

DEEP
THOUGHTS
OF
GREATNESS

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All scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.



DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the glory of God—to Him who grants the sense of greatness and the vision of success, in whom I place my trust. I owe this to you, my King.”

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CHAPTER ONE

MAN AND THE SCENE OF LIFE



It is natural for a man to seek what he needs to turn his life around or to bring fortune into his life through the opportunities that life presents to those with a vision of greatness. These opportunities, deposited by God for the benefit of mankind, are most beneficial to those who strike while the iron is hot.

It is widely acknowledged that a man's ability largely depends on his intellectual capacity. His rational thinking determines his stance in life. Brainpower, indeed, is a man's strength—it serves as the discerning force that enables him to distinguish between what is valuable and what is not, at the right time.

Every man is endowed—or studded—with sufficient brainpower to sustain his living throughout his lifespan. He has the potential to influence his environment through this discerning ability. However, much depends on how well he can tip the balance by discovering the hidden secrets of greatness and using what he possesses to achieve what he lacks.

What he has is the gift of nature—ideas, the thinking faculty, or the power of reasoning; what he lacks is life's fortune.

Basis Of Greatness

A man's totality can be viewed through the lens of research and conventional wisdom. Many believe that human beings are shaped

by various factors—chief among them, environmental influences, which play a significant role in molding individuals to fit into certain positions within the social setting.

The intrinsic value of environmental influence cannot be undermined when it comes to shaping the actors of society. The people we interact with in our communities, and especially within our immediate families, inject certain attitudes into us—attitudes that ultimately determine how we perceive, pursue, and evaluate our goals. Environmental influence, once internalized, becomes a defining factor in how individuals handle their daily life activities. It is an interweaving of beliefs, interests, and perceptions—sometimes even intelligence. This concept evolves from our interactions with peers and others in our surroundings, and our individual perceptions are heavily influenced by these interactions.

Another critical mechanism that determines an individual's life path is education. Education offers discerning strength and serves as a whisperer of skills essential for standing out in the social terrain. Beyond imparting practical knowledge, it acts as a guiding light amid life's darkness, adding value to a man's life by instilling patriotism, commitment, dedication, ambition, self-discipline, self-determination, and most importantly, self-reliance. These qualities are essential components needed to achieve greatness in life.

There is something important to consider if you truly desire greatness: **learn to become an employer—not just to be employable.** Education may make you employable, but what lies within you—your unique gifts and abilities—can make you an employer. Therefore, if you intend to be great, focus not just on being employable but on how to explore and apply what you have within, through education.

Although attaining great heights may be difficult—if not impossible—outside the realm of education, the act of acquiring knowledge, whether formal or informal, remains a fundamental root of growth and development. Thus, for any individual or society to achieve greatness, it must not ignore the path of knowledge. However, the best approach in life is to strive toward independence rather than dependence. If you only learn to be employable, you remain dependent. But when you learn to explore your inner potential, you cultivate independence.

Beyond cultural heritage, environmental influence, and the impact of education, man naturally possesses a unique mechanism that differentiates one from another. This natural uniqueness, in combination with other influential factors, brings about change and fosters distinctive value—often the seed of greatness. The uniqueness of a man often determines how others treat him—either as a man of great honor or just another face in the crowd. However, when a man transforms his uniqueness into a treasure, that's when he becomes a shrewd, intelligent individual—capable of effecting real change in the social landscape.

Yet, the reverse can also happen. When a man fails to align his abilities with his environment—putting a square peg in a round hole—he may become enslaved by the very knowledge or orientation that shaped him. That is, when pride or ego overtakes the humility and wisdom gained from education, knowledge becomes a cage rather than a tool. If a person sees themselves as too important to learn from others or to gain new insight, they risk being limited by their own natural mechanisms, which were meant to serve as complements to knowledge, not replacements.

Ultimately, it is the combination of God's gifts and social orientation that drives a man toward unmatched greatness. The integration and interrelationship of life's influences—education,

environment, personal uniqueness, and social interaction—play vital roles on the path to true greatness.

When a man puts on the garment of pride, he not only becomes enslaved by the demands of life but also walks himself into the path of failure. Ignorance may be bliss when there is no one to open his understanding, but when a man refuses to listen, learn, or heed the voice of wisdom—especially through the insights of others—it can rightly be called an act of foolishness. Life is full of secrets, and when one fails to learn from the scenes of life, he becomes an example—not of greatness, but of **infamy**.

SUCCESS AND FAILURE: THE CAUSES

One can find themselves caught in a vicious circle. Fortunately, in the pursuit of success, situations might make a person appear to be the most foolish in the world. But believe me, it's only a matter of time—because life is symmetric in nature. The dark, gloomy side of life doesn't last forever, just as its pleasant phases don't endure eternally. What you are facing today as a challenge could very well be the very opportunity that leads someone else to greatness.

When a person fails to find success where others thrive, it's possible to struggle in vain for greatness endlessly, without ever tasting success.

