

*Selaksomeone*

# **Inspirational Stories**

12 life changing stories

**Volume 1**

## Dedication

This eBook is dedicated to YOU! Your quest for liberation is a sign that you know that there is no limiting you. Deep inside you, you know there is more to you that has to be explored. This shows how much attaining your dreams mean to you. This is for you and you finding what you desire most.

Cheers

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## Preface

There are 12 life changing stories in this volume, each one directed at inspiring a better you and motivating you to new heights. You are all you need to locate what you so much desire, no one can do for you those things you have to do for yourself. It has always been about you, it is always about you and it will always be about you.

*Selahsomeonetotalkto.com ...building a better you!*

# Welcome to Selah's World

Hi, my name is Omotayo, also known as Selah. I want to welcome you to Selah's World. "People like to think that the opposite of fear is courage, when in fact the opposite of fear is faith. When you have faith to overcome your fears, you realize you had courage all along." – Unknown

When you believe in YOU, you would come to realize that "in your life, nothing is impossible".

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I Love You

Selah

# Story One

## Where Help Comes From

The Psalmist said, " I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help  
come?"

It was Sunday afternoon, Mebi felt so down; good times in the church, lots of prophetic utterances but back home sadness all around, piling bills, Joan (her boyfriend) is inconsistent as ever, her parents deserve so much and she knows it but what her current job pays her can't even take her through the first week after salary. She looked up, tears in her prayers, she could only hope God was listening.

Bright and early Monday morning, Mebi dashed out for office. In the bus she met an old friend, her room-mate back in her university days. Two of them were so excited, gossip galore, they talked about everyone in their graduating set; the ones doing fine and those struggling. There and then Mebi realized she might not have gotten all she wanted but then she's doing better than she thought she was.

“When last did you hear from Debi?” her friend asked Mebi.

“Well it's been a long time,” Mebi answered. (Mebi stopped calling Debi because she perceived Debi as being too saucy also Debi never returns Mebi's call and that Mebi attributed to Debi's pride and show of class). As their different

destination approached they exchange phone numbers and said their goodbyes.

Though-out the day Mebi became a lot livelier, now full of smiles, she realized there is a lot to be thankful for, and thanks to her friend, she met earlier in the day.

At around 4pm, she decided to call Debi. “Hello this is Debi, may I know whom I am on to?” With shaky voice filled with inferiority complex, Mebi responded, it’s Mebi.

“Oh, you have heard too, that I’m traveling out to UK to settle down with my man”, she said in her usual saucy way.

“No!” Mebi replied, your thought just crossed my mind and I just wanted to hear... Debi cut-in, “anyways thank you. Are you still at that your peanut job?”

Mebi was brought back to reality by that question. She answered, “well what can I do?!? With a sheepish smile in her voice, Debi said, “dear I have to go, I will call you later”. Without waiting for response Debi hung up on Mebi. “She would not call back I know”, Mebi exclaimed. “God why did I call her, she has just spoilt my almost perfect day”, Mebi grumbled.

Now Mebi's back to her moody self. Filled with envy of Debi and disgust for herself, she lamented "in school I taught Debi everything but she has a better job earning over ten times what I earn, I am more beautiful but she has a man who is taking her to UK to settle down... God where is your face? Where will my help come from?" Mebi sunk back in her seat with heavy heart and great feeling of depression.

Suddenly, her phone rang. To her surprise it was Debi calling back. Mebi's thought ran riot, "obviously she is calling back to make more fun of me and flaunt how better her life is, I will ignore the call" Mebi concluded and after a while the ringing stopped.

Mebi started packing her stuffs, end of a day's work, just then her phone went off again. "Haba! This girl again" she exclaimed. It's Debi calling again. Mebi decide to pick this time.

