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WINNING TOUGH TIMES!



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GREETINGS FRIEND,

Life occurs in different phases; the unexpected happens, the unknown hit at our existence as experience. These experiences are tests and examinations to be passed ahead of the next level. Some of this negative experience put us into mental, physical, and spiritual in balance. What this implies is that we must pass through several continuous assessment and examination with the assurance of winning before we can go to the next stage of life.

These tests are a tough time in the school of life. The school is called "the challenging school of destiny." This test challenges once faith; it challenges our socio-economic activities; it challenges most marriages; it challenges your career. This challenge never hints at its coming most time, and it never rings a bell of visitation. They come as an uninvited guest. In fact, there are some challenges we all want to run away from, but we can't.

When circumstances in life override our wish, we get worried, but that is the time we need our self to be calm to win more. We live by experiences which are a product of tough adventures in marriage, careers, and business in our daily life. Remember, tough times come to different people at different times in different ways.

In tough times, people see it as survival of the fittest; to some, it is a difficult time; and to several others, it is a moment of sober rethinking. All these phases will come and go, and things will be back on track. Nothing like challenges is permanent because creation is in stages.

Therefore, in tough times we have to amend our old life for a new life to exit. We have to see the advantage in tough times, even if we think we are losing

more opportunities. For instance, during my master's and doctoral degrees in South Africa, I stayed five years without my family with me. It was years of loneliness and learning the value and virtue of family life. It was tough, but it was a learning curve. Tough times are good if we take the positive part of the adventure. We learn to be more careful, more cautious, plan well, precise, and see our mistakes when we are enjoying the wealthy place.

You have to see the positive side of every experience. You have to see you in that situation, winning it. Tough times end with a tough approach. Preparing for tough times makes us win difficult days ahead when it eventually comes. Under no circumstance should we lose focus and faith of our goal because when the challenge finally stops, we need faith to build what has been lost to continue.

Vision is a hard bailout currency in hard times. A government without vision and mission lost and crumbles in tough times. They get confused when the situation beyond expectation comes. Regardless of the tough stints, hold on; don't give up your character. People who stand steady win with their faith. Tough times bring out the best in us; make us find ourselves.

There are extraordinary challenges that require rare ideal from in-depth of you. Idea counts! People who under-estimate their ideas never survive tough times. You have to start believing in yourself before you can win when others are losing.

Folks, life is fair, but with an unfair adventure. We enjoy life when there is no challenge; we even waste resources, something we might not also plan for the eventuality. Tough times will come that you and I can't run from; it is a tough insight that translates to tough triumph.

It is time to think out, that is, practically engaging every idea you've ever thought of in your mind. Only those who think out in tough times win after the tough days are over. Start thinking the alternative you've refused to think; start thinking about the opportunities you've refused to engage.

Tough times help build our thinking. Make us go deeper to see if we are responsible or not to our lives, society, and government.

One dangerous component in difficult times is that many sickly economic is unveil. Many unfit relationships will hit hard rock. Business not solidly built to last will be lost in transit. I have learned to see that hard times show us how to be decisive, predictive, and risk-takers, but in all, don't rush in joining multitude take decisions. Every painstaking measure requires mindful-decision.

When I see my wife share life lesson on our past days in summit and programs, I am always emotional. I was in the parlor busy with my research work this faithful day, and I heard my wife telling my son Isaac Jnr, have you ever ask yourself why your dad doesn't go out immediately, he returns from office. My son looks with anxiety; the boy replied no; he hardly goes out. She said, during tough times, I was the only thing he had; he finds happiness sharing his thought and plans with me, so he is always eager to come back home.

She said one of the things I hate about your dad is that he dislikes begging things even when the going is rough. He has people who he could quickly ask, but he won't and I most not either. You will hear him say, "wait until we get", "God is not sleeping", "It will work", Son, your father, has a belief system he nurtures. He's so positive in out, so you have to learn to be positive. People who

plan for the unforeseen win tough days positives. Be projective in your plan because 80% of the tough times experiences are unexpected occurrences that require your positivity.

Friend, another thing to note is that life situation naturally is unstable. People in business will tell you several challenges faced in business because of fluctuation. The Nigerian government will show you how bad the economy has been unstable because of oil price change. To a family man, ups and down in finance and expenditure is not news to life.

