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# Above Average

*I can be anything, but not average.*

By Johnson Crystal Kalu

*"When life can no longer threaten you  
with rejection, disappointment, pain,  
failure or even death.*

*At that point, they will be nothing  
impossible for you to achieve!"*

## PREFACE

I dedicate this book to God almighty, the one who gave my life a meaning and my existence a purpose!

I appreciate the support of my family, friends, colleagues at Hopeful Me and to everyone who has contributed to my growth. God bless you all.

I also want to say a big thank you to my friend and coach, Les Brown.

I'm glad you are reading this book. You are the reason why it was written.

Sincerely, being average is not bad. But it's unnecessary living an average life, when you have the potentials to do more and achieve more.

My job here is just to pass this message of being Above Average across to you and if I've done that, then your own journey has begun: to read through this book with an open mind and then work towards living life above average.

See you in the last chapter...

## ABOVE AVERAGE

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# Chapter 1

## BUT NOT AVERAGE



**A**verage means normal, ordinary, not bad, not unusual. And there's nothing wrong with these definitions.

But Average also means "not extraordinary, not exceptional, not excellent, not unique, not daring". And this is my problem with being average.

Everything in this world, by default is average.

We don't need so much energy or effort to be average.

We don't need to work so hard or do challenging things to be average.

One deluding thing with being average is that it looks so comfortable. Since you are not bad, and your performance is not below par, everything just seems fine and okay.

While in reality you are living life below your full potentials and abilities.

Being average can also be likened as being Lukewarm (Neither hot nor cold). And God warns us against lukewarmness in the Bible.

The society we are in today has made the word "Average" sound very pleasing.  
And so many persons have allowed themselves to be classified as average.  
And inadvertently, these people are no longer motivated to achieve more.

Well, being average is not bad, sincerely it's not. And I don't disrespect "Average".  
But ensure you don't settle for less when you can still achieve more!  
All am just saying is, put in everything you've got into life. You won't die trying to live!

I feel being alive is a privilege and also a responsibility. If you have decided to live, then you have to give it your best.

In your career, strive to do the best job.

In your relationship, strive to give the best of you.

In your family, be the best dad, the best mom, the best child, the best sibling.

In your school, be the best student you can.

When you are in charge of your life, when you are taking life on, when you are living life to the fullest then you are not average.

If all you can do is all you can do. Then all you can do is more than enough!

Most people fail in life not because they aim too high and miss. Most people fail just because they aim too low and hit.

While some don't even aim at all.

So aim high and don't be scared of the outcome.

Don't be afraid to try.

Look at fear in the face.

Even if you fail at some point, it doesn't make you a failure. See it as things didn't work out right.

And that they will next time.

The most important thing is not actually reaching those goals, because you will.

The most important thing in my opinion is who you become after the process.

The courage you develop, the confidence you build, the lessons you learn and the experience you gain. They are priceless.

And they are what will carry you through this life.

For the fact you are not where you used to be and you are on the course of taking yourself where you want to be, I say that **YOU ARE MORE THAN AVERAGE!**



# Chapter 2

## SET STANDARDS FOR YOUR LIFE



**T**he next thing is that you have to set standards for your life, so you won't be comfortable being average.

Since average does not necessarily mean your performances are low, it can lead us to believing everything is still normal.

But the goal is not to keep having normal results.

We are supposed to seek for greater heights everyday. We have to keep growing.

The sky stopped being our limit; it's now the starting point!

Set standards for your life.

Someone said, *"You don't get in life what you want, you get in life what you are."*

And we are a reflection of the standards we set.

Life from this perspective is consequential and we don't have to take it casually.

People who do average things are leading a life of mediocrity. And mediocrity can sabotage our greatness.

The standards we set for our lives can come in different forms. I have set some for myself and here are few of them. Feel free to adopt them.

**"I won't give my 'heart' to someone am not going to spend the rest of my life with"**

**"I will never settle for less, because I deserve more"**

**"I can be anything but not average"**

**"I won't stop until I get to the Top"**

**"I rather fail again than Quit!"**

**"I am not a CEO until I have started paying someone's salary"**

**"Wherever I find myself, I will always live a life of contribution!"**

When you set standards for your life, whatever they are, write them down somewhere you'll be able to read them.

You can as well affirm them to yourself. So they'll be a part of you.

And don't be hard on yourself.

Only set standards that will challenge, motivate and stretch you do more.

Not the ones that will take you off balance.

One good thing with setting standards is that, you will not go below them once you are committed. And even if you do, it won't be fatal.

Here is a poem, I recite whenever I feel like am pressurized to go below my standards and live an average life. It's an excerpt from Thomas Paine and I heard it first from Les Brown, it says:

**"I choose not to be a common man. It's my right to be uncommon if I can.**

**I'll seek opportunity, not security.**

**I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state to look after me.**

**I want to take the calculated risk, to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed.**

**I'll refuse to live from hand to mouth.**

**I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence, the thrill of fulfillment to the calm state of Utopia.**

**I will never cower before any master, nor bend to any threat.**

**It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid, to think and act for myself and face the world boldly and say, This I have done!"**

**Set standards for your life, with the help of God, YOU WILL BE ABOVE AVERAGE!**

# Chapter 3

## FACE THE UNKNOWN



**W**e believe that known hells are preferable to strange heavens. And some people will say "The devil I know is better than the angel I don't know."

But here is this story I heard of a man held hostage by the enemy during a war and was sentenced to death.

He was given two options. Either to face the firing squad or go through a very strange door.

He asked, "What's behind this door?"

He was told no one knows.

Well, he choose the firing squad. And after he was shot to death, these soldiers asked their leader what was behind the door and why people never chose it.

Their leader told them that the strange door was an exit from their camp and freedom to go home.

But people were always scared to go through the door because it was strange and unknown.

Wow!

And in reality, this is some of us.

We keep running away from the unknown and run towards the known.

We avoid taking risks and matured decisions.

We just want to go through the normal routine of life, we don't want to alter anything or make any mistake. Well, I have a quote, ***"If you are scared of making any mistake in life then you've made your first mistake already"***.

So making mistakes shouldn't be a problem.

Whatever you do in life make sure you are not average.

If a dog can bark, it's average because every dog can bark.

If a dog can swim, it's more than average because most dogs can't.

And maybe the difference between the two is just the courage to face the water.

*"There's NOTHING WRONG with being average but if you can achieve more than average, then there is SOMETHING WRONG with it."*

You can run after job security, college degree, a normal life etc but all these things are not a guarantee for a storm proof life.

The storms of life will always come, so in all your getting, get courage and boldness to face life: To face the unknown.

So, don't be scared of what's on the other side of life. Maybe on the other side is your ability to create your own future.

I challenge you today to be bold to face the unknown!

Don't always settle for less or for normal because you are unsure of the outcome.

Don't always prefer the known hells.

The angel you feel you don't know might be better than the devil you already know.

I simply believe that *"UNCERTAINTY is the THRILL of LIFE"*.

The man in this story, I feel should have selected the second option because the first option (firing squad) was a guarantee that he will still die. At least he has nothing to lose walking through that strange door.

But he took the "let me be on the safe side" decision.

Well, am not saying you should always expose yourself to risk, uncertainties, strange things etc. But whatever that has to do with you being above average, living your life to the fullest, pursuing your dreams and life work; be willing to take the risk worth this great course.

You know when we are asleep, we no longer have full control of our mind and body. And statistics have it that so many people go to bed and they don't wake up again.

Now, let me ask, "Will you close your eyes and sleep this night?"

Of course! You will.

Even though you know that going to bed is taking the risk of not waking up. You are going to sleep and wake up because you have this assurance that you are safe in God's hands!

So as go through life, as you face the unknown, as you take the risk, as you live life above average; know that God's grace has guaranteed us our victory!

*"Even though we don't know what our tomorrow holds we know who holds our tomorrow!"*

CHOOSE TO BE ABOVE AVERAGE!

# Chapter 4

## BEYOND THE IMPOSSIBLE



*Things will always look impossible, until someone gets it done.*

Before April 1954, it was generally believed all over the world that Man was not able to break the 4 minute mile barrier (No one could not run a mile in less than 4 minutes).

But a man by the name of Roger Bannister came along and broke this 4 minute barrier.

And from that time up to this time, over 20,000 people have done it, including high school kids.

Now, what changed?

One mile was still one mile, 4 minutes was still 4 minutes. Nothing changed physically.

The only thing that changed in this historical event was just the belief system of people. They knew it had been done, so there was now a new (positive) belief about this barrier.

I see the meaning of the word "impossible" as, "**it has not been done yet**" not "**it cannot be done**".

And anything that has not been done will always be done sooner or later.

Impossible is nothing, everything is possible!

Impossibility is just a state of mind.

And I have a saying that, **"Our greatest limitations in life are carved out from the mind and they only exist in the mind"**.

So, what do you believe about yourself?

What do you believe you can achieve?

Are you living life out of the memories of what couldn't work out in the past?

These 20,000 persons and more who broke this barrier later on, we're able to do it because they had now the mindset that it was possible.

And I want you to have the same mindset too that, it's Possible.

Whatever the goal or dream is, just know that it's possible!

Whatever the health challenge or difficult situation is, know that it's possible for you to overcome it! It's possible, it's possible!