"Hello Mebi! I just spoke with my boss, he said you can come and resume tomorrow, you will have my job, since I am resigning tomorrow. I told him you are the most intelligent and diligent person I know and he agreed you can have the job, with more benefits than I enjoyed because I told him you will need more to be convinced to take the job... Hello! Hello!! Are you there?" Debi asked because of the silence at the other end of the call. Mebi still in shock, "yes I am!" (trying to assimilate the news). "Are you serious Debi?" Mebi

questioned. “Yes I am or you don’t want the job?” Debi now really struggling to digest the great news. “I want o, in fact I’ll be the first person there tomorrow before I come and resign here and pay them off”. “Okay dear, see you tomorrow” Debi concluded and hung up.

Mebi could not believe her ears, “God, is this how miracle comes? So I too will earn six figures monthly? Chai! Thank God o and thank you Debi” she went on and on with excitement as she could no longer hold her joy.

That was how the fortune of Mebi changed forever, from a source she least expected.

## LESSONS

1. You don't have all the problems in the world. You may not be where you want but lots of people are praying for what you have.
2. Help won't necessarily come from a face you like or someone with a pleasant attitude. God works in mysterious ways.
3. Don't write anyone off as being useless or arrogant, learn to tolerate others' excesses after all no one is perfect.
4. Keep helping others even when they don't appreciate. Remember God keeps a perfect record and He is an excellent rewarder of good deeds.
5. There might not be a perfect story and often happy endings may seem more of fairytale but when you put your trust in God, He never disappoints.

# Story Two

## Frog Tales

“Here are two stories I would like to share with you, they revolve around real life experiments and the lessons people have come to learn from them.”

### Tale 1

There was an experiment done years ago, where jumping frogs were placed in jars with lids. Though they had plenty of food and water, the frogs still tried to escape. They jumped and jumped, banging their heads on the lids again and again. This went on for 30 days, and then the lids were removed. But the frogs no longer jumped because they didn't believe

escape was possible. They had given up, even though freedom was one hop away.

...

Sometimes life knocks you down so often, you start to assume it will knock you down every time. You essentially give up trying because your mind had been conditioned to believe that it's not worth the effort. You may decide it's safer to stay where you are...

But here is the truth, there is no lid on your jar! You can do more and handle more than you think you can. You can decide to do more than just exist, you can choose to live life,

if you can put away the fears of failure and try again and again.

## Tale 2

Another experiment was carried out, a frog was placed in a vessel of water and the scientist started heating the water.

As the temperature of the water rose, the frog was able to adjust its body temperature accordingly. The frog kept adjusting with increased temperature. Just when the water was about to reach boiling point, the frog was not able to adjust anymore. At that point the frog decided to jump out but it was unable to do so, because it had lost all its strength while trying to adjust as the temperature of water rose. Eventually the frog died.

The question now is, 'What killed the frog?'

Many of us would say the boiling water but the truth is, what killed the frog was its own inability to decide when it had had enough.

We all need to adjust with people and situations, but we need to be sure when we need to adjust and when we need to confront. There are times when we need to face the situation and take the appropriate actions. If we allow people to exploit us physically, mentally, emotionally or financially, they will continue to do so till we are no longer useful to them and ourselves. We have to be able to decide when to say we have had enough, when to take no more and when to jump while we still have the strength.

## Story Three

When it is not your time?

“When a door doesn’t open for us it is not because God doesn’t love us, often it is because He loves us so much that He wouldn’t allow us settle for lesser than we truly deserve.”

Recently I had to talk to a friend of mine, she was so much in tears that one can only imagine how bad she must have wanted the position, yes! POSITION. Here’s what happened, there was this advert, a position at her workplace and by all account she was one of the favorites for the position; she has the qualification, the experience and “supposed” backing of some of the top shots in the organization. So she scaled the

test and was called up for the first interview but somehow her name was missing from the follow up interview. She was devastated, lots of questions were unanswered and people asking questions didn't make it an easy pill for her to swallow.

I felt so much for her but then I have come to understand that when it is not your time, there is hardly more you can do, even though we are compelled to keep knocking till a door opens. I had to share a story with her, which I hope you too can learn from.

