

The SWOT Analysis of a Leader

*A Compilation Of The
LEAR Seminar.*

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Contents

The SWOT Analysis Of A Leader

What Then Is Leadership.

What Is The Strength Of A Leader?

The Opportunity Of A Leader

The Weakness And Threat Of A Leader



The SWOT Analysis Of A Leader

SWOT is an acronym for strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat therefore this discussion centres on the strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat analysis of a leader.

Everyone is a leader and a potential excellent leader. We are positioned to express excellent leadership. It is in our nature to lead. We were created to lead because the Creator made us in His own image and likeness which involves leadership.

If the Creator created all of us to lead, then who are the followers? Did He create some as leaders and some others as followers? This will lead us to explore on correcting some misconceptions about leadership.

Correcting Some Misconceptions About Leadership

1) ***Leadership is not lordship.*** It is not standing or sitting somewhere and then commanding some others to carry out a task. That is not leadership. There is a difference between a leader and a boss. Leadership is not about being bossy.

2) ***Do you notice that the Creator did not say that man should have dominion over other men.*** He rather said that man should have dominion over the animals, fishes, birds and everything on the earth.

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He never said that man should have dominion over other men. The Creator did not likewise give man dominion over the heavens, angels and all in heaven. Man was made the king or leader of the kingdom called earth and not of the kingdom called heaven. The domain of the rulership of man is the earth- '***king-domAIN***'. The authority of man in relation to angels, demons and the devil is beyond the scope of this discussion so I will not delve into that.



He did not even say that the male-man should have dominion over the female-man (woman). He did not for that was not His will.

The first book of the Bible chapter 3 and verse 16 says 'To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; ***Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.***"

'To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; ***Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.***"

Take note of the latter part of the verse as it was said that the desire of the woman shall be for her husband and her husband shall rule over her. This is obviously not a blessing. The fall of man twisted the leadership between a man and a woman and that has led to different problems because humans either male or female were wired to lead and not to rule over one another.

Leadership is therefore not the act of ruling over other men. When men rule over others, it leads to hatred, rebellion, strife among others. Why? Because a) the ruled try to put off the yoke of rulership since they are not wired to be ruled b) the ruler tries to keep his rule and this he does by manipulating the ruled, inflicting pain, creating fear, killing as the case may be

According to Myles Munroe, 'Leadership is the capacity to influence others through inspiration motivated by a passion, generated by a vision, produced by a conviction, ignited by a purpose'

3) *Leadership is not living big at the expense of others.*



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What Then Is Leadership.

According to Myles Munroe, 'Leadership is the capacity to influence others through inspiration motivated by a passion, generated by a vision, produced by a conviction, ignited by a purpose'.

The central theme in leadership is service that influences others without necessarily using force or manipulations in any form. Leadership is about serving others.

The greatest leader in the history of man is a man called Jesus. He walked the street of Jerusalem and other surrounding settlements with multitudes of followers- those who left all and followed Him. Do you get that? I mean they left their jobs, families, comfort to follow this man. They travelled days just to have contact with him.

The leadership this man, Jesus expressed was not rulership or leadership through coercion or manipulation but through service. He served the people and the people willingly followed Him. He said that He had not come that He may be served but that He may serve others. He taught His disciples same- the act of service when He washed their feet. He told them that anyone that wants to be leader should serve just as He washed their feet. Do you want to lead, then serve others.

'But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."'



Imagine a world in which all men serve.

Imagine a world in which all men put their skill to use to serve other humans.

Imagine a world in which we have a goal and vision to serve others with our uniqueness. This is the kind of world the Creator wanted in which all serves and therefore express leadership and no one rules over the other.

In the long run even if some others follow some men as they receive the services of these leaders, they likewise serve in turn in their own capacity and uniqueness.

WHAT IS THE STRENGTH OF A LEADER?

The strength of a leader lies in the following- Vision, passion, integrity, creativity, persistence, selflessness among others

There is no leader without a vision. Vision gives direction and purpose. Vision is the clear understanding of the future- it is act of knowing what you can do and what you need to do. It is the knowledge and understanding of what you were created to do on earth. It is the understanding of the reason for your uniqueness.

Jesus is a very good example of an excellent leader for He knows what He came to do on earth- vision. He was a man of vision. He knew exactly what He needed to do to serve others. You need to know your uniqueness and how to harness this to serve people. You need to know where exactly you are heading to .

Leadership And Management.

