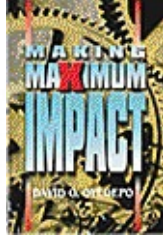


David Oyedepo

A photograph showing the silhouettes of several construction workers on a construction site at sunset. The workers are in various poses, some holding tools like shovels. The background features a body of water and a bridge under a sky with soft, colorful clouds. The overall mood is one of industriousness and the end of a day's work.

The Hardwork Factor

Stop spending your time start
investing it



Without doubt, the end time is our time. Prophecies in scripture make it clear that the Church will take the lead in the affairs of life while others will follow. Everyone will come to know that the Church is practically in charge (Isaiah 2:1-3; Zechariah 8:20-23).

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Chapter 5

THE HARDWORK FACTOR

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However, these scriptures will only come to pass following certain laid down principles. I have come to appreciate the fact that no one succeeds by accident. A life of impact is not a product of luck. It is a costly mistake to assume that prophecies fulfil themselves. Certainly not! There are secrets that trigger them off.

Hardwork Is It!

*By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through. **Ecclesiastes 10:18***

There is no future in this kingdom for the idle. Rather than prospering, he begins to decay and his body becomes a conducive resting place for sicknesses and disease due to lack of use.

Just like when a building remains uninhabited for a period of time, it begins to fall through. However there are some buildings that appear to be on the verge of collapse, but because they are occupied, they continue to stay up.

The Bible says in Genesis 2:2 that “...*God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.*” This gives us an indication that God is a worker. In fact, it is this nature of hardwork that is revealed when in verse eight the Bible says,

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

God did not fold His hands wishing for a garden to grow, rather He “planted” one. That speaks of dedication to duty. Nothing works for the idle. Hardwork is the sure escape out of a hard-life.

Jesus too was a hardworker, He said of Himself:

*I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. **John 9:4***

Since you are made in the image of God and have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, it will be a crime against your heritage to be an idler.

Look at Abraham, the father of faith. As full of faith as he was, he too was a worker. At the retirement age of many civil servants, Abraham was re-firing! At 75 he was still rearing cattle and at 92 he led out an army in the night to overtake the enemy! He reared cattle until he became very rich in silver and gold.

To retire at 50 is to open yourself up for decay. The patriarch Abraham had a unique strength that kept him going, until he was very old. That is your portion too!

When Isaac came on the scene, he too displayed his father's unique 'appetite' for hardwork. At one time, whenever he dug a well, the Philistines always contested for it. But he never gave up. He kept digging new ones until he wore them out and called the name of the last one Rehoboth. (Genesis 26:19-22).

What about Jacob? Having no cash to pay the dowry for his wife, he chose to work seven years for her. Even when Laban cheated him, by giving him Leah and asking him to serve an extra seven years for the woman of his choice, it was no big problem for Jacob, because he was a hardworker!

Recall how Caleb came up to Joshua and demanded for the mountain Moses promised him? He was eighty, yet he asserted that he was still as strong as he was forty years before! (Joshua 14:19-20).

Paul also was a hardworker. Although joining the team of apostles late, through diligence he became the 'chiefest' of them all (1 Corinthians 15:10). That is why he admonished idle men:

*For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. **2 Thessalonians 3:10***

Friend, if you must win, you must work!

I have purposed never to look abroad or anywhere for assistance. What God cannot give to me, I don't need. I know that as I face my business, God is faithful to supply all my needs. So, I give myself to my job, celebrating the dignity in labour.

There is no audience on the earth today I cannot address with the gospel. No one can tell me, what I am saying is irrelevant. There is a depth in me which I contacted through rigorous searching.

By His grace, I know my job and I am doing it.
Get Busy!

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

There is a future in whatever your hands find to do, as long as it is a righteous job. Wherever you find yourself is a good enough place to make a mark. It is useless trying to escape to America or anywhere else. There is nothing there that isn't where you are.

In case you are black, please know that black is not synonymous with lack. Jesus has made you free, it is foolhardy to enslave yourself again. You must begin to see that there is dignity in labour. There is much food in your tillage and much profit where you are.

I believe strongly that there is no man without a talent. God has deposited something within you that if you care to work at, will bring you much fulfilment. You have to get busy releasing your potential.

Invest Your Time!

Time is a major factor for a life of impact.

Businessmen say often, "Time is money", because their success is tied to how wisely they invest their time. Time is success. Those who do not know how to make proper use of their time cannot accidentally stumble into success. The truth of the matter is that God has given each of us enough time to be the best we are created to be. The inventors we celebrate today became so, by investing their time in locating secrets. They took time to dig up facts, think through issues and locate solutions.

As I said in the previous chapter, time is an asset of equality. What you do with it determines your destiny. Many in public service go to work but do nothing. They simply while away time.

Stop spending your time, start investing it. Time spenders are wasters. When you make the most of your time, you are making the most of your life!

What many businessmen need to experience breakthroughs is to give their businesses the time it requires; then the results will begin to show.

I spend all my time on my assignment and it shows! I relate with the Father, Son

and Holy Ghost, so that my assignment can be pleasing to Him.

I was amazed when I saw a New Testament commentary written by Kenneth Hagin's secretary. I wondered where she got the time from. Then it occurred to me that she didn't have time, she made time. The quality of your time investment determines the quality of life you live. So, go ahead, put your best into your life's goals and watch yourself make impact in the world.

Consider this parable:

And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver.

And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it.

1 Kings 20:39-40

While many Christians are busy here and there minding trivialities, the success they are looking for escapes! Investing time gives colour to destiny.

Isaac Newton is still being spoken of today, because he took advantage of time. A plague had broken out in his school and all the students were asked to go home. Newton returned to his father's farm and did something useful with the eighteen-month break from school.

It was during that period that he made those three outstanding discoveries of the law of mechanics. Perhaps some of his mates whiled away their time, but Newton invested his. That investment is still affecting the world today, and he is remembered as one of the most brilliant men that ever lived.

A wise man said when you refuse to change, you end up in chains. God has destined you to be a pace-setter in your world, but changing from slothfulness to diligence and from time-wasting to time-investing, are principles that help you to make maximum impact.

Put your hand on your chest and say, "Lord, teach me discipline. I don't want to be a time waster but an investor. Lord, please help me."

It's Over To You

The time of celebrating the impact of others is over, it is now time for you to

make impact on your world. The facts have been handed over to you, but until they are applied, a life of impact remains a daydream.

It is your time to affect your world positively. It is your covenant birth right to leave footprints on the sands of time. The world is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. Others are making it; you can make it too!

