

This Book Is Not For Sale

THE GOD-SIZE VOID

Bolu Onasanya

This Book Is Not For Sale

THE GOD-SIZE VOID

by

Bolu Onasanya

To everyone (especially the youths) who think there's more to life, yet feel empty – this one's for you!

Dedication

Contents

Introduction

A. Thoughts of King Solomon

1. Vanity
2. Good & Bad
3. The Fear
4. Solemn Conclusion

B. Hole in the Soul

5. What you are
6. Solely the Soul
7. The Missing Link

C. How God Fits

8. The Creator
9. The Perfection
10. The Spirit

Conclusion

Credits

Acknowledgements

Copyright

About the Author

Meet the Author

Introduction

I took some time to think of the best start for this book, I got a few cool ideas but they didn't match the crescendo I'm hoping to take you with this piece. So I decided to write the first part of this book (introduction) last – the irony of life. After a lazy and short-lived brainstorming session, I picked up my phone and contacted my second best friend – Google Search. The first story I came across not only touched me (well, I'm easily touched) but pointed out the purpose, essence and importance of this book. Now I know better, that people are in dear need of the knowledge contained in this book.

Here's the story:

“I have too many feelings sometimes. My life is empty, my heart is empty... I feel emptiness in my life... always searching for that emotion that I just can't find, perhaps a connection with a person that's just never there. Sometimes the emptiness gets so bad that it becomes a physical pain, and no way to stop the hurting, and for days straight there is no way to get past the hurt, the anger, the need for more than life has offered, and knowing there is nothing that will change. Some days are better than the others... every day is another day of emptiness and loneliness, alone or with others”

That story was quite fascinating when I read it because I had just compiled the solutions to that individual's problem in this book. I was excited about that until I scrolled down the page to view the comments to this post. The comments I saw totally nailed it for me. I'd share a few of them with you.

Here are the comments:

"Deep breath, you took the words right out of my mouth. Couldn't have put it better myself"

"Same with me... I don't know what it is; I just need that bit to satisfy those desires... I have tried going out with friends but end up spending money without having actually gotten anything in return other than emptiness and anger. I've also gone to party but I have no fun if there's not girl I can spend the night with. I look everywhere to try and find that which can substitute the love and care of a partner but there seem to be nothing... this has gone on for quite a while now, and its getting more and more serious..."

"I have felt exactly the same for most of my life... it feels like I have way more bad luck, than good, and so its hard to motivate myself... I've always felt like I have greater purpose in life, but just can't figure it out. I guess until then I will continue to feel hollow..."

There is a void that man feels, an emptiness deep inside the soul. You may be able to relate to the above confession/story; if not totally, may be a line of it, at the least. The question is, are you sincere enough to admit there's a void? Everyone has their own level of emptiness felt; what is your story?

You were born with a void – a void you've been trying to fill all your life, whether you know it or not. You work, play, rest and also worship, tirelessly hoping that one or all of these would fill that void or emptiness, yet it seems all the same – vain!

You probably hoped or thought money would quench that emptiness you feel – since money answers to most of your needs. Then you hustled and got yourself some good cash; spent it well, yet you're back at one. So you get back to work, you even work harder and probably add another job, hoping to get more money, should in case the money you got earlier was just not enough to fill that void.

Where you missed it was thinking the void exists as a result of your needs – whatsoever, and this is not so. If you've ever felt joy even when quite a handful of your needs are not met yet, then you'd understand that your needs don't bring emptiness. In fact, some of your needs are mostly as a result of your emptiness. This piece has an exposition of the thoughts and life of the ancient King Solomon, who was considered the wisest man on earth – some still consider him as that.

Part A

Thoughts of King Solomon

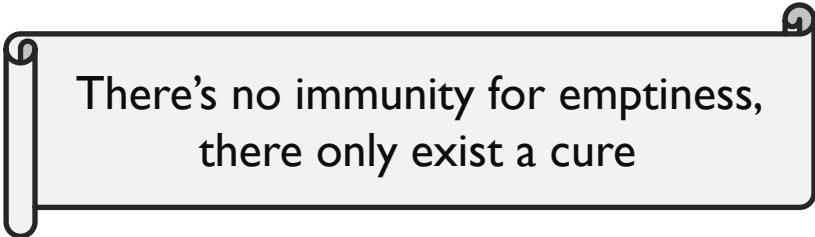


The subject ‘emptiness’ might be considered as a syndrome that has eaten into the lifestyle of the middle class and lower class of every population but this is not totally true. The feeling of emptiness or ‘void’ cuts across different races, societal class, age, sex, even religious beliefs. There’s no immunity for it. A classic example is that of the ancient and famous King of Israel who is well known for his incomparable wisdom and wealth – he also had his way with women – in fact, that in particular excites me, he was the don of women. That’s huge – being married to three hundred woman and still flirting with seven hundred other women takes a lot of wisdom and wealth – trust me.

I took time to do a quick research on the thoughts of unarguably one of the greatest Kings the world has ever known, King Solomon, whose wealth and wisdom endeared me to him – especially his wealth. He is arguably the richest man that has ever lived; now that’s what excites me – I totally love the sound of that and I bet you do too.

King Solomon, king of ancient Israel (from way back), was the second son of King David (who I think needs no introduction). In some Jewish and Muslim literature, it appears King Solomon was not only the wisest of sages but also had the power to control the spirits of the invisible world – I don’t know a thing about this but I just thought to share it still. King Solomon was the builder of the Temple.

I also discovered some of the writings of King Solomon. These are the biblical Proverbs, the Songs of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, the Wisdom of Solomon, and the later Psalms of Solomon and Odes of Solomon – the last three writings are totally strange to me too (I'm assuming its strange to you) but I'd be focusing on the third writing – Ecclesiastes – there he shared his thoughts about life here on earth.



There's no immunity for emptiness,
there only exist a cure

King Solomon could pass for a standard of the best life on earth – though this is relative. This is because he had everything he wanted. He was so rich that he had everything you could have imagined, even at that age. He would wake up with a genuine smile and go back to sleep still smiling – he had everything you are searching for now. He probably had an iPad too.

With all these, King Solomon had a very different and seemingly odd perception about life. This bothers me a lot. Come on, lets explore his thoughts about life.

I Vanity

In this chapter, I'd be juggling between the thoughts of King Solomon and mine – for me, it's a good way to associate with King Solomon's grandeur; I love to associate with good things.

King Solomon: Vapor, nothing but vapor. There's nothing to anything - it's all vapor. What's there to show for a lifetime of work, a lifetime of working your fingers to the bone?

