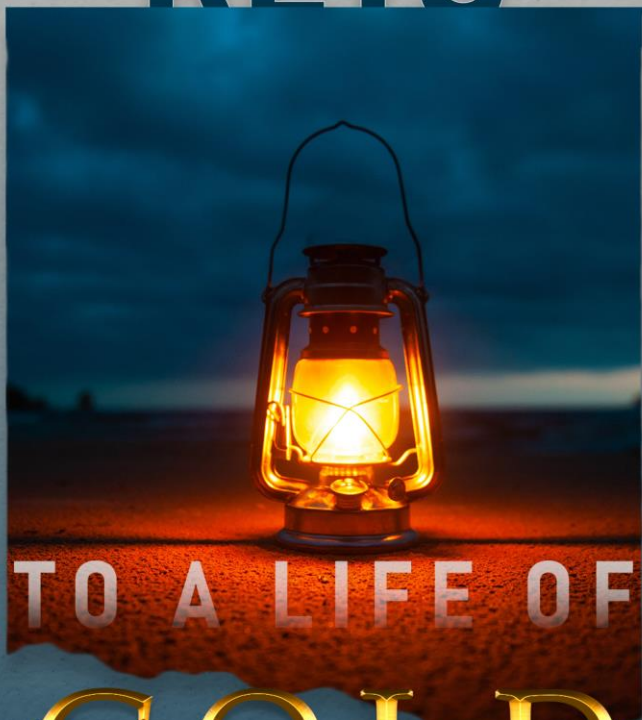


KEYS TO A LIFE OF GOLD

KEYS



TO A LIFE OF

GOLD

PART I

GS. RICHARD

KEYS TO A LIFE OF GOLD



**KEYS TO A
LIFE OF
GOLD**

GS. RICHARD

Calligraphy Inspira Letter

Keys To A Life Of Gold

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Thank you.

-GS. Richard

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May the Almighty God bless you abundantly!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a horizontal line.

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May these God-given principles become comprehensive and real to you through your journey in this life! May you be blessed with this piece of literature in Jesus' Name. Amen!

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THE PERFECT PLAN

Life is an endless journey. A journey that continues from earth into eternity. Our existence between these two realms requires a persistent progression of several successes in the spheres of life we find ourselves. The persistent progression must produce effective and fruitful results in the end. The intrinsic desire of every individual in creation, is to live up to attain a certain degree of success in their domain of influence. No man aims at failure; all men desire to succeed. Everyone wants to be at the highest peak in life and enjoy the good benefits that comes along with it. This brings us to the question: how willing and determined are we, to be diligent to follow the very principles that will lead us to achieve these multidimensional successes in life?

All things we desire to accomplish in life was predestined aforetime for our glory. This age have in it several honors and achievements available for us to attain, even better ones in ages to come. It is quite striking that God, our Creator, has channeled a specific assignment for us to accomplish while on this earth. In a detailed expression, God has marvelously made provision for all things we will need in us, for us, through us and along our path to help us fulfill our God-given mandate fruitfully. Oh! but, I'm not experiencing and walking in what you're claiming above. Your mind might enquire, but listen to this verse in God's Word:

Ephesians 2:10

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

I always read this verse of God's Word with a renewed hope and joy! There's a striking revelation behind this verse. There's one key word in there, which is 'walk', and it speaks profoundly. Our core assignment here on earth concerning God's pre-ordained plans for us, is to simply walk in them. We just need to present and surrender ourselves to the One Who has already ordained **everything** for our accomplishment. 'Everything' here includes; the realm of influence, the number of people we are to extend our purpose to, the message we are to carry to them, the provisions and anything you can think of. Isn't this glorious? Isn't God gracious? Simply think about this: we are carefully designed and created by God for a specific task and every package that we will ever need to accomplish our divine task have been provided. This is the best offer and complete package you'll ever have anywhere in this universe. We are not to create or start anything new, but rather; we are to come and simply walk in them. We do not use our resources, we use God's own resources. It is God's ordained task for you, He will make sure you don't lack anything in there.

Mind you, we are to walk in the purpose of God for our lives and not to sit or rest in them. Although, there is a place of rest in our walk with God. We are to sit and rest in His grace, provision, righteousness, favor, peace, joy, victory, etc... We do not do anything to attain all these; they are attained on the grounds of our

faith in Christ Jesus. We are to accept them and live in them; He did it for us, for we could of ourselves do nothing, except it be given from heaven (John 3:27).

We are to walk side-by-side with God to accomplish His purpose. We are to partner, cooperate and relate with Him effectively in the accomplishment of this holy purpose. This walk also requires a diligent and consistent effort to be willing to cooperate with the Creator to bring His plan into fulfillment. Paul, the Apostle said, he presses towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). There is a destination we have been called and predestined to attain and this requires a diligent and, consistent partnership with the Lord to lead us to that expected end (Jeremiah 29:11).

Created For Purpose!

You may be wondering, 'I haven't discovered my purpose yet or I don't know whether I have one'. The truth is, everyone has a unique purpose on this Earth. A king never sends a servant or messenger unless he wants the servant or the messenger to carry out a distinct assignment at hand. Likewise, God, the creator of all men that lived and will ever walk this earth, designed us to accomplish a specific purpose on Earth. He has given every individual, talents, capabilities, gifts, identity, uniqueness and a message to carry to the world. All these were given to glorify God and portray Jesus Christ to the world; that is the purpose of our existence.

How do I get to know or discover my God-given purpose then? There have been myriads of ideologies that have been built around this subject. The discovery of a man's purpose is not dependent on any fixed methodology propounded by man. Although, some theories give us clues of what we are created to do here on Earth; they are all good. But the knowledge of the purpose of a man is dependent on His Creator; it is the Creator who has the legal right to create and reveal your purpose in life to you. And this revelation of a man's purpose ought to be based on a strong principle of intimacy and fellowship with the Creator. In simple terms, our God-given purpose is revealed through a strong fellowship with God. It is through this fellowship, that He reveals His intrinsic purpose for our existence. Many of us are living the extrinsic purposes conjured by men and not the intrinsic purpose of God. Many of us are living on the corrupted, twisted, faint, borrowed and ungodly purposes of other personalities. God has a purpose for your life and it is revealed perfectly in the sphere of fellowshiping with Him personally, and not based solely on methodologies propounded by men. Ask Him, seek His face continually and God is ever willing to uncover your ultimate purpose in this life to you. *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.* (Jeremiah 33:3) This is your Creator's voice calling out to you. Will you ask Him to uncover your purpose in this life to you? Ask Him. He is ready for you.

Beyond The Closed Doors

God has placed in us a package that we are to use to complete His assignment on this Earth. We are marked to accomplish something specific in our generation and in the sphere of life we find ourselves. God has invested so much in every individual to be beneficial to Him and to the world. Anything deposited in us by the Creator does not unravel automatically, therefore, most people sometimes do not get to see the full effect in their lives. This is sometimes as a result of the lack of knowledge and wisdom to unravel the mystery behind our assignment. It is written in Scripture, that *for lack of knowledge, my people perish.* (Hosea 4:6) This is not to insult our intelligence or integrity, but to awake in us the consciousness to seek the holder and originator of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding (Job 12:13). We are to consistently engage the Word of God for the requisite knowledge, wisdom and understanding to unlock the doors, to attain access to God's treasures of life that will be our springboard to live a fruitful life.

