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DREAM AGAIN! First published December 2005 By Abiodun Mabadeje

ISBN 978-068-580-4

Revised edition, July 2011

Published by: Hedge Publishing Ventures hedge.publisher@gmail.com 08023771690

DEDICATION

To my family, friends (known and unknown) and to all who put their hope in God.

Most importantly I dedicate this work to the glory of GOD ALMIGTHY for His ever-flowing inspiration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

You will agree with me that this book is too small to acknowledge all the people that deserve to be acknowledged. Hence, I will not attempt to even try and begin to mention names.

However, I want to say that all those that matter to me are all deeply appreciated even though no mention is made of any name.

From family to friends, teachers to lecturers, colleagues, from mentors and pastors to fellow church members, I say God bless you all.

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INTRODUCTION

Challenging and difficult times are normal in life. Whether we like it or not they will come.

But the problem is, we usually do not prepare for such times before they come because we don't expect them to.

However, our lack of preparation will not prevent them from happening. The question is, when they come do you get swept out, or swept in?

This book will give you the answer.

Read it again and again.

Abiodun Mabadeje Author

Dream Again!

CHAPTER 0NE

WHEN FAITH 'FAILS'

"Hope is the magic ingredient! Hope is a desire with the expectation of obtaining what is desired and belief that it is obtainable." – Napoleon Hill and W. Clemet Stone No one who is in his right senses will doubt the fact and truth that with God there are no hopeless situations. No matter how difficult a situation may be or actually is, when God shows up, He brings new hope.

The message of the good book (i.e. the Bible) from the beginning to the end establishes and emphasizes that "With God all things are possible" and "Unto him that believes all things are possible." There is no valley too deep that God cannot fill or mountain too tall He cannot level. There is no door so shot that He cannot open. There is no situation or condition too strong or serious He cannot handle.

Abraham is a Bible based character and personality whose name rings bell and commands so much respect. He is described as "*A friend of God and father of faith*." He believed God so much that it was accounted unto him as righteousness.

Sometimes in life some things happen that make the strong weak; the strong-willed feeble minded; the wise becomes otherwise and even the faith-filled becomes faithless.

The story told in Genesis 13 of Abraham (Abram at that time) and Lot makes this point clear. In this passage of the Scripture what ordinarily ought to be a blessing to these men was almost turning into a mess - a nightmare of some sort. You can relate to this, I know.

The flocks of these two business tycoons had increased greatly to the extent that their sheep began to mix up. This situation led to the point where the servants of Abraham and those of Lot began to fight over the animals.

The eventual outcome of the situation was the dissolution of a partnership that had thrived for years and made them forces to be reckoned with amongst those who were the movers and shakers in the business of animal rearing. They did this to give peace a chance.

Genesis 13: 8-10, "So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. Is not the whole plain before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or if you take the right, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar."

Lot chose the part of the plain that appeared the best to him; the one that flowed with milk and honey. This action by Lot was so overwhelming that Abram became sad; confused; worried; disgruntled; disenchanted and disenfranchised because Lot had taken the lot that was the best.

But you know God, He always has an answer to every question; a solution for every situation no matter what.

Dream Again!

CHAPTER TWO

DREAM AGAIN!

"We grow by dreams. All great men are dreamers. Some of us let dreams die, but others nourish and protect them and nurse them through the bad days to the sunshine and light which always come." – Woodrow Wilson. God in His usual manner and approach in verse 14 showed up when the man Abram was in his state of despondency; when his faith (or the lack of it) could not help him. "And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him; "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are northward, southward, eastward and westward.""

God told him to lift up his eyes "Now" and "Look". You know why? Because at this time in his life he had become so overwhelmed to the point of discouragement and his head was bowed in shame and confusion. "All hope is lost; nothing to look forward to again; Lot has taken the good part of the land; it is finished for me," had become is confession.

But I hear Psalm 42:5, "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance."

I don't know your present situation. Where you are coming from or where you are. What is so overwhelming or overbearing in your life? What weight you have to shoulder. Someone cheated on you; disappointed or stole from you. You have been deprived one way or the other of something that rightfully belonged to you. You have given so much, yet all your efforts have gone unnoticed or someone else actually takes the glory that is due you. You labour and another eats the fruit of your labour illegally. Life just seems to be unfair and worthless and you are asking, "*What is there to live for?*"

Who or what "Lot" means to you I do not know.

Your "*Lot*" may just be that you've suddenly lost all that you've worked for and you don't know where or how to start again nor have the energy to re-start.

You may say to me that all I have mentioned so far do not concern you. You are just a young person. You have written exams yet without success.

Your proposed husband or wife has just told you that he/she is no longer interested. May be your own spouse has just divorced you.