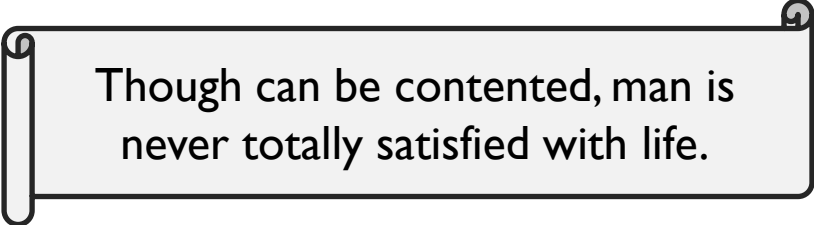
Me: Wait a second! Seriously? Why would Solomon even ask that? His legacies and words are still relevant; so, of what does he speak?

King Solomon: One generation goes its way, the next one arrives, but nothing changes - it's business as usual for old planet earth. The sun comes up and the sun goes down, then does it again, and again - the same old round. The wind blows south, the wind blows north. Around and around and around it blows, blowing this way, then that - the whirling, erratic wind. All the rivers flow into the sea, but the sea never fills up. The rivers keep flowing to the same old place, and then start all over and do it again.

Me: Now that! Totally thoughtful and true. The seas never overflow; so are the needs and cravings of man – we are only contented, never totally satisfied wanting nothing more from life.

King Solomon: Everything's boring, utterly boring - no one can find any meaning in it. Boring to the eye, boring to the ear. What was will be again, what happened will happen again. There's nothing new on this earth. Year after year it's the same old thing. Does someone call out, "Hey, this is new"? Don't get excited - it's the same old story. Nobody remembers what happened yesterday. And the things that will happen tomorrow? Nobody will remember them either. Don't count on being remembered.

Me: But how can these things be? There's really nothing new? Probably why we have inventions rather than creations. I can't agree less that a stereotype is boring.



Though man can be contented, man is never totally satisfied with life.

King Solomon: I looked most carefully into everything, searched out all that is done on this earth. And let me tell you, there's not much to write home about. God hasn't made it easy for us. I've seen it all and it's nothing but vapor and spitting into the wind. Life's a corkscrew that can't be straightened, A minus that won't add up. I said to myself, "I know more and I'm wiser than anyone before me in Jerusalem. I've stockpiled wisdom and knowledge." What I've finally concluded is that so-called wisdom and knowledge are mindless and witless - nothing but spitting into the wind. Much learning earns you much trouble. The more you know, the more you hurt.

Me: Its amazing how many would read this piece by King Solomon, probably hiss and say under their breath, “He only said that because he was rich, I’d rather be as rich and then say that too”. Its incredible how we chose not to learn from experienced people, just so that we can experience whatever there is to experience. I can imagine someone wanting to be just as rich as Solomon just to feel that void that Solomon felt – its just an imagination that could be true. We rather suffer on familiar grounds than escape through a path that is scarcely treaded. I have come to understand King Solomon’s point of view about life – its vain.

King Solomon realized that everything we have on this earth stays here – relationships, wealth, debts, good health, enemies, disabilities – everything your physical body can relate with; everything stays. You’d infer from this that there’s something more to life than what we experience here on earth.

It seems King Solomon in his wisdom has realized that the time we spend on this earth is so short that its vain to get tied up with material things. At the end of the day, how does it matter in the real life that exists after this prototype, short-termed, earthly life that you and I are currently experiencing.

Now the question is what then should we do in this life? Well, this life is a prototype of another much longer life that comes after we die. In the next chapter, we’d explore King Solomon’s thoughts about our ways of life – the good and bad.

2

Good & Bad

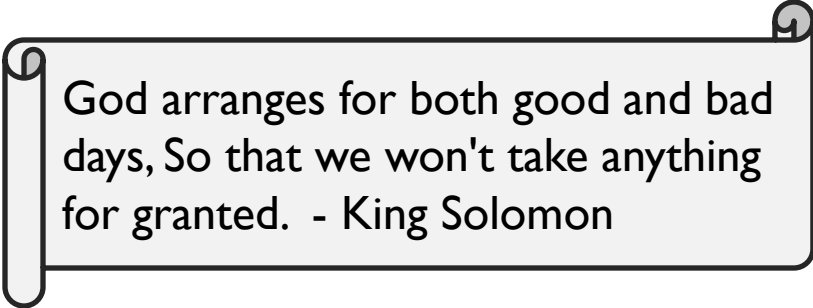
Good and bad may seem as opposites but King Solomon has an interesting (though somehow different) point of view as regards these subjects. On the long run, it's what matters to us that we're overwhelmed by. King Solomon does not seem to be overwhelmed by anything – he had seen all and nothing seemed to excite him any longer.

This kind of feeling is not what any man would want to experience. We all crave to be excited, overwhelmed, shocked or surprised and/or dazzled by life – it's the dream of every man.

In this chapter, King Solomon's thoughts would seem conflicting as he illuminates the concept of good and evil/bad; wisdom and folly. He seemed to believe it's vague and unfair to be totally good or totally bad; he preferred a mix of both. I would like to think King Solomon would sell as a very good DJ in this age, it appears he had his groove on, with a good mix.

I do not totally agree with this certain wise man on this subject – I'd be sharing my thoughts later in this book - even though I understand King Solomon's point of view. I believe there's something he didn't know that I know now, hence his thoughts and my perceptions.

King Solomon: A good reputation is better than a fat bank account. Your death date tells more than your birth date. You learn more at a funeral than at a feast - After all, that's where we'll end up. We might discover something from it.



God arranges for both good and bad days, So that we won't take anything for granted. - King Solomon

Crying is better than laughing. It blotches the face but it scours the heart. Sages invest themselves in hurt and grieving. Fools waste their lives in fun and games. You'll get more from the rebuke of a sage than from the song and dance of fools. Endings are better than beginnings. Sticking to it is better than standing out.

Don't be quick to fly off the handle. Anger boomerangs. You can spot a fool by the lumps on his head. Don't always be asking, "Where are the good old days?" Wise folks don't ask questions like that. Wisdom is better when it's paired with money, Especially if you get both while you're still living.

Me: Oh well! Now Solomon hits it hard. Could this be the missing link? Can the combination of wisdom and money save the world from the feeling of emptiness? The best seller book 'The Purpose-Driven Life' by Rick Warren exposed some truths about life and why we are all here on earth. He attributed the reason of our existence to a specific purpose of which we were all made – this purpose is person specific.

