

#BrojidBooks

*Seven Keys
to a
Successful
Year End*

Year End for Best New Year

Joseph 'Brojid' Dinwoke

Seven Keys to a Successful Year End

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Acknowledgement

Thanks to God who sustained me to this time of the year and gave me the grace to put these thoughts in book format after presenting it on **Radio Nigeria** Voice96.7FM, **Moment of Blessing**.

God bless you, Loveth Eke, my co-pilot on **Moment of Blessing**. Thanks for your support in producing our programme and packaging this book.

God, I can't thank you enough for my friend and Chief Critic, Chika Ugwuodo of **Chikawrites.com**. He always listens to me on radio to give his sincere criticism. At short notice he offered me his editing skills for free. Chika, if not that you are a man, I would have said, 'I love so much.' *I no go lie you*. You are a darling!

To you my listener on **Moment of Blessing** and follower on **brojid.com**, thanks for your support. You motivate me to keep writing and talking.

Introduction

The year is gradually coming to an end and a New Year will soon start. Painfully, many people spend their yearend in a manner that fetches them only regrets in the New Year or the rest of their lives. But yours can be different!

You can end your year in a manner that it will be a lunch pad for the best New Year.

In this mini book, I want to share with you seven keys to a successful year end.

Oya, let's go...

#1

SHOW GRATITUDE

~

God is a constant in your life, no matter how good or bad it has been. He has been good to you. He has at least kept you alive; giving you a chance to become what could this year. Acknowledge the good He did for you and testify of His work in your life, your career and family. He doesn't need any material thing from you. Expressing gratitude to people lay bare before you how much they have done for you, gives them a sense of fulfillment and spurs them to do more for you whenever they can.

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Gratitude is a heart attitude of being grateful. It's an attitude of being thankful. One of the indispensable virtues you need in your life is gratitude.

One of the keys to having a successful year end is to show gratitude to God and people that have touched your life in the passing year.

Thank God

God has kept you since the beginning of the year. The fact that you are alive is not because you exercised or dieted well. Also, don't think you are still alive because you are not in the den of *Boko Haram* or were not in France on the day of the attack by the Islamic state. Many have died right inside their bathroom. It's God that has kept you; ensuring that you are not dead.

Don't also think it's because you have been a careful driver. Many careful drivers have been killed by careless ones. Thank God for life.

Thank God that the hunger you suffered this year didn't kill you. He provided for you and quenched your hunger. It's not your hard work. Many people work hard but get nothing.

No matter what you think you have lost this year, there are still one thousand and one reasons to thank God.

Thank Him!

Now that you have life, you still have a big chance to get far more than what you may have lost. The biblical Job lost all he had but started life afresh and God blessed him greatly. Thomas Edison once lost all his years of effort when fire gutted his laboratory but he started afresh and grew into who we know him as today.

Thank God for your life; the life of your family and your job. Look out for the *little* things He has done in your life, family and your relations. Thank Him for them.

In fact if you have no reason to thank God in your personal life, thank Him for our dear country Nigeria. I understand that fuel is scarce and expensive, and that we currently grapple with security challenges. But God has kept us together in peace especially since the conclusion of the 2015 General elections.

Expressing Gratitude

You can show gratitude by simply opening your mouth to thank God and voice out what He has done for you. Don't wait until you go to church to give offering or kill cow to share. Start with counting your blessing and naming them one by one. God has done so much in your life and for you.

He has given you plenty. Share with someone. It's a way of telling him that you are grateful. It's a way of telling him that you are happy for what He has done for you. You must not give thousands; buy something for that old man or woman in your village. Give school fees to that indigent student in your area. Buy book for the best three students in your community, church or Mosque.

Show God that you are happy for all that He has given you by giving to others.

God is the Boss. He knows; but I believe He wants you to say it. He wants those that didn't know to know from you. Show him gratitude.

Let me tell you something about gratitude to God. While counting his blessing in your life, you deliver yourself from hopelessness about any situation and you remind yourself of His goodness. This

strengthens your faith in Him and keeps you doing well despite all odds.

#Appreciate People

There are people that have touched your life this year; show them gratitude. Appreciate them for touching your life. Appreciate them for making themselves available for God to use them to bless you.