Some years back, there were four (4) friends who got appointment into a blue chip company, though the money

was not what they all had hoped for, especially with the hype on the company but at least it was a good place to start. Eight (8) months down the line, the friends had grown tired of the job, they wanted something more and it was at this moment that one of them got an offer from a bank and he left, leaving the other three (3) behind.

The three (3) remaining guys did almost everything together, they were practically inseparable but as life would have it, two (2) were moved to another department within the same organization. Even though these two (2) were still on the same pay with their third friend, it was a movement of convenience; less work, more prestige and more opportunities. It was like a “dream” move. This almost drove

the third guy mad, questions like, “what is happening to me, who have I wronged, has God forgotten me? He was the best but he wasn’t chosen. He was now alone and feeling of dejection was written all over him. However, somehow he found the strength to keep pressing than before, he became more determined to move forward. He applied for jobs as much as he could, studied as much as he could and in all, became more focused than he had ever been. In less than six (6) months, he got a new job with benefits more than what the other three (3) guys were earning put together.

It is not easy to accept situations especially when we know we deserve more than we are getting but when it is not our time there is little we can do but to keep improving on who

we are so that when our time comes, we will be fully prepared to seize the opportunity.

Listen! When a door doesn't open for us it is not because God doesn't love us, often it is because He loves us so much that He wouldn't allow us settle for lesser than we truly deserve. We may think what lies ahead is the best we can get but He can see further and knows there is something even better ahead.

Here is my take, when it is comes to situations like this;

1. Don't become hateful or rebellious
2. Don't lose your faith in God or believe in yourself

3. Don't give up because a door didn't open, knock on other doors

4. Don't stop improving on yourself, you are your own selling point, you have to keep getting more attractive

5. Don't let what people say change who you are, Just keep faith.

My last words for anyone feeling this hurt right now are, "Don't let few denials make you think less of yourself. In spite of what people might have said to you, in spite of the rejections you might have received, notwithstanding who it came from, don't give up on yourself. Keep improving, keep getting better, keep knocking on the doors of opportunities and believe me, very soon a bigger door will open for you that would be beyond your comprehension".

# Story Four

## Hey! Young Man

“Do you know who you are? Do you have plans for tomorrow?”

“Hey young man!” I ignored and kept walking, then the man called out again “hey young man” then I looked back and behold he beckoned me. I went to him, he asked me for directions and I was able to help being my neighborhood.

I proceeded on my journey, then it dawned on me, the man just called me a young man, is it that I am getting old or since when did I become a man? I could have sworn that just

yesterday I gained admission into the university but then seriously, I am a final year student now, time flies indeed.

Then I asked myself, am I prepared for the role of a man? Do I really have a plan for my future? Besides attending classes, reading and waiting for pocket money am I really developing myself? If I didn't realize I have become a man then do I really know myself? Tons of questions kept coming and I just had no answers.

This, my friends, became the turning point in my life. That moment marked the beginning of me, you know today. That man's words "hey young man" opened my eyes to who I was,

who I am and who I can be. Do you know who you are? Do you have plans for tomorrow? Take away your parents and your certificate, would you still be able to define yourself?

Hey young men and ladies, are you up to the task?

# Story Five

## How I Take Care of Those Creatures

“The voice said “that is how I take care of those creatures and if I can do that for them how much more you?”

A friend was sharing his experience some time ago and I believe there is a lot we can all learn from it.

He said when he was serving (Youth Corp Service) in Jigawa State (Northern part of Nigeria; desert, limited rain, high humidity, hot Sun and very few water sources), whenever they need water, they have to walk about 500 meters to get

the nearest borehole, so often times he buys from Water-hawkers.

On this day he needed water desperately but no water-hawker was passing, so he decided to go and fetch. On his way, he saw this lizard looking like it was about to die of dehydration and he thought to himself, “how do these creatures get water in this place”? He thought for a while but he couldn’t come up with any answer so he dropped the thought.