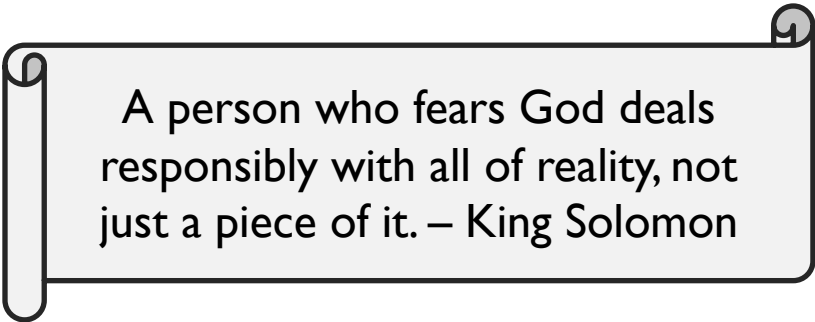
This got me wondering whether God's purpose for one's life can quench that feeling of emptiness. Apparently, it can't be money and wisdom – King Solomon had that and called it all vanity.



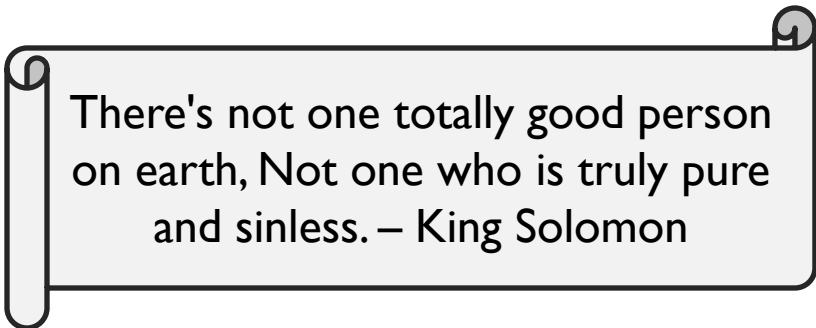
Wisdom is better when it's paired
with money – King Solomon

King Solomon: Double protection: wisdom and wealth! Plus this bonus: Wisdom energizes its owner. Take a good look at God's work. Who could simplify and reduce Creation's curves and angles To a plain straight line? On a good day, enjoy yourself; On a bad day, examine your conscience. God arranges for both kinds of days So that we won't take anything for granted.

Me; This exposition is candid. King Solomon has acknowledges God as the being in charge of all the affairs of men. Taking an x-ray look into Solomon's perspective, you'd see that his relationship with God seems distant. He acknowledges God as a supreme being that is incomparable and undeniable. In fact, his picture of God is that being that rules in the affairs of men and determines what happens at the end of the day.



A person who fears God deals
responsibly with all of reality, not
just a piece of it. – King Solomon



There's not one totally good person
on earth, Not one who is truly pure
and sinless. – King Solomon

King Solomon: I've seen it all in my brief and pointless life - here a good person cut down in the middle of doing good, there a bad person living a long life of sheer evil. So don't knock yourself out being good, and don't go overboard being wise. Believe me, you won't get anything out of it.

Me: I giggled a bit when I first read that (in the Bible). It appears to have come out of a steaming and brutally dealt with mind. Since King Solomon had no record of war or grievance, I'll assume he thought that out of an overflow of memories of those around him – whether Israelite or not. Now if I may ask, which would you rather choose, a short life of being good or a long life of being bad? I hope you chose a good short life and figured what you'd get out of it: truthfully, there's a lot you can get out of being good, in this life or the next.

King Solomon: But don't press your luck by being bad, either. And don't be reckless. Why die needlessly? It's best to stay in touch with both sides of an issue. A person who fears God deals responsibly with all of reality, not just a piece of it. Wisdom puts more strength in one wise person than ten strong men give to a city. There's not one totally good person on earth, Not one who is truly pure and sinless.

Don't eavesdrop on the conversation of others. What if the gossip's about you and you'd rather not hear it? You've done that a few times, haven't you--said things Behind someone's back you wouldn't say to his face? I tested everything in my search for wisdom. I set out to be wise, but it was beyond me, far beyond me, and deep - oh so deep! Does anyone ever find it? I concentrated with all my might, studying and exploring and seeking wisdom - the meaning of life. I also wanted to identify evil and stupidity, foolishness and craziness.

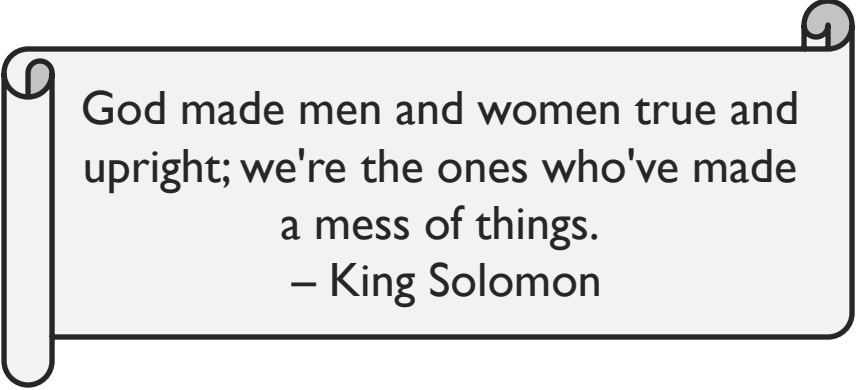
Me: First, King Solomon talks about concentration: the first thing that popped up in my mind was yoga. Did King Solomon actual practice yoga too? He must have been a Mafia Lord! For all I care, there's certainly nothing new under the sun. Not long after I read that, I found out the wisdom that King Solomon spoke of here. "Have you ever come on anything quite like this extravagant generosity of God, this deep, deep wisdom? It's way over our heads. We'll never figure it out." (see Rom 11:33) , hence King Solomon may have been wrong - here's an answer to that school of thought: True wisdom is in God.

Don't fool yourself. Don't think that you can be wise merely by being up-to-date with the times. Be God's fool - that's the path to true wisdom. What the world calls smart, God calls stupid. It's written in Scripture, He exposes the chicanery of the chic. The Master sees through the smoke screens of the know-it-alls. - 1 Cor 3:18-20

King Solomon: But the wisdom I've looked for I haven't found. I didn't find one man or woman in a thousand worth my while.

Yet I did spot one ray of light in this murk: God made men and women true and upright; we're the ones who've made a mess of things.

Me: This resolution is the truth. God has made all things perfect – He made all things beautiful in its time yet we want to re-make things. God made wisdom, then we re-make wisdom – man can never attain God's premise without plying the path of God. Our efforts to reach a God-standard will always be futile as long we use our efforts to re-create the world and its systems.



God made men and women true and upright; we're the ones who've made a mess of things.
– King Solomon

The emptiness man feels is as a result of a disconnection from he's source. This is usually a result of man trying to take charge and assume control of all things – you want to control your life, relationships and all, on your own. There is absolutely no problem with being in control but you cannot do it on your own without a feeling of emptiness. You were made by a maker who wants to be in synergy and synchrony with you. That was the original plan. And like King Solomon just pointed out, we want otherwise and so we mess it all up.