There are people who stood by you in tough times, appreciate them. If they were not there for you, maybe you wouldn't have been able to stand the tough times you encountered this year.

Appreciate your coworkers – seniors, juniors and equals – they must have made you a better person by your interaction with them. Even the ones that annoyed you; they must have helped you increase your patience quotient.

Appreciate your boss who assigned you more work than necessary to punish you. He must have helped you discover all that you can be by stretching you. Thank God for him and appreciate him.

Send people who have touched your life a text message. Personalise it. In plain terms, tell them how they made your life better this year. Give them shout outs on radio and your social media accounts.

I know you have paid your staff for the work they did. But don't forget that you also paid the most distracting of all your staff. Appreciate those that stood out. Make it public to encourage them to do more and challenge others to strive harder and better.

Appreciate your spouse. I know s/he offended you a number of times but you and I know life would have been boring without some of those offences. **smiles**

Appreciate your children. They are not perfect but look for something they have done well and appreciate them for it.

Look for some brilliant children in your neighborhood or village and appreciate them. You don't have to be very wealthy. You can buy textbooks for the best three. They will be encouraged to study harder.

I can't forget the Intensive English I got from a Christmas Party organized in my home town as a little boy in SS2. I was the best in Senior Secondary category and that book was a kind of a performance boost for me. It made me feel very intelligent and spurred me to work hard to remain intelligent.

One good thing about appreciation is that as you give it out, you get something back in double measure.

#2

APPRAISE YOUR LIFE

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Appraising your life in the passing year, reveals where you excelled and areas you fumbled. It's key to getting better in life and having a better New Year.

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One of the keys to having a successful year end is taking out time to appraise your life in the passing year. This involves examining how you fared in every area of your life.

No matter the level you have attained in life or your degree of efficiency, one sure thing is that there is still room for improvement. There is room for increased proficiency. There is a room for higher level of excellence. There is a room for higher walk with God.

That's why I prescribe that as we round off this year, you take time to appraise your life. Take a kind of inventory. Look back from the beginning of the year and closely consider how you have fared.

Earlier, I talked about the need to show gratitude to God and appreciate fellow human beings who may have, in one way or the other, touched your life this year.

I like you to take a step further and look at where you have excelled and areas you fumbled. Take a closer look at the result you have gotten and see if that's the best you can possibly get. How come you got less than 100% efficiency?

Consider the mistakes you have made and find out if you could have avoided them. Try and find out why you have always committed blunder in that area.

There are many areas of your life you need to appraise but, there are five areas that I feel are cardinal to your being. They are pivotal to our lives.

Let's consider each of them briefly.

Appraise Your Relationships

For a minute, ask yourself why people always fault with you in certain areas. Don't always conclude that they are wrong. Don't also dismiss it that they are entitled to their opinion. Granted, there are times when people's opinion of you is faulty due to their perception and world view but, before you conclude that, ask yourself if there is something wrong with you.

A number of times you must have had clashes with your boss, spouse, colleague, child, parent, pastor or even bus conductors. For a minute, ask yourself, 'What happened?' Check if you have a problem with your interpersonal relationship. Are you sure you don't have wrong views about people that have put you always at loggerheads with them? Could it be that you transfer aggression from your family to your colleague at work, bus conductors and *okada* riders? Or you allow your frustration at work to adversely affect your relationship with your family.

How come you always have broken engagements? I know your pastor or prophet might have told you about a curse in your family or one of your aunties who tied your marriage. He may have also told about the need to sow a *dangerous* seed for your freedom. But before you start with the seed sowing (which is a joke in my opinion), ask yourself if there is something about your life style, mindset and attitude that has made it difficult to maintain your relationships.

My brother, don't be quick to say you beat her up because she always acts stupid. Ask yourself how come the only way you know to handle her *stupidity* is by beating her up.

My sister, he has always beaten you. Don't conclude that it's the impact of influence from his father who used his mother as a punching bag. Check if there is something you do to encourage his bad habit of beating you.

If fact, there may not be any beating going on in your family. But ask yourself if there is something you do wrong that has always initiated friction in your family. Check if there is something you can do differently.

I may not have been able to point out to you, possible cause of hitches in your relationship but honestly appraise your relationships to figure out what you may not be doing right.