We are living a life of grace, we are living beyond impossibilities.

If nothing is impossible for God to do, also believe that everything is possible for God to do for you and through you.

For with God all things are possible; with us, in us and through us.

Well, I know it's not always easy believing that good things are possible for us, relative to the situation of things around us. But make a conscious effort to work on your mind.

Listen to positive messages that will change your belief system for good.

Once you start believing that everything is possible for you, it gives you the hope of survival in life. It gives you a guarantee that you have all it takes to live a beautiful life.

Hard times, difficult times, trying times will always come regardless of our faith and believe. But stand firm in this victory over impossibilities.

***"Faith may not stop the wind from blowing but it'll definitely keep us from sinking"***



Average people do the already possible things, but people who are above average dare the impossible.

**YOU ARE NOT AVERAGE!**

# Chapter 5

## AN INSPIRING LIFE



***Life has no meaning, except the one we give to it!***

What if at the end of the year, you are asked by the universe to give two reasons why you should be permitted to go on living for next year. What will those reasons be?

Regardless of your career or the nature of your job, if you don't have anything you've committed yourself to doing that will have a positive impact in people's lives, then something big is really missing.

I have a saying that, *"A fulfilled life is not always about the fame, money and power. But about the lives you touch and the ones you let touch you."*

The Bible, in the book of Acts 9 talked about a woman by the name of Dorcas. She was known to be very kind and generous. And because of her impact, people loved her.

One day, she died.

And everyone kept praying and pleading to God to bring her back to life. They also invite Peter, a disciple of Christ, to pray for her.

God in his infinite mercies heard their cry and brought this woman back to life. And the people rejoiced.

But you know, there are some kinds of persons, when they die, people won't even bother praying for them to come back to life.

They will only sympathize with their death but will have no empathy for their life!

Some other kind of persons, when they are dead and gone, people won't even notice their absence or care to know what has happened to them. Because of their zero contribution to life.

Now, what good things will happen because of your existence?

What are your social contributions?

Why would people still want you alive?

When you have a course you are fighting for, when you are living a life of contribution, I believe death itself will have to think twice before taking you.

So, I encourage you to find a course that you'll be a part of.

Find something you will be doing once in a while that will change people's lives positively.

I have what I do every month to reach out to hundreds of people. I believe very soon it'll extend to thousands and millions of people too.

Although it was challenging when I started out but today it's now part of me and it gives me great fulfilment and joy.

Find yours too, it might be going to orphanage homes, to the less privileged, doing community service, reaching out to kids in their school, going for personal evangelism, giving gifts, sharing inspirational messages or anything at all you feel God wants you to be doing.

Most times, people around may not value it but continue your good works even when nobody is listening.

And aim to give in secret, so you'll be rewarded in the open.

When you do good, you mustn't necessarily tell everyone what you did so they can recognize your efforts. It's not very important, unless you just feel you have to.

We all should aim at living an inspiring life.

A life of contribution and an exciting life.

A life that is worthy of your creation.

We should always remember that we have one life to live.

And if we live well, one is just enough.

Each day of our lives should pass a positive message across.

Because our lives is a message from God to this world.

Every word from your mouth should inspire someone.

Every step you take in life should leave footprints of grace on the surface of this earth.

So many people failed because no one was there to encourage them.

Many have also given up on their dreams because there was no one to motivate them.

But today know that your life is a message from God to this world and your existence is God's gift to our generation.

God has given to you this life so you can save other lives.

The world may never be a perfect place but we sure can still make it a better place.

Strive to be the best you can, reach out to the much people you can and I promise you to live a fulfilled and inspiring life.

**WE ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.**

# Chapter 6

## GET UNSTUCK



**D**on't treat people based on how you were treated.  
Don't love based on how you were loved.  
Don't care based on how you were cared for.

Decide to love, care and treat people rightly irrespective of your hurt in the past.

*Maturity is your ability to change situations and not allowing situations to change you.*

We all were born with a heart void of hate, malice, resentment and bitterness but as we grow, we inadvertently learn them through life experience.

And the most difficult things to unlearn are things we learnt subconsciously.

During my secondary school days, I was privileged to be a boarder. The common belief was that if you are maltreated or bullied as a junior student, when you become a senior, do same or even worse to the junior students.

So when junior students are punished and bullied by the seniors, they endure the pain believing

that soonest, they will do same to the succeeding juniors.

If you attended a tough boarding school, you will understand better.

Actually, I suffered in the hands of the senior students to an extent but in the midst of the pain, I still made a commitment in my heart not to bully or flog any junior student. And I kept to that commitment.

When my fellow seniors were seeing their past hurt, bitterness, revenge and anger on these juniors, I choose to see their innocence and helplessness. It wasn't their fault that I was bullied in my own time.

If they inherit my pain, they will likely pass it on. And the vicious cycle continues.

It wasn't an easy decision for me to take but I didn't want to be like every other person. I choose to be above average.

My past shouldn't negatively reflect on how I treat people. It should be the reason why I should do good.

In life generally, many persons have taken advantage of me, cheated on me, hurt me, broken my fragile heart, betrayed me and done a lot of wrong things to me.

But I just had to get unstuck. I had to forgive and let go.

We all have had injuries in our lives. Some of them, inflicted by the people we love.

We have been victims of people's actions and inactions but we have to allow these wounds to heal.

When we go about doing same wrong things to people, we rekindle these injuries together with the past memories and they won't go.

But when we let go and do good. With time, these wounds are healed.

Well, I don't know what has happened to you in the past. I don't know what you are stuck with right now.

But I want to remind you that you can still get unstuck.

*God wouldn't have commanded us to forgive, if he didn't give us the ability to do so.*

**"If you suffered heartbreak in your previous relationship and you enter into a new one. It will likely fail if you don't forgive yourself, your partner and consciously let go of past hurt.**

**Because a foundation of love can never be built on hate.**

**And a new future can never be stuck in the past."**

Wherever you find yourself, be the one with the love to share, the care to show, the support to give, the assistance to render and with the encouragement to give.

Someone said, "***The mark of a superior soul is your ability to treat others better than they treat you!***"

Aside from pumping blood, there is one job I know the heart could do very well with ease.

And that job is, to love!

So, don't burden your heart with hate and unforgiveness. It's not worth it.

There is a saying, "An eye for an eye makes the world go blind".

And the world is gradually getting blind, but we all have within us, the ability to still make it see.

We don't need perfect people to make this world a better place.

We just need people who understand this fact.

Get unstuck! YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE



# Chapter 7

## FIND YOUR STRENGTH



**E**ach and every one of us really need to feel a sense of purpose and competence in the things we do.

Some of us have not discovered our strength in life yet. And we have allowed people to see us from the angle of our weaknesses and also judge us by the things we cannot do.

All because we never gave room for the ones we can.

Quite frankly, I am not the very physical type.

I am just **slim and healthy**. ☺ ☺

Although am trying my best. I do push-ups in morning (when I think I have the strength ☺ ☺), I don't jog much (I feel jogging are for people that want to lose weight and obviously, I don't have any weight to lose ☺ ), also I sincerely have plans for a gym class soon.

And maybe because of my physical nature, I find it difficult doing strenuous jobs, lifting heavy loads etc.

Unfortunately for them, I grew up in a society where physicality is highly appreciated.



When you can't do those physical jobs, you'll be regarded as lazy.

Even at home, I find it difficult doing most chores, because those things weren't in synchronization with my kind of person.

So I looked very lazy. And I got criticized severally because of it.

But when it comes to stuff like computer programming ☺, graphics, playing musical instruments 🎵 and other stuffs that has to do with the mind, am good there.

I can comfortably stay awake all night doing stuffs like this. This was my strength.

And rather than trying to fit in where physicality was highly involved, I had to focus on where I won't be stressing my muscles much. ☺ ☺

And gradually, people started according respect to me, because they couldn't do the things I do. Some will ask me, how I am able to stay long hours programming and writing codes that weren't readable to a normal person. And I ask them (in my mind ☺), how they are able to do those physical jobs with ease.

Now, I want you to take a close look into your life.

Maybe you are not lazy, maybe you are not weak, maybe you are not incompetence.

Maybe all you just need is to find your strength.

I have a saying, "Nature did not cheat on me, She just gave me a lot of things to work on".

Maybe this applies to you as well. Nature did not cheat on you. You just have to find your strength and do some work.

You have to sincerely accept yourself the way you are. That's true (self) love.

Appreciate your personality, it's not easy being you.

Find your strength and focus more on it.

Become competent there, seek God and I assure you that the world will look for you.

Someone said, "There's no defense against excellence that meets with a pressing public need."

Be above average, strive for excellence.

A time will come when your efforts will pay off.

Also note that if there are things you have to learn or be able to do to survive life, learn them and do them.

Though am not the physical type, I still do important physical jobs when the need arises. I still stretch and challenge myself, because that's what life is all about.

But what is more important and valuable to me is that I have actually found my strength and I'll keep improving on it.

I hope this makes sense to you.

Ensure you find your strength and more importantly, find yourself!

**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE**

# Chapter 7

## CHALLENGE YOUR SITUATIONS



**B**elieve in yourself and in the power at work in you.  
Face life and your situations boldly, knowing that you are stronger than whatever comes your way.

