

CHANNEL YOUR PASSION/ INTO SPIRITUAL FULFILMENT AND MATERIAL PROSPERITY

Revolutionise your passion and entrepreneurial skills with spiritual treasures, fact and information detailed in *Bible Principles For Greater Business Success*. With **Foreword** by Pastor E. A. Adeboye, the book is an uncommon business literature designed for intending and established entrepreneurs who desire success and want the best for society; applying only God's own principles as written in the Bible.

The Lord in Isaiah 2:17 says, "Come now, and let us reason together." Honour this invitation through *Bible Principles For Greater Business Success*. In Jeremiah 33:3, God gave a warm and inviting command, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you did not know." Jehovah, Most High, want you to draw strength from the insights He will show you in *Bible Principles For Greater Business Success* to help you elevate your ideas and strategies to result in satisfactory outcomes.

Moreover, *Bible Principles For Greater Business Success* will unlock spiritual treasures for entrepreneurs and businesses to continuously be alert to the environment. This expressly make the book indispensable not only now in this season of economic downturn caused by **Covid-19** pandemic, but also in the future in the event of epidemics, deadly diseases and unfortunate incidents that are likely to have devastating effects on business and economies. Only God makes everything to be calm and nice (Psalm 107:29-30). This is what the merciful God obviously planned when He galvanized the world to action on the outbreak of **Corona Virus** pandemic to implement pro-active measures to curb the spread of the disease and bring it under control (Number 23:24).

Mindful of Almighty God's undying mercy for humanity, the author felt moved to commend the world's obedience, outstanding courage and collective effort against the **Covid-19** scourge. He also prayed for individuals, groups, organisations and governments for palliatives distributed to the people to alleviate the harsh effects of lockdown, travel restrictions and social distancing.

Bible Principles For Greater Business Success is also a valuable resource for anger management, spirit of forgiveness and sense of responsibility for the needy. For enquiries and copies, send a text to 08023376018 or email to mikeefunkoya332@gmail.com. It shall be well with you in Jesus name. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "***Get out of your Country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great Nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you will be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you, all families of the Earth shall be blessed.***" (Genesis 12:1-3)

From the above passage of the Scripture, God told Abram to leave where he is stagnated and unsung to a place where he will meet destiny helpers and become fruitful, prospering, flourishing, recognised and celebrated under His protective cover. With such divine commandment, commitment and promise, an entrepreneur should embark on his business start up journey with faith, confidence, determination and full assurance of success.

You can also be a beneficiary of God's benevolence, mercy and favour if you let Him lead and guide your business venture through creation and operation, and also recognise His plans for your future and give Him praise, honour and glory for the provision of resources, strength and the people you need to ensure the survival and growth of the enterprise: ***Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way you should go."*** (Isaiah 48:17) Entrepreneurs need to ask God to give them Abraham's direction and promotion to a place and position of honour for His glory and praise.

This Book, **Bible Principles For Greater Business Success**, evolved from the Author's Church and secular administration and consultancy experience and designed to show that God can help eliminate elements of doubt in starting and managing business, fortify the entrepreneur against evil forces and negative impacts, give useful insights and provide critical information, inspiration, guidance, direction, strength and encouragement to ensure success of the venture and benefit to the founder, family and society and the greater glory of God the Father. ***"I will instruct and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."*** (Psalm 32:8)

While I recognise the efforts of the Nigerian government and local as well as international agencies in promoting entrepreneurship and increasing small and medium enterprises, I urge development finance institutions to come up with more innovative products to stimulate investment and new inventions and the government to do more in the area of ease of doing business, access to capital, lending rates, favourable economic policies, tax incentives, encouraging investment and innovation in the technically more advanced sectors and improved environment for businesses to expand, grow and thrive. ***"Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things."*** (2 Timothy 2:7)

With regard to the new role of business and to live up to the realistic expectations of people, there is a dire need for entrepreneurs and team members, in addition to their entrepreneurial dynamism, to be Spirit-empowered and be equipped for service. At this point, the Nigerian economy was poised for transformation. Quite frankly, the economy is in need of agents for change who can take strategic positions in every sector of the economy and use their spiritual knowledge and grace of God to promote righteousness, best practices and strong corporate governance for the benefit of all. On my part, I am committed to these goals and the promotion of business advancement and social progress with the publication of **Bible Principles For Greater Business Success. "Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you."** (Exodus 18:19a)

I pray the economy of our nation Nigeria become bouyant to help stimulate business growth and socio-economic advancement, steadily empower existing businesses for improved performance and profit, and new firms spring into existence with emerging new markets in tow as well: **"God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations."** (Psalm 67:1-2)

I pray for the outpouring of wisdom upon our leaders. I pray for the Economic Advisory Council team under the leadership of Professor Doyin Salami, ministers, commissioners and all those saddled with ensuring a robust economy may be strong, creative, innovative, proactive and inspired. **"Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established."** (Proverbs 16:3)