For me, I have found out that in doing business with friends and relations and pastors, the terms of our work has to be clearly defined. That way, our expectations are clear and there wouldn't be a case of 'I thought you knew that you should do so *so* or give so so.'

No matter how good or trouble-free your relationships have been this year, I am sure you can get better. You can make your relationships with your spouse, family and workplace better. You can make your domestic staff feel better.

Take a pen and paper, and list how you can get better in your relationships with people. If you don't get any idea, read books. Learn from others. Just make efforts to get better.

Appraise Your Finance

Whether you struggled in your finance this year, or amassed great wealth, you still need to appraise your finance.

Yes, ask yourself why you found it difficult to meet your financial obligation with ease. How come it's only when your Landlord threatened with quit notice that you responded to your responsibility? Ask yourself why you have more creditors than debtors.

Could your financial challenges be a result of trying to live above your means? My friend, you need to adjust your lifestyle to live according to you means.

You don't need to impress anybody by buying what you can hardly afford. It doesn't make sense at all! Forget about building public image while you go home to suffer or live in perpetual anxiety because you mount undue pressure on your finance.

Maybe your financial difficulties (you have overused hitches) result from the fact that you have refused to step out to trade what you have. You have got skills, knowledge and solution but you have refused to strategically deploy them so as to initiate God's chain reaction of rewarding a man with solution handsomely.

Were you busy hanging around *big men* and politicians that you failed to deploy what you have got to attract financial flow to yourself?

If that's your case, you have to start planning to begin the New Year differently. Yes, you have to because I don't like you to enter the New Year begging again. You are too big to depend on begging. Step out to do something to save your family from the hassle of feeding and paying school fees. Step out to do something with all the things you

learnt in school. I know you don't have to get a formal job. Get down to work; provide someone a solution in exchange for money. It's better than remaining a burden to your parents or constantly calling you uncles and aunties.

It is also possible your financial challenges resulted from poor management of your resources. Please take time and ask yourself if you spent your money impulsively. Did you fall for aggressive sales men and advertizing? Sorry o. (I am not laughing at you). You just have to be in control of your *financial emotion* in the remaining part of the year and the New Year.

It's always safe to plan your spending and not spend on impulse. Don't also make a pledge or give money in church or anywhere by impulse.

I am sorry to say this: I have seen pastors both live or on radio/TV who manipulate their audience's psychology to make them give money to either their church or to them. This is wickedness!

If they choose to continue in their wickedness, decide not to fall prey to them. Just by the way, King Solomon advised us not to make rash promises to God when we go to church. Apostle Paul taught us that it's acceptable according to what a man has. (For more on this, please see my article, *Caution: Before you Make that Pledge in church*).

I am not talking about only your personal finance. As we come to the end of this year and step into the New Year, be careful of quick fix solution people will bring your way for your business. Don't jump at any package because of the seeming beauty of the proposal. Carefully consider your choices. If you can, pray about them as well. It's important.

As you appraise your finance, check if you cheated anybody to make money. Check if you lied or said half-truths to increase your finance.

If you cheated anybody to make money and as a result, increased your finance, a round of applause for you! But know that for every person or organization you steal from or cheat, you cheat yourself too. Life has a way of paying you back. Yes. What goes around, come around.

If you sold fake products or poor service to your customers so as to increase your wealth, you have only sown seed for financial downfall that will eventually manifest.

Some people call it *Karma*. I don't know what that is all about. But I know about '*just recompense of reward*' that you would get unless God forgives you of your sin. If you secure the forgiveness that God gives through Christ Jesus, He would wipe away the effect of your sins of cheating others.

Forgiveness in Christ Jesus is not an incentive to continue in sin but your chance to turn away from your evil ways and enjoy the best of life.

If you amassed plenty wealth, bear in mind that there is more you could have gotten. Are you sure you fully utilized the potential you have in you to provide solution to problems?

Are you sure you managed the human and material resources at your disposal well? Are you sure you fully maximized your talent or talents under your control to achieve peak productivity?

As you settle down to appraise your finance, ask yourself if there is anything you could have done differently to escape the financial challenges you encountered this year.

Ask yourself if there are better ways to deploy/manage your skills and the solutions you have to increase wealth; otherwise, you would wallow in lack when you hold the key to your wealth.