Folks, it takes a mild mind to win an unstable situation, so be calm. In 2008, I stayed in three different one-room apartments within three weeks. Not because I wanted such life but because I have no choice to live that life at that moment to survive. The only thing I had then was Gloria, a few clothes, two pots, four spoons, two buckets, one stove, and a second-hand red rug as the bed. So, I could pack what I had, including Gloria, at a go with excitement. We were happy then, yet life was unstable. We are more comfortable now because of God's mercy in overcoming each day.

You will never know what the future holds if you allow tough times to keep you down. You will never know the good your spouse possesses if you allow tough times makes you lose your spouse. It is time to think together, help each other, and win each day till the tough phase is over.

Early in my adventure in life, I have put to practical use the principle of the angle of elevation and depression taught in high school in which the observer line of insight will be either up, down or straight. Reason had been that the angle of elevation and depression denotes the angle from the horizontal upward and downward to an object. Many people have their insight upward regardless of the tough phase; they keep their heads up. Their faith operation is high, and they develop workable plans to win every day. To some, everything they see is downward. They allow circumstances around to depress them. These persons talk about depression; they live depression, and they sing depression. People who win tough moments take charge positively amid the negative situation. The last category of persons is people, who never believe they will escape the tough time, and they stay at the horizontal level; they are neither here or there. They are neither up or down, always wavering forgetting that no man can receive from the Lord asking in faith, wavering, *James 1:6-7*.

Folk's tough time is a litmus test, for putting measures were necessary before seeing a new dawn. Whatever you are passing through is a test you must pass. Family passes through a litmus test when having a delay in bearing children. Students pass the litmus test, trying to pass courses. The government goes through an economic test when the nation is facing pandemic. Therefore winning tough times means winning patience! Winning tough times means you are winning a character ahead of tough circumstances.

When it looks as if you should give up at every microsecond, think of the brighter future you've not seen that is surer than the price of pain you've paid. There are days of little beginning; this is the days of critical decision, in which you have to be mindful of your steps. You have to keep tabs on the happenings and how to handle them.

The ability to shift mindset within you and be creative in a critical situation is paramount to winning tough times. That is why we need a creative leader's in government to govern; we need a creative father to make family survive; we need a creative mother to be a good helpmate. We have to make our children see the reality of tough time even if they are not facing it. Shifting mindset means having an insight into what the future holds and preparing now for it.

Therefore, great insight is required to enjoy the best of life, even when things are tough! The advantage we have in tough times comes with a change mentality. You can't do what you use to do when things are better; now, you are to do it moderately. Sincerely, tough period helps us to see how responsible we are, how discipline we have been as an individual and nation.

I remember when I was collecting R1200 in South Africa an equivalent of N25, 000 in Nigeria. As a postgraduate student, from the money, I have to print the Ignite bulletin, feed on it, take transport and send home to my wife. I was enjoying the best of life in those tough days because of the best decision I have to make. With the understanding of my wife, I was careful of my spending, cut down all my expenses. Yet, with the little or not that I will give to her, she was so supportive, understanding, and always praying for me.

I have always known that "tough days never last forever." God's factor is the ultimate. If you have ever lost anything, thank God you have never lost your life.

For there is a hope of a tree if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that

the tender breach thereof will not cease.
Job 14:7-9

Folks, there is a brighter day ahead, keep keeping hope alive and pray always.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Isaac O. Fayomi is a renowned international motivational speaker, author, lecturer, and teacher. He is a life coach and leadership mentor. He is a passionate, purpose-driven, self-motivated and result-oriented natural leader.

Dr. Isaac obtained his Master's and Doctoral degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa. He is a senior and rated researcher and the President of IGNITE and DISCOVERY TODAY which has a network of vibrant conference and inspiration presentations. Dr. Fayomi had published over 300 publications in rated scientific journals apart from many weekly motivational and transformational materials by dint of hard work, commitment and dedication to vision such as: *Breaking New Grounds; It Begins from Insight; Cutting into God's Covenant; Blessedness of the Blessed; Matching to be Mighty; Turning into a Wonder; Steps for Surplus*; and many others.

His uniqueness covers total life issues with reference to scriptural concepts and life experiences to address the real challenges of life. He is a well-travelled inspirational/motivational speaker, a life worshipper and has shared podiums with many great leaders on issues of exploits in life and marriage. Isaac with dogged commitment to excellence has won several honors and awards both locally and internationally. He is married to Gloria, and they are blessed with two children, Isaac Jrn and Triumph.