A man was living in an area where he had some new neighbors. And one of these neighbors had a bull dog, and this dog would always chase this man.

So one of the days he was returning from work, he remembered the situation he found himself in and he resolved within himself to confront that dog with a huge brick.

Funny enough, as he walked closer to his neighborhood, the dog saw him from a distance and starting running towards him; to torment the innocent man as usual.

And in a remarkable turn of event, the man charged towards the dog with the brick, and the dog stopped and started barking.

It was at this point the man now realized that the dog had no teeth. He dropped the brick in disappointment and just shhh-shhhed the dog away.

All along, this man was just running away from a dog without a single tooth and he would have continued this way if he hadn't confronted and challenged his situation.

And some of us in reality are running away from situations, challenges and difficulties of life that has no teeth to bite us.

We have allowed fear to immobilize us.

We are just afraid we might be overwhelmed by our situations.

We have settled down for less than we deserved.

We have allowed the pain and weight of our situations to knock us down.

But I challenge you today to challenge your situations.

Pick a brick and confront your fears.

Face what is facing you.

Deal with what wants to deal with you.

I once published a comedy video titled 'Disgrace the disgrace that wants to disgrace you.'

So, disgrace your disgrace.

Fight what is fighting you.

Challenge the situations in your work, career, growth, relationships, health, spiritual, physical, mental and other areas of life.

Life can only knock us DOWN but it can never knock us OUT.

You are strong, you have courage, and you have greatness within you.

You have all it takes to CHALLENGE YOUR SITUATIONS AND BE ABOVE AVERAGE

# Chapter 9

## FIND YOUR REASONS TO ACT



**W**hatever you wish to do with your life, do it now! If you want to learn a skill, start up a business, or set goals you will like to achieve, do it now. Make the commitment.

The best way to avoid procrastination is to make a commitment.

People love it whenever I share this concept I have towards dealing with procrastination.

I grew up in the eastern part of Nigeria; as a child. Whenever I start procrastinating towards taking my bath; which was common amongst children then, I will get a bathing soap and rub it all over my hair.

Which literally means, I must take my bath in order to get the soap off my hair. And that's a commitment.

I don't know what you have set out to achieve. Am saying to you *"rub the soap on your hair now and make the commitment to take your bath"*

A friend of mine told me a very sad story of his life.

He had wanted to learn a musical instrument (piano) but he kept putting it away and kept finding reasons why it wasn't the ideal time to learn it.

According to his story, he was in a church service one day and unfortunately for him, the church pianist wasn't around. Then the pastor confidently walked up to him where he was seated in the congregation and told him to go play the piano.

The pastor assumed he could play it because he always sees him around other instrumentalist. But that wasn't the case.

He said he looked at the piano, looked at his pastor and looked at himself. He was helpless.

As he was narrating this incident, I could feel the sound of regret and pain in his voice.

He had the opportunity to learn these musical instruments, he had the resources but he never made use of them.

Now let me ask you, what and what have you literally said NO to?

What ideas are you seating on?

What gift and talents have you left derelict?

What calling on your life have you not answered?

I want you to know that you have the ability to achieve whatsoever you are supposed to achieve in life.

Quit procrastination and embrace work.

It might be a bit challenging and stressful but all of them are temporary inconveniences.

Just be persistent and have faith. And watch how things will click for you.

As he narrated his story, he made a very striking statement in my dialect. When translated says, "*A man was available yet a man was still sought for*".

Don't be there and someone will still be needed. "*Your existence is God's gift to this generation.*"

Finally, life is full of pain but it's nothing to be scared of.

We may feel the pain of rejection, the pain of not getting things right, the pain of loss, disappointment, stress, hardwork etc but the greatest pain of all is the pain of regret.

**"Regret is a self inflicted kind of pain upon an individual who refused to act, not because he wasn't able to act but because he found reasons not to."**

Find your reasons to act; YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.



# Chapter 10

## THE COURAGE TO FIGHT



### **Most times we lose, just because we never had the courage to fight!**

We allow ourselves get ruled by the thoughts of us not being able to reach our goals. And this keeps us from acting.

We are immobilized by fear, and fear is just a False Evidence Appearing Real. Because we've made it real in our minds.

*"When life can no longer threaten us with rejection, disappointment, pain, failure or even death. At that point, they will be nothing impossible for us to achieve!"*

You have nothing to lose, pursuing your greatness.

I came to realize that, the tragedy in life is not having goals we could not reach. It's not having dreams we could not actualize.

It's not having a course we could not fulfill.



**But the tragedy is in not having any goal, dream and course at all!**

Life becomes a tragedy when we no longer have any reason to live.

So, if you have goals and dreams. If you have a course you've dedicated your life to, I applaud you!  
And also encourage you to give it your best towards achieving them.

Develop the courage to do whatever it takes to make your life worth living.

You won't die trying to live.

You can only fail, when you stop trying.

And know that, different tasks require from us a different kind of courage.

So at every new stage of your life, muster new courage.

Be fearless, even in the face of fear.

Feel free to explore life and to seek your greatness.

When the world tells you NO, say YES to yourself.

When situations says IMPOSSIBLE, say IT'S POSSIBLE.

When life says YOU CAN'T, say I CAN.

Don't fail, because you never had the courage to try!

**Fly before falling.**

**Fight before losing.**

**Try before failing.**

**And live before dying.**

**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE**

# Chapter 11

## LIVE A LIFE OF CONTRIBUTION



### **You are never too young to give, nor too old to bless!**

We all were created with the desire to be involved actively in life, to make meaningful impact and contributions.

And when this desire is not fulfilled; life becomes stale.

I remember when I went on an outing with some friends, it was on a Sunday and apparently I was just there to be entertained because I didn't have enough cash on me.

So during the course of the outing, we ran out of cash and one of us willingly added his money to augment with what we had budgeted.

And when the outing got more exciting, someone else also added extra money to what we had; so we could actually buy a lot of things.

It was then I realized that I was left out. So I asked myself, "Johnson or whatever you call yourself ☺ ☺ ☺, what have you contributed to this outing?"

Well, I couldn't answer this question because I knew I hadn't contributed anything.

And this is some of us going through life not making any impact, not contributing anything to this world and within us we know we are living below par.

We know we are just being mediocre and we can't help being average.

But I challenge you today to take the decision to LIVE A LIFE OF CONTRIBUTION!

In your school, place of worship, workplace, family, home, society, in people's lives and wherever you find yourself, ensure you make contributions.

It could be a financial contribution, it could be being physically present when you are needed, it could be giving support, useful ideas, suggestions, advice etc.

Have you ever helped an elderly person carry a load or help a little child do something difficult?

These little services come with great fulfillment and joy.

And this can only come when we are living life with a sense of purpose.

Someone said something I love, "There are three kinds of people in this world: people who make things happen, people who watch things happen and people who don't know what happened!"

So which category are you?

I know you are amongst the people who are willing to make things happen!

Now, back to my story; after resolving within myself, I decided to make a contribution no matter how little it was.

And guess what, after the outing, I paid the transport fare for everyone as we went back to town.

The transport fare was small relative to what others had contributed during the outing but at least I gave something. I gave the little I had and it was my own contribution.

And the story of that day would never be complete without mentioning my name.

Before I end this chapter, I'll like you to know and affirm that you have a lot God has placed in you to contribute to this world we are in.

I don't know what your goal is,

But my goal in life is: **to live a life of contribution.**

**A life of great achievement and success.**

**A life filled with stories of the battles I won, the fears I faced, the challenges I overcame, the difficulties I pulled through and the contributions I have made to this world.**

**And I know in my heart, that at the end of the day, God will smile down from heaven just because of my sake.**

**I AM ABOVE AVERAGE AND SO ARE YOU!**

# Chapter 12

## A LIFE OFFLINE



I want to remind us that there's still a life offline. And it may not be as engaging as the one online, but your life offline is the real reflection of who you truly are.

Life used to be how we relate with people around us and to our situations. But now, life is all about how we relate with technology and then how technology relates us with the people around us and our situations.

Technology came and breached the actual connection we should have with people and made room for a more subtle way of knowing them.

Technology isn't wrong; we just made it look so.

People now prefer the image of themselves over the internet than who they are in reality.

80% of the people you see on social media will always look successful, happy and productive.

But that may not be the case in reality. And the majority of lively and social people online; are very

shy offline (Just like myself then ☺ ☺).

Well, I am an internet entrepreneur, I technically spend quality time online. (And offline too ☺)

So I appreciate technology and the internet so much.

Aside from being an internet guy, I never actually believed I could stay without the internet. I felt my life was somehow connected to my phone.

I remember a classmate of mine, who went offline for a very long time. And all his social media accounts were inactive and also his phone number. We (including myself ☺) started wondering if he was still alive. And there was no means of reaching him. Finally, I think after a year, he came back online and narrated the story of how he lost his phone, and couldn't get a new one and stuffs like that.

Now, you can understand that people tend to erroneously judge your real life by what they see online.

Actually mine was, my phone got spoilt and I was forced to go offline. Which I did grudgingly. But after some days, I realized that life had more meaning offline.

When you are offline, you don't get to see other people's life. You only focus on yours.

You also have more time for yourself.

You are more productive and less distracted.