Seek to know if there are people or institutions you cheated to increase wealth; resolve to change. Otherwise, you would be digging your grave without knowing it.

Appraise your Family

Your family is your primary constituency and they must be guarded and treated with care. I understand that you need to work to make money but while you go about it; you have to ensure you don't lose your family.

Be sincere with yourself: did you really give your family members the time and attention they deserve? How much time did you spend with your children? Were you an absentee father/mother? Were you carried away by breaking sales record in your workplace that you neglected your family? Were you so engrossed with work that you didn't care about your parents?

Were you an absentee child? **Smiles**. Yes, for my dictionary, I get *absentee child*. It's that child who cares less about his parents.

How far with your child and the nanny or home teacher? Did you shift your responsibility to them while you got busy making name and climbing your career ladder faster?

Each time we abandon our family in our quest to get material success, we end up acquiring material success to solve the problem borne out of our abandonment or have the material resources without people to enjoy with. That's why you and I need to settle down and begin to appraise how we have dealt with our family this year.

I have seen many parents who claim that why they abandon their children is to make enough money for them. Hmmm! You see, far more important than the wealth you will acquire and give your children is the moral values and life lesson you can teach them.

The too much money you abandoned them to make will afford them holiday in choice part of the world and all kinds of luxury. For the meantime, you will see it that you are at par with your colleagues and the children are getting what many of their mates are not. *Nothing spoil o.* I also want my children to have all that and even more. But if in a bid to achieve this, I fail in inculcating strong moral values and teaching key lessons of life, which are the foundations they need to launch to great places, I have failed as a father! God forbid that I fail as I father. In fact, I would rather remain single than fail in my parenting.

They may not know what they are losing by your absenteeism but when they grow up and see how hollow they are, they may hate you. I am not wishing you bad; just telling you the truth.

Please, I am not trying to teach you parenting. But I just want to ask you if you gave your children adequate attention this year. Before you say yes, please how adequate has been your attention since January? Do you know if your child is learning anything from that home teacher or is your business just to pay and go to work? Have you tried to spend time with him to find out the reason for his new attitude? Have you spent time to help her with the myriad of questions on her mind as a youth full of passion and drive?

The more an absentee parent you become, the more you become a stranger to your children. The result is what I am sure you wouldn't want to imagine.

My parents are not perfect people. They don't even have so much materially. But I am ever grateful to God for them for the amount of attention they gave to inculcating good moral values in me.

While in the farm, market, at home or on the back seat of my Dad's motorcycle or with any of my parents, they always teach me life lessons; telling me the path I must not take. That's why they have been the greatest influence in my life.

Apart from your children, how far with your spouse? Did you abandon your spouse because of the children? Did you starve your spouse of attention, care, sex, love and companionship?

As we round off the year, please reflect on this and resolve to have a better year.

How about your parents? Did you abandon them as though they didn't sacrifice to train you to be who you are today?

Oh, they didn't sacrifice? I understand. But you can't pay back evil for evil. You have abandoned them long enough. Pretend that they have been good to you and care for them. Do it just because of God.

See, taking care of your parents is not just about money or materials thing you can give them. Someone like my Dad just wants to see you, tell you what has happened to him and what has not and show you off to his friends. In fact, someone told me that tender care and attention from children elongates parents' life.

Do your best to give your family the needed attention they deserve. It's your primary constituency. You can be sacked from your job but you can't be sacked from your family. Please treat them with utmost care!

Appraise Your Career

My understanding of career is the field where you give full expression to the gift of God in you for the good of humanity. It's very important and strategic to your existence as a human being. When you do it well, you will make impact, name and money. It's what you will be remembered for. Doing it well justifies your existence.

How far did you go about it this year? Did you really put in your best or did just small to get by? Did you really put in your best effort or you treated your job with levity?

How much people were you able to serve with your gift this year? Even the people you served, are they the only people you can serve? Is your level of efficiency the best you can reach?

As your appraise yourself and the way you went about your job this year, ask yourself if you truly went about it as unto God or by eye service.

You see, it should be our burning passion to always improve and get better at our work. Take a closer look at the correction your boss and colleague gave you. They are pointers to where you need to make improvement so as to get better in the year ahead? How did you improve at what you do?

