



TWENTY FIVE

Facts you should know before turning
twenty-five, as opposed to the myths
and heresies about the age.

TWENTY
FIVE

BABAWALE BABATUNDE



TWENTY FIVE

WRITTEN BY

BABAWALE BABATUNDE

babawalebabatunde511@gmail.com

COPYRIGHT (C) 2021

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the author or publisher.

Published by:

COMMUNE WRITERS INT'L

www.communewriters.com

+234 8139 260 389

6, Amusa Street, Agodo-Egbe, Lagos

Published and Printed in the Federal Republic of Nigeria

CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i>		i
<i>Preface</i>		iii
Chapter One	While growing up	4
Chapter Two	The myth behind twenty-five	8
Chapter Three	The ten important elements	15
Chapter Four	Saving our future	34
<i>About the Author</i>		38

FOREWORD

Twenty-five is a book for every young person that feels pressured by the society that has established standards of living for people about to clock twenty-five or above it. The author deciphers in truths how the age bracket should be checkmate for personal development defined by yourself and not by what the society expects from you. However, it is a good thing to set goals towards this age and after. Everyone's fear is not attaining success before the age of twenty-five, but uncertainty too can cause a change in plans. The essence of this book is to illustrate clearly, how you can achieve success and contentment without being pressured and the significant things you need to attain in your twenties.

The author illustrates how significant twenty-five is, to the next level of your preference of lifestyle, your standpoint on your existence in life, and the projection of your future. This book will make you realize how far you have moved, from where you are to another level.

From another viewpoint, this book is a form of civilization, revealing to us things that we consider as “norms and principles” to be a “check and balance” for progress in the aspect of success, lifestyle, talent-use, among others. I highly commend this book for addressing a major issue that every human being encounters. The age before and after twenty-five comes with a lot of emotional imbalance leading to depression and anxiety about what the future holds!

Before you can get married, you have to be engaged. Before you can own a house, you have to buy a land. Before you become a PhD holder, you must have written a series of examinations. Every great success must encounter failure and success. Twenty-five enlists how you can track your progress in life through a process, the most valuable things you need to get, and the significance of TWENTY-FIVE to oneself!

MOTUNRAYO BABAWANDE

bmotunrayo@gmail.com

PREFACE

Dear reader, thank you for downloading this E-book. I guarantee you will find it interesting and useful. I spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to layout this book. It is the most tactical advice I have ever written. I wanted it to be easy to understand and easy to apply for anyone regardless of their age. “**TWENTY-FIVE**” was birthed from the sincere desire to open the eyes of the youths to certain things they need to know at this present stage of their lives. This book will serve as a manual and a guide for our lives and our daily activities. However, this book doesn’t compare gender, class, or age as the title implies, but it contains what we all think as millennial. It simply contains the basic information we need to know without any favour or bias to anyone. This book isn’t only for the young ones in their twenties, but for everyone scared of what the future holds due to fear, discouragement, and lack of financial support. This is the time for us to rise back after failures; the world needs our spark. The world needs our energy. The world needs us to show up for our lives and take hold of our potential if truly we want to be the leaders of tomorrow. I assure you of the right to pass on this e-book to anyone who may benefit from it.

CHAPTER ONE

WHILE GROWING UP

It seems just like yesterday when you blew the candle of your tenth birthday thinking the journey to thirty is still very far. All of a sudden you turned fifteen, twenty, and just like yesterday you realized you are no more in your early twenties. That is exactly how I feel now, quite interesting? For some, the past birthdays are like filthy rags that need to be discarded the moment another one comes, while some feel the "filthy rags" should be cherished as much as the new one. The only awkward thing about my next birthday is the belief and myth attached to this age, the depressing thing is that everyone seems to believe. As "terrifying" as some of the beliefs and myths surrounding this new age might be turning twenty-five is not scary. It is filled with lots of good memories and amazing things when you reflect and think deeply about it. One important point we need to establish is that you do not turn a new age every day, once you turn fifteen years old, which is the only chance in your lifetime. Likewise, you do not turn twenty or twenty-five every day. Congratulations if you are there like me, let us enjoy it while it lasts. Silver Jubilee celebration will only come once in a lifetime.

At a point in our lives, we must have come across this statement "growing up", or, we remember ever saying this while we were young, "When I grow up". How many of us still use that phrase in our twenties? Why is it not so relevant and necessary again? In life, one must come to a crossing ground where one must choose to grow up and become an adult. We all believe once we turn eighteen years of age we don't need to grow up again as we have already grown up to that supposed adulthood at eighteen. I had a similar experience as a child, and as an adolescent, I suddenly realized that I was not a child anymore; this sudden transformation signifies the change everyone will go throughout his or her lifetime. It is compulsory, it is necessary and it is inevitable.