3

The Fear

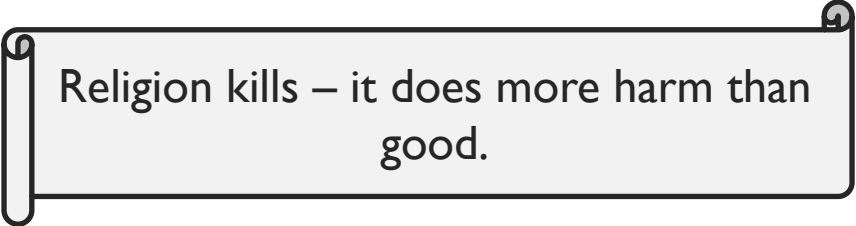
Now King Solomon starts to streamline his thoughts. He had earlier compared good with evil/bad. He explores the possibility of living a well deserved life, a life devoid of the seeming emptiness of man. Here, he starts to present his surrender on the subjects of good and bad – interestingly, his new perspective was framed by the thoughts of God’s supremacy.

King Solomon: Watch your step when you enter God's house. Enter to learn. That's far better than mindlessly offering a sacrifice, Doing more harm than good.

Me: ‘Watch your step’ could possibly mean ‘understand your intentions’. This presents like King Solomon’s stand against religion. He points out that offering a sacrifice – performing a religious duty – in a somewhat mindless and stereotypical manner results in more harm than good. Religion kills – it does more harm than good. It is amazing how some people kill or destroy other people in the name of religion/God. Religion has brought war and tumult on earth. This is because most people perform an act of worship mindlessly – without deep thinking.

King Solomon: Don't shoot off your mouth, or speak before you think. Don't be too quick to tell God what you think he wants to hear. God's in charge, not you--the less you speak, the better.

Over-work makes for restless sleep. Over-talk shows you up as a fool. When you tell God you'll do something, do it--now. God takes no pleasure in foolish gabble. Vow it, then do it. Far better not to vow in the first place than to vow and not pay up. Don't let your mouth make a total sinner of you. When called to account, you won't get by with "Sorry, I didn't mean it." Why risk provoking God to angry retaliation? But against all illusion and fantasy and empty talk There's always this rock foundation: Fear God!



Religion kills – it does more harm than good.

Me: I believe King Solomon just pointed out the secret of his greatness – he fears God. He believed the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (see Prov. 9:10). Don't mess things up for yourself. Fear God. God is the most supreme being in the universe (and whatever is bigger than the universe). The fear of God is only a show of common sense – well, that's where I think wisdom begins.

King Solomon: Don't be too upset when you see the poor kicked around, and justice and right violated all over the place. Exploitation filters down from one petty official to another. There's no end to it, and nothing can be done about it. But the good earth doesn't cheat anyone--even a bad king is honestly served by a field. The one who loves money is never satisfied with money, Nor the one who loves wealth with big profits. More smoke. The more loot you get, the more looters show up. And what fun is that - to be robbed in broad daylight?

Hard and honest work earns a good night's sleep, Whether supper is beans or steak. But a rich man's belly gives him insomnia. Here's a piece of bad luck I've seen happen: A man hoards far more wealth than is good for him and then loses it all in a bad business deal. He fathered a child but hasn't a cent left to give him.

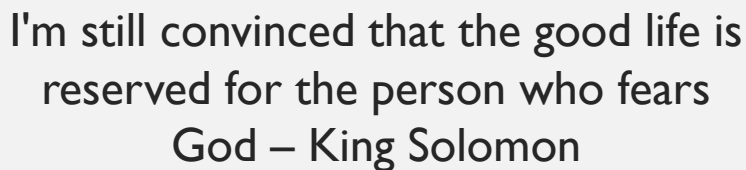
He arrived naked from the womb of his mother; He'll leave in the same condition - with nothing. This is bad luck, for sure - naked he came, naked he went. So what was the point of working for a salary of smoke? All for a miserable life spent in the dark?

After looking at the way things are on this earth, here's what I've decided is the best way to live: Take care of yourself, have a good time, and make the most of whatever job you have for as long as God gives you life. And that's about it. That's the human lot.

Yes, we should make the most of what God gives, both the bounty and the capacity to enjoy it, accepting what's given and delighting in the work. It's God's gift! God deals out joy in the present, the now. It's useless to brood over how long we might live.

Me: Here, King Solomon resolved that living a good life or being good in life is the real deal. He had seen the good and the bad people live and die and in his wisdom has thought it pertinent to live good. He also emphasizes using well whatever gift God has given you. If you seek relevance, your gift will make room for you; all in the context of the fear of God. The fear of God does not fill up the void you feel in your soul but it's certainly a good foundation for what would fill the void.

King Solomon: One time I saw wicked men given a solemn burial in holy ground. When the people returned to the city, they delivered flowery eulogies - and in the very place where wicked acts were done by those very men! More smoke. Indeed. Because the sentence against evil deeds is so long in coming, people in general think they can get by with murder.



I'm still convinced that the good life is reserved for the person who fears God – King Solomon

Even though a person sins and gets by with it hundreds of times throughout a long life, I'm still convinced that the good life is reserved for the person who fears God, who lives reverently in his presence, and that the evil person will not experience a "good" life. No matter how many days he lives, they'll all be as flat and colourless as a shadow - because he doesn't fear God.

4

Solomon's Conclusion

Exploring the thoughts of King Solomon concerning life and the void we feel has been exciting. He had stated that all was vanity and compared it with vapour or smoke. Then he spelled out his thoughts about good and bad, stating we all should have a mix of both. He contradicted this point by advising that we should have the fear of God. He concluded that we should all do good, fearing God.

Now here is the summary of it all – King Solomon ends with this.

King Solomon: I'm all for just going ahead and having a good time - the best possible. The only earthly good men and women can look forward to is to eat and drink well and have a good time - compensation for the struggle for survival these few years God gives us on earth.

When I determined to load up on wisdom and examine everything taking place on earth, I realized that if you keep your eyes open day and night without even blinking, you'll still never figure out the meaning of what God is doing on this earth. Search as hard as you like, you're not going to make sense of it. No matter how smart you are, you won't get to the bottom of it.

Me: That right there is my gift to philosophers and their likes - those who think they can define God and figure out what God is about... Good luck with that.

King Solomon: Well, I took all this in and thought it through, inside and out. Here's what I understood: The good, the wise, and all that they do are in God's hands--but, day by day, whether it's love or hate they're dealing with, they don't know. Anything's possible. It's one fate for everybody - righteous and wicked, good people, bad people, the nice and the nasty, worshipers and non-worshipers, committed and uncommitted. I find this outrageous - the worst thing about living on this earth - that everyone's lumped together in one fate. Is it any wonder that so many people are obsessed with evil? Is it any wonder that people go crazy right and left? Life leads to death. That's it.