Did you seize all the opportunity you have to upgrade your skill and knowledge so as to serve better at your work?

Appraise Your Relationship with God

God is a constant in our lives. By this, I mean that we can't do without Him. How far has your relationship with God been this year? Are you closer or farther apart?

Did you live your life to displease him this year? Did you go about your business, academics and work the way He would want you to? Did you buy goods from people and refuse to pay them? Did you go to church to preach but told them lies just to get money from them?

I am not accusing you of doing anything o. I am just asking you questions to help you appraise your relationship with God this year.

Did you carry your burden alone this year? Did you share with God who can help you carry it? If you carried your burden all alone, you missed! It would have been lighter, if you invited God in your situation.

If you lived to displease, you tuned his face away from you. I suggest you turn a new leaf.

As we step into a new year, plan to have better walk with Him.

#3

DO THE RIGHT THING

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The pressure resulting from deadlines to meet and goals to reach and people to impress rises towards the end of the year. When the pressure mounts, temptation to do the wrong thing comes. Don't succumb; do only the right thing.

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One of the things that characterises year end is that many people do the wrong things. This results in increased rate of robbery, advance fee fraud (what we call 419) and boys and girls choose to do the same things they know to be wrong.

You see, many of us believe that we have to buy what we can hardly afford and that's why we step out to do the exact things we know are wrong just so that we can make it.

You are mounting undue pressure on yourself by trying to impress anybody. You don't have to. You are who you are and should be not be ashamed of letting anybody see you just as you are. If at all you should be ashamed of anything, you should be ashamed of cheating or stealing from anybody to get money you have not worked for.

I like to share with you one of the things Pastor Bankie drummed into my ears. He taught us that we don't have mates and therefore should not compare ourselves with anybody. He further admonished us to face the race set before us and ensures we run it well and not bother ourselves with anybody's progress.

Bishop David Oyedepo taught us that Life is in phases and that every man should live his phase per time.

You know that you *never hammer* like we say in our local parlance, why do you want to break the moral codes you have imbibed up till now just to give the impression that you have?

You don't have to! It's not necessary!

Don't steal or spend your money so as to give anybody the impression that you have arrived or acquired more wealth than you really have. Apart from the fact that you are living a lie, you are exposing yourself to undue and unnecessary pressure because the

expectations on your will increase. Suddenly, you are invited to chair the launching of your town hall or football competition.

I understand that you have not attained all the goals you set for yourself, and you are given a target for the month but it appears as if you may not attain it. Relax! Don't panic so much to do the wrong thing. Plan strategically and execute it to the best of your abilities.

You see, one of the key truths I have learnt about getting results in life is that doing the wrong thing to get result is failure in disguise. Don't think you can cheat someone to make money and go home to enjoy. It's not possible! Life has a way of catching up on you to give you the punishment you deserve unless God forgives you.

It doesn't make sense to deceive your client or cheat your customers just to meet your financial target or because you think you have needs to meet.

My sincere suggestion is that you take your needs to God in prayer and work hard at doing what you are supposed to do.

As you walk towards the end of the year, do your best to do the right thing. Work hard to resist the temptation to do what you know is wrong just to meet any target or give an impression that *me sef follow*.

No matter what you have not achieved or pressure coming from anywhere, don't fall for doing the wrong things. To do that would be digging your grave without knowing it.

#4

PLAN FOR THE NEW YEAR

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The New Year comes with its goals and desires or even carryover of last year's goals. To achieve these goals, you should have a blueprint of action for achieving it. This blueprint is developed in your planning table.

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It's an aphorism that he who fails to plan, plans to fail. This saying is true for virtually everything we have to do and in every area of our lives.

The New Year has to be planned for and the right time to make the plan is NOW, not next year.

Planning for the coming year involves setting goals and outlining steps you have to take to achieve them. It's creating a blueprint of your line of action for next year.

No doubt there are goals you couldn't attain this year. There are things you wanted to do but could not. There are also things you didn't want to do but did them. To do all that you are supposed to and achieve your goal, it should be your drive as the year comes to an end.

In every area of your life, you have to set goals and pursue them. For effective pursuit of your goals and achieving them, you need to have a well laid out plan which stands as your line of action.