There comes a point in every person's life when they gain a profound realization about growing up, I intentionally did not put it as growth because I want to establish a point. Part of growing up is growth but not growth alone, meaning that one is a subset of the other. As a child, I thought "growing up" means to become a dad, have a job, and learn to pay some bills. I was too young to understand the concept behind the word "growing up". Likewise, many of us can't wait to beat the perfect age, but what is that perfect age? The concept of a perfect age for every individual is a different age and a different dream waiting to be fulfilled.

Age will always be a touchy and sensitive subject of discussion to some people. Why is this so? It is because as we age, some of us become so ashamed of our status in line with our present age. We are always proud of the tenth, sixteen, and eighteen birthdays, but the older we grow the more reserved and unwilling

we become to tell people we are twenty-three, twenty-five, thirty, or forty years old. Although, we need to know that those who bring their age into every discussion to fight for respect are not ageing well in the real sense. Those who are hesitant about their age declaration, and those who lie about their age are not only mischievous they are also very funny in the sense that whether you add or you subtract, it will keep counting.

Being told to “act your age” is something you hear a lot. It’s when an adult is told to “grow up” or someone is told to “be a proper child”. Nevertheless, my point is why is acting your age such a big deal? When you are told to act your age, the actual definition of that statement is “to behave in a manner appropriate of someone of one’s age and not of someone younger or older.” There is much societal pressure on people to act how they have seen other people of their age act. There are many reasons why someone may act childish or seem more mature than their age. Nevertheless, let me say that it is not a sin to act mature or probably immature sometimes. Just make sure you evaluate the situation first to ensure it is appropriate and to make sure you won’t hurt or ruin something for someone else why acting in such a manner.

As kids, we were always looking forward to being older. There were many things we wished we could do. We often heard our parents say “you can do that when you are older”. We viewed adults with an association with freedom. We are eager to grow up, probably a little eager. During our path to adulthood, we struggled to find who we are and what defines us. Identity became a question, and the future became our main purpose. For some, life has been good to them. For

others, the light inside slowly died, and they became a victim of darkness. Now that I have grown up, I have an understanding of reality. The reality is that we live in a world where we have to survive. The feelings and warmth we experienced, as kids do not come around as often. However, it becomes something to cherish when it does come around.

Yes, we are ageing. Yes, we have much more on our plates. We have many responsibilities at this stage. However, what we did not have as kids is the knowledge and the ability to understand how the world works, our role in this world, and what we can achieve is enough to make me appreciate being an adult. As adults, we have control, we have a purpose, and we have freedom. Best of all, just like when we were kids; we can imagine our future. We will always have something to look forward to.

CHAPTER TWO

THE MYTH BEHIND TWENTY-FIVE

Twenty-five is a unique age and I am excited about this because I just turned twenty-five. However, what is so special about this age? Everything, I mean everything is special about this age. For many people at this stage of life, there has been a straightforward path up before they got to this point. For others, there is no obvious direction. Although age twenty-five comes with several overwhelming options and sometimes it's hard to know which path to choose. The fear of going the wrong way or probably the pain of being present in the wrong direction is paralyzing. Long before this time, I have also tried to learn about what life at this age means. With help from older people, I was able to get a few points on why the age seems scary to many people. The truth is a confused fellow at this age may most likely be still confused for some years to come. However, this does not mean it is outrightly over it may just take time to re-align. Sometimes, I wonder why out of several jubilee celebrations the silver jubilee is the one everyone is scared of pronouncing. I do not want to be misunderstood at this point, I am not against celebrating any year as we age,

but you would agree with me that some are unique and out of the unique numbers, number twenty-five is one of the most dreadful ages that come with fear for many to celebrate.

While growing, I was one of the few ambitious kids who felt at age twenty I should be married based on my calculation then. I said earlier that this age comes with several options for so many people, some of your childhood wishes about certain age you are now has been accomplished and those you have not achieved are still very much achievable because someone somewhere must have achieved that same thing, and so the cycle continues. The regrets we feel on our birthdays are equally not necessary because it did not happen that same day. Although it is called a birthday it is not just a day, but also a year. The day you complete the last race and start a new one is what is called birthday. A child that was born today for instance did not start the journey today, no. It started about nine months ago!

According to the Biblical numerology, number 25 is considered to manifest "grace upon grace" which is $5*5$ (five multiplied by five). This has a strong meaning of a holy presence according to some theologians. It also implies God's grace and forgiveness. The throne of God in Heaven has twenty-four thrones around his one, which equals twenty-five. Mathematically, number 25 is a unique number, which is the addition of all single-digit odd natural numbers, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9. There are so many other unique things about this number, but I won't like to digress to that part but let me quickly share this from the scripture. In the book of IChronicles 23 and Ezra 3 vs. 8, it is written that Levites were required to be

at least twenty-five years old before they could begin their service in the temple, although it dropped to twenty from the time of David, but why is it twenty-five and what makes the number unique for service? I leave you to ponder on that.

Remember that certain people became king at age 25, Jotham, Hezekiah, Amaziah, and Jehoiakim the wicked king. There are several examples of great people at age twenty-five and there are so many people whose lives provoking smell from a twenty-five-year-old.