Our existence on this Earth is very precious to God. He desires that we succeed in all facets of life, even our spiritual walk with Him. Take this parable. Consider you grew up to the knowledge that you have a precious inheritance or treasure in many locked rooms somewhere in your father's house. The inheritance belongs to all members of the family. Everyone gets to enjoy of the goodness in those rooms by being a part of that family. The only access to these inheritance or treasures beyond the closed doors is to ask the Father of the house for the keys to access any of the rooms. The

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Father is ever willing to grant you access to the treasures in those rooms if only you will follow the right pattern and attain a certain level of maturity, to take hold of the keys that leads to these inheritance or treasures. The treasures here may be **power, authority, influence, empowerment, enlightenment, wisdom and many others**. These are needed for your fruitful existence. Every key leads you to open a door and enjoy the treasures thereof. These treasures are the requisites for a fruitful life.

The story depicted above, can be likened to the operation of the Kingdom of Heaven. The key is a symbol of knowledge and wisdom. It is what gives us access to the doors in our Father's kingdom. The idea of what the key does should be known. Likewise, the how-to-go-open-it idea should be known as well. A key to a room full of treasures for our holy fulfillment, accomplishes nothing if we keep holding it without making any effort to use it. Keys are made to open doors and not to be kept idle in the pocket of our minds!

In this context, the keys are the God-given knowledge and principles which we must diligently follow to unlock some treasures in our lives. The source of all keys that pertains to the openings of doors that leads to fruitfulness, proceeds from the Lord. Jesus told Peter; *He will give him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven* (Matthew 16:19). If the keys come from Jesus, then they are in His Word; in it are hidden all the revelations needed for our accomplishments here on Earth. Every key has a door it opens and the treasures that comes along with it. Remember, we have described treasures as used in this context.

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As you attain these keys, the Father gives you the right to have more keys and grants you access to these treasures. *For whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given and he will be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away* (Matthew 13:12 AMP). In simple terms, we are opened to receive more knowledge from the Father when we keep pursuit of Him, even as we put these keys into effective use. Every key or knowledge that we will receive from the Father should be used effectively and productively. It shouldn't be kept in the pocket of our minds. Note this: every door you open with every God-given key grants others the opportunity to also walk through the same doorway and accomplish their assignment here on Earth effectively. With this you are creating a pattern of ease for the generations that will follow you. Don't you want that for the generations after you and even your friends? I'm sure you do!

Throughout this book, we will be exploring some practical and basic keys that are beneficial when it comes to our fruitfulness and productiveness in this life. These are simple keys that ought to be incorporated in our lives, if we really want to exist successfully in this world and add richness to our eternal living. The simple things in life yield the most powerful results sometimes. These are not the only keys! There are numerous keys, in fact countless keys and we get to know them when we consistently study God's Word. We will be looking at five keys in the volume of this book that will be a standing principle for our actions to live the kind of life the Father requires of us in this world. It is my earnest prayer

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that the Spirit of God enlightens your eyes to come to a full and comprehensive knowledge of these keys and grant you the grace to apply them effectively for the glory of the One who sits on the throne, in the Name of Jesus!

I'm ready for you, are you ready too? Let's journey through this then!

KEY ONE:

DON'T BEGIN; ASK GOD TO BEGIN

Do you know one surprising ideology in this world? We have been taught and programmed all this while to begin everything with our knowledge, insights and strength, then later pull God along with it. This ideology is deadly and destructive; the outcome has proven to be unproductive. The right pattern for living as pertaining to the commissioning of activities in our lives should be one of allowing God to begin everything. The first statement in God's Word is an indication that God must author everything in our lives. The All-Powerful God should and must be the only legal Being to activate and commission the activities and purposes He has handed to our care.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.

Do you know God made nothing without the Beginning instated? God absolutely created nothing without 'the Beginning' fully introduced in His concept of creation! We have probably come to know the word, 'beginning' as a commencement of the activities of God or the introduction of time into the universe. Time as we know now, was introduced on the fourth day of God's restoration of the Earth. The 'Beginning' is an expanse of time (the dispensation of the reign of the personality we are referring to, in this universe), as it is also a personality. The beginning as used in Genesis 1:1 is a **personality** as it is the commencement of God's

activities of creation. God could absolutely have done nothing without this personality being fully instated at the commencement of His creation. Let's watch something here, in Colossians:

Colossians 1:17-18 [emphasis mine]

*And He [Jesus] is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And **He is the Beginning**, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the **preeminence**.*

This is one of the most wonderful account written by the Apostle Paul through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit about Jesus Christ. I trust you read it perfectly well? Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God is the Beginning, the personality that was introduced before God could create everything and anything. Again, God created nothing without the Beginning fully instated! All things were created in Him (Colossians 1:16) and without Him was not anything made that was made, (John 1:3). Glory to God! All of creation were completed in Christ Jesus, who is the Beginning.

Let us read Jesus' account as the Holy Spirit inspired Solomon to write concerning how creation was made possible because He was there before everything began.

Proverbs 8:22-30

The LORD possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were

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settled, before the hills was, I brought forth: while as yet He had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there: when He set a compass upon the face of the depth: when He established the clouds above: when He strengthened the fountains of the deep: when he gave to the sea His decree, that the waters should not pass His commandment: when He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him...

Jesus was involved, both in the creation and restoration of creation after the deformity and destruction of the earth. He is held in high esteem by the Father. In fact, it pleased the Father to place in Him the fullness of the Godhead (Colossians 1:19). It is in Him (Jesus) that everything coexist and cohere perfectly. Nothing can work out fruitfully without Him being part of the variables. He should be there to begin it!

Read carefully! Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Everything that we will ever set our hearts to accomplish here on earth should also bear the image of the Christ; otherwise it is not of God. For it to bear the image of the Christ, will require that we consult God and ask Him to begin the process. Moreover, to ask God to begin it, is to literally, with an understanding, ask God to commence the work, purpose, goal, activity in Christ Jesus. In simple expression, Jesus, the Christ, who is the Son of the Living God should be fully instated before everything fruitful begins in our lives. Absolutely nothing glorious, excellent and beneficial, can occur in our lives

and on this Earth, if Christ does not begin it. It is only God who can Jesus (Begin) a process! The success, the fruitfulness and the eternal richness of the activities, goals and ambitions in life require a decision of allowing God to restore, create, and form these in the personality of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am bringing all these up, to give you an idea of what it means to ask God to start a task or anything we can ever perceive in the Christ. It is not for joke to literally ask God to begin something in your life. The idea of 'the Beginning' must fully become comprehensive and cherished. God values our beginnings and He will suffer anything to make it better and successful. Why? Because He will make sure His Beginning (Jesus Christ) is fully established before He starts the task at hand if indeed the task is His will. It will be wise and better to ask the Lord to begin something He knows perfectly well, because of His All-Knowing capability in your life than to begin it with your finite knowledge and become susceptible to failure.