After fetching his water, on his way back some over 400meters away from the borehole, he tripped and his

bucket fell spilling all the water. He was so frustrated and annoyed with himself but there was nothing he could do than to go back to the borehole and fetch again. While he was returning from his second trip at that same spot where he tripped, he saw that same lizard drinking from the water he spilled earlier.

“Psalm 147:9 He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.”

He said, he then heard a voice in his head that till today he can never forget, the voice said “that is how I take care of those creatures and if I can do that for them how much more you?”.

He said since that day, he takes his mistakes and failures with grateful heart just as he takes his blessings and testimonies, and he always trust in God no matter what.

Lessons I took from his experience:

1. When you make mistake(s), don't beat yourself up over it.

It is always to teach you lessons that you might not get without being an example. But when you make the same mistake continuously then it simply means you have made a choice not to learn.

2. God will always care for His own irrespective of size, position, economic situations or odds. If it takes some to lose

so that His own can gain, God won't hesitate (Israelites Vs Egyptians).

3. Because you cannot answer a question doesn't mean the answer does not exist, after all the mysteries of life are such that it reminds us that there is a God whose logic we can't explain.

4. Some steps are preordained. That's why the Bible said everything works together for good, for those who serve God. Before you even thought of asking God for something he has already put in motion series of events that will make sure you get your answer. That is why He is awesome.

5. Give thanks at all times, even when it seems it didn't go according to your plans because the one with the master plan

knows better. He who fails to be grateful is already a great fool.

“Matthew 6:26 - Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than them?”

# Chapter Six

## Working My Faith

**“We cannot know if our prayers have been answered until we work our faith.”**

Went to Adekunle Ajasin University (Ondo state university, Nigeria) today and met a guy who left me speechless.

The guy walked up to me and offered to share his umbrella with me (it was raining). In my inquisitive manner, I asked what he came to do in the school, considering the on-going strike. He told me he saw an advert and came to apply. Knowing how porous the recruitment process is, in

academics, I asked if he was expecting to be selected. And his answer took me by surprise, he said:

“I have prayed for so long for a job but if I don’t apply for one, how would I know if He (God) had answered my prayer. I have faith not in the system but in my God and now I am working my faith”

I couldn’t probe further, simple speechless, I just said in my thoughts, “God accept the challenge and prove yourself”.

Friends where lies your faith? Are you putting it to use? The ball is in your court, it’s your life, put it in the right hands.

“My child, I never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation. Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

# Story Seven

## A POOR FARMER'S CONFESSION

**“We all look for someone or something to blame for how our life is going, so also this farmer but soon he realized how wrong he has been...”**

A poor farmer marveled by his friend's harvest, so to elicit pity for his own poor performance, he told people that God had been unfair to him considering his efforts in planting season; the rain was not fair, neither was the sun nor the ground. He complained about the wind, the government's aide to farmers, locust encroachment on his farm and lots

more. People all around pitied him, some gave him a dime, others just sympathized but a man did not pity him.

The man asked the poor farmer, is that the true story? The poor farmer was ecstatic, dumb-founded and bewildered, for in his heart of heart he knew that wasn't the whole story. With a bowed head he answered the man, 'NO! That's not the true story'. The poor farmer then confessed, "In truth, I did not prepare for the planting season; I had poor farming tools, didn't plant in line with the weather, didn't prevent the locust, never applied for government's grant, and didn't meet with other farmers to update myself: in all I didn't do my best."

Many of us are like the poor farmer, we are often not true to ourselves, when things go wrong rather than acknowledging our faults we are pre-occupied with how others have contributed to our failure. A student that failed is complaining about the teachers, marking guide, time of exam etc. but never about his inadequate preparation and commitment. An unemployed graduate is complaining about unfair recruitment process, insensitivity of government, bad economy etc. but not about his positioning and competence. Similarly, a struggling man complains about his work, marriage, government, economy, boss, employees, etc. but never about his prudence, bad judgments, temper, ignorance and lack of creativity.