Let me quickly mention the difference between leadership and management. Leadership is having the knowledge of the end result while management is about how to achieve it.

For example, if you were at point A and you were supposed to move to point B, leadership gives the direction and management come into play on paving the way from point A to B. Imagine if there is no leadership, management can be busy paving a way from point A to point E for example. Though work is done here, it is in the wrong direction and farther from the right result. Hope you get that. Therefore, vision is indispensable when it comes to leadership



Leadership is having the knowledge of the end result while management is about how to achieve it.



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LEAR is an acronym for LEADERSHIP, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ACADEMICS AND RELATIONSHIP.

It's a WHATSAPP platform which comprises of youths both in Nigeria and abroad, where we build future leaders, as a means of contributing our quota in solving the challenges confronting the youths of this generation.

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**Convener,
Faleye Obasanjo Samuel.**



Two Creations

Someone said that all things were created twice- the first creation is in the mind and the second follows which is the physical creation. If you cannot create with your mind, then you can't create in the physical realm.

What we see around us were once upon a time in the minds of some men. A good example of this is when you want to build a house. First you create it in your mind and have it on paper and then this is followed through to have it on land or even on water as the case may be.

'Walt Disney died before Space Mountain was built, so he never saw it constructed. When Space Mountain was dedicated, the governor and the mayor were present, and Walt's widow was also there. One of the young men stood up to introduce her, and said, "It's a pity that Mr. Walt Disney is not here today to see this mountain, but we're glad his wife is here." Mrs. Disney walked up to the podium, looked at the crowd, and said, in effect, ***"I must correct this young man. Walt already saw the mountain. It is you who are just now seeing it."***' (The Principles And Power Of Vision By Myles Munroe).

Therefore, the strength of a leader lies in his vision. A man without vision is weak. Great leaders are men of vision. They are convinced of their vision. You give room to weakness if you do not have a clear vision as a leader.

Passion

Passion which is borne out of vision is another source of strength for a leader. When you are convinced of your vision, it gives rise to passion since you want to see your vision come to manifestation. You want the second creation therefore there is an energy in you that is at work to see this happen. That energy and doggedness is passion.

A good example is the United States President, John F. Kennedy who followed through on his vision to put the first man on the moon. History is dotted with men of vision who drew strength from this tremendous force, passion.

The force of passion is greater than that of death. Death cannot stop the force of passion. Of course, Jesus is an example of a leader with passion. Are you passionate about your vision for passion is strength.

Integrity

Other sources of strength for a leader include integrity, creativity, persistence, accountability and diligence among others. I wish I could take each one after the other but I cannot because of my time but let me just mention a thing concerning integrity. First of all, you need to have integrity to yourself. If you promise yourself to do something, you should be disciplined enough to do it- that is integrity to yourself.

If for example, you decided to read a book. Integrity to yourself says you should even if you are not accountable to anyone on this- at least you should be accountable to yourself.

Integrity is first to yourself before it flows to others.



THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LEADER

When opportunity meets preparedness, it gives a tremendous and excellent result.

Edwin C. Barnes has a vision to work with and not for Thomas Edison. He has a vision which defies every odd and inconvenience until he saw the opportunity while others saw an impossible endeavor.

Opportunity is said to have a sly habit of slipping in by the back door and often it comes disguised in the form misfortune or temporary defeat. It is only the prepared that see it and take advantage of it. Perhaps this is why so many fail to recognize opportunities. (Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill)

Are you wasting or seeing opportunities?

Three feet away from Gold

R.U Darby and his uncle missed a treasure of gold when they gave up digging 3 feet to it. They did not know it was just 3 feet more to dig and plunge into a treasure that will change their lives. They gave up at the brink of a breakthrough. Don't give up rather be persistent for your opportunity is just 3 feet away.

When opportunity meets preparedness, it gives a tremendous and excellent result.



THE TIME MANAGEMENT MATRIX

	Urgent	Not Urgent
Important	I ACTIVITIES: Crises Pressing problems Deadline-driven projects	II ACTIVITIES: Prevention, PC activities Relationship building Recognizing new opportunities Planning, recreation
Not Important	III ACTIVITIES: Interruptions, some calls Some mail, some reports Some meetings Proximate, pressing matters Popular activities	IV ACTIVITIES: Trivia, busy work Some mail Some phone calls Time wasters Pleasant activities

Time Management Matrix

Lastly on the opportunity of a leader, may I introduce to you the time management matrix. You can read more about this. Try to stay in the important and non-urgent quadrant (quadrant II) and you will create opportunities for yourself.