The benefits and the fruitfulness that proceed from the Lord beginning an action in our lives, supersedes what our might can do and accomplish. Oh! we have a loving Father who is capable of *declaring our end from the beginning* (Isaiah 46:10). He has already completed the task even before He started. He is ever waiting for us to ask Him to begin that precious work He has ordained in our lives in Christ Jesus. He is ready to lead you to start something that will have an eternal recompense. This is glorious! All you

need to do at this moment is to ask Him to begin everything in your life.

There are multitudes of blessings that we attract when we ask God to begin something in our lives. In fact, there are several personalities in the Bible whose life on earth were a testimony when it came to the sphere of God beginning a task or a purpose in their lives. Consider Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Jesus Christ, Mary, Peter, Paul, some Apostles and even some great saints who walked the earth. Let us have a look at some of these benefits and blessings when God begins something in our lives. Shall we?

He Preserves It With His Word

The Almighty God, will make sure that He encompasses what He has begun with His own word. His Word is the authority that surrounds the works He commissions. He builds a wall and fortifies it with His divine words that not a word of the enemy or the accuser can destroy. Even His Name, as the signature of His Majesty on the work He has commissioned to your care is a legal prove that no one could tamper with it. *The words and promises of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in an earthen furnace, purified seven times over* (Psalms 12:6, AMP). Imagine the Creator, beginning a work in your life and sealing it with His divine words. Isn't that precious, wonderful reader? This is an assurance to us, to have a firm confidence in the Lord that our works are secured in Him. We shouldn't be afraid of turbulence, economic hardships

and hostilities that might come our way. These are incapable of exhausting the power in the word of the Lord encompassing what He has begun. You just need to have peace all day and rejoice that the King has declared an unfailing word concerning your ministry, purpose, relationship and even your work. Glory to God! *I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name* (Psalm 138:2).

He Gives You A Message To Carry To The World

I hope you are aware that you are God's messenger to this fallen world? One of the purposes of our existence is to represent God and propagate His motives to a sphere of life and a specific group of people He will usher to our care. *We are Christ's ambassadors* (II Corinthians 5:20). Every ambassador or messenger, sent forth by the King has a message, an aim and a vision, that is assigned to him to propagate to an appointed people and a certain region. This is a prove that indeed he is a legal messenger or ambassador from a King. Within the message is the power and the authority to make an impact and effect tremendous changes in the sphere of his commission.

Moreover, the message God gives you is the testimony of your approval from God to the world. You are to carry an effective and a living testimony to the world. You won't be accepted without a living testimony; you will be rejected by men. Christ has a testimony that we proclaim to this world. The testimony of Him

being the only Son of the Father; sent to earth to reconcile mankind back to God through His death and resurrection; to set free them that are captives of Satan even Death through His delivering and healing power.

Abraham had a message; a message of him being the Father of all nations. Likewise, **Moses** (*to deliver and lead the Israelites from Egypt to the promise land*), **Jonah** (*to preach and cause men to repent and turn back to God in the land of Nineveh*), **John the Baptist** (*to be the voice crying out in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Lord*), **Paul** (*to preach the richness of God's grace to the Gentiles*), **Peter** (*to preach the message of Christ to the Jews*). The list goes on and on! I have a message. You also have a message and a testimony. And it is God-given when we ask Him to begin something in our lives.

Moreover, we get to see the glory of God's light so much revealed in the work He begins and commissions to our trust. We find security in such task because He Himself hides it under His shadow. All these benefits become evident in our lives, when we allow God to begin the activities with His resources, might, power and idea rather than ours. All we ought to do is ask Him to begin it in Christ Jesus who is the Beginning. Just ask! This is the beginning of living a fruitful life here on earth and making the rightful impact God desires. Hallelujah!

KEY TWO: DIE TO SELF

There is this beautiful image I desire to paint in your imagination as you journey through this key to live a life of gold. Imagine a King, who rules over many cities in his country. Consider his majesty, the number of servants in his palace, his beautiful throne and the several lands he owns. This king has a very beautiful outfit he usually wears whenever there is a great feast in the land. As beautiful and majestic this outfit may seem, it is considered nothing and worthless in the eyes of the inhabitants when it is inside the king's wardrobe. But this outfit receives the best of compliments, and applauds whenever the king wears it to this great feast. It becomes as majestic, just as how majestic the king is. It is treated with the same respect and honour just as the king. The power, majesty and identity of the king also shines on this outfit. It seems to be that, the outfit draws its awesomeness from the king. The outfit also receives the applauds of its master if it stays attached to the king.

The idea of dying to self is just as similar to the life of the outfit depicted in this story. In basic expression, dying to self is to surrender to the King who sits on the throne to live His life in us; to shine His glory, majesty, power and image in us. We are to become to Him a simple and obedient vessel for Him to live in us and perform His marvelous works in us. Do you know that a potter can form beautiful artefacts from a soft and simple-to-work-

with clay than a hardened and repulsive one? We are to become simple, obedient, and empty vessels for the Lord to live and work in us. Empty vessels, in the world's perspective makes the most noise, but an empty vessel in God's perspective makes the outstanding sounds; because such is all that He needs to perform His outstanding works through. *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven* (Matthew 5:3). The poor in spirit is one who is empty of worldly desires for a heavenly treat; one who has nothing to boast of in the flesh; one who is broken in the flesh and untainted by the decadence of this world. It is to such people that the Lord blesses with the riches of His kingdom: even His precious life. As simple as this key may seem, it is one of the most difficult yet precious sacrifices we can ever offer to the Lord.

The Body Or The Flesh

The whole ideology of dying to self is to **crucify the flesh**, to allow the life of God permeate through us. Undoubtedly, we received a new self (a new man; a new spirit) when we were birthed anew through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, the new self is one hundred percent as holy as God is holy. It was this new self that we ought to have lived by default when we became new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is this new self, that contains the powers and riches of the Father. It is also this new self, that attracts the promises of God and makes it evident in the physical. Moreover, it is this new self that can please God. This is the inner self of every born-again believer. This is our heritage; we didn't

work for this: we received it on the basis of our believe and faith in the Son of God. Glory to His precious Name!

I will at this moment, humbly ask you, if you haven't come to believe in the Son of God and considered Him as your Lord and Saviour, at this moment confess to Him with all sincerity and a contrite heart all your sins and ask Him to become the Lord over your life. Proclaim these words and He will receive you in His loving arms and with a genuine expression of amazement and wonder, that you have made one of the greatest decisions in your life. He has come to live in you and made His abode in you, if you asked Him to forgive you and save you from your sins and also become your Lord and Saviour. Praise His mighty name! Hallelujah!