Man is meant to use his discerning power to chart his course toward greatness—perhaps beginning with what life has already placed in his hands.

LEARN TO GROW

Acquiring knowledge or learning from others does not mean one must become an exact replica of the source. It is unwise to strive merely to mirror your teacher. True learning lies in the ability to

absorb, adapt, and produce even greater results. That's what makes you a standout learner—your uniqueness.

You are meant to surpass your mentors, not by imitating them, but by seeking better ways to handle life's challenges through your distinct perspective. The better you become, the more valuable you are. Your value commands respect, and that respect brings prestige to your ideas. In turn, these ideas shape the mental image and ideological foundation for future generations.

Life is all about learning from the experiences of others. To reject past ideas due to pride or arrogance is a sign of foolishness. A person's true value lies in the wisdom gained from the journey of life. The wisest individuals learn not just from their own thoughts, but from the thoughts and lessons of others.

A man who desires enduring success and a long, impactful life needs nothing more than abundant wisdom. What was considered wisdom yesterday may be seen as foolishness today— but May also be the foundation for tomorrow's breakthroughs. Therefore, stay current and updated. Operating with outdated knowledge is not enough to become a champion of the future. The truth is, the wisdom you apply today may become irrelevant tomorrow. Life's constant changes make the future unpredictable.

Remember this: the wisdom used to build a house is not the same as the understanding needed to live in it. Every success is a new beginning. Achieving a goal takes wisdom—but maintaining that success requires a new level of awareness.

It's one thing to give birth to a child; it's another to raise that child well. Proverb 22:6. Likewise, hitting a target is exciting, but staying on course long enough to sustain that achievement can be exhausting. That's why you must learn the difficult parts of life—they equip you with the strength to preserve your success without relying on others.

CHALLENGES AND LIFE STRUCTURE

A man may be considered great because of his past achievements, yet over time, challenges can arise that make him appear as though he has failed—especially when he is unable to uphold his reputation. However, being overwhelmed by life’s challenges does not make a man a fool or a failure.

Challenges are inevitable in the human experience. Still, at times, a person may invite tribulations upon themselves through a careless or nonchalant approach to life.

Life's trials have nothing to do with how intelligent, educated, vibrant, or brilliant a person is. They come to all, regardless of status. What truly matters is how a person responds.

The ability to think clearly, adapt, and navigate out of difficult times is what defines true greatness. It is this inner strength and resilience that makes a man honorable—not the absence of challenges, but the courage and wisdom to overcome them.

HOW DO WE WALK OUT OF IT?

When the storm of tribulations rises along the path to greatness, we must take intentional steps to overcome them. There are several ways one can rise above life’s challenges. Here are a few timeless principles. The path to greatness is not without obstacles, but with the right people, a sense of responsibility, and a heart free of pride, you can rise above anything. Every challenge is a setup for a comeback. And when you walk through it with wisdom, you'll emerge stronger, clearer, and closer to the greatness destined for you.

1. Build a Strong Network of Friends

Surrounding yourself with the right people is essential. Interactions and integration within a healthy social circle can play

a pivotal role during times of adversity. A solid relationship with trustworthy friends can serve as a support system when life feels overwhelming.

However, not all friendships are beneficial. Just as the wrong association can drag a person into deeper trouble, the right one can lift them out of it. Friendships are like a spider's web—fragile enough not to ensnare the strong, yet strong enough to elevate the small and overlooked. A cobweb cannot trap a mouse (the strong), but it can carry the spider (the wise and light) from one tree to the top of another.

If you know who you are and understand your value, bad friends won't influence you. You won't even entertain connections that threaten your dreams. But if you surround yourself with dreamless people—those who don't take their goals seriously—then they will never respect or support yours either.

True friends of value can become a ladder in the pit of failure. However, if you've never contributed positively to your circle, don't expect to be lifted when life knocks you down. Always add value to your relationships—the impact of that value will speak for you when you can't speak for yourself.

So, walk with those who share your vision, who carry dreams as heavy as yours, and who believe in greatness. The right community is often the key to rising again.

2. Take Responsibility for Your Life

Those who face their challenges head-on often overcome them more easily than those who constantly run from them. Avoiding responsibility only deepens the pool of trouble. As the legendary Lucky Dube once sang, *"I'd rather run from the battle... to fight another day."*

In life, battles are inevitable—but evading them isn't a winning strategy. Stand tall and confront what's in front of you. Be true to yourself. Be real. There is no shortcut to lasting success. Your originality is your secret weapon. Pretending or procrastinating won't lead you anywhere meaningful.

3. Swallow Your Pride—Not your Dreams

One of the most effective ways to break free from tribulations is to stay humble and authentic. Pride is often a mask for insecurity—a false life that distorts one's true value. Don't be ashamed to ask for help. Don't pretend to be okay when you're not. And never compromise your dreams to impress people who don't matter.

Stay meticulous, be intentional, and most importantly, be yourself. There is power in humility, and strength in living truthfully. Pride will keep you stuck. Authenticity will move you forward.