Notice what God said to Abram (in spite of where you are coming from or where you are) "Lift up your eyes now and look from the place (point, position or situation) where you are... (or you are in)."

Psalm 121:1-2, "I will lift up my eyes to the hills from where comes my help. My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."

He is saying the same thing to you too. It is true that you are in that situation and you think it is over, but it is not. "I am with you and for you. DREAM AGAIN! My plans for your life are still intact." Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." That situation like Lot did, may have taken the good part of the land but do not forget, "*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof*..."

Verse 15 of Genesis 13, "For all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants after you." What do you see?

Remember that man called Job; he lost everything he ever worked for in one day. I am sure, your case no matter how terrible it is, is not as bad his was. It does not even have to be. At the end ho got back double honour for his shame. "I am still God. My eyes still run to and fro on the earth to show myself strong on behalf of them whose hearts are stayed on Me. If I did before, I will do it again."

The story of Joshua and the children of Israel come to mind at this point. After the death of Moses, it happened that the Israelites became as it were discouraged all together. Joshua who was Moses' protégé who should now be in the forefront encouraging and leading the people to the Promised Land was also taken aback by the death of the sage – Moses. But God had a different plan. Here is what He said to Joshua in Joshua 1:1-9, "... Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all these people to the land which I am giving to them the children of Israel..."

Look at the way God thinks, 'It is true that Moses is dead, but My plan to take the children of Israel to Canaan is not. So, Joshua, arise.' I pray that God will take you to the "Promised Land." No matter who or what is dead right now in your life, His plans for your life are not dead. **DREAM AGAIN**!

It is also possible that the issues that are negative in your life at this time may be as a result of a fault on your part, you did something wrong, now there is a boomerang and you are finding it hard to forgive yourself. It's okay, you don't have to kill yourself because if that. Everyone stumbles at one time or the other. Repent, make amends, forgive yourself, learn from your mistakes and move on.

God had to tell Joshua to be strong and of good courage several times in Joshua chapter one. I believe that He is doing the same thing to you right now. The Promised Land is ahead of you. You can't afford to give up now. Discouragement comes at the curve of achievement. Get up and get going. Don't allow the challenges of the present to deny you the opportunity of the future. When the going gets tough, the tough gets going. There is light at the end of the tunnel and behind the dark cloud is a silver lining.

That stumbling block you see will soon become a stepping stone. The problem is a blessing in disguise.

"Every set back is a set-up for a comeback." – Willie Jolley. Listen, in that fire is a still small voice saying "Be calm; be still and know that I am God."

Let your heart rejoice and countenance freshen up. DREAM AGAIN because IT IS NOT YET OVER!

Dream kept them

- 1. Abraham Lincoln was indeed a dreamer. He contested several elective offices and lost most of them. But his dream kept him until he won the ultimate one, the sit of the White House he became the 16th President of America and has gone down in history as one of the best presidents of America.
- 2. **Michael Jordan** became an icon for the NBA; the definition of success in the courts; he dunk his dream or in the reverse, his dream dunk him into success. Getting to the pinnacle of basketball success was not easy, in fact, at a time it looked like it would not be. But because he did not give up on that dream, the dream too did not give up on him. As someone said, *"life gives up on those who give up on life."*
- 3. Kanu Nwankwo (a.k.a. Papilo) shone into limelight in 1993 when Nigeria won the FIFA Under 17 World Cup in Japan, but few years down the line, his dream began to fade as it was discovered that he had a heart condition a hole in the heart, which punched a big hole in his dream. Today, we all know the rest of the story "The Lion Heart" story. His dream kept him alive and he has won almost everything you can think of in the world of football. His dream kept him.
- 4. Nelson Mandela (The Madiba). His dream was the freedom of his people from the oppressive and repressive stronghold of slavery to which the Black South Africans were subjected. And for this dream he was sent to prison and that lasted for 27 years of his

life. It lasted that long because he would not compromise his stand and short-change his own people. In the end his dream came to pass, he was freed from prison, and his people were also freed from oppression. His dream kept him.

- 5. Martin Luther King Jr. His name is indeed synonymous with dream because of his "I Have a Dream" speech. That speech has been read around the world and used to motivate millions of people; in fact students of any form of speaking school must come across and use this speech at one time or the other. His dream was to see that discrimination based on skin colour against his black brethren ended. This was a dream for which ultimately he paid the ultimate price with his life. But that dream did not die! Today a black man is the president of that country where they once were discriminated against. Barrak Obama is the fulfillment of Martin Luther King Jr's dream.
- 6. Jesus Christ, our Saviour, went to the cross because of the dream of reconciling man to God. It is written of Him, "For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross." But today, all over the world that dream is being fulfilled in the lives of as many as accept Him as Lord and Saviour.

Your dream too can come to pass, you can become the person you were meant to be and my prayer is that you will accomplish your dreams in this life-time. God bless you.