Honestly, for some people, this birthday might come with a bit of nerve. They realize they may not have accomplished everything they thought they would by this age. To those people I would like to say this one thing; it is never too late to embrace your dreams or be exactly who you want to be. For another set of people, they plan big celebrations with friends, put on favourite records, and dance their way into twenty-five. It does not matter what category you and I fall into; the most important things are the life-changing truths we should all know at twenty-five. There are some I get to know myself there are some I was told, either way, the most important thing is how impactful that will be with our lives. This is not just for age twenty-five alone, if you are yet to get there you will also need this, and if you are older than twenty-five you may still make use of it to be sure if you truly know this or not.

First things first; it is always good to be reminded of what is worth your time and energy. Learn to "*let the little things go*". Some things we engage ourselves with do not worth our time at all. Unnecessary chats, petty arguments. At this

age people expect more from us, they expect you to be able to separate the unimportant from the important issues. More often than not, you may worry about things that are not even necessarily going to happen, or are even necessarily going to happen, or are out of control. If there is anything one needs to change it is the mindset, when? Now! Especially now that you are in your mid-twenties, even in your late thirties it is not too late. Worrying will just add some unnecessary weight to your shoulder.

When some people turn twenty-five, they get nervous about where they think they are "supposed" to be in life. That is when the comparison begins, comparing themselves to others travelling outside the country and those posting on social media. My friend, this is not the time to get distracted by others, this is not the time to focus more on what they do and neglect your race. Keep going you are getting there. You are right where you are meant to be, even if not satisfied, understand that it is a process. So, keep going putting one foot in front of the other, and know that you are getting there.

More so, as you grow, you may get bored with some things; it is also possible you enjoy doing some things. However, the right key is to continue to find beauty in everything and everywhere. Look at things from a different lens. I am not saying you should always be excited and enthusiastic about everything. All I am saying is that there is always something to appreciate and love a little bit more, and being twenty-five, you need that reminder more than ever before.

Lastly, take your time to reflect on what is keeping you from living your best life, from those things keeping you from taking that necessary leap of faith. This is the time to keep away every worry about obstacles you may come across. When you hear a statement like “what are you waiting for?” It may sound simple at first but it will ignite a lot of motivation, ambition, and inspiration inside of you.

When I was much younger, twenty-five sounded so much older than what it is. I am twenty-five and I am not too young to own a house, to buy a car, probably get married lawfully. At twenty-five, it is expected that my brain is fully developed, but I am still allowed to be lost and make mistakes (not the silly ones). There is still a lot to accomplish in my life, but for the twenty-five years I have had, I would say I am doing pretty well. Our world and society have put so much pressure on twenty-five-year olds, and if we listen to it, we will be in a mess. Twenty-five is a meaningful age as any other age under the sun. It is also important to set goals towards this age and after as a reasonable and responsible human being. However, if you derail or feel "off track" you are not simply cursed it is because you are human. Stand up, embrace who you are and how you are feeling, even if you have any goal in mind, go after it, achieve it, don't be pressurized to do it because you are at a certain age. Do it for you!

Earlier, I said there are some myths associated with this age; society believes these thoughts are very important and are directly attached to the age. I discovered that society puts pressure on you from age 18-30years of age. Here are some of

the common myths attached to the age twenty-five; the truth is some of these things are not true.

"You need to own your own house at twenty-five ", No doubt there are twenty-five-year olds who own mansions, and it is something everyone should also aim for. It is awesome, but there should be no pressure to own one by all means. Homes are permanent, and if you are unsure of the future. Why do it?

"You should be in a serious relationship": No doubt about this also. Being in a relationship is nice, but the idea is while rushing in at this age when you are sure you are not ready for it. The most important thing is to never settle for anything less than you deserve. Do not be pressurized by the age, your joy and peace should be paramount; every other thing follows suit.

"Do fast, you are running out of time": Yes! Time waits for nobody, but good things also take time. Where is the place of patience? Understand that you don't have the whole time in the world to yourself but also you don't need to rush yourself into doing some unnecessary things.

"You should be fulfilled by twenty-five". We all need to aim high in life; it is human to not be fulfilled with where you are in life. You may wish to be a graduate at the age of twenty-five, or you need a job, or you wish you had a partner. That is all normal. The good news is that those small things will change. Do not blame it on your present age. Instead, identify what is missing and go after it.

For me being twenty-five today means I am still finding my feet. It means I am still waiting to meet my future wife; it means I am still laying a solid foundation for my future and my writing Hub. In the meantime, I will volunteer myself to those who need my assistance; I will focus on my spiritual life and build a better and stronger relationship with God. Twenty-five is the bedrock and foundation for greater things ahead.