And you don't get to like and comment on posts you don't sincerely like (lol.. ☺).

And so on and so forth.

Then I had a small phone which I could still use to make calls and text people. So I was still able to reach out to my family, friends and to people I love, which I feel is more important.

And I know we all have our own offline tale. In case you don't have, try going offline for some weeks. You will survive, trust me ☺.

Now, having a life offline doesn't necessarily mean you'll quit going online.

What it simply means is that you should value your real life more and focus on it more than how you are doing now.

Don't compete with people online.

Don't be obsessed with how people see you online. The truth is; when you are successful offline, it

adds to your net worth but when you are only successful online you'll just get more followers and likes. Only ☺

So spend less of your working hours online.

Don't wake up every morning to your phone.

Also have physical Bibles, journals, books etc. Everything should be electronic.

Have things you can also feel and touch.

Meet people physically too; at least once in a while.

Make new real life friends, go for outings, meetings etc.

I just love the way senior citizens (our parents and elderly people) use technology.

They make calls, text, get the necessary information online and they just go back to their normal life. As simple as that!

And I suggest this practice to the young people.

Well, I have a plan to surprise my future wife. Before we get married, she might be expecting love sms, mails, chat etc. I will be writing mine on a sheet of paper and also be sending it across to her in an envelope.

I don't need the help of the internet to show her how much I love her. The only problem I might have is that, I don't have a good handwriting.

But all the same, I'll still write it anyhow.

And I hope she'll read this as well and start writing mine too ☺ ☺.

I want to end this chapter by telling us that:

**The world has a need.**

**Technology can never connect us fully to the people we love.**

**Science can never bridge the gap of motherly love, friendly care and parental guidance.**

**Staying on the social media always can never cure depression and loneliness.**

**We all have to understand that we need to listen to our needs and focus on the world around us.**

**The internet is not one of the very basic needs of man, but a sincere connection with people we love and things that give our lives a meaning is.**

**Have a life offline!**

*P.S I used terms like, internet and technology interchangeably so it could easily convey my message.*

WE ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.



# Chapter 13

## A CAREER WITH YOUR FAMILY



**T**he career and family of an individual occupies a greater part of his or her life.

Imagine a man or a woman who has several issues with the family and is literally fed up with the home and then leaves the house early in the morning and come back late at night from a job or career that is also draining him or her.

So, it's important to choose a career or job you love doing not minding the pay.

The pay is important but your happiness and fulfilment is priceless. But if you have decided to still work on a job you don't like, because of some personal reasons; I encourage you to find a way to love the job, passion can be developed. Give to the job your best; you owe it to yourself to do that! Also make out time to do the things you love, maybe on weekends or holidays. It could be your hobby, talents etc. Just make sure you are giving your life a meaning.

Also, I keep encouraging people get married to someone who will love and appreciate their career or what they do for a living (after proper assessment). Although it's not a guarantee nothing will

go wrong in the marriage but I feel it'll bring a balance in your career and family.

Personally, as a computer programmer, I'll get married to a woman who loves, knows or at least has a basic idea on computer programming. Else, I'll teach her.

"Wow, are you for real?" Yes am for real! ☺

Well, I have been conceptualizing something lately, regarding blending ones career and family. And I hope it'll make good sense to you.

Now, what if as a lawyer you convert your sitting room or an empty room in your house to a family court. Where you settle your family issues.

For instance, your son sues your wife for not bringing him back from school on time or your wife files a lawsuit against you for not buying her what you promised. The family court will be where the cases will be judged, in the presence of the whole family members. And the guilty will be penalized or sentenced to not eating dinner for the whole week. Depending on how the family constitution.

By the same token as a computer programmer, I will develop a family App. That my kids and the whole family must use. When I say must, I mean must. ☺ ☺

The features of this app will be a customized group chat, profile page (where everyone will update their details including their birthdays should in-case I forget), duty roasters, reminder and more importantly a GPS tracker to track the location of my kids. When they call and tell me "Dad am in school now", I'll check their actual location to verify. Not that I don't trust my children but as computer programmers we are taught to be meticulous, just as we first debug our codes before compiling.

I just feel it's good to somehow involve your career in your family and make them blend.

But am not saying if you are a soldier, you should come back home with your rifle, grenades, jet fighters and become a soldier in your family. ☺

All am just saying is, our family and career is what we literally live for and it's where we will spend our whole lives in.

Have a replica of what your career looks like in your family. Use the concept of your job to make your family exciting.

Take your kids and spouse to your workplace, once in a while, if you can.

Let them know what your job or career is all about.

I visit my dad's workplace during the holidays. Going there alone makes me appreciate him more, his skills, creativity, efforts and his personality. And I also learnt through observation that hardwork works!

**You are not perfect, your career may not be perfect, your family may also not be perfect but God who has given them to you has a way of making them your perfection.**

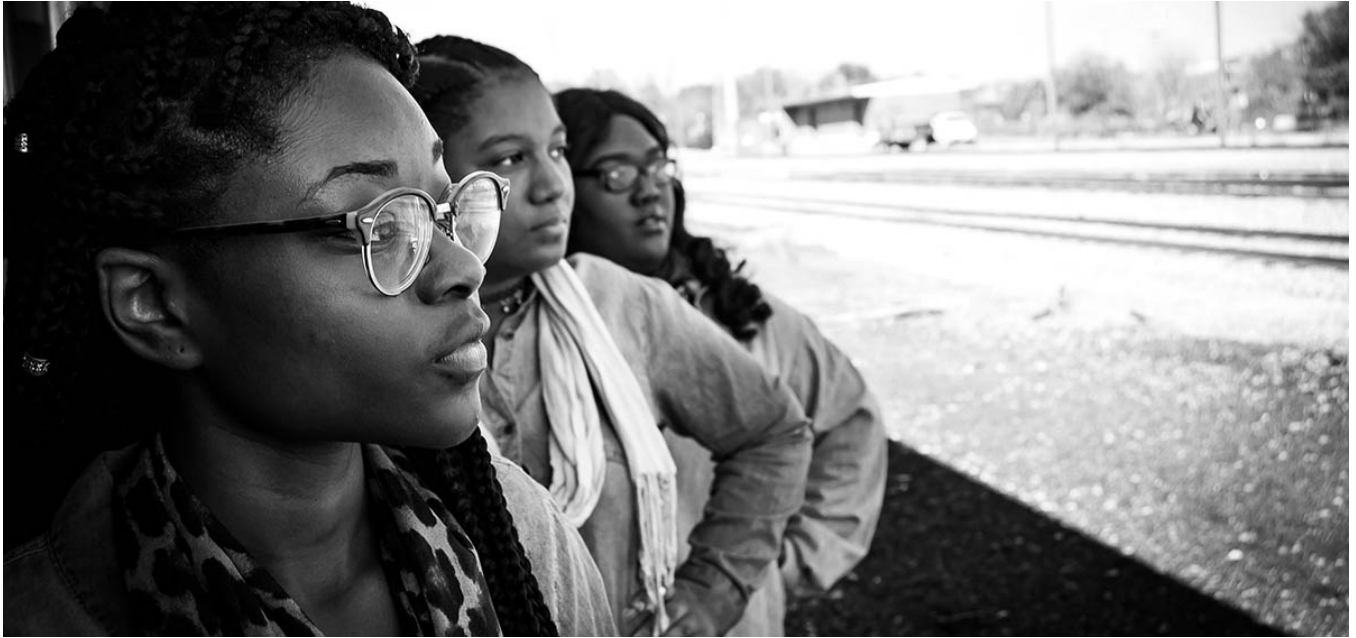
**Use your intuition, imagination, foresight and insight to build a Career With Your Family.**

**And it might become the greatest innovation of our time!**

**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE!**

## Chapter 14

MOTIVATED BY THE FEAR OF BEING AVERAGE



**T**ake a brave look into your life and point out those things you know you should be doing better than what you are doing right now.

Make a sincere assessment of yourself. And when you find those things; put in a conscious effort to do them better.

I believe life is all about us growing, stretching and challenging ourselves positively. And that each day our lives, is an opportunity to do something better.

It is also very important to understand the fact that **Movement** and **Progress** are two different things.

Several individuals, nations, companies and firms celebrate their years of anniversary, independence, emergence etc. And in reality some are just moving (in age), while some are making achievements and progress.

So, it's not all about celebrating a birthday or an anniversary. The question is, are there also achievements and progress associated with it?

Now, am not talking about how much money you've made or how many houses you have. Although they are still relevant.

What I am talking about is progress, growth, positive change and improvement every day.  
No matter how little they are.

Aim to be unique and different.

Don't be like every other person.

The goal is not just to be a singer, a student, a preacher, a teacher, an entrepreneur, a doctor etc,  
the goal is to be what you want to be but with a difference.

Learn to do things differently.

Be careful enough you don't become average.

Making a difference in life requires a conscious effort to be different.

You have to be the best you can be.

Don't go to where paths may lead but go where there's no path and leave a trail!

When other speakers just speak and go, you can choose to be a speaker and also a trainer. You  
won't just speak to people, you also empower them.

When other businesses just operate within a vicinity, you can create a website for your brand and  
take your business online.

While other students just go to school and study their books, you can as well, start learning a skill  
too, that will add to your academics.