As far as we have received a new self from God at our rebirth, through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, there is another man (the old self) that strives to also work in our members. There live in us another self which opposes the will of God, also trying to bring us into subjection to the things unworthy of the new life we have received. This other self is not the **body**: the outer and physical appearance we see. No! That is just a carrier. There is a distinction between the **flesh**, which we are to crucify and the **body**, which is just a carrier. Understanding these two words, will save you a lot of time in stressing to subdue the other. Many people, try to change their physical appearance, outward conducts and behaviors and wear clothes to be accepted by people and even

sometimes to the point of being accepted in the circle of worship to God. This is one of the long-held delusions in the Body of Christ. We are not to please God in mere outward look but rather in the spirit. *Therefore, by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20). So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God (Romans 8:8).*

The **flesh** we are to crucify, is the old self; the carnal nature. No good thing dwells in this nature as the Scripture assets in Romans 7:18. This was the nature we were having and expressing to the world before we came to accept Christ as our Lord and Saviour. It is the lust, the worldly entanglements, the wicked imaginations and those things that are a part of us, yet not of God; that is the flesh. To die to self or crucify the flesh is to shut the door to these things, which are unacceptable in our walk with God. We were servants to this old self, but we are to put away this nature and put on the nature of Christ when we came to Him. *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof (Romans 13:14).* This is literally, the daily work of every believer; to put on Christ by crucifying the flesh with its lust through the renewal of our minds to reveal the glorious life of Christ within us. *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Romans 12:1-2).***

Pick Up Your Cross Daily

Did you know literally, we are not to live to exist, but rather die to exist? We are to die daily to live eternally. To live in the flesh is to live your own life carnally, but to die to the flesh is to allow the glorious and incorruptible life of Christ to live through you. This kind of surrender, requires a persistent and conscious effort to bring the flesh under subjection to allow the glorious life of Christ to have its free course in you. *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway* (I Corinthians 9:27). This is one of the strangest and surprising verses to be written by Paul. You sometimes, pause and ask, if Paul did this regularly, how about me? Can I also achieve this? The truth is yes! Paul had a thorn in his flesh he battled with, that made him succumb in humility to the life of Christ. Likewise, me and you; we have thorns that do sometimes make we want to live according to the desires of our flesh. But we can subdue the flesh by the power and might of the Holy Spirit. He is the only person who can empower us to subdue the flesh. We just need to ask Him and He will help us.

Matthew 16:24

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Luke 9:23-24 (ESV)

*And he said to all, "if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross **daily and follow me**. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."*

For us to experience the fullness of the divine life in our lives, we need to die to self daily and pick up our cross daily. The decision is in our hands; it is either we choose to die to self for God's life to be completely evident in us or live our own lives in utmost depravity of the life of God. We are to surrender and surrender and surrender to the Lord to live His life in us.

It took the death of Jesus to bring to us a glorious life after His resurrection. Likewise, it will take death to the flesh and to the corruptible things around us, to live the glorious life of Christ effectively. We are to put away everything that will stand tall against what God wants to build in our lives. We are not the Architect. We are not the Potter. Neither are we the Creator. The perfect option is to surrender to the giver of life to live his precious life in us. This body, and its desires and abilities, can in no strength accomplish anything glorious or eternal. It is the eternal power of God's life in us that can accomplish all task fruitfully. We don't own our lives. God does! It is Him who holds the plans for our lives. The best decision we can ever make as His people is to surrender to Him and consider everything that will restrict His plans for us as nothing. For us to live the life of Christ, we need to

die and consider all things but loss for the excellency of that Christ-life.

Philippians 3:8

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ...

We are not living to exist, temporarily; we are dying to exist eternally; this should be the creed of the believer. If we consider our lives and try living it our own way, we will perish eternally. On the contrary, we will continue to live eternally if we are to die to self now and live the glorious life of Christ. Jesus Christ is not dead after His resurrection. He was the first to be raised from the death (Colossians 1:18). He lives forever in eternity. Paul, Peter and all the saints are alive eternally. They are living and will live forever, because they lost the perishable part of their life (in the flesh) here on earth and took on an imperishable life which cannot be corrupted, granting them access to eternal witnessing. This was Jesus' promise to us. *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him **should not perish, but have everlasting life*** (John 3:16). Those who believe in the Son of God and allow Him to live His life in them are not afraid of physical death, because they are much convinced that there is another glorious life that continues after their departure here on earth. They are certain that they will be granted an everlasting life with the Son of God! You will begin to understand the proclamation of King David when he said, *'I shall not die, but I will*

live to proclaim the works of the Lord.' (Psalms 118:17) He is dead and gone from this earth. But he lives on; still proclaiming and worshipping the Lord in eternity. We are also promised this if we are willing to let go off the perishable things of the flesh and pick up our cross daily and allow the awesome life of Christ to live in us.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

This should be our song and creed daily: *I live, yet not I, but Christ.* Note this carefully! The idea of dying to self and allowing the life of Christ to live in us, is to basically achieve two great things in our lives.

- To allow us experience the fullness and power of God in our lives, ministry, purpose and whatever we are doing. It is to enable us operate in the realm of glory the Father desires of His sons and daughters; to enable us express and continue with the works of Jesus Christ whiles He was on this earth. We are to become to Him empty vessels for Him to fill us with His power for His works here on earth. This is the sacrifice we make if we want to operate in the glory and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Again, this is the sacrifice you ought to offer to God, if you want to operate in the works of His Son, even the fivefold ministry: become

to Him a living sacrifice for Him to wrought His power and glory in you!

- To grant us the opportunity to partake in the eternal glory of the Lord at His second coming. Dying to self, to believers is a mark that we are ever willing to suffer the loss of the perishable things in this age and pursue the imperishable and eternal riches in the Kingdom of God.

To die to self is pain; considering letting go all your desires and all the pleasures of this world. Yet to die to self and gain Christ in this world, is joy. The life and pleasures in Jesus are more glorious and everlasting than these temporal pleasures in this world. This is one of the concept we can adopt as believers to live effectively for God in this world. Let our story be one of the man who, upon finding a treasure in a land, went to sell all he had and came to purchase that land (Matthew 13:44). Let us let go the treasures and pleasures of this world and crucify the flesh to gain the precious life of Christ for our holy fulfilment here on Earth. Let us therefore, lay down every weight, imagination, thought, restrictive plan and any form of carnality and allow Christ to fill our being. Let us become to Him that outfit He can wear to wrought His awesome and wonderful works. It is only the Holy Spirit who can take us to the cross and crucify us; we cannot do it on our own. Let us surrender and yield to Him; He will do it folks. Glory!

KEY THREE:

STOP CHASING; START ATTRACTING

Have you ever pondered over the attraction a sweet-scented flower offers to the insects in its domain? Or how a magnet can attract almost every magnetic material around it? That is the idea of this key. The flower, likewise the magnet, attracts what it attracts because of the value system incorporated in their make-up. It will be very difficult for an insect to ignore a sweet-scented flower. Even in our human domain, it is sometimes difficult to resist the scent of a perfume or the aroma of a delicious meal. Why? Because the perfume or the meal has in it some qualities and ingredients that pulls us towards it.