CHAPTER THREE

THE TEN IMPORTANT ELEMENTS

Before you plan an epic bash for your birthday, reflect on the full potential you could reach by this time. A writer once said that your twenties are your selfish years. This is the age where you immerse yourself in everything around you and the world out there. Ensure you are selfish with your time, look after yourself, and pay attention to your mental health. In all thy getting in your twenties especially twenty-five, get these following things:

1) EXAMINE WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE: You do not have the luxury of time to wait for things to figure out what you want for your life. We often forget to sit down and contemplate on what we want for our lives. The fool's age is no longer at forty again; this is the point in your life where you do have a chance to shape the future. Make sure you spend time alone because this is the only true way to get to know yourself.'

2) TAP INTO CREATIVITY: This is the time to tap into the creative aspect embedded in you. What are you known for? By now, you should be known for something. There are hidden potentials in you some you know while some you

do not know yet. Do yourself the favour of tapping into this creativity in your twenties as you age, you can develop more on it; you may not have the time to do such thereafter.

3) ALWAYS ASK WHEN IT'S NEEDED: Wherever you may find yourself, don't be afraid to ask questions about things about you. Do not be afraid to ask for the things you want or need. This is exactly the period where a closed mouth is a closed destiny. Honestly, you have the choice to make a difference in your life and as the saying goes; “don't ask don't get”.

4) KNOW WHO BELONGS AND WHO DOESN'T: Some people don't belong to your life again from this moment; you will do yourself a lot of good if you get rid of such people. Having a million friends that you hardly talk to is unnecessary and often you will accrue negative people in your life if care is not taken. Instead, carefully select friends who have the same vision and goals as you and keep away any toxic people.

5) GET IN CONTROL OF YOUR FINANCES: There is nothing wrong to be legitimately rich at this age. It is very important to get in control of your finances. Know how to earn, how to spend, and how to save. This is not the time to spend recklessly. By now, you will understand what it is to pay bills, and for those whose parents are still footing the bills get ready, it will soon stop. By now you should do away with entitlement and dependency syndrome, it is time to be responsible as well. Get control of your finances.

6) **CHASE YOUR DREAMS:** Yes!! Chase your dream. This is not the period to be complacent; during your twenties, this will be very dangerous. Chase that dream, pursue that great vision in your mind, there is no other time to do such than now. The fact that you have tried and failed earlier does not mean you should stop chasing; you cannot stop chasing. Just keep moving with faith and hard work, you will be glad you worked hard for it and you will be proud of yourself for trying.

Now, permit me to share the ten elements in the word **TWENTY-FIVE**. The word “**TWENTY**” provides a framework for me to share the most important factors or principles that I know can work so well for you as they have for me. The other word “**FIVE**” will expose four major problems or vices we may face especially in our mid-twenties, which we must conquer. These ten letters of twenty-five will be covered, one at a time as a concept.

T- TALENT

W- WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

E- EDUCATION

N- NAME

T- TIME

Y- YOUTHFULNESS

F- FORGETFULNESS/IGNORANCE

I – IMMORALITY

V- VICES

E- ENVY

TALENT

The first letter “T” in this word twenty is what I call talent. The dictionary defines talent as a natural ability to do something well. At this point in your life, you need to ask yourself, “What am I good at?” This is the very point in life where you need to ask yourself, “what am I good at?”, “what can I do conveniently and differently?” what natural skill or innate ability do I possess? We often have a sadly limited understanding of talent. Your talent is that invaluable gift that not everyone possesses; it will be a great disaster if you are still confused about who you are or what you can do in your twenties.

One simple definition of talent is something that you can do better than other people. Our uniqueness is in our differences not in our similarities. At this point, in your life sit and ask yourself, “What can I do better than others?” The combination of your skills, interests, personality, character, traits, and other God-given gifts add up to be your talent. Some of the traits that make up the talent may also be connected to what we can do alone and more connected to who you are. Ben Carson said, "rather than defining talent as something that you can do better than other people, we should think of it as a combination of

something that includes innate and learned skills, interests, character, personality traits, and intelligence and acquired knowledge.”

Dear twenty-year-old's and above, this is the time for self-assessment, this is the time for discovering and recognizing your talents. Although you can desire something and go for it, when you identify, develop, and make use of that unique talent in you, you will excel. We know of so many great people today who are using their talent and yes, they are doing great. In your twenties discover your talent, and you must discover it on time. So many things are combined when it comes to talent that is why the idea of self-discovery is a way to identify that unique potential in you. If there is any time to unleash the potential in you, do not joke with your twenties (20s). God has given every human being the capabilities each of us needs to contribute to the world. One truth about discovering talents is that it takes time, although time is also an essential principle in the twenties, which we will discuss much later.

WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

Proverbs 16 vs. 16 says “How much better to get wisdom than gold and understanding than silver”. A popular Bible verse says, “In all thy getting get wisdom”. The word wisdom is essentially the same as common sense, although common sense provides the ability to react appropriately. As such, wisdom is the most important commodity for anyone who is planning to be successful in any endeavour. The letter “W” for wisdom and knowledge is intentional, what so

many might expect is why not wealth or any other word that starts with the letter “W”. King Solomon in the Bible is considered the wisest man who ever lived. His wisdom led to great wealth as he is regarded as the wealthiest man on earth to date. If you are familiar with the Bible stories you will understand that his first challenge as king of Israel was to determine what to do in the case of two women who came before him, both claiming to be the mother of the same baby.

