

STRETCHING TO ACHIEVE GOAL: SOCIAL POINT OF VIEW

**AT
CHRIST APOSTOLIC
GOSPEL CHURCH,
GRACE SANCTUARY,
IFAKO-IJAYE, LAGOS.**

BY: BRO. OLAWALE ONAOLAPO

September 27, 2003

AGENDA

1. Definitions
2. Beginning of Indirect Struggles
3. How is Life
4. Facing The Challenge
5. Hard Facts
6. Questions & Answers

1. DEFINITIONS

- **Stretch:** “elasticity” or “to push somebody to limit of ability”
- **Achieve:** “succeed in doing”
- **Goal:** “target area,” “aim,” or “successful shot”
- **Goal:** “the object of a person’s ambition or effort”
- **Social:** “relating to society”

2. BEGINNING OF INDIRECT STRUGGLES

- **The Societal Strata**
 - **The Elites**
 - **The Middle Class**
 - **The Masses**
- **What is your own background?**
 - **Born with golden spoon in your mouth?**
 - **Had humble start?**

...indirect struggles (Contd.)

- Had privilege of solid elementary education?
- Had privilege of solid secondary education?
- Had privilege of solid tertiary education?
- Are all these factors really relevant to success in life?

3. HOW IS LIFE?

- **Gaining independence and stepping into Maslow's concept of hierarchy of needs**
- **Physiological needs: Basic for sustaining human life i.e. food, water, clothing shelter, sleep, and sexual satisfaction**
- **Security, or safety, needs: Freedom from physical danger and fear of loss of assets**

...Life (Contd.)

- **Affiliation, or acceptance needs: Sense of belonging**
- **Esteem needs: This kind produces such satisfactions as power, prestige, status, and self-confidence**
- **Need for Self Actualization: To maximize one's potential and accomplish something**

4. FACING THE CHALLENGE

- **Through Stephen Covey's 7 habits of Highly Effective People**
- **Offers powerful lessons in personal change**
- **Divided into three segments i.e. Private & Public Victories & Renewal**
- **Offers paradigms and principles**

Private Victory

BE PROACTIVE: PRINCIPLES OF PERSONAL VISION

- **Self-awareness and conscience is key**
- **It means that as human beings, we are responsible for our own lives. Our behavior is a function of our decisions, not our conditions**
- **Proactive people are driven by values-carefully thought about, selected and internalized values**
- **They seize the initiative to do whatever is necessary, consistent with correct principles, to get the job done**

Private Victory (contd.)

- BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND: PRINCIPLES OF PERSONAL LEADERSHIP
- Means to start with a clear understanding of your destination
- Whatever is at the centre of our life will be the source of our security, guidance, wisdom, and power
- The personal power that comes from principle-centered living is the power of self-aware, knowledgeable, proactive individual, unrestricted by the attitudes, behaviors, and actions of others or by many of the circumstances and environmental influences that limit other people
- By centering our lives on timeless, unchanging principles, we create a fundamental paradigm of effective living. It is the centre that puts all other centers in perspective

Private Victory (contd.)

- **PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST: PRINCIPLES OF PERSONAL MANAGEMENT**
- The essence of effective time and life management is to organize and execute around balanced priorities
- The key to effective management is delegation
- Stewardship delegation involves clear, upfront mutual understanding and commitment regarding expectations in five areas: Desired Results, Guidelines, Resources, Accountability & Consequences

Public Victory

- **THINK WIN/WIN: PRINCIPLES OF INTERPERSONAL LEADERSHIP**
- Win win sees life as a cooperative, not a competitive arena
- Most of life is an interdependent, not an independent, reality. Most results you want depend on cooperation between you and others
- Three character traits are essential to win/win paradigm i.e. integrity, maturity (the balance between courage and consideration) and abundance mentality
- Public victory is an outgrowth of the abundance mentality paradigm
- Emotional Bank Account comes to play

Public Victory (contd.)

- SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD: PRINCIPLES OF EMPATHIC COMMUNICATION
- Empathic listening gets inside another person's frame of reference
- Next to physical survival, the greatest need of a human being is psychological survival-to be understood, to be affirmed, to be validated, to be appreciated
- To be understood, your ethos (character), pathos (relationships) and logos (logic of presentation) must be in sync

Public Victory (contd.)

- **SYNERGISE: PRINCIPLES OF CREATIVE COOPERATION**
- The whole is greater than the sum of its constituent parts
- The essence of synergy is to value differences-to respect them, to build on strengths, to compensate for weaknesses
- One of the very practical results of being principle-centered is that it makes us whole-truly integrated

Renewal

- **SHARPEN THE SAW: PRINCIPLES OF BALANCED SELF-RENEWAL**
- It is renewing the four dimensions of our nature-physical, spiritual, mental & social/emotional
- **Physical**: Exercise, Nutrition, Stress Management
- **Spiritual**: Value Clarification & Commitment, Study & Meditation
- **Mental**: Reading, Visualizing, Planning, Writing
- **Social/Emotional**: Service, Empathy, Synergy, Intrinsic Security


Other Lessons

- **He who cannot change the very fabric of his thought will never be able to change reality, and will never, therefore, make any progress**
- **By centering our lives on correct principles and creating a balanced focus between doing and increasing our ability to do, we become empowered in the task of creating effective, useful, and peaceful lives**

5. HARD FACTS

Niccolo Machiavelli on Role of Fortune in Life:

- **Nevertheless, in order that our free will not be extinguished, I judge it to be true that Fortune is the arbiter of one half of our actions, but that she still leaves the control of the other half, or almost that to us**
- **God does not wish to do everything, in order not to take from us our free will and that part of the glory which is ours**



Q & A