Don't you wish your life became as attractive as these subjects? I'm convinced you do. The key is to stop chasing and start building, growing and improving your inner capacity to attract the good treasures of life and the promises God has planned for you. Before you attract some wonderful things in life, you ought to transform to the state where you have the ability and legal authority to possess what you are looking for. Let's consider this typical example: A student who seeks good grades in an exam, ought to study thoroughly to gain those grades; the student does not go about chasing for the grades leaving the books behind, but rather, he builds up his inner capacity (knowledge about the subject) which enables him to automatically attract the grades he seeks for after writing the exam. Likewise, a musician who seeks to have her songs transforming lives, ought to improve upon her

musical abilities and prowess to make that needed impact. I hope that's simple? Before you can gain those gracious treasures, you are looking for in life, you need to transform to that level of your need and likewise build in you a quantum of character, virtues and knowledge, that will enable you to attract what you seek for.

Attract It The Jesus Way!

Many people are chasing after wealth, friends, fame, followers, spouses, grades etc. without growing, building and improving their virtues, character, knowledge, and abilities. Chasing money and fame, has been the mindset of many people in these times. Many have self acclaimed themselves to be what they are not. All these are vain glories; and we are not to, in a single sense chase after them, when we can grow and transform ourselves to levels we can attract them. Jesus Christ, became famous because of the miracles He performed and the personality He developed. Scripture said: *He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man* (Luke 2:52). This should be the lifestyle of the believer; growing, transforming, studying, and developing yourself to attract! Let's read the account of St. Matthew on the concept of attraction. Shall we?

Matthew 4:23-25

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And His fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto Him all the sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments,.....and he

*healed them. And there **followed Him** great multitude of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.*

Isn't this wonderful? People were brought to Him because of His personality of being able to solve their problems; as a healer and deliverer. Multitudes followed Him because of who and what He was; one capable of turning their lives around.

We are to become and grow to attract the things we seek after in life. What beautiful thing of **relevance** are you seeking for in life? Is it God's power in your ministry, a caring and truthful friend, wealth, influence etc...? Just stop chasing and start growing to that level where can attract your needs or wants! You may be wondering; how do I grow? The concept of your growth to the final product, is not dependent on your power or ability. What God wants you to be is in the knowledge of His will for you. All you need to do is to decide and surrender yourself to the Lord to take you through the process of your growth. He will do it awesomely well to your surprise when you make Him the Gardener of your life; for we are His garden (I Corinthians 3:9).

Like Poles Attract

God's design for us, when it comes to acquiring His promises is one of we attracting them, rather than chasing after them and stressing ourselves out. His intention is that we grow to become and share in the likeness of the image of His son, so that we can attract the wonderful treasures He has for us. We are to ever seek and grow from one stage of growth to the other. We can relate this

to the growth of a baby. A baby in his father's house, get to enjoy some few heritages of the father. As the baby grows and matures to a certain level of maturity, he then begins to attract some of the benefits and promises in his father's house. That is the principle in God's kingdom too; the more we grow in the knowledge of His promises, the more we begin to attract these promises. This attraction is based on the likeness of our image or the personality we have grown to become, being well-matched with what we want to attract. Like poles attract in God's kingdom; and this is possible if we allow ourselves to become magnetized by fellowship and intimacy with Christ to attract His promises and goodness. We attract more of God's grace when we are humble (I Peter 5:5). We attract God's presence when draw nigh to Him (James 4:8). We attract people full of God's grace if we are also full of God's grace. Kings attracts kings. Iron sharpeneth iron (Proverbs 27:17). Deep calleth unto deep (Psalms 42:7).

Joseph, as long as he was in the prison was nothing and could not attract or gain favour from the Pharaoh. Even though, he was in a harsh condition, he continued persistently in faith and fellowship with God, ever trusting God to make him worthy some day. At the appointed time, he received attention and began to command favour and attract the respect of the Pharaoh when God's Grace made him into someone worthy to stand before the Pharaoh. Daniel, the prophet, served in the administration of many governors in his age because he had in his capacity an indispensable excellency beyond his fellows, as a result of his constant fellowship with God, that always drew the attention of

the governors to retain him in their administration. Likewise, we can, by the grace and might of the Lord, grow and transform into the God version of ourselves to attract 'men of value' to our lives.

We can attract every **relevant** thing in life by refraining from stressing after these things and begin growing to the level where we attract those relevant things our hearts desire. We are to basically not chase after fame, wealth, power, friends, jobs etc. ...but rather, seek God first and do what is expected of us. God is one hundred percent aware of all those things. And we will begin to attract them as we progress through life when we become magnetized by our association with God's kingdom and His son, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 6:30-34 (AMP)

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and green and tomorrow is tossed into the furnace, will He not much more surely clothe you. O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? Or, What are we going to have to drink? Or, What are we going to have to wear? For the

Gentiles (heathen) wish for and crave and diligently seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows well that you need them all.

***But** seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), **and then all these things** taken together will be given you besides. So do not worry or be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries and anxieties of its own. Sufficient for each day is its own trouble.*

KEYS TO
A LIFE OF
GOLD

Our first response to acquiring the relevant things in life is not to chase after them, but to first seek God's kingdom and do the things He so desires of us. Then, all the things we seek for will be added. Literally, we will attract all other relevant things we seek for in life, if we become magnetized by association with God's kingdom and transformed into the image of His Son Jesus Christ. By so doing, we attract God's wonderful promises and the other things we seek for in life. Glory to God! Refrain from the stress of chasing and start attracting today!

KEY FOUR: OPERATE FROM ABOVE, BEYOND & AHEAD

Have you ever wondered how Jesus Christ and some personalities could stand against evil authorities on this earth and prevail? Or how some people make eternal impacts and establish paradigms that are somewhat excellent patterns for fruitful living on this earth? Or how people invent out of the world creatives which blesses their generation and generations after them? I am firmly convinced that all these are possible when the person has a strong relationship with God and cooperating effectively with Him. *All things are possible with God* (Matthew 19:26). The time has come, and it is now for us to sit up and boldly make a decision that, we are in business to do the impossible! Not because we are capable, but because God is capable of doing the extraordinary, beyond what we can perceive or understand in our lives and on this earth if we cooperate effectively with Him.

To operate from above, beyond and ahead is to partner and cooperate with the One who transcends the natural realm (above); Whose might, power and authority supersedes every authority or power in this universe (beyond); and Who rules time and dwells in the future (ahead): the Holy Spirit. In our quest to make the needed impact and see transformation here on Earth, we must operate from above, beyond and ahead through partnership and cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

Operating From Above

First, we should fully ingrain in us the idea that we are spiritual beings and not mere flesh and blood. The believer is a spiritual man more as he is a physical man. Moreover, we belong to a kingdom which is not of this world (John 18:36), but one which is in the unseen realm. We must comprehensively understand that there are two major realms or space that are in operation in the universe: the natural realm and the supernatural realm. The natural realm is what we see around us; it is also the seen environment where the flesh thrives very well. The other realm is the supernatural realm; and this should be the natural environment of every believer, if we are to thrive successfully as spirit-beings in this universe.