Although formal education can get us knowledge, it all depends on how it is been received. On the other hand, while wisdom dictates the need for education, education does not necessarily make one wise. This does not mean that higher education is not highly desirable and beneficial, but what it means is that the wise use of knowledge is more important than knowledge itself.

How many of us will smile at anyone who calls us “foolish”. I am sure that is not possible right? The opposite of being wise is to be foolish, which means if you are not wise you are foolish. In your twenties, a fool at your age will do himself or herself more harm than Good not to talk of a fool at forty years. In all thy getting, get wisdom. How does one acquire wisdom? First & foremost, one must be humble enough to recognize that one does not know everything, “the more you know the less you know”. This saying implies that a wise man or woman understands that on any given issue, there is still much knowledge to be acquired, but the foolish one’s glory in the little they know. In your twenties understand that there are still many things to learn, so stop the pride, be teachable and be ready to teach!

However, getting knowledge is relatively straightforward but wisdom is to be sought prayerfully. The reason is that if anyone truly desires wisdom such a person must be ready to consult God, the source of all wisdom. We are not too young to ask God for wisdom and knowledge daily; we need it and if not too early to have it at this age. James 1 vs. 5 “if anyone of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God that gives liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given to him”. Many of us act foolishly and want to hide under the fact that we are still young, in your twenties, the letter "W" is for wisdom, get it, it has been made available.

EDUCATION

The letter “E” in the word twenty stands for Education. Education plays a significant role in our life in this century. Education is light and can increase your opportunities. Getting a basic education is necessary especially at this stage of life. Some people wish to further their education after primary school or secondary school, but could not due to due to lack of financial support. The fact that you could not get a university or polytechnic degree does not mean it is over for you. However, some are currently in the university or polytechnic who still say, “School is a scam”, ask them if anyone is willing to drop out because of this notion. Education may not guarantee your success in life, but it will give you the knowledge, which will distinguish you. In your twenties do not joke with Education; it is no longer a right but a privilege. What do you think is the essence of education to you? Unfortunately, a lot of us go to school just for the benefit

of being able to say they had an education. While some also find enthusiasm in going to school because of the thought of learning something new. The bottom line is that there should be a continuous thirst for knowledge, learning never stops, it is a process and it is continuous.

If you are reading this and they are still begging you to study in school and get serious with your education in your twenties, you are doing a lot deceiving yourself. Education is currently highly priced, with financial burden serving as a limiting force for many potential students. Therefore, if you have the privilege to be given a quality education, do not take it for granted. Education gives light, one of the most important benefits of education is that it improves personal lives and helps society to run smoothly. What value do you place on education?

NAME

The letter “N” is going to the word Name, the dictionary defines “name” as what someone is called. A name is a term used for identification. One of the amazing things about this term is that you do not get used often as people use it. A name carries your image; it is the greatest connection to your identity and individuality.

Proverbs 22 vs. 1 “a good, name is to be chosen rather than great riches”. While growing up, I loved watching the news on television both in my country (Nigeria) and outside, one of the fascinating things about this is the way Newscasters mention their names. Sometimes, before they, mention their names

I will say it. When some names are mentioned and you listen to people's experiences and perspectives about the person with the name it is always a good report. On the flip side, there are some who by the mention of their name everyone feels sad, fearful, or disappointed.

Let me ask you a question; are you proud of your name? What do you think will come to people's minds when they hear your name? What do you know about your family name? In your twenties, if there is anything to guard jealously it should be your name. I remember vividly back in my secondary school; my principal always threatens us with a "black book" and she also said there is a "blue book". I wish I could see any of the two books to know if they are black or blue, but the message is clear. If your name is written in the black book, it means you have done something bad, likewise, if your name is written in the blue book, it means you have done something good.

There are some family names today that no one wants to do business with because of what their forefathers had done. Ever wonder why some go for a change of name? A generation is also attached to you, they will be called by your name, but you have dragged this name inside mud already with your bad behaviours and actions. There is one hidden truth about names, it signifies your tribe, and it effectively describes you in a manner you may not understand or realize.

Now ask yourself; what name are they calling you in your school, hostel, church, environment, etc? This also goes to those of us who cherish our thought-

provoking nicknames to our original name. There is nowhere in the world where your nickname will be written inside your certificate. In all thy getting get a good name, a good name is to be chosen rather than great riches.

TIME

Time management is an important life skill but it is rarely taught. The truth is that many of us struggle with this time management. What the majority of youths do not understand is that we live in a world that is far more complicated, stressful, and fast-moving than the world our parents experienced as teenagers.

I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that we are living in the “age of distraction”, and the ability to remain focused on a task plays a big part in managing your time efficiently. We should not spend much time on frivolities so that we can have much time to spend on other activities that will benefit our lives.