I pray for business leaders who are in distress because business is hurting and they are managing in trouble times. I use these leaders as points of contact and pray for divine inspiration for every Chief Executive and their team members. May all who labour in business, reap success and prosperity for themselves and the Nation. **"For I will look on you favourably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you."** (Leviticus 26:9)

Establishing a business is like sowing a Seed. You must therefore consider a number of factors that must guide your decision. The factors are:

- a. The God Factor
- b. The Soil Factor
- c. The Skills, the Talents
- d. The Education/Technology Factor
- e. The Finance Factor
- f. The Seed Factor
- g. The Divine Factor

The God factor and the Divine factor shall be taken together. The Entrepreneur must seek the face of the Lord, before embarking on the Investment. He must be specific on his requests, about

the location of the business, the land- how profitable, or otherwise, or how appropriate for the type of business to be established.

What personal skills, talents and education is the Entrepreneur bringing into the process, and the type and level of staff he is employing.

How much money is the Entrepreneur investing? What are the sources of financing?

What type of business is he setting up? That is the essence of the Seed. The Scriptures talks about the Sower: ..."***Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked ones comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulations or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.***" (Matthew 13:3-8, 19-23); the wise and foolish builders: "***Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain decended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain decended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.***" (Matthew 7:24-27); the mustard seed: ..."***The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.***" (Matthew 13:31-32); the parable of the talents: (Matthew 25:14-30)

The Sower sowed on (a) the Wayside, (b) Stony Place, (c) among the Thorns, and (d) the Good Ground. With the interpretation of Jesus Christ, the Sower (Investor) on the wayside, is a careless Investor. The Investor on the stony ground was a complacent Investor. The one that invested among the thorns was a foolish investor. But the Investor that invested on the good land must have done a thorough feasibility studies; considering location, the soil test, the seed, etc.

In this parable, we are faced with (a) Carelessness, (b) Waster, (c) Lack of prudence, (d) Complacent, (e) Foolish, (f) Wise and (g) A Good Planner.

The parable of the foolish and wise builders, Matthew 7:24-27 (quoted above), can also be related to the Investor, the Entrepreneur. A good Entrepreneur must not rely on his senses alone. He must consult the Ultimate Investor- God. A detailed study of verses 7:14 of Genesis Chapter 2 shows God in preparation for Man and his investment. Verse 15 is of particular importance, ***"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden, to tend and keep it"***. Note the two words, Tend and Keep, and ruminates on them. Similarly, you must plan your investments very well and look after their increase and multiplication under the power of God.

The following Parable of Talents in Matthew 25:14-30, is a Scriptural teaching on Investments. Any serious Investor must be very conversant with the Scripture verses for Divine guidance: ***"For the Kingdom of Heaven is like man travelling to far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another he gave two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you are faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you are faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gathered where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness. There will be gnashing of teeth.'***

The Parable of the Mustard Seed teaches that the investment may start small, but has the potential of becoming big. That is an Investment with the Divine blessings.

The essential secret of Investment is to hand over yourself to God: John 5:30a, "*I can of Myself do nothing...*" Luke 1:37 says, "*For with God, nothing will be impossible.*" With these two passages, it means you, as an Investor, should have a relationship with God. A relationship of Friendship, Love, Communion, Communication and Fellowship.

You cannot be a successful Investor, without being in good relationship and fellowship with God. Read Genesis 17:1-2. Apart from these Scriptural passages, make yourself addicted to the hymn, *Redemption Songs 459*:

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He shed on our way
While we do His good will
He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey

Chorus
Trust and obey, for there is no other way
To be happy in Jesus, just trust and obey

Not a shadow can rise
Not a cloud in the skies
But His smile quickly drives it away
Not a doubt nor a fear
Not a sigh nor a tear
Can abide while we trust and obey

Chorus

Not a burden we bear
Nor sorrow we share
But our toil He doth richly repay
Not a grief nor a loss
Not a frown nor a cross
But is blest if we trust and obey

Chorus

But we never can prove
This delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay

For the favour He shows
And the joy He bestows
Are for them who will trust and obey

Chorus

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet
Or we'll walk by His side in the way
What He says we will do
Where He sends we will go
Never fear, only trust and obey

Chorus

*Trust and obey, for there is no other way
To be happy in Jesus, just trust and obey*

This hymn encourages us to unequivocally trust and obey God and be qualified, separated and selected to thrive under His benevolence, mercy and protection: "***Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.***" (Proverbs 30:5)

It is in this regard that I invite budding and established entrepreneurs and others to read **Bible Principles For Greater Business Success** and see God's supernatural influence upon their life, family and business.

It shall be well with you in Jesus name. Amen.

