

Advancing Your Business, Career, and Ministry

The Transforming Church

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Rev Sam Oye

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Scripture: Genesis 26:12 (KJV)

Preached by Rev. Sam Oye. Scripture: Genesis 26:12 (KJV)

Transcript

JULY 26TH, 2026 (1st Service)

YEAR OF EL-EZER

Minister: Rev. Sam Oye

Text: Genesis 26:12 (KJV)

Topic: ADVANCING YOUR BUSINESS, CAREER, AND MINISTRY

"Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him."

From our opening scripture, a timeless principle for advancement emerges. Isaac sowed in the land, and the Lord blessed the work of his hands. The blessing did not come in isolation, it followed engagement. God blesses what we commit our hands to do. If there is no sowing, there can be no reaping. Every harvest is preceded by diligent labour, and every increase begins with intentional engagement.

This principle extends beyond farming to every area of life. Whether in business, career, or ministry, God expects His people to be actively engaged. He blesses the work of our hands, not our passivity. That is why His instruction to the children of Israel in Exodus 14:15 was simple and direct: "Go forward." Advancement has always been God's expectation for His people. He never designed us to remain stagnant but to keep moving, growing, and making progress.

That command has never been more relevant than it is today. The world is advancing at an unprecedented pace. Technology is redefining industries. Artificial intelligence is transforming careers. Digital platforms are creating opportunities that previous generations could never have imagined. Entire professions have emerged within a single generation, changing the way people create value, build wealth, and influence the world. Content creation has become a career. Social media management is now a profession. Facebook and YouTube management have grown into multi-million-dollar industries, with organizations dedicated to helping creators optimize their platforms. Gaming, once regarded merely as entertainment, has become a global, multi-billion-dollar industry, with professional competitions and university degree programs. Opportunities that once seemed unconventional are now shaping economies and transforming lives.

One personal experience completely changed my perspective on the opportunities available in this generation. It came through my son. From an early age, all he seemed interested in was drawing. Like many parents raised to value traditional professions such as law, engineering, and medicine, I found it difficult to imagine drawing becoming a career. I even tried to steer him toward aviation because he loved drawing airplanes. However, as we explored his passion, we discovered the world of animation. What initially appeared to

be an ordinary hobby turned out to be a globally recognized profession with outstanding academic opportunities and remarkable earning potential. That experience challenged my thinking and reminded me that many of the opportunities shaping this generation did not exist when we were growing up. Succeeding in this century requires a renewed way of thinking.

The Twenty-First Century Has Changed the Playing Field

The twenty-first century has changed the entire landscape of human existence. Today, online course creators are making more money than many university professors. Individuals who are not running universities create specialized courses on practical subjects and generate remarkable income simply by sharing their knowledge. The playing field has changed. Gone are the days when one's family background determined how far one could go in life. Those limitations have largely been broken.

Young people in Nigeria are leveraging digital platforms to teach others how to maximize emerging technologies, social media platforms, and digital tools. Many are earning substantial monthly income in foreign currency while living in Nigeria.

This is a call to wake up. Put your gifts to work. Advance your destiny. You do not have to prosper through dishonest means. There are too many legitimate opportunities available today. In fact, it often requires more effort to make money illegally because you must constantly think about how not to get caught. If that same creativity, discipline, and energy were directed toward legitimate work, you could prosper honestly and live without fear.

Traditional career paths are no longer the only opportunities available. Emerging industries are creating new demands every day. If you studied law, for instance, litigation is no longer the only path. Fields such as cyber law, data protection, digital regulation, and artificial intelligence are creating entirely new opportunities for legal professionals. You must learn to think beyond traditional paths.

Look at what artificial intelligence is doing to industries around the world. Even before many people have fully understood artificial intelligence, newer technologies are already emerging. The same advancement is evident in the automobile industry. Today, cars can park themselves. Some can even turn all four wheels and maneuver out of tight parking spaces without requiring other vehicles to move. The pace of technological advancement is beyond human comprehension. The same transformation is taking place in ministry. Through digital technology and audio stems, a small worship team can now produce the rich sound that once required an entire band. Everything can now be done faster, better, larger, and smarter. That is the reality of the generation in which we live.

This century has the potential to become one of the most rewarding in human history. It will require deliberate ignorance and laziness not to prosper. Knowledge and dedication are the keys to advancement. If you do not know where the opportunities are, you cannot leverage them. If you know where they are but lack the determination to persevere, you will still fail.

To succeed in this century, you must be visionary and innovative. Copycats will not go far. Innovation does not always mean creating something entirely new. Sometimes it simply means taking what already exists and making it better. Consider the evolution of the microphone; someone simply refined an existing design, making it more practical and convenient. Creators do not always prosper as much as innovators. In other words, those who improve existing ideas and make them more accessible often prosper more than those who created them in the first place.

This is a century for the visionary, the innovative, and the collaborative. Learn to work with others. You may be gifted, but you are not sufficient by yourself to fulfil your assignment. You need other people.