Time is an essential tool to have under control at this stage of life. Time management is about ensuring that you have complete control of your time and that you are allocating it effectively so that you can get everything you need to get done. This is not only about the “need” but also about the “want”. At this point, you should be able to effectively separate your needs from your wants and set priorities for each of them. Being able to manage your time and daily task gives you more balance and control in life. From age twenty, upward we should know we do not have so much time to ourselves; we need to learn how to audit

our time. People who do not learn time management skills are at the risk of becoming lifelong procrastinators, and the danger with poor management skills is that things will not be done per time.

Lack of time management can lead to a decline in academic performance, lack of sleep, and many more. On the flip side, Good time management allows you to accomplish more in a shorter time. The problem with us is not limited time but bad time management. We need to stop wasting time, if we sincerely desire to achieve something reasonable in life, now we need to stop wasting time. Learn how to use your time wisely, be self-aware, set your goals, make plans, make decisions, and lastly, you must learn how to prioritize and organize your task. Ask those who are successful in life how they spend their time.

YOUTHFULNESS

Youth is the time of life when one is young, and often means the time between childhood and adulthood. Being youthful means; you are experiencing a time of vigour, energy, and zeal. The Bible even records that “the glory of the youths is their strength”. It is never about your age or your gender or even your marital status. Being a youth is more of a mindset rather than a form. Some of us in our twenties are already looking like old men and women, the strengths are no longer there. Truly, being a youth is not only about the age, but we all know you are considered a youth at age eighteen years upward. Someone once said, "youths are those members of the human race, who are too old to be children and too

inexperienced to be adults”. Age they say is little more than a number; while this might not be logically true, staying young can be tied to your state of mind. At this age of your life, it won't be out of place to inform you that you won't continue to be a youth for life. The way you make use of this stage of life will tell in the future.

Psalms 119 vs. 9 the English version says, “How can a young man keep his way pure? “By guarding it according to your words”. Ecclesiastes 11 vs. 9 “rejoice, o young man in your youth and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.”

Ecclesiastes 12 vs. 1 “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, even before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, I have no pleasure in them”. Whatsoever youthfulness is making you do right now, one day you may not be able to do it any longer. Be youthful and useful.

FORGETFULNESS

The inability to remember facts, information or people and things is what is called forgetfulness. The lack of knowledge or information about something is a major issue we need to look at critically. At the age of twenty-five, certain things would not be allowed under the guise of forgetfulness or ignorance. Ignorance can hurt, if we aren't armed with knowledge, we won't be able to recognize how our life is drifting. If we do not have enough basic information

to manage our lives at twenty-five, we will give up our lives and freedom to those who will lead us astray. Some things are inexcusable the moment you add any other figure to that twenty.

Ignorance is the reason why history repeats itself, and for some of us the pit we may fall into can be avoided if we have the right knowledge and information about it. For some of us, we are so ignorant about the happenings around us; the basic information a youth should at least know we do not know. Some of us still do not know who the president of the country is. We are so ignorant about many things except the things they tell us, and the things we just feel like knowing, adding a five to that twenty calls for more responsibility on your part.

Knowledge is important in our journey in this life and the lack of it is what brings ignorance and above all forgetfulness. It is the same ignorance that is making us shut God out of our lives and in all our getting; we prefer getting money at the expense of wisdom. A lot of us are forgetful beings, just a little bit of comfort and we lose track of our plans and goals. This is not the time to forget things; this is not the time to be ignorant. There is no better time to be ignorant and I acknowledge the fact that we cannot know all but even the necessary things do we know them? Our silver jubilee should be free of forgetfulness and ignorance.

IMMORALITY

Immorality is defined as a violation of moral laws, norms, or standards. Morality refers to the belief or ideas about what is right and wrong and how people should behave. Immorality has to do with wrong things. Immorality among youths is a major problem in society today. It has been very disturbing that everybody is expressing deep concern over it, considering the speed of its occurrence and the associated danger it has brought to many young folks. The truth is one of the glaring evils to wrestle with while growing up is immorality addiction. Sexual immorality is not the only form of immorality at this stage of life, but of course a major one because of its level of occurrence among the youths. Immorality, as you and I know, involves corruption, fraud, kidnappings here and there, which is the reason for the precarious state of our nation. The most painful part is that youths are also fully involved in this act. I am not a saint but let us face the reality. We care less about the kind of dress we put on whether it debases the very core of human nature or not. We have turned to dogs whose sexual urge is displayed anywhere and everywhere. Even dogs are much better than many humans today. We display sexual romp on the street, we have turned ourselves into hooligans, area boys, vagabonds being used by politicians' right in our twenties. Prostitution has become the order of the day, and it is highly promoted in our ivory towers. Our generation interprets modesty as a sign of weakness, and you may be asking who am I to fault you? Let us deal with the immorality eating up our society. This is the reason the elderly ones consider our generation to be lazy, mischievous, and full of immoral behaviours.