You are not taking extra steps because it's convenient or fun, you do these things because you  
want more out of life.

Because you don't want to end up like every other person.

And because you want value attached to your life.

Personally, I have set standards for my life. And I don't just do what every other person is doing.  
Even if I have to, I'll have to do it differently.

I remember one early morning I was going for a lecture.

I looked around and I saw hundreds and thousands of other students doing the same thing I was  
doing; which was going for their respective lectures.

The question I asked myself was, "What makes you different from all these people?"

At that point, nothing made the difference because I was just doing what every other student was doing.

Not until, I took a personal decision to be above average. And I encourage you to also take that personal decision today.

I now decided to gradually pursue my non academic related dreams, learn the skills I had wanted to learn, write my exam independently, work on myself and do other useful stuffs.

And this gave me a new picture of me.

So, I encourage you to be motivated by the fear of being average.

Because, YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.

## Chapter 15

BE EXPECTANT



**I** feel life is empty without expectations. We entered this world with nothing and every other thing we hope to get, we expect them to come.

We expect to have a lovely family, good health, a successful career and every other good thing life has to offer.

But I hear people say disappointments and heartbreaks come when we expect something from people or from life generally. Therefore is less painful and more gainful to live life without expectations.

Ironically, this is the reality of life;

**If you choose not to love, you'll still face heartbreak.**

**If you choose not to trust, you'll still meet with disappointments.**

**And even if you choose not to fight, you'll still at some point be defeated.**

**So, why not decide to fight, trust, hope, love and live life to the fullest.**

***"I prefer the pain of heartbreak, disappointments and defeat to the regret of not loving, trusting and fighting for my own life."***



Some of us have literally quit living because we stopped being expectant.

We stopped believing in our dreams, we stopped seeing good things come our way, we stopped trusting God for a brighter future.

We stopped expecting good from life and left our hope in despair!

But I encourage you to stop holding back from life.

You checked in the day you were born, you'll also check out the day you'll die, so feel free to explore this one life.

Another thing to note is that, being expectant is one of the keys to a hopeful life.

When there is life, there is hope and hope is a product of our expectations.

I love to define HOPE as, **H**olding **O**n a **P**owerful **E**vidence.

So when you expect something out of life, you hold on a powerful evidence in your heart believing that it will come to you.

And this hope cannot be deferred.

This hope can alter the flow of the universe, all for your sake.

Even a pregnant woman before she puts to bed is called an "expectant mother".

Because despite the odds, regardless of the risk, difficulty and pain associated with child-birth; she believes and expects safe delivery at the end.

The next thing is that, some people expect from life but on the negative.

Do not hope for the best and still expect the worst. Hope for the best and expect the best.

Always expect good things to come to you *because they will*.

Expectancy comes with excitement.

When you are hoping to get something or to meet someone after a very long time, it comes with a special kind of feeling of joy. By the same token when this expectation does not fall through; disappointment follows suite.

Yeah, I know it's very painful but its part of this journey called life. "No pain, No gain!".

I have this friend, at the point where I needed her assistance the most, she kept turning it off. She



disappointed me countless times.

She kept saying "I will call you later today", "We will see tomorrow" etc and she never kept to her words. I got very angry and resentful because I was always there for her when she needed me.

I decided to stop expecting anything from her in order not to hurt myself the more.

And this gradually affected other areas of my life. I started finding it difficult believing that such things won't happen to me again.

When I expect something from someone and I sense it's going to end up in disappointment, I become very aggressive and angry with myself, with the person and with everyone around me. The past disappointments now produced resentment in me. Not until I decided to forgive, let go and move on.

Life is an adventure we all have to face.

At this stage of my life, am no longer hurt with such things much, I have been unstuck.

If it does not work out, fine. If it does, Great!

I'll still expect good things and good people to come my way because my Bible tells me that, I deserve good things in life ☺.

And with these hopeful points of mine ☺ ☺ ☺ ;

I hope I have been able to convince you that you have to keep expecting good things in life because you deserve them.

So, forgive those who have disappointed and hurt you in the past. Open up your heart for good things to flow in.

I will end with this popular Bible verse.

**"For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off." - Proverbs 23 Vs 18.**

This is God's word for you, be expectant! AND ABOVE AVERAGE

# Chapter 16

THE LEADER IN YOU



**W**e are the leaders of tomorrow.  
We are the future of today.

But we have to stop thinking that being a "leader of tomorrow" is all about occupying a political position in the country or state.

Most of us feel defeated, due to the fact that political positions are literally not for young people. Although that will be changing soon.

I hear the outcry of youths saying they are not giving the opportunity to lead the country but I can also feel the voices of our dreams, visions and potentials saying;

"We have what it takes to make this country a better place".

"We shouldn't wait for leadership positions"

"We are the ones who can make it happen!"

I once saw a video clip, where a huge tree fell and blocked one of the major roads in a very small community, one early morning.

Everyone was complaining and lamenting. Movement of vehicles were restricted, most people couldn't go to work. To make matters worse, the rain started falling.

What happened was, a very little boy about 9-12 years (I guess) went to where that huge tree fell; looked at it for some time, dropped his school bag and tried moving the tree out of the road so

people could continue with their daily routine.

Obviously, he couldn't lift the tree. But his courage and boldness attracted his fellow pupils to join him. Then some other older persons joined and then more people joined as well.

Afterwards, the whole community joined hands together moved that huge tree, out of the road. And I could see the smile on the faces of these people.

This little boy without a political position, without physical strength, without much experience, without personality and fame, was able to take a bold step that the whole community followed. And that's what true leadership is all about!

And I know you have that leader in you.

A leader is someone who sees a problem and decides to solve it.

A leader is someone who is passionate and has empathy for people around him.

A leader is someone who takes a bold step and guides people who follows suite.

A leader is someone who creates, re-creates, invents and establishes a future for the world around him or her.

Today we have to decide to start our own leadership from within us.

We have to think, feel, live and act like leaders.

We have to start leading our own lives.

We have to take charge of our feelings, emotions, choices and the relationship we have with people.

We have to start leading in our families, in our schools, work places and in any situation we find ourselves in. We have to choose to lead people aright.

Your progress as a young person will give you the edge to lead. Not just your society but the world at large.

And also remember a good leader is also a good follower: and you have that leader in you.

I'll end this chapter, by telling you that:

Leadership is a course you have to submit yourself to.

And you have to listen to that voice in you that says you are the one who can make it happen.  
You are the leader of tomorrow because you have the future of today.  
Don't wait for the ideal time, the time is now!  
YOU HAVE A LEADER IN YOU AND YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE

# Chapter 17

## IT'S ALREADY THERE



**I love this saying that, "When there is Hope in the future, there will be power for the present!"**

And I believe that the best way to live in today is to believe in tomorrow.

It took me time to convince myself that things will get better for me.

I was always caught up with the agonizing thoughts of the challenges and difficulties around me and it made me lose faith in the victory that lies ahead of me.

Here is what I want to share with you.

I don't know where you are now, what brought you there or how long you've been there, I just want you to look ahead and trust God.

I have set so many goals for myself and I have dreams I want to actualize. But I have learnt to work hard and put in every effort NOT because I want to achieve these goals and dreams BUT because I

know I will achieve them.

They are already there, in my future, ahead of me, waiting for me.

My Bible teaches me to walk by faith and not by sight.

My Sight tells me how difficult and impossible things are.

But Faith looks beyond the present.

And I know everything I want and will ever need in life is already there, waiting for me!

For my God shall supply all my needs according to his riches in glory.

Now, I want you to make a list of all the good things you want and affirm that each of them is already there!

And in this process of faith, work and patience; "Do not hope for the best and still expect the worst." Expect good things to come because they will.

Don't work to get a result, work because you will get the result.

Don't just read to pass your exams, read because you know you will pass your exams.

Don't take medications because you wish to recover from an illness, take medications because you know you will recover from the illness.

Don't work hard because you want a better life, work hard because you already know you will have a better life.

There's a big difference between doing something to get something and doing something because you know you'll definitely get that something. That's faith.

*"Faith is seeing through uncertainties to find realities, irrespective of all odds."*

So whatever you have set out to do in life, do it with assurance, gratitude, peace of mind and faith that it is yours already!

And am saying to you;

You have your actualized dreams, good health, success, working relationship, progress, greatness etc. They are already there!

Your situations, mistakes, wrong decisions, failure etc you have experienced or still experiencing

or will still experience CANNOT stop them from coming to you.

I know this because God says "Everything will be great at the end and if it's not great, then it's not the end!"

Live life with this assurance, God is faithful with his promises. **YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE**



# Chapter 18

## DECIDE TO GROW



**W**ork on yourself and on your dreams every day.  
Never get tired of trying.

The more you try, the more you learn and the more you learn, the faster and stronger you grow.

Growth that takes place within a man is a product of the difficulties and challenges around him. The pains, the disappointments, the rejection, the failures, the struggles etc are all part of life's training to help us grow.

This growth is inevitable and the earlier we decide to allow ourselves pass through these processes fearlessly, the higher we grow.

I have a saying that *we grow faster in situations that tends to limit our growth.*

You can only learn how to fly when you spread your wings, and you can only learn how to walk when you stand on your feet.

Birds don't fly in their nests neither do men walk while sitting.

