**Cross And Crown Christian Outreach**

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**Spread Your Efforts For Success.**

**Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well. -** Eccl. 11:6 NIV

Success in life is no doubt the aspiration of many people and Christians are not exempted from this desire. In truth, there is no denying the fact that majority of people came to Christ because of desires for earthly success especially, finance related success. They aspire to be financially rich and be able to afford the good things of life. There is definitely no crime in this as the Almighty God never wished poverty for His children. If anything, one of the ways in which He has rewarded the faithfulness of His children is to bless them financially. The case of Abraham (Gen. 13:2), Isaac (Gen. 26:12-14) and Solomon (1Kgs. 3:11-14) can be referenced here. The anomaly that seems to exist however, with this desire by the Christian today is the seeming belief that the Almighty God can bestow success on them, whether they deserve it or not, without them having something to present for Him to bless. It is impossible for the Almighty God to bless an idle person as His promise is to bless the work of people’s hands (Deut. 28:12) just as the one who is not consistent with attempts at success may not experience divine success, and who else can advise on the issue of success more than the one who actually experienced the success of God.

The writing of the biblical book of Ecclesiastes has been ascribed to King Solomon whom the Bible said, asked for wisdom to manage his people only for the Almighty God to not only grant him wisdom but also bless him more than anyone before or after him – 1Kgs. 3:1-15. It took his persistence in displaying wisdom for both his subjects and royalties from other nations to bring him gifts that brought the promise of the greatness made to him by the Almighty God into reality – 1Kgs. 10:6-11. That is the same person that advised anyone who desires success in the scripture that is the foundation of today’s Devotional. As far as King Solomon was concerned, the one that desires success;

1. Must seek to invest in areas outside his/her immediate environs – Eccl. 11:1. Expanding the frontiers of ventures provides access to foreign wealth which needs to be available for anyone to make great success. No one can operate without seeking patronage from as wide a number of people as possible. You are as successful as the number of people that are aware of your services.
2. Must seek to widen the base of such investment by diversification into several ventures – Eccl. 11:2. At best all the investments will bring positive result and so bless the environment that such a person lives in but lack of diversification will limit the boundary of success – Eccl. 11:3. Whoever desires success must be willing to venture into several areas. Limiting one activity to a specific area of operation may just be the limiting factor to success. He that desires in its real sense must invest widely and wisely.
3. Focusing on obstacles to success will never yield success as such a person will always see a reason not to venture – Eccl. 11:4. There is never a venture that does not have obvious possibilities of failure. The approach should never be to allow those factors that may make a venture fail, discourage one but to make the prospective investor that seeks success consider those factors and seek solution to them so that they will not stand in the way of success. Real success is wrapped in situations that are described as impossible. Only the ones with the right attitude that all things are possible with God, will be able to unwrap and have access to success.
4. It will be impossible to conclude on the level of effort that will be required for an individual to receive the blessings of God for success – Eccl. 11:5. Consequently in the scripture that is the foundation of today’s devotion, he advises the one that desires success to be hardworking and consistent. For as long as there is time and strength, physical and otherwise, the one who is desirous of success must never stop aspiring and working hard. No matter how many times the one that desires success fails, it should be clear to such that the difference between that last failure and success is the decision to persevere and refuse to be discouraged.

Success is not magic, it is the reward of persistent, deliberate and positive actions that receives the blessings of the Almighty God. Only the Christian that desires to live in poverty or self deceit will think that mere prayers including fasting and wishing success will produce success. With all those, only failure will result if the above nuggets for success, as prescribed by arguably the most financially successful person that will ever live in the world, are not held paramount. Yes! It is very true that you need God to achieve good success in life but the Almighty God will be restrained from blessing you if you do not play your role as prescribed by King Solomon. Do the needful and God will definitely crown all those efforts done in his name with success. May success be your testimony very soon in Jesus name. Amen.