



Growing in Relevance

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GROWING IN RELEVANCE

Welcome to this Reading Class!

We are confident that an insightful learning experience awaits you. We encourage you to be armed with adequate materials to make your notes and chronicle the inspirations that will come to you as the Spirit of God ministers to you uniquely.

Now let's get started!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to achieve the following:

1. You will learn why God wants you to be successful and influential in ministry
2. You will understand the steps that you need to take to grow in relevance
3. You will understand how to make impact at any level

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Growing - becoming larger, greater or bigger, developing or maturing.

Relevance – the quality or state of being closely connected or appropriate; a condition of being connected to the matter at hand

INTRODUCTION

Matthew 5:14-16

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

In the mind of God, success in life isn't reserved for a select few but for every Christian. It is possible for you to be successful in ministry through your own relevance. Being relevant to the success of your ministry, church, fellowship, outreach or organization is a decision that you must make. Every Christian has the ability to be influential and to make an impact in their world – to be a light and a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden.

The Lord created us to be the very best of His creation. The Scriptures call us the 'first fruits' of God's creation¹ . It is therefore required of us to bring out the very most of our God-given potential.

As a worker in the house of God, you should be determined to make an impact for the Gospel, irrespective of your title or responsibility. From where you are, you have what is needed to make a lasting impact and your focus should be the proliferation of the Gospel in your city, your nation and around the world. The focus is to bring salvation to the lost and meaning to the lives of others. This should remain your motivation and your driving force.

HOW TO GROW IN RELEVANCE AND MAKE IMPACT AT ANY LEVEL

The following steps will guide you on how to grow in relevance and make an impact regardless of the capacity in which you serve.

1. Grow Spiritually

Acts 20:32

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."



The Word of God is food for your spirit and develops your inner man. For you to grow spiritually, you need the Word of God. You must give attention to prayer, personal study, and meditation on the Scriptures. These actions will not only develop you spiritually but very

importantly, foster your fellowship with the Lord. Make it a point of duty to intentionally separate your best and quality times for these activities so that you can give God your full and undivided attention. The Lord Jesus Christ makes it clear to us in John 15:4-5 that without Him, we can do nothing. To be successful in ministry, we need the wisdom of God². As we spend time with the Word and in prayer, we are granted wisdom for the work and for life.

2. Recognize Your Uniqueness

Ephesians 2:10 (AMPC)

"For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]."

²*Proverbs 4:7*

God created each of us uniquely. No two fingerprints are alike. We are each specially made and we each have something special to give. Some may believe that because there are many people in a church congregation or doing the work of the ministry, their individual contributions may not be felt. Well, this is not true! You have something unique to offer the world that no one else can, because no one can do it just like you. You may be a greeter in your local assembly. Do not think that you are just one amongst many because no one smiles just like you, sounds just like you, or greets just the way that you do.



The understanding that you are truly unique should make you want to bring out the very best of you. You are not where you are, serving the Lord, by happenstance. You have value to bring to the Kingdom at this very time. Once you accept this truth, you are able to give your best without hesitation or feeling inadequate. Self-doubts and any internal conflict will resolve themselves once you understand your worth and how relevant you are to God's agenda in the earth at this time. There are people that only you can reach and good works that only you can carry out because God has predestined these ahead of time.

3. Improve Your Value



One key way to improve your value is through self-development. You can only give what you have, and so the more you invest in your personality the more you have to offer the world around you-and the more you have to offer, the more your value improves. God has made available all the things that we need to improve ourselves but the responsibility lies with us to take the necessary steps.

You can improve your value by increasing your knowledge and the information you possess. Focus on materials that improve your mind and set out time for studying. As a Christian, you should also improve yourself by speaking in tongues.1 Corinthians 14:4 (AMPC) tells us that *"He who speaks in a [strange] tongue edifies and improves himself..."*. Jude 1:20 (AMPC) instructs to *"build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit"*. As you speak in tongues, your spirit becomes more sensitive to the Spirit of God like a radio becoming more sensitive to pick up a radio signal by adjusting the tuner. As you 'pick His signals', you receive answers, gain insights and are improved from the inside out.

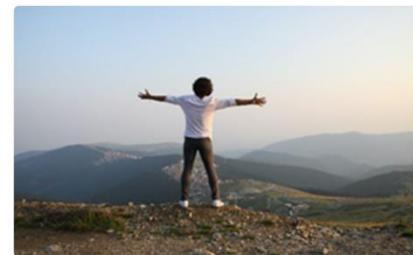
We recommend that you purchase and study the book 'The Power of Mind' written by the Man of God, Reverend Dr. Chris Oyakhilome (DSc. DSc. DD.), and also download the Pastor Chris Digital Library (PCDL) App for access to life-changing messages that will surely transform you and improve you

4. Develop a Winsome, Wholesome Attitude

Philippians 4:8

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Your attitude and thoughts are vital. It is important that your mind is set on the right things and the Scripture above outlines just what we must keep our minds on. What you think about will determine the actions that you take or do not take as church worker. If you have



thoughts of inferiority, then it will result in timid actions. On the contrary, if you think thoughts of victory, it will result in bold and faith-filled actions. Your attitude is the summation of your thoughts. For you to have a winsome and wholesome attitude towards the work of the ministry, you first think winsome and wholesome thoughts. Think about success, achieving and surpassing your goals, being very influential and impactful, and your attitude towards your ministry work will drive you towards great achievement. Your attitude determines your altitude.