Outline what you have to do and what you will need others to do for you to achieve your goal. Break down when you are going to do the things and prepare yourself to launch into action once the New Year starts.

Your plan is like a road map to achieving your goals. It guides you to where your goal is.

Some Christians don't believe in planning; saying that the Holy Spirit will lead them. Good! *Nothing spoil.*

But before you think you are spiritual because you don't have plans, let me draw your attention to the fact that from God Almighty to the apostles, planning has been an integral part of life.

God said in Jer. 29:11 that He know the plans He has for His children. Jesus Christ sent His disciples in pairs into the city He had planned to visit. Apostle Paul had plans for where He had gone before he was told to come over to Macedonia to help.

If you still think that living without a plan is being spiritual, perish that thought. It's not!

However, let me point out that having a plan is not enough. There are times God may want to intervene in our situations and in other people's life and will need us.

In that case, our plans will be thwarted. If you are a Moses, you may have planned to increase the flock of your father in-law, Jethro, but if it's time to bring deliverance to God's people, He would override your plans. At such point, please be willing to allow Him reign supreme.

It's important you bear in mind that some of your plans would crash if they depend solemnly on you to execute them. Look out for people you need to work with to execute your plans. Get them on board.

My point? Planning for next year is very important. This planning is not done in the New Year but before the year begins. Your plan is a blueprint of action to your goal.

Failure to plan is not spirituality, it's stupidity. *Sorry if that sounds harsh.* As you plan, allow God's will to rule in your life. Then get every person needed to ensure your plan comes out well, and request God to help you execute your plans.

#5

Live Within Your Means

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As the Year comes to an end, don't forget that your life won't end on 31st December. Therefore, spend within your means to ensure you don't start the year in financial crisis.

~

As we continue in this course of preparing for a successful year end, it's important that you know that our goal is not only to end the year well but to end it in a manner that we will have a fulfilling new year.

One of the keys to achieving this is living within your means. It's common that many people think they need to live so as to impress people in this year end. But that's something you must not be part of. You must end your year well for the best New Year.

You don't have to act, speak or spend your resources to give anybody the impression that you are what you are not. One of the wisdom my mother gifted me is that anybody who says he is bigger than he is, is still as big as he is. This lesson came each time I or any of my siblings made demands for what she and her husband could not have comfortably afforded

This lesson has helped me spend money on what I can afford and not stretch myself too much because I want to impress anyone.

My brother, you don't have to impress your peers or classmates in school. If you are doing well, you are doing well. If you are not, putting up the wrong impression doesn't make you do well. By the way, know that the false impression you give, works against you in the long run because you will continually strain yourself to maintain it and invite undue demands on you.

I know everybody's children will come out in sparkling clothes but if you can't afford it, let your children know. Of course you need to discuss with your spouse who will help you impress the message on the children's mind.

As you spend your money, don't forget that it's the year that is coming to an end, not your life. Year end is largely a thing of your

consciousness. Nothing special happens between 11.59 on 31st and 12.01 on 1st Jan. So, don't spend as if life ends after this year. Please, spend knowing that life continues after the celebration.

It is better that your peers see you as being poor than putting up good image only to realize that you have put undue strain on your finance and your business seed money. Like Pastor Bankie often says, you don't have a mate. Your mate is yourself and if you want to compete with who you are capable of being. Compete with yourself of tomorrow.

Even as you spend at the age grade meeting, your village association, bazaar and all kinds of launchings, live within your means. It helps you keep your sanity intact in the beginning of the New Year. It removes undue stress on your finance in next year. It saves you constant calls from your village to send money to clear the debt or redeem your pledge.

See, let me tell you something. You will be invited to many launchings and naming ceremonies because you live in the city and have advanced in your career or business. What many of your people don't know is that living in the city is not synonymous with having wealth. Your flashy car and dress must have made them feel you are richer than you truly are.

You know how much you have. Give accordingly. Even the Bible teaches that giving is acceptable according to what you have. I am not preaching that you be stingy. You don't have to be. Give and it shall be given to you, is one of the key laws of life. But as you do this, make sure you live within your means.

#6

Make Amends

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In the course of this year, you may have committed at least a blunder. Mistakes are errors that cut short the degree of result, excellence you attain. Failure to make amends for the mistakes as you end this year to begin another one will keep you below peak performance. Please make amends.