If we are not truthful to others, it may be understandable but when we are not truthful to ourselves, it becomes unforgiveable. Examine your situation and see how you have contributed to it, evaluate yourself see how you can improve, look within and learn how to move on. Blaming others to get sympathy would never solve the problems nor ensure such won't happen again. Like the farmer, confess the whole truth to yourself and imbibe the lessons, and you would see the difference.

If you can learn from your previous mistakes and channel your efforts to re-positioning yourself rather than blaming others, the years we have left is enough to make the difference.

# Story Eight

## Will of Steel

**“We have to be willing to be successful first before success can find us. Not giving up in the face of trials is not easy but when you have a Will of Steel, you can survive anything. Check this story...”**

In this jet age, some harsh realities snuff life out of great dreams, but only those with the Will of Steel have been able to surmount the cruelty of life and forge a great future for themselves. Such is the story of a friend I want to share with you.

Going through my Facebook account very early in the morning few days back- as my usual routine- a friend suggestion popped up (only God knows how those things know people you have met before) at first, the name 'Taiwo Twins' did not ring any bell, till her profile picture loaded completely, then I saw the face, Taiwo! My cleaner friend! I quickly added her while asking myself what might have happened to this hardworking friend.

As events will turnout, just the following day, I was in School (Unilag \*University of Lagos Nigeria) after battling to submit a deferred assignment, I was set to go home, and lo and behold, right in front of my department, I saw my cleaner friend in flesh. I couldn't believe it, I went to her cautiously

and called her name, “Taiwo!” She look at me and said ‘sorry, but I can’t place the face’. Then I introduced myself, especially the fact that I used to give her free ride from her workplace perpetually every day, for over 3 months, some 4years ago, where she worked as an office cleaner.

She screamed my name, gave me a big warm hug and she apologized for not recognizing me at first. I smiled in agreement, saying, ‘most people think I look a bit different now, probably because I have added some weight’.

After the pleasantries were exchanged, out of curiosity I asked her what she was doing in Unilag, plus how come she’s looking nicer now compared to the last time I saw her. Then

she offered that we find a seat because- as she judged- it was a long story; we got ourselves seats, and she started her story...

“I was in my first year in the polytechnic when I lost both parents in a ghastly motor accident. My twin sister and I were so devastated. Fortunately, the family members rallied round for the burial ceremonies and many promises were made to us. In the way we were brought up, our parents raised us independent of our extended families, that is, we don't visit uncles or aunts. So when we lost our parents, we tried moving closer to our extended families but none of them- in spite of their promises- was willing to accept us, we had no one to turn to, and the world seemed crashing upon us.

Kehinde and I decided to secure a small room for ourselves from the money we got during the burial. Dropping out of school was the obvious thing to do, but we told ourselves that if not for anything, we had to prove to people who didn't help us that they were wrong, for they thought we can't amount to something. We decided to get a part-time job to finance our OND program. Kehinde started selling recharge cards and public phone call service while I got a job as an office cleaner. With these, we were able to manage through the OND program.

After the Diploma program, it seems we had reached a deadlock, cost of furthering studies wasn't something our petty jobs could finance, we were practically working to feed

and pay rent, and help seemed to be faraway. Though many guys came along the way, the single guys that came often do not have the capacity to help, those that could don't want to have anything to do with a cleaner girl. Then, lots of married men came too but all they wanted was someone to fulfill their sexual fantasies in exchange for cash, though it felt like I had nothing to lose, I couldn't forget what my mum told me, saying 'if you date another woman's husband, someone would date yours too when you finally get married', coupled with the fact that I had enough troubles in my life already to invite more and become the prayer point of one housewife would be self-defeating.

In all these, Kehinde decided to call it a quit with education, and she went into fashion designing but I was resolved to have at least first degree. One day in the office, I was cleaning the director's office (she is Swedish, so you hardly hear what she is saying and also she is very mean, especially to junior staff) when she was complaining that she needed to send a mail, however, the secretary was not around, so I offered to assist. She looked at me with disgust, saying 'a cleaner? And you think you can do a graduate's job?' I smiled back at her to dissolve the look on her face and then I told her 'if it is important ma, I can try'. 'Okay', pointing me in the direction of the computer, then she started dictating her message. When she was through, we edited it together and I sent the mail for her. She was so pleased that she gave me #2,000,

probably as gratitude recompense. I jumped at it, and then knelt down in appreciation. She asked what my qualification was and I told her.