The western culture we all struggle to imbibe has gotten us nowhere, but rather, continuously destroys the social fabric of our society. The reason why we need to erase immorality from our life right now is that no society will develop with its youths playing their lives away.

VICES

A vice is a bad habit or immoral quality and behaviour. Vices according to Wikipedia dictionary, it's a Latin word "*vitium*" which means a defect or failing. Therefore, social vices are unhealthy and negative behaviours. There is a saying that "youths are the leaders of tomorrow" when today is even tired of hosting us young. It has never ceased to be inquisitive what hope of a tomorrow of this kind today has. The extent of the social vices among us shows the extent of the moral decay in society. A social vice is simply an act of indiscipline and the truth is that majority of us are not disciplined. We exhibit behaviours that violate societal norms and values. The moment you do not strive to add virtues what may result will be vices. Examples of such include prostitution, indecent dressing, robbery, cultism, and recently it has developed into militancy and terrorism. However, the pain is that majority of the people doing these things are the young ones, the supposed "leaders of tomorrow". Some of the reasons that lead one into some of these social vices are majorly peer pressure and lack of parental responsibility etc. We both need to join hands to curb vices and pursue virtues for our lives. The young ones that engage in these dangerous acts need help,

advice and rehabilitation, especially for the addicted ones. I would also like to say that addiction is likely to set in if care is not taken, because whatever you engage yourself with overtime you get addicted to it. This is the reason why so many people cannot stop those bad behaviours in their lives.

Just as the people of olden days eyed one life-career or the other and they walked towards seeing it crystallize to reality, so are the youths of today choosing immorality, sailing through the world of acrimony and naivety with passion. Thus, to save our society of the present mess, and of course, the future menace, all hands must be on deck henceforth. We have a role to play; the future is waiting for us but is not waiting for this “version” of us.

ENVY

The feeling of wanting something that someone else has, or to wish that you had someone else’s possession. It is nice to fall in love with someone else’s success, but it is equally important to understand that to achieve success, it’s a process. Envy is a feeling that can be emotionally draining and is linked to self-deception. Envy is a negative feeling that triggers when the achievement and success of someone close to you, a friend manifests your apparent inability in those areas. Sometimes, we may feel so insignificant in the face of the other person’s success. Feeling envious isn’t only coveting what other people have. True envy doesn’t want someone to have what they have and not wanting them to have any form of success.

Envy is the mother of resentment, a feeling that makes you never want other people to do well and that they fare a lot worse. An envious person becomes like a satellite of the envied person and carries their pain inside them. Envy is that feeling of displeasure you have when you don't possess something and also the desire to possess that thing to the extent of depriving another person of it. One thing the envious person does is to devalue the other's achievements. This is one of the deadly behaviours we battle with as youths, we envy people who are wealthy and successful but we never want to go through the process.

When you feel envy, it means you want it all even when others do not get it. We envy our brilliant colleagues, the rich men, the fire-spitting pastors, etc., but we never want to go through their process. We do not mind having all that others possess but we do not want to go through the pain and rigour that accompany that success. If you wish to be the one leading your class, read your books. If you want to be rich and successful, work hard and do not be lazy. Although, let me state clearly that in your thirst to become wealthy, do not participate in illegal acts to acquire wealth. Those who envy such people will also participate in illegal acts, and I am sure we all know what their end is.

Nevertheless, Envy can have both positive and negative consequences. Some psychologists have argued that envy may have a bright side. Specifically, when we use envious feelings as motivation to improve ourselves, either we can let envy corrode our sense of self-worth and the well-being of our social relationships, or we can turn the passion of envy into the power to improve ourselves.

Every element of the word **TWENTY-FIVE** can apply to an individual regardless of age and society.

T- The combination of talents, strength, and ideas is what can drive society forward. Every single person is blessed with a unique **talent**.

W-In all thy getting get wisdom, a society cannot thrive without wisdom. Acquiring wisdom alone is not enough but its practical use. **Wisdom** can never be trivialized.

E-Education is light. This is the time to use our education to find common solutions to the problems in society. The light education gives will enable us to apply our knowledge and truth to our nation's problems.

N- Our **name** carries our identity. In everything we do, we must all strive to get a good name that must correspond with our identity. Let us join hands to restore this nation's integrity.

T- The only way to make judicious use of any given moment is to understand that **time** right from creation waits for no one.

Y- The hallmark characteristic of **youths** is their strength, and is more about the mindset than the form.

F- If we do not put certain lessons into our minds, we may not be able to identify the way our life is drifting. It is time to stand up and enlighten ourselves before we allow ignorance to destroy our nation.

I – No society will develop where the youths are playing their lives away and are involved in so many **immoral** acts. There are so many behaviours to drop if we want to have that glorious future.

V- No society will move forward when social **vices** are the order of the day. We need to be disciplined and learn to take responsibility.

E- **Envious** feelings can be channeled rightly to improve and motivate ourselves. It may be negative feelings if it was received and dispensed from a negative mindset.