~

Earlier, we learnt that one of the key things you can do to have a successful year and best New Year is to appraise your lives in the passing year. The result of your appraisal would be clarity on the areas of your life you failed abysmally, performed averagely and got less than excellent results.

Recall that in that section, I encouraged you to ask yourself why you didn't do as much as you should have.

I understand that someone or nature may have contributed to your less than excellent performance in certain areas of your life but you can also figure out how you may have contributed through your mistakes.

Please be honest to yourself. In all your relationships that went haywire, are you sure you didn't commit any blunder that made it so. Don't just blame her for being unduly emotional. Check if there were things you did wrongly that made the emotional part of her hold sway.

Honestly ask yourself those questions or even answer the questions raised in that section on appraisal of your life in the ending year.

For me, this kind of exercise is best done with my pen and paper. So that for each area I consider, I will actually see all the wrong in them and take steps to change.

My focus here is not to go back to what we have discussed under appraising your life in the passing year but to let you know that it's not enough to know your mistakes. You need to make amends for them.

There are some things you can't alter but you still have changes you can make to get better result and increase your productivity.

In making amends for your mistakes, you may have to go and apologize to people. I have found that apologies do wonders when they are rendered sincerely both to the giver and the receiver.

You may have said things you shouldn't have to certain people. Apologize. Please swallow your ego and apologize. Your apology can heal a great deal of wound in someone's heart. It can rekindle a dying relationship. It can bring back life to a dead relationship.

If you don't make amends for your mistakes this year, you would walk into next year with the tendency to repeat the same mistakes.

You may have to make changes in your lifestyle. You know all the faults you have found with yourself during your appraisal. Decide on how to correct them. Resolve on a new way of life.

The bottom-line in making amend for your mistakes is to realize that you made mistakes, then take steps to ensuring that you have them corrected, knowing fully well that your mistakes are short comings that cut short your performance.

#7

Activate the Supernatural

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Human has have powers to achieve any result; but they have limitations as well. The Almighty God is unlimited. Make His power operational in your life, career, family, business and ministry and He will produce multiplier effect on your efforts.

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Life is controlled by a force greater than we can perceive or interpret. Life is not just about planning and strategizing. As a matter of fact, there are people who despite their good intentions and plans towards a desired result, end up getting distasteful surprises.

Also, there are limits to what we can do as humans. There are things only God handles for us. It's because of this that I implore you to activate the supernatural in your life, career and family.

People get supernatural authority from diverse sources but I choose to get mine from the Almighty – God almighty.

Invite Him in your life to reign supreme. If He reigns, you are sure He would be in control of everything about your life.

He will come and fight your battles. He will defend and arrange favour on your path. He will empower you to execute your plans and strategies.

He will energize you to do the right thing. He will give you wisdom for making decisions. He will guide you towards a new fruitful and productive year.

How do we activate the supernatural in our lives?

Trust in God; the Starting Point Of The Activation

The first step to activating the supernatural is to trust in God. Trust in God is a state of heart that expects God to fulfill His words despite what is going on around you. This is a state of heart that believes that God is able to do the seemingly impossible and initiates the activation of the supernatural. It's the state of heart that God sees and release His power for help.

The LORD keeps close watch over the whole world, to give strength to those whose hearts are loyal to him (2Chron. 16:9 GNB).

An extension of that biblical truth is that God is moving to and fro around your locality looking for those whose hearts are complete towards Him to show his power towards them. It means that as He is moving around now, if He finds your heart complete towards Him, He would show His power on your behalf.

My friend, you have financial challenges, need a job or even starting a business but things seem to be falling apart for you. Don't faint. You need to activate the supernatural in your life. The starting point is total trust in him.

David in His case had his heart complete towards Him in the face of a Goliath and God showed his power on his behalf. Hannah realized that crying was not what would get her a son that she wanted so badly, and getting jealous of her fellow wife won't get her a son either. She knew about God and came to a point of total trust in Him to give her a child and God came forth with a child.

My friend, no matter what trouble or dilemma you are facing, put your trust completely in Him and go to Him with request on what He should do for you in that condition. That's how you get his power activated.

God, 100% Dependable!