Still, anyone selected out for life has hope, for, as they say, "A living dog is better than a dead lion." The living at least know something, even if it's only that they're going to die. But the dead know nothing and get nothing. They're a minus that no one remembers. Their loves, their hates, yes, even their dreams, are long gone. There's not a trace of them left in the affairs of this earth. Seize life! Eat bread with gusto, Drink wine with a robust heart. Oh yes - God takes pleasure in your pleasure! Dress festively every morning. Don't skimp on colours and scarves. Relish life with the spouse you love each and every day of your precarious life (hey! That's if you've got a spouse!). Each day is God's gift. It's all you get in exchange For the hard work of staying alive. Make the most of each one!

Whatever turns up, grab it and do it. And heartily! This is your last and only chance at it, For there's neither work to do nor thoughts to think In the company of the dead, where you're most certainly headed.

I took another walk around the neighbourhood and realized that on this earth as it is - The race is not always to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor satisfaction to the wise, Nor riches to the smart, Nor grace to the learned... One day as I was observing how wisdom fares on this earth, I saw something that made me sit up and take notice. There was a small town with only a few people in it. A strong king came and mounted an attack, building trenches and attack posts around it. There was a poor but wise man in that town whose wisdom saved the town, but he was promptly forgotten. (He was only a poor man, after all.) All the same, I still say that wisdom is better than muscle, even though the wise poor man was treated with contempt and soon forgotten. The quiet words of the wise are more effective Than the ranting of a king of fools. Wisdom is better than warheads, But one hothead can ruin the good earth.



wisdom is better than muscle

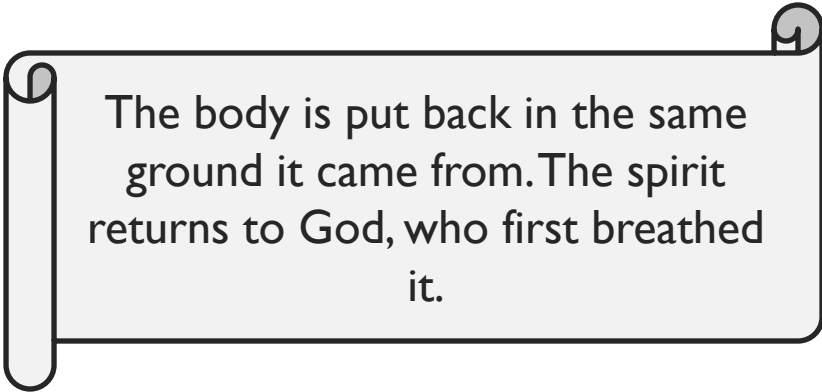
Me: Selah

King Solomon: Honour and enjoy your Creator while you're still young, Before the years take their toll and your vigour wanes, before your vision dims and the world blurs and the winter years keep you close to the fire. In old age, your body no longer serves you so well. Muscles slacken, grip weakens, joints stiffen. The shades are pulled down on the world. You can't come and go at will. Things grind to a halt. The hum of the household fades away. You are wakened now by bird-song.

Hikes to the mountains are a thing of the past. Even a stroll down the road has its terrors. Your hair turns apple-blossom white, adorning a fragile and impotent matchstick body. Yes, you're well on your way to eternal rest, while your friends make plans for your funeral.

Life, lovely while it lasts, is soon over. Life as we know it, precious and beautiful, ends. The body is put back in the same ground it came from. The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it.

The last and final word is this: Fear God. Do what he tells you. And that's it. Eventually God will bring everything that we do out into the open and judge it according to its hidden intent, whether it's good or evil.



The body is put back in the same
ground it came from. The spirit
returns to God, who first breathed
it.

Me: Here, King Solomon blatantly put it in our faces with that start – ‘honour and enjoy your creator’. Have you ever thought of how you could enjoy your creator? We usually wonder on how we can please or impress our creator rather than enjoy our creator.

Truthful, you can only enjoy what you have a good, working relationship with or a good feeling for.

Why would a wise man who earlier stated that all men should fear God suddenly talk about enjoying the same God that should be feared.

King Solomon must have had an interesting experience with God, especially when he was in his youth. He became King of Israel in his youth and he had a good start with ruling the Israelites. God loved Solomon so much that He honoured him with a peaceful reign and also presented him with an open cheque. Solomon who could have asked for wealth or long life, instead he asked for an understanding heart to rule the kingdom fairly – what a selfless request. God dazzled at his request and gave him much more than he had asked for.

King Solomon takes us back to his source – back to the legacy he had set, the price he had paid in his youth – fearing, honouring and enjoying his creator. A noble path we all should tread in.

Part B

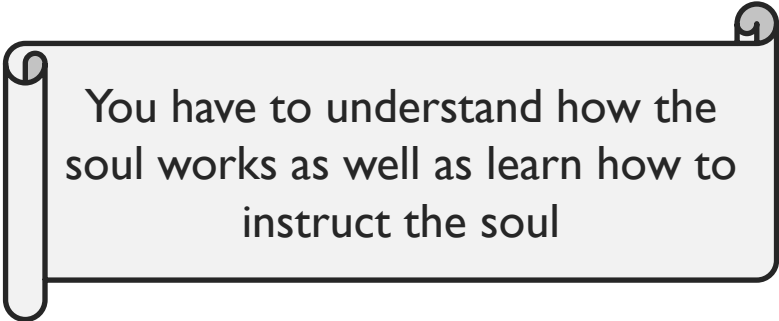
Hole in the Soul



You're in for an amazing time in this part of this book because the subject of the soul is one of my favorites. I could talk about it for hours without blinking an eye – that's not true, but I really do enjoy the subject of the soul.

Here I would enlighten you on how the soul works although I would not take you through the depth and height of this subject – I would only give you a peripheral knowledge.

Not many people have learnt the art of using (instructing) the soul. Many people do not have control over their souls. You have to understand how the soul works as well as learn how to instruct the soul – thence will you be able to adequately use whatever knowledge I pass across in this book on how you can fill up that void or emptiness you feel in your soul.



You have to understand how the soul works as well as learn how to instruct the soul

There is a general misconception of the what the soul really is. The soul is a tool – a tool you should use to be or do whatever you were made to be or do. How do you differentiate your soul from the real you? Who really are you? Let's take a trip into 'identity island', where you'd find out who you really are. Keep your mind open! You might be shocked at how simple this complexity is. Doesn't sound simple? I thought so too.

5

What You Are

Mirrors don't deceive – no matter what kind of mirror it is. Still, you are not just what you see whenever you look into a mirror (whether the mirror is broken or not), there's a lot more to you than what meets the eye. In fact, the mirror reveals the least description of you.