5. Prioritize Timeliness

Psalm 90:12

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."



Why does it seem like some people are able to get more done than others when we all have the same 24 hours in a day? They have learned how to make good use of their time. Starting early and planning the use of your time ensures you have the opportunity to execute your plans excellently, with good quality delivery.

For example, if you received an inspired idea in July about a special program or outreach to hold during the Christmas season, you ought not to start planning for it in December. Utilizing the advantage of time helps you to harness the most of every opportunity and minimizes the waste of resources and energy. Do not plan to carry out 'trial and error' exercises as these consume a lot of time. Plan to get it right the first time as a demonstration of true excellence.

We recommend that you take the Time Maximization course which is available as a General Course in the ISM Online School.

6. Practice Diligence

Proverbs 12:24

"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."

When you are given a simple or a challenging task – a small or very large task – to complete, carry it out with the same diligence. Diligence requires you to express commitment and perseverance in your work. This means that you would be able to see any task, job, or



When you increase in diligence, you become a trustworthy person. Not only can others trust that whatever you do will be completed but God can also trust that you will carry out all that He tells you to do. Diligence will propel you to a place of influence, leadership, and success.

Practice diligence at every given opportunity in ministry and all areas of life. It will improve your character and set you apart for success.

7. Be Responsive and Helpful

Hebrews 13:14 NIV

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."



Ministry is all about people. Every child of God is a minister of reconciliation with a priority mission to reconcile mankind – not trees, houses, animals, or cars- to God. Our God was so moved by the need of mankind for salvation that He sent His only Son to die for all.

Now He opens our eyes to see the needs of those around us and His love compels us to meet those needs. God talks to the person who cares and He is always looking out for a perfect heart and a willing mind to address the needs of people.

There may be a lot of poverty and sickness in certain places in your locality. Be responsive and helpful – seek to meet the needs of such individuals. It may even be your leader or pastor who requires help or assistance in ministry work – be available to help.

To be responsive means you are quick to respond and to address and solve the problem. Don't turn your eyes away from a human need. The needs of people are opportunities. You are taking on leadership and demonstrating true success – to see a need and to meet it. These actions that you take are seeds that you sow and are offerings unto God.

8. Be Courageous

Joshua 1:7 KJV

"Only be thou strong and very courageous..."

Be courageous for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do not be afraid to stand up for what is right even if it means standing alone. Take a stand to do the right thing when it is necessary. A person of influence is courageous.

There are still some cities and nations that have laws that are presently antagonistic to the Gospel. You have to stand up for the Gospel and be the champion for the next generation of believers in that city or nation.

After you receive the Holy Spirit, He makes you empowers you from within and makes you an able witness. Don't back down or back out. Be ready to stand and fight in the face of opposition.



9. Use and Understand the Right Instruments for Your Work

Ecclesiastes 10:10 KJV

"If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct."



Becoming knowledgeable is very advantageous for you as a worker in ministry. Carry out research and undergo training to find out which tools you need in your work for accurate and precise results. You may be involved in the coordination and production of the Sunday

Service of your local assembly; find out what can help to make things run efficiently and effectively. You may need to bring in new processes, find more individuals to assist, and get better equipment for audio-visuals.

Expand your understanding and knowledge about your work or whatever has been committed to your trust. You can become a great asset by investing in materials that will cause you to grow.

Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding are vital to increasing your relevance as a leader in ministry.

10. Put Your Best into Everything You Do

Luke 16:10 KJV

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much"

We have many opportunities to be relevant in ministry and God will often start us out with something smaller to train us. Take everything God tells you to do seriously because it will lead to bigger and greater opportunities.



Never deal with any assignment with a slack hand. Ecclesiastes 11:6 admonishes us to continue to sow seeds because we do not know which one will yield a great harvest. In the same manner, remain faithful to the work committed to you and you will find that many more opportunities of relevance will come your way.

CONCLUSION

The role of each individual in ministry is very important. If we all work at growing in relevance, we will find that the Church of Jesus Christ is able to expand more, impact more, and accomplish more, all to the glory and praise of the Lord Jesus Christ. From wherever you are, you can make an impact and make a difference. Never underestimate yourself. Be determined to be the one to make things happen. We see many examples, in Scripture and in our day, of God using just one person to change the destiny of a whole nation. You could be the Esther of your nation, or the Gideon of your city, or the Apostle Paul of your neighbourhood. When you follow the steps outlined in this course, you will find that at every level, you will heap success upon success and your impact and influence will be extraordinary. Below is a quick recap of these life-changing steps.



A FINAL WORD

We trust you have been immensely blessed by this Reading Course and invite you to avail yourself to other insightful courses on our school website, all tailor-made to enhance your spiritual growth and equip you with the requisite knowledge, such that your results in ministry are pleasing to the Lord and evident for all to see.

Visit our website with the details below for more information:

school.christembassy-ism.com