If you still doubt trusting God, I don't. Let me tell you why. God in His infinite wisdom created the earth and orchestrated its events. He has been in overall control of everything on the earth. That was why He ensured the tower of Babel being built in those days did not become a success. King Nebuchadnezzar at a point felt that he, not God, was in charge of the earth but God proved him wrong by making him eat with animals for seven seasons. God ensured Pharaoh and his warriors were destroyed in the *Red Sea*. He also ensured that the Jews were not wiped out by Haman's wickedness.

Recently, he ensured that Titanic had to hit the ice berg to prove the builder who boasted, “Even God cannot sink this ship” a liar. These are things I have come to know about God that makes me put my trust in Him completely to come to my help with His supernatural abilities.

Once, you can get to the point of trust in Him, you have attained the activation for the release of His supernatural abilities to you. At the point of trust on Him, you can make a prayer of faith that gets Him to listen to you.

You can't say that you trust Him for the release of His supernatural abilities and still fret over your foes or your difficult situation. If you are waiting on Him and expecting the manifestation of the supernatural, you have to put your trust in Him totally. That keeps you from running after people who you think can help you. Please don't forget that God doesn't like to share His glory with anybody and that's why He doesn't want you to mistake who is helping you. This is so important that God told His people that He would disgrace them if they went down to Egypt to get help (Isaiah 30-33).

Now hear God speaking to His people, *“You are in for trouble if you go to Egypt for help, or if you depend on an army of chariots or a powerful cavalry. Instead you should depend on and trust the holy LORD God of Israel. The LORD isn't stupid! He does what he promises, and he can bring doom. If you are cruel yourself, or help those who are evil, you will be destroyed. The Egyptians are mere humans. They aren't God. Their horses are made of flesh; they can't live forever. When the LORD shows his power, he will destroy the Egyptians and all who depend on them. Together they will fall. (Isa. 31: 1-3CEV).*

The manifestation of the supernatural may be in form of wisdom as in the case of Nehemiah when he was attacked by Saballant and co. It can also be in the form of miraculous power as in the case of the Israelites before the *Red Sea*. Whichever way the supernatural abilities are manifested in you, please don't forget to return the praise to God.

Prayer; the Activator

The next is asking Him to take charge in prayer of faith. The prayer that will get you an answer is the one that is said in accordance with God's will. So, ensure you are not making prayer requests that God is not interested in answering. As an example, don't pray that God bless your business which you run with satanic principles. Don't request the activation of the supernatural when and where you are working out of God's will. Don't pray that God should do for you what He has equipped and empowered you to do.

In 2 Chronicles 20, it was recorded that King Jehoshaphat was threatened by enemies and in their powers alone, they couldn't defeat their enemies. "We are powerless before this mighty army that is about to attack us." He said to God. But his confidence was in God so, he went to Him and prayed, telling Him how powerless they were against their enemy and entreated Him to come to their help. God did not disappoint them. He came and fought for them without their having to do anything.

He understood that he was limited. He understood that his natural abilities couldn't have gotten him victory in the battles, so he activated the supernatural on his behalf.

Take His instruction and Experience the Supernatural

Moses, when he was before the *Red Sea*, activated the supernatural and the manifestation was an instruction to put his staff in the sea

so that God would begin to manifest in parting the water. It is instructive to note that God usually gives His people instructions on what they would do as He does His. Please stick strictly to his instructions. Please don't try to help God; He wouldn't need it. As an example, if you are looking for job where prevailing trends make it appear as if you wouldn't get it and have activated the supernatural to work on your behalf, don't go looking for connections that would augment God's power. That's helping God. If you have sought the manifestation of the supernatural in your business, don't ever use worldly wisdom and techniques to get your desired result. If you do, God would abandon you.

What have I said today? When your best is not good enough for the result you desire, don't give up. God is unlimited in His powers and abilities so, you can tap from Him abilities beyond your limitations. Like Moses, turn away from your trouble and cry to God. He will give you instruction which if you obey, He would manifest the supernatural on your behalf. May you begin to experience the supernatural in every area of your life!

As we end this year, I wish you the best New Year. May God guide you and protect you. May God's favour be shown to you. May you receive strength to do the right thing in Jesus name. Amen!



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