You have to stand up to that greatness you have in you.

And I assure you that when you decide to take up full responsibilities to grow, life will have a new meaning to you.

You have to grow above mediocrity.

You have to grow above giving excuses.

You have to grow above living a life where you allow how people feel about you affect how you feel about yourself.

You have to grow above failure.

You have to grow above who you are now.

You have to grow above average.

The hunger for an adventure gives rise to an invention.

The ideas waiting to be conceived in your mind can only be triggered with an unusual desire to live life to the fullest.

You need to grow and every effort you have to put into your life is worth it.

You are very few steps away from your victory.

Say a big "YES" to your dreams.

Live life with everything you have in you.

Don't settle for less, **YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.**

# Chapter 19

## YOU DESERVE MORE



**You deserve to be loved.**

You deserve to be cared for.

You deserve to be happy.

You deserve to be celebrated.

You deserve to pursue your dreams and actualize them.

You deserve to fight your battles and also win them.

You deserve to overcome your life challenges.

You deserve to live a life of contribution.

You deserve more out of life.

Wherever you find yourself and with whatsoever you are doing, always know that you deserve more.

Never settle for less or for average.

Don't say "At least am not suffering", "At least I have a job", "At least am no longer single".

Don't limit what you can have in life with "*At least...*"

Reach out for more.

Reach out for a better life, for your dream job, for a happy relationship etc. All in the spirit of gratitude. Because when we are grateful for the little things we have, we create room for bigger ones to come.

You might as well say you've tried but things are not just working out fine.

You might as well find reasons why you don't have to push forward again.

But am saying to you, try again, once again.

Life is too short settling for less.

Life is too beautiful living in bitterness.

And we just have one life to live.

Hypothetically, you go to see a movie. And in this movie is an individual struggling, feeling like a victim, complaining and settling for less.

And you know that this person has the ability, the gifts, the talents, the intellect and capacity to reach out and achieve more.

If you are given the opportunity to rewrite the script for this individual, what and what will you do to change the life for good?

Whatever it is, see yourself as this person and **rewrite your own script!**

Another thing I want you to know and believe is that things will get better for you.

There is time for everything and your good times have come.

Each day when you wake up say positive things to yourself. Convince yourself that you'll surely make it.

Learn to talk to yourself, most times the only good things you will hear about you will be the things you say to you.

Make out time to do the good things you love.

Spend time with your family and people you love.

Take yourself out. Buy yourself a gift.

Surprise yourself;

Just walk in a store one early morning, pick those items you've been longing to have and pay for them. Then go home. It's as simple as that!

One good thing with listening to your needs and taking care of yourself is that, it helps build your self esteem. It makes you feel better about yourself.

You cannot get more in life if you don't give more to yourself.

Finally, I'll like us to make some declarations together. You can say it aloud if you can.

**"I will find fulfilment in life",**

**"I will have my dream job and career",**

**"I will have a good relationship",**

**"I will live a purposeful life"**

**"I will make MORE MONEY" (I know you love this part 😊😊😊)**

**"I will make God proud!"**

Thank you so much for believing that you deserve more.

I trust God to make your declarations a reality. **"Don't stop until you get to the Top"**

**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.**

# Chapter 20

## TAKE A STAND



**T**he world we live in is made up of people with different beliefs and choices.  
And the decisions we take amidst these differences form part of our uniqueness.

What makes you distinct from other people is not necessarily your looks and appearance. It has a lot to do with your choices and decisions.

But when we decide to make choices and take decisions, we realize that so many factors stop us from doing what we really ought to do.

Some of these factors keep us in check to ensure we are doing the right thing, while some are not in-line with who we are.

For you to succeed and achieve more in life,  
For you to be above average, you have to take a stand.

If what you believe in is right and pleasing to God, always stand for it at all cost and at all times!



I remember an incident that occurred when I was a bit younger.

We were playing football on the street and I looked ahead and saw my mom returning from work.

I wanted to go welcome her and also help her with her bag.

Then I saw the look on the faces of my teammates. Because I knew the game will be halted or will be on a "stand still" as we called it then, till I come back. And it will definitely stop the flow of the game.

As wise I thought I was then, I acted as though I didn't see my mom; she walked past and entered the house and the game continued.

Sincerely, it wasn't a very hard decision to take, but I allowed the choices of my teammates affect my belief and values.

It wasn't long after the game continued, the mom of one of my teammates returned. Before I knew what was happening, this guy ran to the mom and helped her carry her bag to the house. Exactly what I wished to do then.

And guess what? The game was halted and we all still waited for him to return.

Ladies and gentlemen, I didn't need anyone to tell me the moral of the story.

The next day, I didn't even care to know whether or not the person that was coming was my Mom, as long as she looked like her, I'll literally run after her.

I learnt my lessons!

Now the question is, what have you been doing to please people and you know it's hurting and affecting you indirectly?

The truth is, if I had gone to welcome my mom that day, nothing would have gone wrong. But because I couldn't take a stand, something went wrong.

*"You shouldn't allow people's choices affect your decisions."*

Let me paraphrase it, *"Always take the right decisions regardless of people's choices and opinion".*

Take a stand for your life. Choose to do what is right. At all times and at all cost.  
Don't please people. Set standards that they will follow.

The irony is, no matter how much we try to please people, they will never be pleased.  
But when we are always keen to taking the right decisions, the universe itself is pleased with us.

So, first value your choices and decisions.  
Sincerely, they are your actual uniqueness!  
**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.**



# Chapter 21

## ACHIEVE IT



I know there's a goal or level of achievement you'll want to have in life, in simple terms am saying to you, "Yes, you can achieve it".

One of the major goals I had as a young person was to learn how to play the piano. At first it looked difficult and challenging getting a tutor, having my own piano and more especially going through the learning process but my passion for it was my driving force.

This actually was the only thing I could stay hours listening to the sound and watch people play it. And I had a very high esteem on people who could do this and I wished I could be called a pianist one day.

Firstly, I told my parents, I got a piano, I went in search for a tutor who literally abandoned me after few weeks, I kept practicing and today; I have taught several people, helped many improve and also am someone you'll love to listen to play.

But it wasn't so easy. I faced rejection countless times when I tried playing in big gatherings, I was embarrassed severally when I couldn't play the songs well, I had to start teaching myself through observation and listening; because my tutor "ran away". I stayed awake most nights, I spent money on batteries & piano resources, I listened to songs day in, day out, invested a whole lot of time on music.

But I never took a NO for an answer.

I didn't quit because my tutor left me.

I didn't let the rejection and embarrassments affect my self-confidence.

I never lost hope nor accepted defeat.

Even when the people I started with stopped, I kept running towards my goals.

At the age of 16, I had gradually started teaching piano and also playing for my church congregation.

That's my own story and what would be yours if you didn't give up?

And what will still be yours if you will decide today to keep pulling through?

Success to me is a level of achievement that brings fulfillment.

Become successful in the little things you do and you'll find courage to do more difficult things.

Allow God to use you beyond your abilities.

**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.**

# Chapter 22

## STEP INTO YOUR GREATNESS



A research was carried out at MIT and the results indicated that if 1 voice tells you, “No, you cannot this”, you need about 17 other voices to tell you, “Yes, you can do this”, to override that 1 voice.

What we listen to; really goes a long way in affecting the results we produce.

Les Brown narrated an incident that occurred in Philadelphia. Two kids who were playing on an ice and unfortunately, one of them fell through the ice. So the other kid looked around for a means to save his friend, he couldn’t find one. And out of desperation, he broke a huge branch from a tree and stretched it to the ice and finally saved his friend.

Later on, the paramedics came and they were shocked on how that little boy was able to save his friend. And they kept asking how it was possible. Then an old man stood up and answered, “*This little boy was able to save his friend, because there was no one there to tell him, he couldn’t!*”

And this reminds me of when I started my walk as an entrepreneur.

The questions and voices that I kept hearing from within and around me was:

***You have failed severally; stop wasting your time on this!***

***I tried; it didn't work out for me: what makes you think it will work for you?***

***There are so many products in the market, what makes you think yours will sell?***

***Someone has worked on this same idea of yours, find something else doing!***

***You don't have the right qualifications for this, why don't you try something within your limit!***

***You are too aspiring, just set goals you are sure you can achieve!***

Sincerely, I didn't let those negative voices stop me from running towards my dreams but I saw myself running with so much fear; I was so unsure and afraid of the future.

I kept seeing signs reminding me that I wasn't qualified enough, and that so many people had this idea of mine already. I gradually began to accept defeat.

At that point, I submitted myself to so much thinking and introspection.

Not the thinking of how to improve the quality of my product and services but the thoughts of experiencing big failure.

I had invested all my time, money, strength and every other resource into this dream.

I didn't even have a Plan B, because I never wanted it to distract my Plan A.

Those voices of me not succeeding which I heard then started haunting me, and I realized that I never replaced those negative words with positive ones.

Yes I ignored them but I didn't consciously and deliberately fill the void in my heart with positive words that will keep me inspired.

But today, I speak victory into my defeat; I speak success into my failure.

I have decided to step into my greatness at all cost.

I will stay awake all night, I will make the right phone calls, I will publicise my services better, I will find people who love my products and let them be my strength.