First, you are a Spirit. Yes! You are a Spirit – the mirror would certainly not show you that. In the gospels of John, Jesus emphatically stated that God is Spirit... (see John 4:24). If God truly made man like Himself (see Gen 1:26), wouldn't you rather think that God first made a Spirit, since He is a Spirit? I believe before God made heaven and earth during the six-day creation, He already had you and I in Him. All He did was mould some clay – in His image – and then He breathe Adam's Spirit out, right into the moulded clay and that Spirit brought life to the clay.

Spirits carry life. That's why if a Spirit leaves a body, that body dies. A man's soul does not carry life, only the Spirit does. You are a Spirit and that Spirit contains a quenchable, timed material (life) that activates another earthly material, made of clay (body). The fusion of these two gives the Spirit (you) an exclusive ability to exist on the planet earth for a short period of time.

The earth experience is the first activity a Spirit would carry out. The Spirit is birthed into this compulsory earth experience where its supposed to learn how to live and exist as a Spirit – not as an earthly being.

The Spirit of man is the most powerful creation of God – it's a replica of God. It has unimaginable powers such that only one spirit can transform an entire planet in any sphere. God realized the most dangerous thing to do is let these Spirits exist without being trained, so he sent them to planet earth and confined them to a clay material called body. This body limits them. Over a short period of time, they learn how and when to use some of the powers they have – these powers are innate – every Spirit have them.

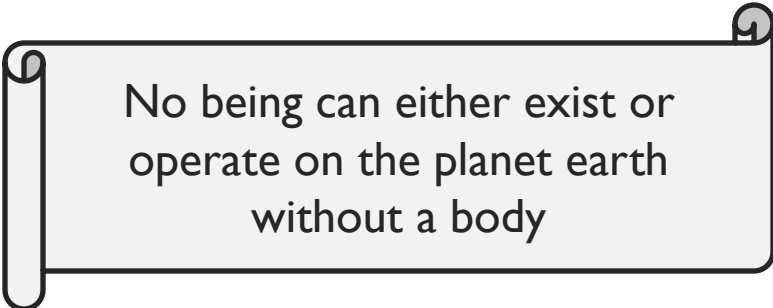
The Spirit of man is the most powerful creation of God – it's a replica of God.

If a Spirit loses its identity while on planet earth, it'd suffer a permanent disconnection from its source

If a Spirit loses its identity while on planet earth, it'd suffer a permanent disconnection from its source, when his life (the material in its Spirit) expires – so while on planet earth, other Spirits help the 'lost' Spirits find their identities back since they all have to return to where they came from – they look out for each other.

If you understand this analogy, then you have a quite dramatic idea of who you are. You are a Spirit from God birthed into this world for an internship that only lasts for a short time – lifetime. I intentionally didn't mention how you lose identity or that crazy enemy we all have – the devil – he has absolutely no love for us. He takes advantage of the emptiness man feels: you'd understand this by the time you finish this book.

Man – like God – is a tripartite being. You are a Spirit and you have a soul – both Spirit and soul exists (in this physical realm) in a body. The body serves as a covering as well as a physical representation of you on this planet. No being can either exist or operate on the planet earth without a body – not even God, angels or demons can operate without a body. This is why a few people are possessed by demons; they (the people) serve as a vessel or medium through which these demons operate on this planet.



No being can either exist or
operate on the planet earth
without a body

In essence, you and I are Spirits and we require a body to exist on this planet. But the soul, that is the engine room of a man. None can function (as opposed to existence) without a soul. Your soul is what controls your body. Remember your body is only a covering, your body cannot control itself – a body without a Spirit and a soul is dead. The soul is the control room or the medium through which you (the Spirit) controls your body.

6

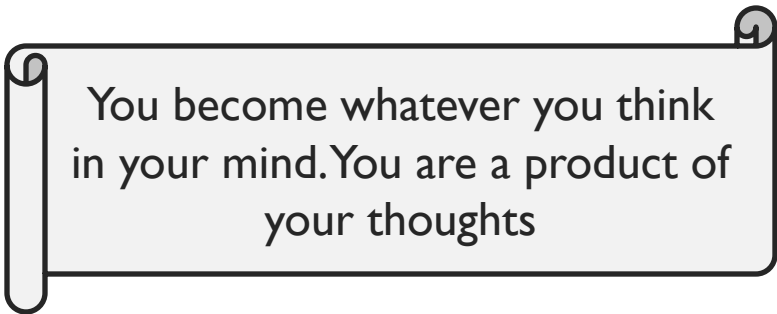
Solely the Soul

The void that man feels, he feels in his soul. Here, I'd take you through a journey into the soul and show you a skeletal view of how the soul works.

The soul comprises of the mind, will and emotions.

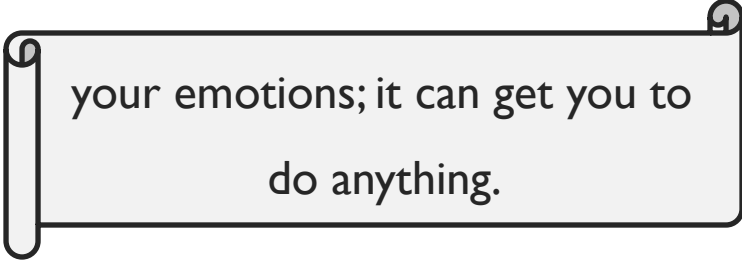
What goes on in your life here on earth is totally dependent on the activities of the soul. You become whatever you think in your mind. You are a product of your thoughts: even your physical appearance is an expression of what's in your mind. The soul of a man is his most important tool – if you lose your soul, you lose yourself.

Even within the soul, the mind seems to be the most important of the three. The will of a man (the second component of the soul) is as well a very important tool. As much as you think with your mind, you make decision with your will. All the decisions you make, be it conscious, subconscious or unconscious, you make with your will.



You become whatever you think
in your mind. You are a product of
your thoughts

The third member of the soul is the emotions. The emotions seem to be the coolest of the three but it is the most dangerous – I suggest you be on the lookout for your emotions; it can get you to do anything.



your emotions; it can get you to
do anything.

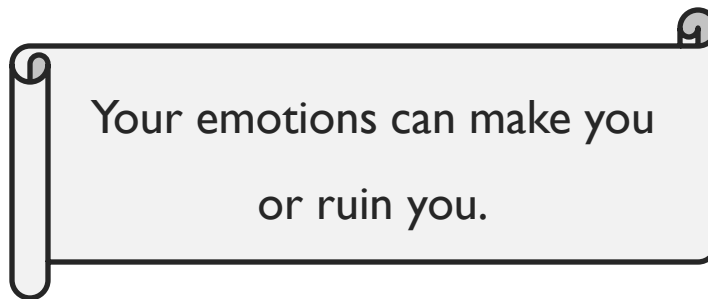
Some years ago, I dated one really pretty lady. She was quite possessive and I am totally a committer so it seemed perfect until our relationship started to hit the bar. What seemed really cool and desirable had taken another turn – it went sour. Before I met this beauty, I had written a book that hadn't been published. – that eventually turned out to be my first book, 'Never Say Die!'