Two days later, the director called me and informed me that WEMA Bank was employing cashiers, the requirement was OND and that I don't even need to write any test because she had recommended me, however, I would be interviewed. I couldn't believe my ears, I was in tears; then she counted #10,000 for me, saying 'go get yourself a sleek suit jacket and make sure you look good for the interview', perhaps the exercise of her gratitude wasn't over. As God would have it, I got the job, and from a pay of #12,000 per month, I was

elevated to a pay of about #70,000 per month. Till today, it still feels like a dream.

So now, I am doing a part time program in Unilag, and I'm actually in my third year, studying Business Administration. I have been able to set up a small fashion house for Kehinde and she is really growing fast; we have a 3 bedroom apartment to ourselves and more than ever, we have been able to prove people who felt we are up to no good wrong and those who believed in us right.

After she finished her story, I was dumbfounded, this young girl has gone through this much. I hugged her, so happy for

her, we exchanged numbers and I saw her off to the park. On my way back to the department I started reminiscing on what she shared and here are the lessons I got:

1. You need a strong Will to stay focus
2. You need a much stronger Will for you not to be intimidated by life's challenges.
3. People quickly change; from friends to enemies and from enemies to friends, bottom line don't harbor hatred.
4. When you are down people will try to exploit you in the name of help but then if you refuse to be exploited a real helper will show up.

5. Intimidation will come, molestation will come but then moment of magic will eventually come, so be patient.

6. Opportunities only transform life when you are prepared.

7. If we are diligent, if we are prayerful, if we are resilient and if we are hardworking, we will all tell the sweet story of victory.

I like sweet stories of victory, I like people walking from the face of defeat to the corridor of triumph, I like winners and I strongly believe winning is possible for all. If we never relent, we can be whatever we have chosen to be. I love you all and trust me, I believe in you.

# Story Nine

## Make The Best of What You Have

*“The saying that “we don’t appreciate what we have till we lose it” and “a man that fails to appreciate the things he has, is soon forced by time to appreciate the things he once had”, made more sense to me the day I met a young boy on the street of Lagos... Enjoy this”*

The truth is many times we are beclouded by what we lack that we forget to make the best of what we have. Eventually, we take for granted the opportunities laid before us because we keep living in the shadows of “what ought to be”.

On this faithful day, on my way to an Uncle's place, I got stuck in traffic along the busy 3rd mainland bridge (Lagos Nigeria). The sun was at its peak, like it was on a mission to dry the water beneath us. Vehicles were hardly moving and I almost blamed myself for picking that day of all days to go visiting. As the stand still went on, I began to feel dehydrated, I beckoned on the boys selling drinks in the traffic, they all ran towards me, some even tried to shove the drinks into my face. Then from behind came a voice, "Sir, which one do you want?" I looked through the crowded sellers, searching for the voice. It was a young boy definitely not more than 15years, I responded, "I want Pepsi, please let me have one."

He gave me the Pepsi, by now all others have gone to other motorists calling for drinks. I told the boy how sharp he is, while others were pushing different drinks to me, he was smart enough to ask which one I really wanted. I asked him why he was hawking and his response made me respect him even more, he said, “I have been hawking for over 6years, sent myself through secondary school with it. Although I know it is very risky but I am trying to save up for higher institution now, maybe someday I will stop hawking and ride in a big car like you.” I felt tears build up in my eyes, I was really touched by his hard work, faith and optimism. I told him, “You are smart! I am sure you will even do better than I have done”. I gave him the highest denomination with me

and asked him to keep the change. He said thank you and went on with his hustle.

