heart to tell the person *"all is well with you this season,"* if you speak it out, you have prophesy. Sometimes, you don't have it in your heart, it is as you speak that those words will be coming. The more you say it, the more you comfort, exhort or edify the person. As long as the spirit of God is within you, you can prophesy.
4. **You Have The Fruits Of The Spirit:** I have established that nobody should see himself in the light of temperament any longer. A believer is different because he can express the nature of the Spirit within him. Have you ever seen a believer who was offended or hated by people, but he still

showed them love? Have you seen someone who used to get angry easily, but suddenly had self-control and became gentle? All these are works of the fruits of the Spirit. Why is it the in the moment of crisis when every other people are not at peace, a believer suddenly have peace within him? It is the fruit of the spirit. A Christian is different because, he has the fruits within him.

You Can't Marry Anyone

Yes! A Christian should not just marry anyone all in the name of love. You should not marry anyone who is not a Christian, someone who doesn't share your belief. It is unfortunate that some people plan to marry an unbeliever thinking they will convert him or her. The truth is you cannot change any body. You are different, and as such, if you marry an unbeliever, you have married another different person. Why should two opposite individuals, people with different nature marry each other? When you want to choose your partner, ensure you choose someone who is a Christian like you. Paul said to the Corinthian believers that *"do we have no right to take along a believing wife?"* He didn't just say a wife but a believing one. No Christian should marry an unbeliever; you should ensure that you marry a believer. Why? It is simply because you are different.

Fact is that:

- **You don't need to be a Christian to be rich:** I have seen Christians who are poor and died in penury. If all you do is to pray that God should make you rich and you don't work, you will be poor. If you work, you will be rich. What we

only discover in scriptures is that “the blessing of the Lord makes one rich and add no sorrow with it.” The blessing that makes one rich will only be at work in your life when you have something you do. If you are productive or creative, you will be rich. Christians should be different! They need to get out of the mentality that when we pray to God we will be rich. Yes! But after, prayer, go and work. I hope you realize that most of the people in our world don’t pray or depend on God to bless them with money. They work! They think! They plan! They strategize! They acquire skills and education! Unfortunately, many Christians in my world and century don’t do these... all they do is to pray. It’s time we change the way we think and view God because He is not a money doubler. Imagine a pastor who told his church members to pray that God should give them money. Funnily enough, they all shouted and prayed peevishly as if God created money. God didn’t create money, man did! And He doesn’t give money but gives ideas. Another weakness is that Christians have been taught to give to God which is good. But if you teach the people to give but failed to teach them to work, think, plan, organize, they will remain poor and die in penury. In our world today, if you don’t understand multiple streams of income, you can’t be rich. Is good to pray, but to your prayers add work, strategy, wisdom, skill, planning, education, etc.

- **You don’t need to be a Christian to get a job:** It’s time we change our approach and live out our difference. Do you realize that Christians are the ones praying that God should provide jobs for them, when, others are creating jobs. Pastors preach constantly that God will provide jobs for Christian graduates as long as they trust on Him which could

be true but not in all cases. Many unemployed graduates who are Christians still go around with their degree seeking jobs and praying with earnest trust, but they have failed to realize that God's plan for them is not to be job seekers but job creators. Our God is a creator who created creative beings. He expects us to put our creativity to work by creating jobs for other people. Instead of praying for jobs, why can't we pray for wisdom to create jobs? The fear of most people is the humble beginning of creating job from the scratch. John Maxwell said "if you know what to do, you will work for them. But if you know why they do it, they will work for you." Truth is we have too many people who know what and how to do things but don't know why they do it. Every creation runs on two things: Mental creation and Physical creation. Everything physical was once in the brain before. Christians should stop praying to God to provide jobs for them but to pray for ideas to create jobs. If you don't have a job, it's because you can create a job and until you change your thinking about getting a job, your creativity can never be alerted. Ministers and leaders should stop telling Christians that God will provide them jobs, but that God wants them to create jobs that He can provide for others. Christians should pray for political and governmental appointments - That's what we need not jobs. It's time we create Enterprises, corporations, business organizations and employ the world people, unbelievers in our companies, and we will get them saved for the Lord. Pastors and Leaders should create jobs for the people they told to pray for job. We need to stop praying about the matters of job provisions and get into job creation. We need to think, make plans to create jobs for people. If

we don't teach Christian to create Enterprises, companies, organizations, they will remain poor and die as servants. All Christians should be taught and get into creating firms that will require them to hire workers. Consultants need to shift in their approach. I see too many people who identified themselves as consultants - they know how to talk but don't know how to do. If you are a consultant, create something. Create jobs for people. It is good to consult for people, but it's better to create what you consult.

- **You don't need to be a Christian to dress well and smell nice:** often, Christians are the ones that put in misfit shirt. They produce bad body odour and will never apply any deodorant. This is not being spiritual but ignorant. Everybody should dress well, look nice and excellent in appearance, smell nice. Nothing stops you from using roll on when you perceive you have body odour whenever you sweat. If your skin is rough, why can't you get a skin nourished cream? Some Christians only dress well to church on Sunday which is good but that's wrong. You should reflect God's glory regularly upon your life through your dressing. Wash your tongue to avoid mouth odour.

Conclusion

The life of a believer is different from every other life. Your visions, actions, speaking, relationship, leadership must reflect your difference. It is disgusting to discover a Christian forges signature, embezzle state funds, etc. such is a kind of expression that doesn't befit your new nature. Nobody can see your new nature physically, but your life style can reflect it. If I am asked, can a believer have unbelievers as friends? I will also ask, can a

believer have unbelievers as co-workers in his workplace? Of course, yes. I don't subscribe to the ideology that says Christians should not relate with unbelievers. This is wrong and not scriptural. Paul said *"I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or the covetous or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of this world."* Imagine Paul said if you would not relate with the people in this world, you will need to go out of this world. No Christian leader should teach his people not to relate with the people of this world. If you don't relate with them, how will you win their soul. I know you are different, but that doesn't mean you should not relate with unbelievers in your workplace. Your difference as a believer should not hinder you from being friendly with everyone in your community or neighborhood. Most Christians are extremely hostile, they don't deal with worldly people, and they don't attend their parties. So sad! God wants you to relate with everyone around you. Your new nature should not stop you from smiling, laughing and eating with worldly people. We need to show love to people – world ones, as this is the only way we can win their soul. You can never win the heart of anyone you consider as your enemy.

God can use anybody to bless you, help and lift you up. He can decide to use a worldly person to get you out of your mess. That is why you need to freely relate with everyone. Your closeness and intimacy with the people will cause them to discover who you really are. You are different, therefore dare to be different!



About the Author

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