I had also started to establish myself in the Nigerian music industry since I have a passion for music. I had put about two of my studio-recorded songs online and performed on several stages/platforms. I had started to feel like I was the 'revelation of the year' in the Nigerian music industry since I had inculcated my talent in 'break-dancing' into my music which made me a delight to the eye at any event.

All of a sudden, I was in 'love' with this pretty lady who would rather that I excel financially than in whatever I was passionate about. Several times she had told me to quit music and stop writing, emphasizing that it won't bring immediate cash. The 'genius' in me stayed with her, listened to her and stopped to write – I had quit music too. This went on until I ended the about two years relationship.

I took time to assess my life for the two years and up till now; I cannot emphatically point at anything to stake as an achievement, such that is in line with my passion. For some time, I disliked the concept of romantic love.

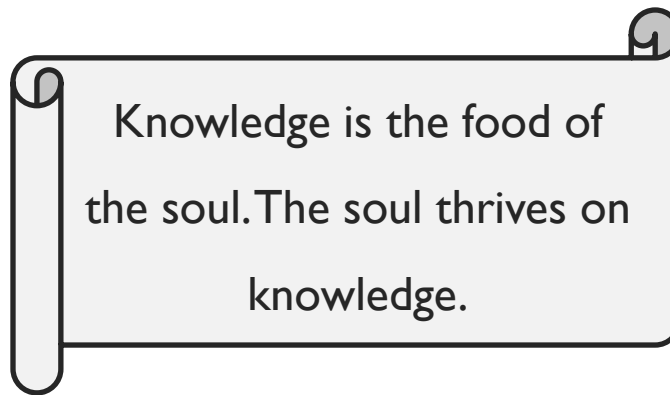
Your emotions can make you or ruin you. Unfortunately, it seems to have power to do you more harm than good. Whatever you feel (emotions) about a thing would determine what you think (mind) about it and hence the decisions (will) you make concerning that thing.



All three components of the soul – the mind, will and emotions – work together concurrently, hand-in-hand to ensure there is a wholesome being – you. I'd paint a better picture for you to see how powerful your soul is but I'd also show you why your Spirit is more important.

Knowledge is the food of the soul. The soul thrives on knowledge. The soul would be absolutely void and empty if the soul has no knowledge to thrive on. How do I know this? Well I know knowledge is like energy, it can neither be created nor destroyed but it can be transformed from one form to another.

Knowledge is processed as 'information' and you'd agree with me that there are different kinds of information. Whatever goes into your mind goes in as a piece of information. For instance, 'I am a man'. If I could guess what you thought about that phrase, it'd be 'male', 'grown', 'the author' and so on. All your soul needs to be active is information.



Let's go back to the Garden of Eden, before man fell, Adam and Eve knew what they had and who they were. There was no question to their intimacy with God. They were enveloped by God's glory so much that they didn't see that they were naked.

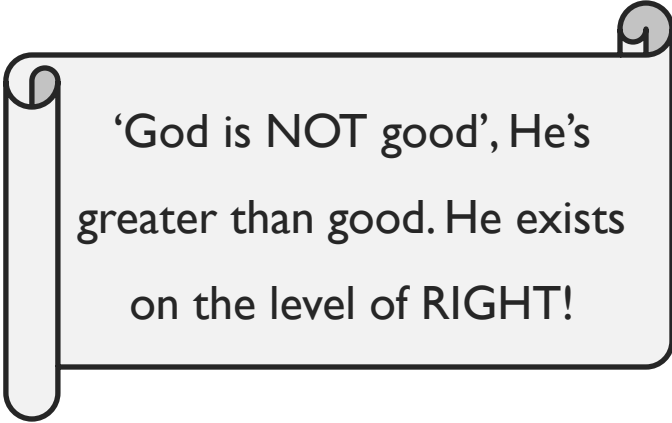
The only source of information for their souls had been from God – they knew nothing other than God and Gods'.

One day, Eve was alone – she had probably nagged Adam, and he had walked away in displeasure, no one knows for sure – but Adam was not close enough to save the day. Then the Ninja called Devil (a.k.a. Serpent) came with the first 'outside information' which apparently – though seemed true – wasn't the truth.

What bothers me is the name of the fruit that Adam and Eve had eaten: it was called ‘the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil’- that’s a pretty long name for a fruit, if you’d ask me. I’d rather the fruit was called ‘Splotahr’ – never mind, that doesn’t particularly have any meaning that I know of, it was the first thing that came to mind when I thought of an alternative name for the fruit.

The fruit had only one specific purpose – expose the ‘eater’ to the knowledge of good and evil. Remember the food of the soul is knowledge. So as Eve took the first bite of the fruit, she opened herself up to another kind of knowledge (information), apart from the kind she had always known – which was solely about God.

I am of the school of thought that ‘God is NOT good’, He’s greater than good. He exists on the level of RIGHT! This is beyond good and evil. Good and evil can be relative but ‘right’ is absolute. God is absolute and there’s no relativity in Him.



‘God is NOT good’, He’s
greater than good. He exists
on the level of RIGHT!

After exposing their souls to knowledge that was less than what God had fed them with, they started to feel unworthy of God. They started to notice their bodily covering which is the least important of our tripartite being.

Then when God came down from heaven for His daily hangout with man, Adam hid himself from God, and when God asked him what he had done, he started to put blames on God and the woman, just to feel worthy again.

Before the fall, Adam and Even never felt a void or emptiness in their lives – even though they were not whole yet, this is because they had God *with* them and not *in* them.

Adam and Eve started to feel empty, they started to hustle and strive, all because they knew something different. Their souls now had a second source of information – Good and evil which is less than God. This is where everything went wrong – in the soul.

7

The Missing Link

Knowledge is power! What you know will go a long way in helping you overcome the emptiness you feel. That's why I've written this book – to pass that knowledge across to you so that you can be whole. I am whole.

The first thing you have to know is that the Spiritual controls the physical. The things that are seen are controlled by forces that are not seen. In other words, your Spirit controls your body through your soul.

It is important for you to know that your Spirit is the real deal – it is the most important part of your tripartite nature. Your Spirit informs your soul.



Knowledge is power!

I have this funny imagination of what the laziest man on earth could look like. I don't have a vivid picture because I'm not lazy and I don't know how lazy a man can get – the worst case scenario is pretty vague to me but let's imagine a man who is too lazy to brush his teeth, bath, he's probably obese and very dirty. What kind of satisfaction can such a person have in life? If there's a discussion on who feels most empty in life, such might just be considered as they do not do anything – they only exist, they don't actually live. But sincerely, I do not think there's anyone called the laziest man on earth.