Many of us have basic things on a platter of gold yet rather than making the best of these things we keep complaining about the luxuries we don't have. We need to know that life is not what we get but what we do with what we get. Some get little but they make a lot out of it while other get so much yet they make little out of it. Don't write off yourself because of those things you lack and don't be ashamed to dream big because of the environment you find yourself.

Late Chief M.K.O Abiola sold firewood while growing up to fund his own education, he couldn't buy textbooks so he had to cram the contents of the books he borrowed and he ate egg for the first time when he visited his wife-to-be because his family couldn't afford it while he was growing but he never gave up. He rose to prominence and fame, because he believed that he may not be born with silver spoon but that doesn't mean he won't someday eat with one.

If you are reading this today, then I am sure it is not by accident nor chance, it's because you desire motivation to attain your dreams and inspiration to stir up big turnaround.

So I am telling you these;

°never ever give up no matter what the odds are

°don't take for granted the things you have, make the best of them

°be optimistic at all times, it will help your faith grow

°don't stop seeking knowledge, you have a greater chance of reaching your dreams when you have the right information

°don't be caught up bemoaning your situation, rather be thankful for life and the chance to better yesterday.

°finally, pray to God to direct your path at all times.

Make the best of what you have that way, one day you would be able to provide all the things you have always wished you had.

# Story Ten

## NEVER LET YOUR HEAD DROP

“Have you ever been in a situation where you felt out of place, looked down upon and it seems you are the worst of your kind? At a point, quite a number of us (I have) would have experienced this but our reactions would have differed (since our perception to life differs). Some would have struggled to match the situation while others would have hung their head in shame. How do you manage yours?”

A Wiseman once told me, “no matter how bad you think your situation is, once you have life you can turn it around”. At a stage in life you feel there is a particular class of people you should belong to, your so called set, and when this is not happening you feel out of place but have you considered

those who ought to be ahead of you who are still behind and each time you walk pass them they still put up a smile. Note, the fact that some people achieved a thing or two before you doesn't mean they would achieve more than you.

In time, we have learnt that life might not give us what we want but if we learn to take what it gives us with our heads up high, sooner than we expect we would excel beyond our imagination. Rebelling against the world is never the solution to life's misappropriation neither is turning against the favored a way to get even with life. Embrace what you get and life would give you more. Fight back by holding your head up high, put carriage in everything you do, wear a smile instead of frown, encourage others instead of pulling them down and you would see life in a whole new way.

# Story Eleven

## Personal Investment

“If we want the extra-ordinary, then we must learn to go the extra-mile.

Opportunities will come, no doubt but would we be ready to take it? Read this story”

A young man who read forestry travelled to US for his masters. There in the school he found love among fellow Nigeria students. On finishing his two years program his lover had a re-sit, which meant he had to wait three months behind in the States for her. He seized that opportunity and went for a 2-month course, diploma in waste management. Two years after, back in Nigeria, he was still searching for job till one day an interviewer going through his credentials

stumbled on a certificate that read “diploma in waste management” (a course not popular in Nigeria, yet the state has a department for it) he was employed based on this and he rose to be the director of waste management board in that state.

Personal investments are those hours invested in one’s personal growth; it may be within your field or outside of it. These are personal growths that separate you from the crowd (contemporaries), like acquisition of foreign language, professional qualifications, trade, skill etc. It could also be time spent to develop one’s personal skill, hobbies or talent, which often times, are outside of one’s field. Examples are lawyers going into fashion and make-ups, doctors attending

music classes, banker who are learning script writing and acting, students learning fashion designing while on break, etc.

Your personal investments distinguish you for success, brightens your opportunities while also opening new doors of opportunities and often times end up defining who you really are.

The world is fast becoming a global village and competition is not from only those around us, but from those outside our shores, so you need to stand while others are sitting, jump while they are standing and if possible fly when they are jumping (just be a step ahead).

Often times, our excuse is that there is no time, but we have 24hrs in a day, average sleep is 8hrs, we are left with 16hrs, do you engage all these 16hrs? I implore you today, evaluate yourself and see how you can invest in yourself, what potentials can be developed? What hobbies of yours can be translated to success story? Don't mind the stress and hardship of learning, when you are made, it would be a sweet story of success. People close to you may not support you but your end result would surely vindicate you.