The supernatural realm is one hundred percent real as the natural realm. The supernatural realm is where God performs transactions, with His saints, even His ministering spirits (angels) as described in Hebrews 12:22-24. It is where the administrations of God's kingdom proceeds from. It is where we draw the power and authority of God, to make an impact on this earth. The supernatural realm supersedes this natural realm. The supernatural is where excellent decisions that can change the pattern of living on earth are drawn from. That was the realm Jesus as well as the apostles and other personalities who waxed marvelously well operated from. Their total dependence was on the government that was above; they operated with the authority, power and might from the kingdom above. Their impact on this natural realm was predicated upon their dealings in the

supernatural realm. Likewise, we also; if we are determined to make generational impacts on this earth, must draw our strength and power from the supernatural. We are not to depend on the systems in this world which are a failure, but rather, depend on the power that issues from the Kingdom of God.

The multitudes in Jesus' days were always marveled at the authority at which Jesus casted out demons and healed the sick! The expression of Jesus' dominion over the works of the enemy was an indication that He was operating with an authority that superseded that of the enemy. Where did He draw His authority? From above; from His Father! (Matthew 12:28-29). Likewise, the early fathers of faith and some personalities in the Bible.

To operate from above, is to depend on the authority of God's kingdom and operate here on earth in the power of His will and might. It is a total dependency and partnership with Him to establish His will and plans in this world. Moreover, to operate from above is to also depend on God, for the provisions of your life that are a requisite for your fruitful existence in this world. Make that decision today to partner and depend on the One who is above for your fruitful existence on this earth.

Operating From Beyond

The natural mind together with its abilities and might, can in no strength accomplish anything fruitful and lasting in this world. Even if it does, it will lack that eternal richness the Lord demands of the works He had placed under our watch. The expression of the purpose of God and His plans on Earth under the care of the

Believer, should have in it a reflection of the life and might of the Christ that is beyond any other might. The capabilities, ideas, might, creativities, to which the Believer operates with, on this Earth, should be beyond the strength of what is to be subdued or dominated for the Glory of God.

A body of mass operating with a force of 10 Newtons cannot, in any theory and age, subdue a body of mass operating with a force of 100 Newtons. The body of mass operating with a force of 10 Newtons, will only be able to overcome that body of mass with a force of 100 Newtons, if there is a reinforcement of enough force or strength to add up, in order to overcome its opponent. The Believer, who is empty in power, knowledge and ideas, can in no theory, operate successfully in this Earth. Such a person, cannot effectively live and express the glory and power of the Lord in this world. The best option for living, will be to operate with a higher energy; one that is beyond that of the opposition to be overcome.

The fruitful existence of the Believer, should be backed with the manifestation of diverse abilities, ideas, and, wisdom that are beyond what the world affords. The tasks handed our care by God Almighty, are able to exhibit the full power and glory of God, if the dependency on all sides is on God. *For this I labor [unto weariness], striving with all the superhuman energy which He so mightily enkindles and works within me* (Colossians 1:29 AMP). It is only that strength that God supplies us with, that will enable us to accomplish our tasks. Moreover, it is the sufficiency of what God provides in the different abilities we possess, that makes us able to subdue, overcome and accomplish the various tasks

commissioned to our care. *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world* (1 John 4:4). Moreover, there is a personality at work in us, the Holy Spirit; who quickens our mortal bodies to become alive and enabled to carry out the mandates of the Lord.

To operate from beyond, is to express a strength, ability, an energy, and knowledge, that is beyond what is in operation in the sphere, or required in the sphere we are functioning. There is a tug-of-war systematized in this universe, between them who gathers for Christ; His beloved sons, and them who scatters away from Christ; the enemy. All men in the army of God, should have in them a quantum of God's ability, wisdom, knowledge, and power, to pull down the walls of Jericho in this life to bring victory to the King, who sits on the throne. The supply of the strength that elevates and heightens these abilities, comes from the Holy Spirit of God. It is only in partnership with Him, that we receive such strength to do the Master's bidding and operate successfully in this universe and produce results that will have eternal recompense. I guess you know what to do right? Simply avail yourself and partner with the Holy Spirit of God!

Operating From Ahead

There's an amazing integrity about our Lord, that is so wonderful to think about. *He is the same yesterday, today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8). He is never changing (Malachi 3:6). The integrity of this nature, makes it possible for Him to operate in any dispensation of time; making Him Omnipresent. Likewise, it is the integrity of

this nature, that makes Him Omniscient; knowing all things. Our God, knows everything and is everywhere and He is able to unveil and reveal to His sons and daughters His intended purposes as He desires. He can and is able to bring to an individual, events, revelations and thoughts, that are already past into the present. Likewise, He is able to bring to an individual's present, the knowledge of future occurrences, ideas and wisdom.

The success of many personalities in the Bible, were dependent on this nature of God that was in operation in their lives. God, on many occasions in Scripture, brought into awareness and knowledge of His servants, things that have happened in the past, that enabled them live effectively. Moreover, God, brought into the awareness and knowledge of His servants, future events and revelations, to aid their fruitful existence at their time. God is still doing this, because He is ever alive and active.

People of God, Believers, who are able to transform and establish outstanding and fruitful pronouncement of success in any sphere of their living in their generation, are the ones who have a strong knowledge and awareness of the events ahead of them. Moreover, people who are able to create out of the world creatives and bring into being, things that have never been seen and heard in their generation, are the ones who have foresight of future ideas, knowledge and wisdom, and able to incorporate and express it in their generation. To influence, transform, and bring into existence anything that is unseen or unheard of in your generation, will require a travel ahead of time and ahead of normal patterns into

the future, to bring the things that are unseen and unheard of into reality in your generation.

Take a glance through the microscope of world's history, and you will notice that, those who influenced and impacted their generation, had knowledge, ideas, wisdom or anything, that was ahead of what was in operation in their time. This paradigm is somewhat in operation for the Believer and even the unbeliever, but the Believer, should be in a perfection position to influence and transform and bring into existence the unseen and the unheard in his/her generation, because of the personality of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

God is the source of all knowledge and all wisdom. In fact, He is knowledge and wisdom. He is also able to offer knowledge, wisdom, ideas etc. in their best resolution, more than any other person can offer in this age and in eternity. God has knowledge, inventory ideas, creatives in full capacity that are yet to be uncharted. I'm convicted and persuaded, that He is ever willing to reward these to them that will diligently seek Him, especially the Believer. We are privileged to have the Spirit of God fully dwelling in us. This makes us advantageous than the unbeliever, when it comes to influencing and transforming this world for the glory of God. Why? Because, we have in us an eternal Spirit, who is able to access the deeper thoughts and wisdom of God and make it clear before our eyes.

I Corinthians 2:9-12

*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth **all things**, yea, the deep things of God.*

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

The functionality of the Holy Spirit, working in God, knowing the thoughts and wisdom of God, and likewise working and dwelling in the Believer, is a privilege, as well as an advantage in the scope of their existence in this world.

