

Go forth and make a difference

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Introduction There are numerous chapters in one's life if one lives up to the expected life expectancy from conception, namely; birth and infancy, commencement of schooling and graduation, starting a career or retiring, getting into marriage or parenting, old-age, death. Each is a transition that leads to growth in another dimension.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die... a time to acquire knowledge and a time to apply such!

Schooling is training or education received at school. Nigerian schooling system has both the formal (western/religious) and informal (apprenticeship) types. We are interested in the formal one which is patterned on 6-3-3-4 or variant model and in particular the tertiary level that you have just completed. School is the place you go to learn. When you school someone, it means you've educated or put that person in his or her place. It is believed you have all been put in a certain place or pedestal in society by virtue of the certificates you have respectively earned. The graduates being celebrated today have completed primary, secondary and a tier of tertiary education. It is believed they can meet future challenges if their schooling and informal learning activities prepare them for adult roles as citizens, employees, managers, parents, entrepreneurs, etc. Traditional academics of learning Maths, English, Accounting, etc. is not sufficient for modern life. To achieve their full potential as adults, young people need to develop a range of skills and knowledge that facilitate as problem solving, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and self-management - often referred to as "*21st century skills or soft skills.*"

After school, what next? Its either you go serve the nation (NYSC), go for graduate study, get a job or start a business so as to become independent and focus on raising a career and then a family. You need to acknowledge that a phrase of life has been completed and the changes may be a bit unpleasant at first; for starters no more regular pocket money from everyone, you are expected to fend for yourself!

- Have a clear vision of your goals but do not set rigid deadlines at which each must be attained –self-comparison with peers will only add to the pressure associated with *the rat race*.
- Don't try to keep up with others unnecessarily, even your shadow will sometimes disappear at your darkest or brightest moments!
- Whatever your field and class of degree or diploma, you can succeed with determination in that or some other area.
- Each of any set of graduates will have varying levels of success out there; some academically or professionally or in business or in family-life, etc. Be assured that you will succeed in some areas.

It is NOT what you studied that really matters but the traits you pick up in studying; how to identify problems, deploy a methodical approach with relevant tools to resolve such and present a concise report thereon to inform or guide others. Research established that individuals with higher levels of education appear to gain more knowledge and skills on the job than do those with lower levels of education, and to be able, to some extent, to transfer what they learn across occupations.

- You need to relate well with people as who you know matters and a helping hand would help rather than hurt in the journey of life.
- Keep in touch with friendly mates, you do not know who will become what or may be able to assist later.
- Say "*Thank you*" now in person, or via a Phone Message or Greeting Card unto your Project Supervisor, Course Adviser and Head of Department; you may need a Recommendation Letter from such in years to come.

Conclusion There is much to do and achieve in the remaining chapters of life if the schooling period was made a proper foundation. It is never too late to invite God to help as you write and live out the remaining chapters. Do not leave him out of your plans. **Go forth and make a difference in society**, you can contribute positive impact - Isaiah 62:1-3, Romans 12:11, Proverbs 22:29

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