Mike Efunkoya

OUTLINES OF THE BOOK- *Bible Principles For Greater Business Success*

CHAPTER ONE

"God is the Alpha and Omega" (Revelation 21:6-7)

God is the Foremost Visionary and Ultimate Founder of all ventures, Who, instinctively knows what is to be done, and how best to do it, to achieve growth and expansion. He is the indubitable and non-retiring President, Manager, Director and Head of all business enterprise. He is the most effective, efficient, and incomparable Leader, Who, works with unique assurance, zeal and confidence. He is the undisputed Creative Manager, the All-knowing Strategist, who knows the end from the beginning.

CHAPTER TWO

"Start up Prayers for the Business Venture" (Hebrews 4:16)

- a) Includes Prayers of Thanksgiving for favours and goodness received, previously.
- b) Handing over the days activities to the Lord, Almighty,
- c) Citing Psalm 127:1 and Matthew 19:26 and
- d) Rounding it up with Thanksgiving for the expected blessings for the day.

CHAPTER THREE

"Only God is Worthy to be Praised" (Isaiah 25:1, Psalm 37:4)

Praise the Lord always using the Book of Revelation 4:8, then verses 9-11, Thessalonians 5:18, Psalm 138:8, and Luke 2:40. All these are Scriptural verses that can be used to praise God, in inviting Him, to take charge and control of the Business Enterprise.

CHAPTER FOUR

"Forget the Past and Forge Ahead" (Isaiah 43:18-19)

In forging ahead in Business, we must learn to forget the past, which could be ugly, even bad. Even if it is good, one must not revel too much in it, in order not to give room to complacency. There must be forgiveness out of Love: Psalm 4:4; and Ephesians 4:26-27.

These passages gives room for a time for refreshing, Acts 3:19. Other Scriptural verses include Ezekiel 36:26, Luke 6:28, Revelation 21:4, Isaiah 65:17-18. The passage affirms that we should forget the past.

CHAPTER FIVE

"Qualifications of an Entrepreneur" (Ephesians 2:10)

An Entrepreneur embarks on his business, using the gifts of God, deposited in him. 1 Timothy 1:12 should motivate every Entrepreneur.

What follows Praises, Prayers, and Thanksgiving is signs and wonders. A good Entrepreneur must be on his toes all the time, exploring various means of improving his business. The World is a Global village. Most things we take for granted some years back, are now sources of wealth today. The Entrepreneur must be well read, to be able to catch up on technology. He must be wise, with requisite knowledge and understanding. Psalm 15:1-5, further elucidate the qualities expected in an Entrepreneur. He must be computer literate.

CHAPTER SIX

"Generating the Idea" (Matthew 7:7-8)

"Ideas rule the World", is an essential slogan of Inventors, Entrepreneurs, Marketing Specialists, Communication Experts etc. Ideas, good, practicable ones have been deposited in all Entrepreneurs by the Almighty God. The responsibility is now on the Entrepreneurs to locate, generate and make it a viable, vibrant idea, that can grow into a multipurpose enterprise. The Mango Tree, started as a Mango Seed. (John 14:12, Numbers 16:28) The fine steps towards generating the Ideas is in this chapter: (a) What problems do you wish to solve? (b) What value do you want to add? (c) What value do you want to deliver? (d) How can you come up with better and cheaper products/services? (e) How can you direct product development towards growth industries? (John 12:46)

CHAPTER SEVEN

"Creating a Glorious Future for the Business" (Matthew 5:14, 16)

What will enable the Entrepreneur to become glorious? Purpose designed to achieve: (a) Job Creation, (b) Contribution to economic growth, (c) Give back to society through Corporate Social Responsibility programmes, (d) Focus, (e) Tenacious commitment to vision, (f) Unwillingness to compromise on business concepts or plans, except surely, it will expand the business, (g) Get staff right through motivation and remuneration, (h) Openness with staff for them to key into plans, (i) Plans focused on developmental purposes; etc. A 5year renewable plan, and (j) Conciousness of Government policies at all times and preparation for whatever shocks and surprises, it could bring.

CHAPTER EIGHT

"Operating in Divine Mercy and Favour" (Psalm 102:13)

God is the giver of everything. He gives as He pleases, Exodus 33:19, Psalm 52:8-9, Job 36:7. Divine mercy and favour breaks obstacles, make life less prone to untoward challenges and

business a worthwhile endeavour. A company that operates in Divine Mercy and Favour must also have objectives that will be premised on the fear of God. There must also be Economic and Social Objectives. There must be Policies and Principles. Leadership must also be premised on the fear of God, which the Bible exhorts as the beginning of wisdom.

CHAPTER NINE

"Prayers to Increase Positive Effects and Reduce Negative Impacts" (Psalm 50:15)

The impact of Prayers cannot be overemphasized. This concluding Chapter emphasizes the Prayers that should be offered at all times. In the morning, during break time and before closing for the day.

Worship songs in the morning with Praises, Thanksgiving in the evening with Prayers for a fulfilling day.