The ability of the Holy Spirit, to know the deeper things that are hidden in God, makes Him able to perform two key roles in the life of the Believer: **Bring to the Believer insights and foresights.** The Holy Spirit, is able to bring to us, insights about past events, ideas, knowledge and wisdom, etc, that are beneficial for us to live and accomplish God's task on this Earth. Moreover, the Holy Spirit, is capable and abled to bring to us foresights about things such as wisdom, knowledge, creative ideas, inventions, entrepreneurial ideas etc, that we can ride on to impact our generation. He leads us into the future, overriding time and space, bringing us to a fountain of God's grace with ideas, knowledge,

wisdom, to chart pathways of unseen and unheard beauties that will establish God's kingdom in this universe.

We are capable, of riding on the wings of the Holy Spirit into the future, if we cooperate with Him. He is able to bring us the generational thoughts that lies in the deep recesses of the Lord; to transform, influence and establish a paradigm in our generation, that will go a long way to have an eternal recompense.

To live and operate ahead, in summary; is to cooperate with the Spirit of God, to grant you the ability of travelling into and ahead of time into the future, into the deeper things and knowledge of God, to grant you insights and foresights to impact your generation. You may ask, is this difficult? I will say, no, it is not. It is all about cooperating and building a strong partnership with the Holy Spirit of God. I pray that this becomes comprehensive and real to you, in the Name of Jesus!

KEY FIVE: BE DILIGENT

The eagle is one of the awesome flying birds with exceptional qualities. Its ability to fly at high altitudes makes it extraordinary from other flying birds in the animal kingdom. It possesses the ability and zeal to help it take flight to high altitudes, but as long as its wings stay close to its body, it remains in a stationed position and accomplishes less. It is in the incisive decision to take flight that causes it to fly even to higher places. There's a communication of the virtue of diligence in this imagery created if we carefully digest it and relate it to our lives; how we have been blessed with much, but it requires a simple virtue of diligence to unearth and accomplish the task we have been called to do.

Or have we also considered a Mercedes Benz, with all its splendor and design cannot travel an inch to its destination without its wheels. Yeah, it will have the engine and filled with the necessary fuel but without its wheels it accomplishes nothing; it is almost as useless as nothing. The wheels give the Mercedes Benz the continual energy of movement that drives the entire body to its destination.

This same imagery can also be created of the Lion; one of the greatest predators in the animal kingdom. It needs the incisors; the sharp cutting edges of the incisor to devour its prey so that it can consume it by the help of the other teeth. The limbs also play an important role in its predatory functioning. If there's no

movement in the limbs, there's no way it will get to the prey to devour it.

It is quite striking and surprising how the word 'Diligence' has its root from the Greek word, '**speed**'. Does this speak something to you especially when you consider these scenarios given above? More accurately diligence, from the original Greek translation in the Strong's Concordance, is defined as 'to use speed, that is to make effort; be prompt or earnest' as used by the Apostle Peter in II Peter 1:5, 10 and other verses in God's Word.

It is the same word that was used to describe the action of Herodias' daughter when she made 'haste' to go and make a request to Herod to behead John the Baptist. (Mark 6:25) Moreover, it is the same word, that was used, when Mary, the mother of Jesus, made 'haste' to the city of Judah to visit Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother. (Luke 1:39) From these two instances, we can ultimately infer, that there is a haste or speed that springs forth from **calmness**, in the case of Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus, and one that springs forth from **agitation**, as seen in the case of Herodias' daughter. One leads to preeminence and dominance, and the other leads to poverty, havoc, destruction and inadequacy.

Now, we must become fully aware, that the Believer, is made not to stressfully, race with a competitive speed to accomplish their goals in this world. We are not to operate with a common speed that is in the DNA of the people in this world, but with an uncommon speed, that is purported and functioned in us by the

spirit of God. We are to use a holy speed, to propel us to reach the destination of our goals, purpose, vision; to move us effectively, not hastily, to our destination. And this uncommon speed, as a virtue, is diligence; the Believer's propellant to His holy destination in Christ Jesus.

Again, there is a distinction of speed, yet to be known, which is not dependent on time and distance but rather dependent on essential qualities incorporated in the activities involved through the journey to reach the destination of our goals, purposes, and visions. It is not, necessarily, defined, as a function of how much time is used to carry out a task, but rather dependent on the quality of character traits that can be found in the work accomplished. Diligence is speed, defined, as a function of **excellence, precision, accuracy and perfection**, carried out in a persistent and consistent manner, gently and effectively, bringing the person to a successful destination. This kind of speed, relieves the Believer from any sort of competition, haste and even stress, in their quest to accomplish their task. The reason being that, the Believer is not concerned about how much distance that has been covered in the journey, but concerned and focused on the richness and quality of the actions that will lead him/her to the final destination. This should be the form of speed with which the Believer operates in, rather than a stressful and hasty one.

Add Diligence!

I earlier, made a reference to II Peter 1:5 & 10. Let's relate this to how we ought to be diligent in the tasks and areas we find ourselves.

In verse 5, Apostle Peter admonished, we are to place side by side or by simultaneous action **add diligence** to the divine promises of God towards us, that makes us partakers of the divine nature. That's striking, right?

II Peter 1:4-5 (AMP)

*By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature. For this very reason, **adding your diligence** [to the divine promises], employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution, Christian energy), and in [exercising] virtue [develop] knowledge (intelligence)...*

For these divine and exceeding great promises made to us by God, which will cause us to escape from the rottenness and corruption of this world and become partakers of the divine nature (a life without corruption but full of life and light) we ought to add diligence; an eagerness to realize these promises and partake of it.

II Peter 1:10

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

In verse 10, Apostle Peter admonished us with this same virtue, diligence, to make our calling (task, vocation, work) and election (divine selection; one tasked to you from the Divine One: God) sure. This can likewise be seen in Romans 12 when the Apostle Paul speaking of gifts differing from one another according to the measure of grace, admonished that *“he that ruleth, let him do so with diligence”*. The Amplified Bible delves deeper into the word ‘Diligence’ by defining it as ‘zeal and singleness of mind (incisiveness).

Even to the things we have been called to, in various aspects of life, requires the virtue of diligence to propel us to achieve victory, excellence and success in those areas.

What then is diligence? I believe from the scenario created above we have a clue and headway into it. Diligence is a virtue (a moral excellence; an excellent attitude). It is the driving force that propels an individual to achieve a given task. It is the wings, the wheels, the incisors, and the limbs, which moves us toward the set goal. Is it only that? I don't think so. It also comprises a decision-making aspect, zeal and a knowledge aspect as well. We have been asked on many occasions in our lives to be diligent in our actions. What are they trying to say? They are trying to communicate to us that we should have a motivated zeal, supported by a convicted knowledge, to make an incisive decision needed to accomplish it. This gives the individual the speed to make an effort or complete a task.

Diligence, as a virtue, can be lived out by any individual on this Earth, but to the Believer in Christ, it should and must be a virtue that springs forth from the fervency produced by the spirit of God. Diligence, is produced in the Believer as a result of the fervency the Holy Spirit sets aglow in the individual as was seen in Scripture; in the life of Apollos. *He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and burning with spiritual zeal, he spoke and taught diligently and accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he was acquainted only with the baptism of John* (Romans 18:25). It is the Holy Spirit of God, who is able to kindle in us such a virtue, but yet it is dependent on us being willing to decide and surrender to Him to wield this virtue in us.