Dream Again!

CHAPTER THREE

WILDEST DREAMS

"In the recesses of our hearts are the deepest desires of our lives. Our duty is to do all we can to bring those desires to reality." - Abiodun Mabadeje If while pursuing your wildest dreams Your strength throws your hopes in the streams Never throw in the towel; never dwell in your mess For your bright desires will God bless.

A dream is all you need when you can't touch the sky Just hold onto your creed and you will fly high.

The going will be hard just move on your quest The storms can make things bad Strive harder towards giving your best.

Advance confidently though it looks impossible Dare greatly just like Henry Ford As you stand trying to make it feasible Don't ever forget to make God your Lord.

Follow your dreams and believe Your wildest dreams will you achieve But a great thing is to live through And say at the end that my WILDEST DREAMS came true.

Written by Kehinde Ajose and used by permission.

CHAPTER FOUR

QUOTES

- "Aspire to acquire your desire, and if in the process you perspire, do not retire, only re-fire..." – Archbishop Benson Idahosa
- 2) "Dream is the picture of the future you intend to capture." Anonymous
- "What you don't target, you don't get." Abiodun Mabadeje
- "Your vision determines your position." Abiodun Mabadeje
- "Without concentration there can be no penetration." Dozie David Atueyi
- 6) "Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, the man can achieve." Napoleon Hill
- "Some look at the world as it is and ask why. I dream of worlds that never were and ask, why not?" – George Bernard Shaw
- 8) "Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after all others have let go." William Feather
- 9) "Someday I hope to enjoy enough of what the world calls success so that someone will ask me, "What is the secret of your success?" And I will simply answer, "I get up when I fall down." – Paul Harvey
- 10) "Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambition. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great." Mark Twain

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ABIODUN MABADEJE is multi-talented. His experience in the arts spans over a period of two decades. He is a stage and screen actor and has taken part in several productions within and outside of the four walls of the church including the popular Super Story and Papa Ajasco TV Series. He has shared the acting stage with veterans like of Joke Silva, Alex Osifo, Paul Adams and the likes of Kayode Idris, Steve James, Shuaib, Okwe Ogah and others, all of whom were former members of the National Troup of Nigeria. He has been directed by the likes of Antar Laniyan, June Jack, Femi Branch, Solomon Oguname and others.

He is a public/motivational speaker per excellence who understands stage and audience dynamics and can hold his own anytime. He has under his sleeves many years experience as a public speaker and he speaks to several audiences every year and testimonies abound. Gbenga Sesan, Praise Fowowe, Tunde Ojikutu, Detoun Ogwo, Mildred Okonkwo, Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin, Fela Durotoye, Kunle Soriyan, Dr. Chris Williams, Emmanuel Effiong-Bright are some of the people he has shared speaking platforms with.

He is a faculty member and facilitator at the prestigious Headstone Speakers' Academy (HSA) in Lagos, Nigeria and the founder and principal trainer at Public Speaking Academy (PSA), a presentation/public speaking training outfit.

Abiodun has several published articles with titles such as: Waka-Pass, Wetin You Carry, The Clarion Call, Ability not Liability, The Danger of being Nigerian, How to become L.U.C.K.Y, Dare To Dream, Don't Quit, I'm a big I.D.I.O.T, what about you?, I am SHORT – rebranding for change, The Danger of Anxiety, Keep Hope Alive and many more, which have been published both on internet and hardcover magazines. He is the publisher of MOTIVATION.COM and author of several books, which include:

- Dream Again
- Changing Your World with Your Word
- 160 Wisdom Quotes food for your soul
- The Call; The Passion; The Destiny!
- Power to Get Wealth
- Make that Move and
- Read and Succeed.
- Maximum Impact (CD)
- Write 4 Profit (DVD)

Amongst several recognitions and awards he has received are:

- Most Outstanding Corps Member (Male category), 2006/07 (Batch A), Makurdi, Benue State
- Most Enterprising Corper (NCCF, Markurdi, Benue State)

- Best Dressed Guy, Insurance department, Lagos State Polytechnic, 2003
- and many more.

He is a Human Resources/Human Capital Development/Management Consultant and C.E.O. of Hedge Publishing Ventures.

'Humanitarianism' is something deep in his heart, hence, has founded and coordinates the activities of a group called Total Empowerment Against Mediocrity – T.E.A.M.

This dynamic, visionary and purpose driven man is a graduate of Insurance from Lagos State Polytechnic, 2004. He holds Basic and Advanced Leadership Certificates from Daystar Leadership Academy (DLA), 2007, and also a graduate of Headstone Change Academy, 2008 (where he also facilitates). Currently, he is a level 3 student of the International Institute for Global Leadership (IIGL) based in Ashville, USA.

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