THE WEAKNESS AND THREAT OF A LEADER

The strength of a leader lies in the following- Vision, passion, integrity, creativity, persistence, selflessness among others

In addressing the weakness and threat of a leader, you need to form some habits to be able to handle these properly. Though we have mentioned some solutions to the weakness and threat of a leader through our previous discussion. If you follow what I have mentioned previously, it will help a lot. However I will like to mention three habits of effective people which help turn weakness and threat to strength.

Three habits to handle weakness and threat

1) Being proactive and not reactive.
This has to do with responding to a stimulus proactively and not reactively. If someone says I hate you for example, how do you response- reactively or proactively. You choose your response.

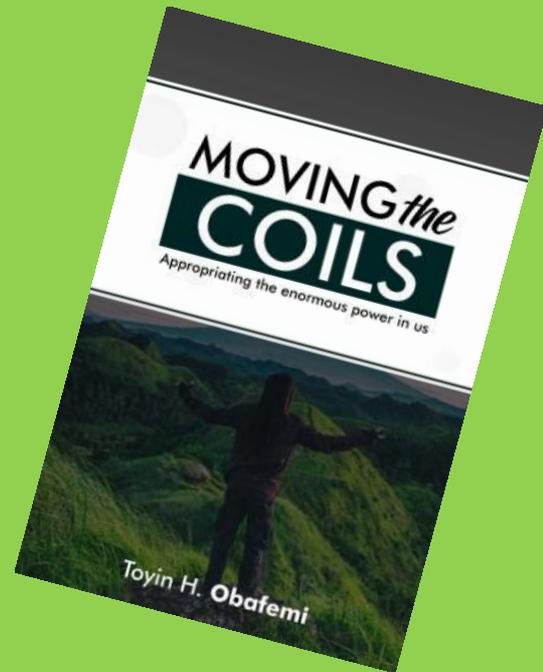
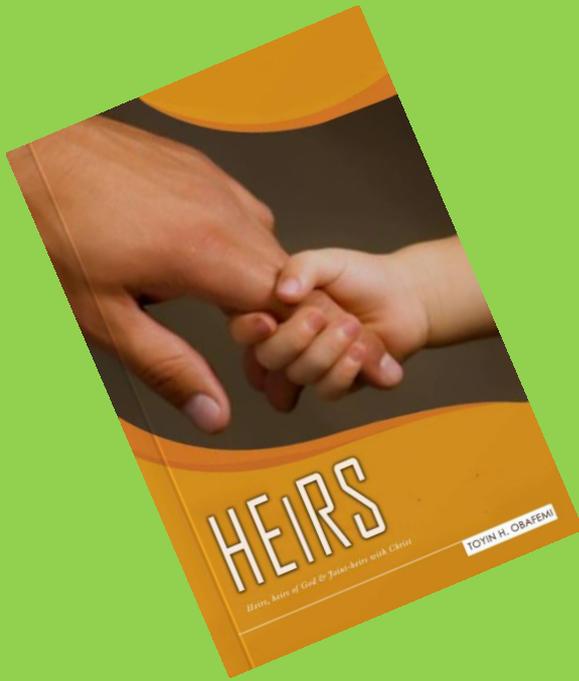
Jesus always respond to stimulus proactively and not reactively and this helped with any form of weakness and threat.

2) See the end of a thing before starting out. This is in line with vision

3) Do first things first. Have a priority for all you do



Jesus always respond to stimulus proactively and not reactively and this helped with any form of weakness and threat.



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Brief Profile

Toyin Obafemi is a dynamic leader with a passion for harnessing quality thoughts for a better life and impact. This is seen as he has held different leadership role with landmarks.

He doubles as a writer and publisher as his books are globally distributed. Among his works are **The Righteous Lot; Heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ; Jesus' Birth, the essence of His birth; Moving the Coils, appropriating the enormous power in us and The Pneuma Devotional.**

He is diligent, creative with a good interpersonal relationship and follows through on projects as He is not deterred by seeming obstacles. He is organized, proactive and has the habit of beginning a thing with the end in mind.

With his leadership and project management skills, He has organized virtual and workshop-styled training on book publishing and production of educational videos on various occasions. He has also coordinated website development projects.

Toyin Obafemi is a medical doctor and serves presently as a Youth Pastor in the Redeemed Christian Church of God. He is happily married to Temitope and blessed with a son, Oreofe Beloved.