More importantly, I will submit myself to a being greater than myself and I will tell him Lord, take

charge of my whole life.

I also want you to also step into your greatness. Therefore, watch what goes through your ear.

**"IT IS TOO LATE FOR US TO FAIL, WE ARE STEPPING INTO OUR GREATNESS"**  
**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE!**

# Chapter 23

## COURAGE IN YOUR PROBLEMS



I just want to remind you that "everyone" breathing here on earth, has a problem. So the problems you facing today are not strange. They are all part of life's adventure. But I have a saying that, *"The challenges of life only comes to those who can overcome them!"*

When you are faced with a problem, don't take it too personal. Don't take it to heart. Most times when we give so much attention to our problems it leads to needless worry and bitterness.

But when we take our mind off it for a while and commit ourselves to helping other people solve theirs, it opens up a way for us.

Whatever you sow in life is what you'll reap. Regardless of the circumstances surrounding you, try to sow hope, good news, positive messages, encouragement, help and support to people, you will surely reap the same.

It's a law of the universe and it's also God's will for our lives.

So my suggestion is, stop feeling like a victim. Victims are people who have lost hope for the future, victims are people who are powerless.

But you still have hope and you are not powerless. You are powerful.

You still have a chance to live a greater life.

Forget about those problems for a while and help others face theirs.

It might still be hurting but the joy and fulfillment in helping other people will relieve the pain.

Reach out to people, encourage the weak, help the needy, give to those who don't have, give hope to those who are in despair.

**Be willing to sail through the storms, so people around you can find courage to walk under the rain!**

I feel this is a direct message to me and also to someone out there who is feeling troubled from within. Am saying to you, don't lose hope.

**Yes, I know you are tired, but DON'T GIVE UP.**

While other people are quitting, feeling like victims, becoming negative, giving up on their dreams and in life. Remain bold, hopeful and strong.

I assure you that you'll surely make it.

Because, God's grace has guaranteed us our Victory!

**Take away those problems in your mind and place them in God's heart.**

**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE**



# Chapter 24

## BE PRODUCTIVE



**B**eing alive is a responsibility. I believe that God has allowed each and everyone of us into this world for a reason. He also expects us to be productive.

And being productive in my opinion is, yielding expected results within a given time.

**Being busy isn't being productive.**

**Growth isn't maturity.**

**Movement is quite different from progress.**

**Doing a lot more isn't the same as getting a lot more done.**

Every individual living on the surface of this earth has a role to play and this role is vital and important.

The major problem we have is, maybe we have not actually discovered this role and those who have discovered theirs, don't appreciate it.



We prefer attaching ourselves to places we don't belong to.

We accepted to live the life that is not ours and thereby wasting the person we really are.

We fit in where we are meant to stand out.

We embrace fear when it comes to taking up our own responsibilities.

We feel we are very inadequate, and we tend to forget that God has already prepared us for every task ahead of us.

We have to be productive.

And for us to yield expected results in life, we have to accept the fate of whom we are, where we are coming from and the work we have to do to get to where we want to be.

We shouldn't be afraid of accepting God's will for our lives. His plans for us are always the perfect one.

God knows where we will perform best in life and he has placed gifts and talents within us to help us achieve that.

So appreciate what you can do and also believe in your abilities.

To be productive means you have to put in effort to do the "little work" God has given to you to do.

With diligence, faithfulness and willingness to make a life out of it.

Finally, Set your Goals!

Don't wait for an ideal time, it may not come.

Start up today with what you have and from where you are.

**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.**

# Chapter 25

## I AM DIFFERENT



I am different.

I am special.

I am unique.

I am exceptional.

**I am above average.**

I can't compare myself with anybody. Comparisons are only meant for similar entities with similar qualities.

But I am not similar neither am I just an entity. I am completely DIFFERENT.

God's handwork is excellent, and so am I.

I have learnt to understand and believe in myself.

I have also learnt to work on my weaknesses and also to improve on my strength.

I know many people are better than I am in so many fields but;

**I choose to be an encouragement and not a rival.**

**An inspiration and not a competition.**

**A motivation and not someone's opposition.**

Because I am different and that is how I was created to be.

I didn't spend several months alone in my mother's womb just to look for whom to compete with.

I am here to stand out!

I am here to conquer!

I am here to make a big difference!

My dreams might look similar to yours; my goals may have the same settings like yours.

But my instinct and intuition are not. I am inspired by grace and this grace is sufficient.

No one can conquer the challenges and fight through the battles and struggles I have faced all alone in the past. Maybe that's why I am stronger.

And I just can't help it.

It's not pride, but I AM different and so ARE YOU.

*"Don't compare yourself with others, you won't attain Perfection.*

*But Discover who you are and Work on yourself, then you'll find Fulfillment"*

BE ABOVE AVERAGE

# Chapter 26

## WIN BACK YOUR VICTORY



**T**here are times when we lose grip on our victory.  
There are times when we fall back to the past.

There are times when we go back to being average.

There are also times when we lose guard of what we've worked so hard to get.

At some point in our lives, we give away our victory unconsciously and sometimes consciously.  
And in matter of no time we now see ourselves where we ought not to be, struggling to get back on our feet.

Victors are not just people who fight and win, but people who are also able maintain their victory.

Well, I don't know what you've lost to defeat, but I have come to let you know that you can still  
**WIN BACK YOUR VICTORY.**

The devil comes only to kill, steal and to destroy.

When he can't kill our dreams, vision and the greatness God has given to us, he then tries to destroy them and when he fail; he then tries to steal them from us.

But Christ came to give us Victory and also help us to win it back, if we've lost it.

So, as we reconnect ourselves back to reading our bible, praying more, working on weaknesses, improving on ourselves, developing character and courage, staying committed to our dreams and dedicated to the work of God, we will definitely win back this victory.

Every Christian at some point has fallen short of God's glory.

Every winner at some point has gone back to tasting defeat.

Every great man at some point has thought failure and mediocrity.

But there's always an opportunity to get back up!

Our ability to bounce back from series of defeat and failure will surely give us strength to succeed.

Our willingness to accept fate and face our fears will definitely give us courage to overcome.

So I encourage you today to rise above your present situation.

Win back your victory over Depression.

Win back your victory over Fear.

Win back your victory over Failure.

Win back your victory over Sickness.

Win back your victory over Sin.

Win back your victory over Pain.

Win back your victory over Procrastination.

Win back your victory over Addiction

Win back your victory over everything that shouldn't be part of your life.

You have the power to live a beautiful life.

Even if you've not won before, you can still win today.

And even if you just lost today, you can win tomorrow.

Don't give up; don't settle till you win back your victory.

It's not over until you WIN. YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.

# Chapter 27

## TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE



**"Don't allow what you feel people feel about you affect how you feel about yourself."**

Most people will not just have the right feelings about you.

Most people will always judge you by your mistakes and weaknesses.

Some will have a limited vision of what you can achieve.

Some will see you as inadequate and unworthy.

Someone I looked up to and believe so much in sometime told me that I couldn't teach.

She felt I didn't have all it takes to impact knowledge into people. This was just how she felt about me but I inadvertently allowed it affect how I felt about myself.

As I grew older, I became more directly involved with people. And some of these people were those who needed me to teach and coach them in different fields.



But I had already started seeing myself as someone who couldn't teach.  
Those words I heard then started becoming real in my life.

Whenever I tried teaching people, and they start finding it difficult following up with the teaching, those voices will now start reminding me of my inability to teach!  
And most times I will just call off the teaching process or I'll just continue struggling with my mind.

The reality is people will say different things to you.  
Some will tell you; you are not qualified, you are not beautiful, you are too slim or too fat, you can never change, you don't know to do this, you don't know how to do that.  
Doctors will even diagnose and label you with a medical condition. But we shouldn't let the doctor's report become a reality in our lives.  
We have to keep affirming that we will be fine and definitely, we will.

Now, people's inability to see beauty in you does not change the fact that you are still beautiful.  
In one of our books I wrote, "God is beautiful and luckily for me I was created in his own image".  
People's inability to see a star in you doesn't mean you cannot shine.  
Your family, friends, loved ones and people around may not even believe in you. They may not understand how hard you been trying to become a better you. And that's every reason you have to take charge of your own life.

Don't allow your life to be controlled by people's opinion and feelings.

Most people are just good at just seeing and saying negative things about other people, but you have the ability to remain positive because it is your life and you have the right to live a beautiful life.

Words are powerful. They have a way of affecting how life treats us and how we respond to life's treatment.

Take charge of your life today.

Les Brown will always say *"Don't let people's opinion about you become your reality"*.

Some people just decide not to see good things from other people and I know you are not like those people.

Your reality is what you create yourself and not what people think concerning you.

Today, I have taught and impacted a lot of people directly and indirectly too. I have also helped many develop their skills and expertise in so many areas of life despite someone's negative opinion about my teaching ability.

I had to take charge of my own life.

I didn't let those words totally defeat me. Rather I took it up as a challenge and it made me want to work and personally improve myself.

Finally, I urge you to take full charge of your life.

While others are feeling like they don't deserve love, care and a better life because of what people feel about them. And while some are giving up on their dreams and in life just because someone said they weren't good enough. At that point, I want you to look up to the heavens, and ask God to help you take full charge of this life has given to you.