Principles for Constant Advancement

1. Habakkuk's Principle: Be a Vision Carrier

The first principle for constant advancement is Habakkuk's Principle. It simply states: To keep advancing in life, one must be a vision carrier. This principle is rooted in Habakkuk 2:2-3: "And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time... though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." (KJV)

Everything around us today began as someone's vision. The microphone, the pulpit, Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube all exist because someone first saw them before the world did. Vision leads, and those who carry vision become leaders. Vision is the beginning of progress. In fact, many people who have not yet discovered their specific purpose but possess a clear vision often make more progress than those who know their purpose but lack vision. Purpose answers the question of why you exist, while vision defines what you are determined to accomplish. You may have vision without fully understanding your purpose, but it is dangerous to know your purpose and have no vision.

Vision is a driver. It is a mental picture of the future you desire to see in your sector, industry, church, community, or family. It is a picture developed in seasons of darkness. While others see obstacles, a visionary sees possibilities. While others see limitations, a visionary sees opportunities. Vision enables you to see what can be instead of merely accepting what is.

This is why God asked Jeremiah, "What seest thou?" (Jeremiah 1:11). Jeremiah replied, "I see a rod of an almond tree." Then the Lord said, "...Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it." (Jeremiah 1:12). The moment sight was in place, speed was activated. Many of the delays we pray about are rooted in a lack of clear vision. When vision becomes sharp, compelling, and well defined, obstacles lose their power because you become determined to break through them. Advancement begins with clarity of vision. When you know exactly where you are going, temporary opportunities cannot become distractions from your ultimate assignment.

Jesus demonstrated this principle perfectly. While pursuing His redemptive assignment, the people wanted to make Him an earthly king. It was an attractive opportunity, however, it was not His vision. He understood the principle of now and later. It was better to fulfil His assignment through the cross and reign forever than to accept a temporary crown and forfeit His eternal purpose. Clarity of vision enables you to distinguish between opportunities and distractions. Not every good opportunity is God's assignment. Every great enterprise begins with a vision. Before anything is built, repaired, transformed, or established, someone first sees it in the mind. Vision is the picture of the future you are committed to creating. What do you see in the next ten years? What do you see in your fifties, your sixties, and even your seventies? Vision begins with seeing before becoming. Vision can also be born from Scripture. That is, as you meditate on God's Word, He paints pictures of your future through His promises. The written Word becomes the blueprint for the life you are called to build.

If you miss it in the area of vision, your life and family will suffer. One of the quickest ways to lose confidence as a leader is a lack of consistency. A person without vision is constantly changing direction, pursuing one opportunity after another. Today it is one business, tomorrow another, and the next month something completely different. The fingerprints are everywhere, yet nothing grows because the pursuit is driven by opportunities rather than vision. Vision keeps you on one course long enough to produce lasting results.

The strength of vision is consistency. When the road is blocked, a visionary finds another route, not another vision. When the journey becomes difficult, a visionary remains committed and finds a way through the obstacle instead of abandoning the assignment. One of the greatest reasons people fail is a lack of endurance. Many people love ease, crave immediate results, and become vulnerable to shortcuts and get-rich-quick schemes because they are unwilling to remain faithful to one vision long enough to see it fulfilled.

The greatest opportunities in life will always test your resolve. Life rewards resilience, tenacity, and grit. You may be gifted and talented, but if you give up easily, your gifts will never reach their full potential. Every significant success is built on unseen work. Before people commit themselves to your vision, they first want to see your commitment to it. David's mighty men did not gather around him because of his title. They first watched a man who was willing to give everything for his assignment. Only then did they commit themselves to the same cause. Your passion will ignite others. People are waiting to see your fire before they catch fire.

Do you have a vision? Do you have a dream? Have you developed the skills required to fulfil it? Do not waste your youthful years competing with others, chasing appearances, and investing in temporary pleasures while neglecting your future, your dreams, and the vision God has placed within you. Invest in your dreams. Develop your capacity. Build skills that will continue to create value when life changes. Project your life into the future.

There is a pattern we see in Scripture: Joseph entered his season of influence at the age of thirty, David began his reign at thirty, and Jesus began His public ministry at thirty. If you are already above thirty and have not begun making significant impact, it is time to evaluate your direction. At forty, Moses became a gift to a nation. Although he failed in his first attempt, God took him through another cycle of forty years, preparing and shaping him before bringing him back to lead Israel. Forty represents mature leadership and national relevance. At this stage of life, you should be growing into someone whose life adds measurable value to others.

By fifty, the priests no longer carried out the regular work of ministry but became mentors to the next generation (Numbers 8:23-26). At that stage of life, people should be coming to learn from your experience, wisdom, and example. The question is, who will come to learn from you? What will you have built that is worth imparting to the next generation? Build a clear and consistent vision today so that you will leave a legacy worth passing on tomorrow.