Now, we can by expression, distinguish, Diligence as a function of: **Motivated Zeal (desire, eagerness, earnestness) + Knowledge (idea, the know-how) + incisive decision (sharp cutting edge decisions to activate and accomplish a task) = (excellence, success, a life of gold, a life of honor.)**

It is quite revealing, that diligence from the Greek as used in the New Testament as stated above, is a more solid combination of the individual elements above which are seen separately in the Old Testament especially in the Book of Proverbs.

Knowledge

Proverbs 27:23

Be thou **diligent** to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. Same as *to know* in the Hebrew context of this Scripture.

Incisiveness

Proverbs 12:24,27

The hand of the **diligent** shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute. The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a **diligent** man is precious. Exactly the same as *incisive decision* in Hebrew in the Old Testament.

Readiness To Do

Proverbs 22:29

Seest thou a man **diligent** in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men. Same as '*readiness; quick*' in Hebrew in the Old Testament.

A man who is capable of standing before kings, is the one whose work or business through a diligent virtue, has had his work accomplish gold and honour, thereby making him worthy to stand in the presence of men of honor. It is these elements coupled with a motivated zeal that will move the individual to accomplish his task and live a life of gold.

Just as the eagle sheds away most of the feathers of its wings to regenerate more strength, so should it be from time to time to

regenerate and fuel up our desire, knowledge base and decision-making system, to continually operate with the virtue of diligence. The same can be likened to how we repair or replace a worn-out wheel on a vehicle, so should we treat this virtue; it should be regenerated at various times or we will lose the strength and energy in it.

Why Do We Need To Be Diligent?

Diligence is a requisite virtue if we are marked to make impact on this Earth just as we have been created to live like; to reveal light and influence the decisions of this world for the sure purposes of God. Just as Peter will say, we are by diligence to make our calling and election sure. The eagle takes no flight with the wings by its side. The Mercedes Benz doesn't travel an inch to its destination without the wheels.

Institutions set to make impact on the earth will fail due to lack of diligence. The decision-making system of this world will continue to grow increasingly poor, if we are not diligent enough to make up our minds to stand for the truth and course. There will be no excellence, no degree of good success when diligence is disdained. There will be few men of honour and excellence, when we show no diligence towards the task given us. We will be like eagles with flightless wings. A Mercedes Benz with no wheels. Many areas of our lives will be unfruitful, due to the lack of diligence and many more. Can we minimize this? Yes! We can. But it starts from we being diligent towards the tasks we have been commissioned to do.

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Our life will be just as mundane and boring even though deposited in us are values and abilities, that are capable of turning this whole world upside down, lying resident in us with no pulley of diligence to draw them out. Just as was said of the Apostles when they entered in a city, “these men that turned this world upside down has come here also”. These words wouldn’t have been said of them if they weren’t diligent to the task committed to them by the Holy Spirit through His empowerment in them.

Similarly, the Holy Spirit with all His benefits are residing in us waiting for our diligent hearkening to Him so that He can usher us to the place where He wants to lead us to. Will you be diligent to the task and purpose assigned to you by your Creator and the directions of the Holy Spirit today? Take heed! Show some diligence today.

RUN WITH IT!

Cast your mind, wide and far, through an open window into the deep thoughts of God, laid within us, are His beautiful and precious treasures, fully laden with gold and pure ornaments of eternal richness, to help us in our journey here on this Earth. The thoughts of the Lord, is for His own, beloved sons, to live out the life, effectively, just as He has designed with a heart of joy, and love. Look, beyond and see, the open windows of God's goodness and Grace, beckoning for your attention, to come oh beloved, to enjoy the beautiful fruits, it has in full capacity for you.

Look, far beyond the plains and see, on the valley of hope, and take a glimpse at the mountain top of victories, eternal riches, glory and accomplishments. They are all, for our taking, made by God for us, and us only. We are to access this freely, but the pathway and roadmap of God's handcrafted principles must be known, obeyed and taken hold of, so not to be as blind people without sight and helper, but to be, even as blind people with the sight of faith, to lead us there. It is only, the knowledge and wisdom that comes from God, the keys to the doors of treasures, that will grant us the legal right of entry to benefit from these, and use them to accomplish God's given task to us, gloriously.

Look, therefore, and gird the loins of your mind, with caution and with the key of *don't begin, let God begin it*; so God Almighty, the Creator of everything seen and unseen, will have the preeminence in whatever task or purpose you have been marked for: that He will graciously instate Jesus Christ, at the beginnings of

everything in your life, making it fruitful and impressing His image on it.

Look, therefore, saint, and soak your clothes and carnal nature in the Precious Blood of the Lamb. Pick up your cross. Put on your Jesus attire; let the reflection of the life of Christ be seen, but with an inward impress of holiness and sanctity springing forth from Jesus Christ. Surrender! Yield! Deny self! Let Christ have His way in you; being crucified with Him and allowing Him live His glorious life in you. The Creed and song, should be; I live, yet, not I; it is Christ who liveth in me!

Look, therefore, fill your imaginations, with the scent of a sweet-scented flower, attracting its insect. Or with the magnificent, expression of a magnet, attracting a magnetic material. Hey! do not chase, attract! Grow! Improve! Transform! Mature! Become empowered and enlightened! Therein, will you begin to attract the promises and richness of the Father. Therein, will you begin to attract, the necessities, that are of Kingdom relevance into your life. Become, magnetized, by association with the son of God, as he transforms you into His very image, even as He make you an attractive force for His kingdom.

Look, beloved, therefore, and operate with an authority, might and power that is above; with prowess and strength in various categories of your life, being beyond what is beforehand to conquer. Partner and cooperate effectively, with the Spirit of God, as you ride on His wings, even as He travels with you into the deep recesses of God's thought of foresighted ideas, knowledge

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and wisdom, that are abled to bring the unseen and unheard, into your generation.

Again, look, therefore, in the valley of hope, and view the mountain top of victories, success and eternal richness. One virtue, a propellant, that gives you the zeal and speed, to move steadily and effectively to your destination, should not be disdained; the virtue, Diligence. Round it about your neck, like a precious jewelry, ever holding firm to it.

These keys, Heavenly knowledge and wisdom, from God, His designed pathways and principles to the mountain top, should and must be held in an arm of strength and unwavering resolution, if we are to get there, somewhere in this journey of God's light to His predestined destination and successes. Keep hold of these! Run with them! Open door ways for others to follow! May the good God, grant us sufficient grace in this journey in the Name of our Lord Jesus. Amen!

[Sealed!]



GS. RICHARD



DESIGNING A DIVINE WORLD

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Calligraphy is a Christian body established with an unwavering focus of transforming this world and the people within for the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ through His Eternal Spirit and Word. This body is set up to advance and bring to light the intentions of God's divine purposes and His Kingdom plans on this earth with a firm standing and deep conviction in the Message of Christ and in the Holy Spirit.

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