CHAPTER FOUR

SAVING OUR FUTURE

Many argue that our future does not need to be saved and that we are in very good shape. They think the elderly ones are skeptical about our future and that people say negative things to make the present youths feel bad. The youths see the beautiful view of the future, but we do not have the wisdom to look at the lowering clouds that obscure the mountains. Our society is in trouble today, and the only chance is to take quick and decisive action.

We each need to take an active role in changing the course of our society and the nation. Indeed, we may not enjoy the benefits of the system set by our forefathers, and we are not quite comfortable because previous generations have done worse. Nevertheless, if we fail to rediscover the basic principle of common sense, manners, and morality, we will also go the same way they did. The previous generations have made some mistakes, which is not too late for us to also learn from, and take corrective action that will ensure a promising future for us and those who come after us.

The western culture we all struggle to imbibe has gotten us nowhere, but rather, it continues to destroy the social fabric of our society. We love to have fun at the expense of every other thing. There is no harm in having fun, but when we do it with so much addiction forgetting we have a role to play for ourselves and society as a whole, it then becomes a huge problem. The fact remains that no society develops with its youths playing their lives away. The future fabric of the youths in this society is fast eroding and if something is not done to nip this ill on the head, we all will have ourselves to blame.

In saving our future, we must be ready to take charge of today, regardless of the decisive mantra of "leaders of tomorrow". If we must save our future, we must defeat the mental block that has prevented us to rise today. I want us to learn that there is no alternative to the initiative, self-drive, self-motivation, and innovation of our generation. We cannot allow Nigeria to be an excuse for fatalism, laziness, and lack of drive. If we must save our future we must begin today, posterity will not forgive anyone that allows the present state of governance to be an excuse for being absent for an appointment with their destiny.

Social media is a powerful intellectual weapon that can positively change our life if we know how to use it. If we search for one thousand excuses not to rise, we will find. Likewise, if we look for just one single reason to save our future today, we will find one. We cannot leave our future in the hands of those whom we have blamed for our present failure.

Tomorrow is not guaranteed for any of us, and if something needs to be done, it is usually best to just go ahead and do it, rather than engage in baseless arguments and endless cogitation with no action. Who knows what tomorrow holds for each of us and this country? We have no time to waste. Today is the day to act and save the future, the dream you have nurtured about the future needs certain steps that must be taken today.

Let me also reiterate, that in our journey to save the future many of us are currently being deceived by glamour, power, and wealth. I should quickly add that these things also easily fool some old folks. We have a duty as youths to be able to discern which people capture our imaginations. We are in that transition period of childhood to adulthood, and this might be challenging for many young people. We are in a stage where many things seem to be happening at once, most especially trying to figure who you are and build a personality. No matter how daunting all these may seem, we can create the desired future.

As much as we emphasize saving our future, we need to also focus on what will happen in the future, we can only plan. Focus on personal development, learn skills, go on adventures; make friends all of these things will help in any future. Learn to be good with discomfort and uncertainty. Nothing good comes easy, the best things in life are often hard, and if you shy away from difficulty and discomfort, you will miss out.

If you are good at discomfort and uncertainty, you could do all kinds of things. Nevertheless, all of these are useless if we cannot. Overcome the universal

problems with youths, which is distraction and procrastination. You might seize an opportunity or get something you love to do because you are good with uncertainty and discomfort but then blow it away because you are busy on social media or watching movies the whole day. However, the truth is that many of us don't know that distraction and procrastination are just ways to avoid discomfort.

Furthermore, if we want to save our future we must learn about our minds. It is hard to change mental habits because you do not always see what is going on in your mind. Learn about how your mind works, and you will be much better at handling the present against the future. Reflect on what you have been doing in life and what you have learned from it.

More so, become trustworthy, be honest, and be a guy or lady of integrity. The biggest fear of the older generation to this generation is that the young persons are not trustworthy. We get to a place late, lie about the reasons for being late and of course, we give excuses for missing deadlines. Let us learn to be trustworthy, let's do our best on every task; honesty they say is the best policy.

The idea behind all of this is that you may not know whom you are going to be, what you will be able to do, the kind of people you will meet, and what opportunities will come up. But you ought to know this; if you are prepared, you can do anything you want. Let's prepare ourselves for the future ahead.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Babatunde Babawale Ebenezer, also known as Young Scholar, is a Christian, a Veterinary Medical student, a Decorated Writer (with two awards thus far), a Drama Minister, a Student Journalist, and a Passionate lover of Books (spiritual and professional) including African texts.

He strongly believes writing is an inspirational and life-transforming tool and we cannot have the society of our dreams without conquering mediocrity. His ultimate goal is to reach out to the world through writing.

He is the author of three books (an Anthology inclusive) "Never a Rose without a Thorn", "Hidden Truth" and his latest best-selling book "Compass".

He also offers the services of Freelance Writing, Editing, and Reviewing of articles and books.

He can be reached via:

Gmail: babawalebabatunde511@gmail.com

Twitter: @D_youngscholar

WhatsApp: +2348101651204