**"Don't allow what you feel people feel about you affect how you feel about yourself, take full charge of your life today!"**

**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.**



# Chapter 28

## YOU WILL MAKE IT



Thank you for reading through; till the last chapter of this book.

And I want to reassure you that, **YOU WILL SURELY MAKE IT!**

It got to a point in my life when I was tempted to call my parents on phone. Just to tell them to just forgive me, if I don't finally succeed in life.

Because at that point in my life, I had taken so many wrong decisions, risked so many things and I obviously had no guarantee I could still make it.

I felt so defeated and all I could do was to console myself with the fact that I was not the only child of my parents.

Should I fail, my other siblings will make them proud.

But today I've been liberated from those negative thoughts. I have been reborn into a new state of positive thinking and I am convinced that I'll make it.

See, the worst thing to be without in this life is **HOPE**.

I define **HOPE** as **Holding On** a **Powerful Evidence**. *For when there is Hope in the future, there will be power for the present.*

So at any point when you look at how difficult things are and you begin to feel like you are no longer going to make it, talk to yourself with the voice of faith.

Keep your hope alive and reassure yourself that you'll make it.

I do this by making declarations and affirmations.

And I'll want you to say this to yourself;

**"No matter how bad things are and no matter how bad things may get, I am going to make it!!!"**

You can affirm this to yourself over and over again. And you can as well write it down where you can always see it.

In my room, I pasted on the wall,

**"IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO FAIL; I AM STEPPING INTO MY GREATNESS!"**

And everyday I wake up in the morning; it's the first thing I literally see. And it keeps me going. It reminds me that I will surely make it. Because *it is already too late for me to fail.*

And I want you to know that there is power in whatever you believe in and in the declarations you make for yourself.

The Bible says, "Life and death are in the power of the tongue".

So choose the words you say to yourself.

The next thing I want you to know is that, we've come so far to end up average people.

We've been through a lot not to be successful.

God will not leave us neither will he forsake us. He will surely take us to our promise land.

But we have to remain strong and positive.

And keep acting on our dreams, working on ourselves and on whatever we are supposed to do.

With the assurance that it will happen for us.

**When it looks as if God has stopped listening to you.**

**When it seems as if he is too far from you.**

**When you feel as if your struggles and pains are just about to overwhelm you.**

**That's the moment when God is closest. That's the moment God's presence in your life is strongest.**

Your challenges can NEVER overcome you.

You are not just a CONQUEROR, the bible says you are MORE THAN CONQUERORS.

Be strong. You have God on your side.

If the Israelites finally walked through the red sea and the wilderness to their promise land, you'll also walk through these rejections, tough times, disappointments, stress, being broke etc and get to your own promise land.

Don't just give up on this wilderness!

**YOU ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.**

**THANKS  
FOR  
READING...**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



There is no need for a formal introduction though 😊 😊.

My name is Kalu Johnson, Crystal.

Emmm, I am from Ohafia in Abia State. I reside in Aba, Nigeria.

I have a B.sc in Computer science and professionally; I am an internet entrepreneur, a web developer, motivational speaker, pianist and life coach.

I am also the Founder and App developer at Hopeful Me.

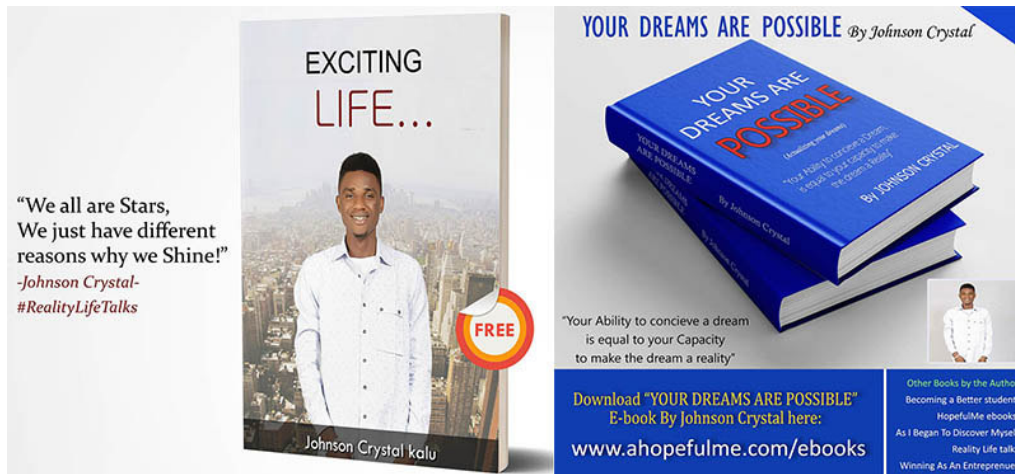
My hobby is creating new things and more importantly, I am Useful in God's hand!

As you have decided to live a life above average, I am willing to support and encourage you.

Feel free to call and text me on: +2348101357283.

You can also connect with me on Hopeful Me, Facebook, twitter, Instagram: @johnsoncrystalkalu

I will really love to hear from you! *You are special to me everyday...*



## **Other books and labels by the Author**

Exciting life

Your dreams are possible

Becoming a better student

Hopeful me (1,2,3,4)

Healing of the mind

As i began to discover myself

Winning as an entrepreneur

Lady with purpose

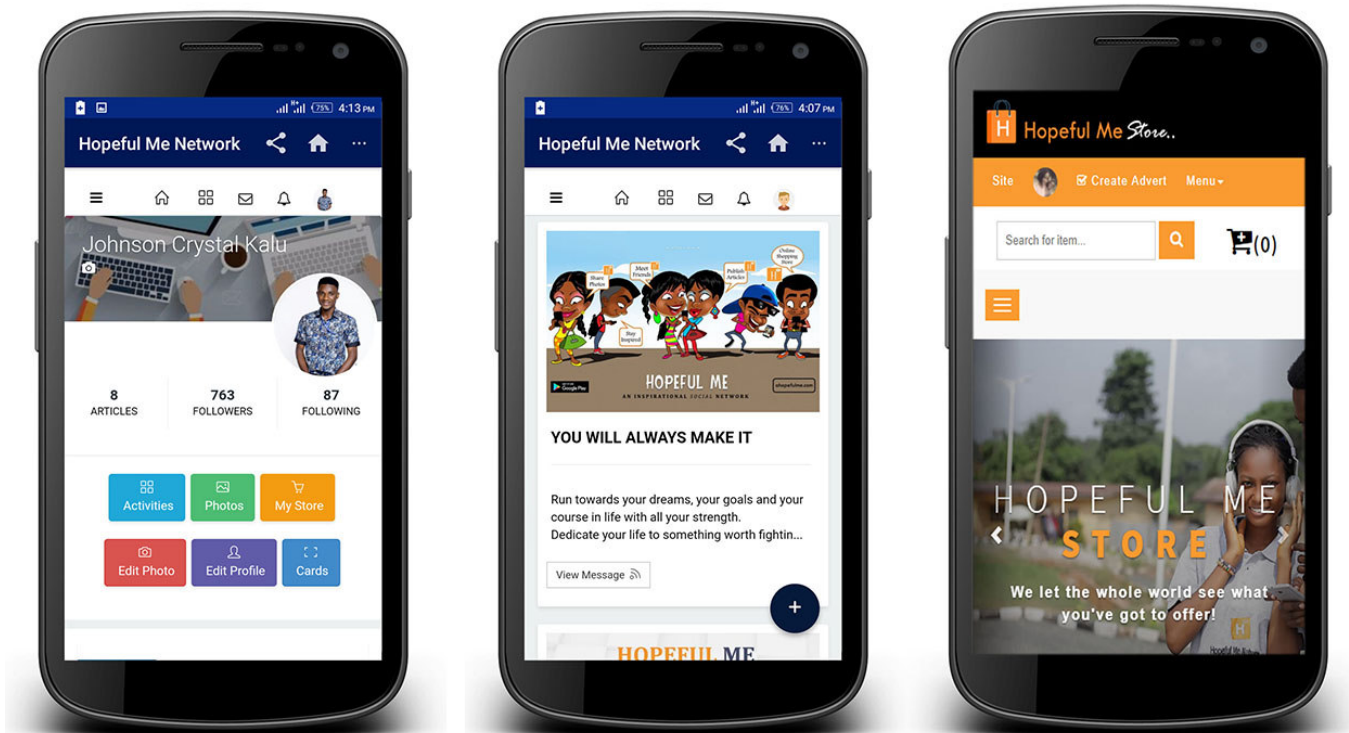
Reality life talks

My life my victory

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## ABOUT HOPEFUL ME

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**I end most of my speeches with this:**

For the course we possess.

For the knowledge of who we are.

For the purpose we've discovered.

For the responsibility that lies ahead of the future.

We have decided to live life to the fullest.

Taking charge of life like victors and not living like victims.

Being the captains of our life and not the captives of time.

Striving through challenges and achieving success.

Facing all life's adventure and attaining greatness.

Living life with everything and being willing to die with nothing.

Dedicating our lives to God and our service to humanity.

With all our might, we submit ourselves to this great course we possess.

Our existence is God's gift to our generation.



# Above Average

*by Johnson Crystal Kalu*

[www.ahopefulme.com/ebooks](http://www.ahopefulme.com/ebooks)

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