“There is a big world out there don't be limited by what people say around you, open your heart to boundless opportunities and be the difference you have always longed for.”

# Story Twelve

## IF YOU DON'T WHO WILL

***If you don't believe in yourself who will...***

The driving factor in life is believe. People believe in many things like people, love, institution, God, effigies, materials, positions or affluence... the truth is we all need something to believe in; consciously or unconsciously we all believe in something. So what do you believe in?

The tale of a friend got me thinking about the value of belief. He lost track of home at a tender age so he had no families to

shoulder him. He had to live his hometown, came to Lagos with his WASSCE result and was able to get a job as factory attendant; but he never forgot what he believed.

He got admission for part-time program (oou satellite campus in Lagos) in accounting on one side while writing professional exams on the other side. Things were so difficult for him that he became a pest in the neighborhood; people kept their food when they hear his voice, 'gari' (cassava flakes) to him was more of luxury. People passed different comments, like who sent him, he is doing too much at a time, there are spirits worrying him etc. but he never lost faith in what he believed.

In his part four, news filtered in that he had impregnated a lady on the street. At that point, it seems like it was obvious, he would not make it. Things went from 'worst' to 'badly-worst' (if there is anything like that). When he got to part five the lady gave birth to a boy, even though you could see the joy in their eyes, their wretchedness left so little to be desired. We lost contact that year but I wasn't sure he could ever make it.

Seeing him a week ago, I was surprised at what I saw and trust me, I probed to know how he did it. He told me that when he graduated (not top of the class), same year he passed his final ICAN papers (second time of trying the finals). He got a job at an auditing firm with his ICAN result (he could

not serve because he did a part time program). And now he is living large; a house of his own in Ajah, elite location in Lagos Nigeria, with that same lady and two kids. I was forced to ask him, what kept him going all those times? Though I was convinced it was not faith because he never went to church.

He replied, with smiles on his face, “I did not go to church but I believe in God, though I do not worship anywhere, I believed God through me, I never stopped believing in myself. Even when I made mistakes, when people made me look stupid and detestful, I never stopped believing and that kept me going!”

Looking back now, I realize that though as humans, we need something to believe in but God had given us something to believe right from our birth and that is ourselves. Many came from nothing, most were made out of uncertainty but what kept all of them going was the believe they had in themselves.

At times, we might be confused, sometimes frustrated, too often we need someone to give us the push but when push comes to shove, our self-belief is all that we are left with.

See yourself has a growing plant, some will water you, don't get drown in it; some will throw dirt at you, don't let it stick see it as fertilizer and extract the nutrients you need to grow; then spread your leafs and be unstoppable.

If you don't believe in yourself, my friends no one will

### **Selah Signing Out**

It has always been your decision

No matter who said what, It has always been your decision  
You have made the choices and you are in this situation  
People may have influenced your line of thought  
But you could have looked back on what you have been taught  
No matter how bad and demeaning the pressure is  
You always had the chance to choose before it came to what it is

Many people will come along our way  
Many of whom have lost their way  
If we do not exercise caution we may join the trend  
Forgetting we have a say on whom we choose to call a friend  
We are responsible for our lives first before we care for two  
Even when we are blinded by our feelings and needs too

Circumstances, most say led them to doom  
But same circumstances had made others bloom  
What we make of life is more of how we respond to life  
Some challenges may seem insurmountable but that's just life

When you go through history you will find people have survived worse  
And what you are going through is just a phase in life's pose

No one can take the blame for the choices you have made but you  
Bad character and uncontrolled childhood excesses kills prospects like flu  
We have no sufficient reasons to end up as failures  
In spite of the rough starts faith and hard work are often the best cues  
There will be pressure from friends, family and life itself  
But in the mist of all these pressures you will be wise to be yourself

Once again, thanks for downloading and reading. You are the best. I  
love you!

## References

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