We all have different degrees of satisfaction and fulfilment that we feel but no one 'ordinary' man has, and can feel an absolute satisfaction – I mean a total satisfaction in every sphere of one's life.

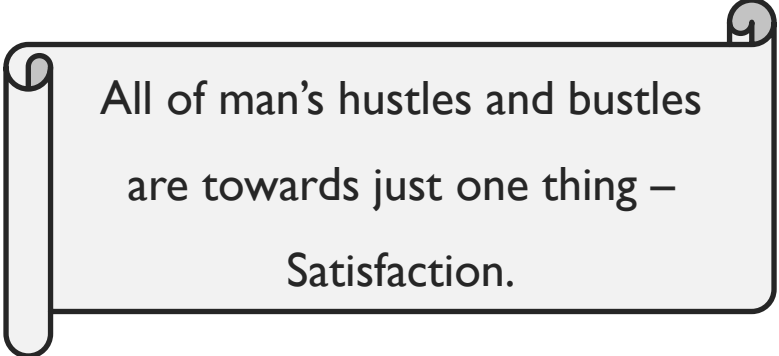
I had shared an experience I had while I was dating a pretty lady, years ago. After I broke up the relationship, just in about six months or thereabout, I started to feel like I needed to be in another relationship. I felt incomplete, like something was missing. I craved being in a relationship again, even though I was doing pretty well in other spheres of my life. I had started to pursue the publication of my first book and I had just written a song I believed was going to make a hit. I was happy but felt incomplete. Then I knew something was wrong. It was beyond companionship, since I had the company of my friends – they never suffered me their company for a second, whenever I needed it but still the feeling was there.

I figured the feeling of incompleteness was beyond the surface. It was an issue with my mind – well I later discovered it's a matter of the soul. At least, I had known the source of the problem – the soul – but I still needed to know what exactly the problem was. It wasn't just me; it was and still is one thing common to men.

Since the fall of man, we have craved for fullness, a total eradication of a feeling of emptiness. This craving sets you on your feet, gets you to do four major things that I'd elaborate on soon. They are Work, Play, Rest and Worship.

Work

All of man's hustles and bustles are towards just one thing – Satisfaction. We often hope that this satisfaction would bring us to a state of completeness, a point where we'll wake up beaming with a smile and go back to sleep with so much joy in our hearts. Many work pretty hard – some even work two or more jobs, saving so much, in anticipation of a phase of retirement when they'll sit by the beach and watch the tornadoes of life gather. Work has never and will never make you fulfilled. The fact that you are passionate about a thing and you work hard on it does not guarantee you fullness off of the void you feel.



All of man's hustles and bustles
are towards just one thing –
Satisfaction.

Play

I would categorize every form of fun under play – games, partying, hang-outs, tourism and so on. After a tiring and overwhelming episode of work, we always want a break, to do something different. Personally, I love to play – I play a lot but that was after I figured I don't have to feel empty ever again in my life. It all made sense at that point. I don't have fun so as to make my life go round or so as to feel complete. I have fun because fun is good – hence my playful character.

In a bid to feel happy or whole, some people go out with friends – and the very desperate ones hang out even with their enemies. You must have heard of people who ‘drink away their sorrows’! What if I told you, you don’t have to feel depressed day of your life – ever again? That’s true! Its all in the soul – the information you feed your soul with. Fun will never make you whole.

Rest

Many people confuse the period of rest with the point or phase where you think about all you’ve done and then the feeling of fulfilment would come hovering over you like a cloud. No! Whether you rest well or you hardly take rest, it doesn’t fill that void.

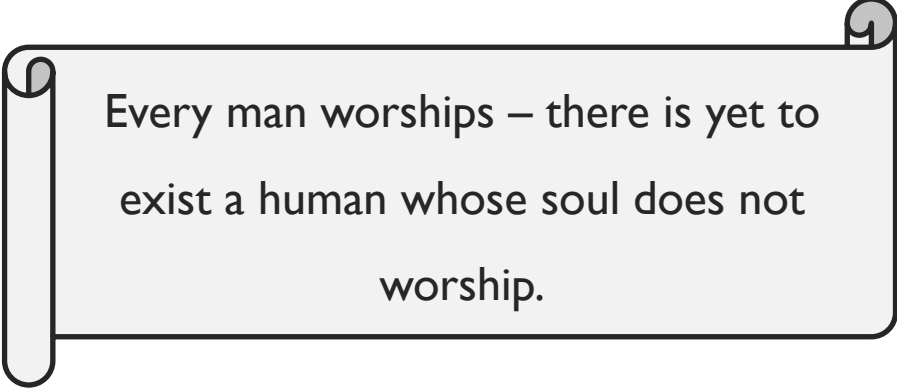


Worship is a souls’ obsession.

Worship

This is the closest thing to a feeling of completeness but until your worship is right, you’re still wrong. I had stated earlier that the food of the soul is knowledge – this is true. I also state that worship is a souls’ obsession. Every soul craves to worship. The human soul was made to worship. The art and act of worship was fashioned with the soul.

Every man worships – there is yet to exist a human whose soul does not worship. Some worship God, some other worship cars, money, pets, atheism - they worship their unbelief in God.



Every man worships – there is yet to exist a human whose soul does not worship.

It's a necessary evil. The soul must worship something. The dilemma and question is, 'is your soul worshipping the true and the living God?'

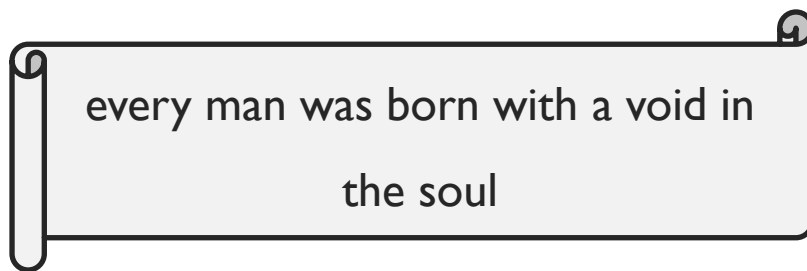
Part C

How God Fits



Still within the context of the title of this book, 'The God-Size Void', I have taken you through different thought just to arrive at this point. So far, I have established that there is a void in the soul of man – every man was born with this void. I also pointed out the fact that man, over the years have tried to fill up this void by participating in or conducting various activities, all to no avail.

Just before this chapter, I had also affirmed that the soul of a man craves to worship. We try to fulfill the cravings of the soul – the craving for worship, by performing acts of worship.



The reason the soul craves to worship is because God made it to do so. God made man and wants man to always come back to Him. God knew that man would be very powerful and thence, crave for independence; God then created the soul of a man with a void only Him can fill and this emptiness or void is expressed by the strong feeling of a need to worship that is felt by the soul of men.

8

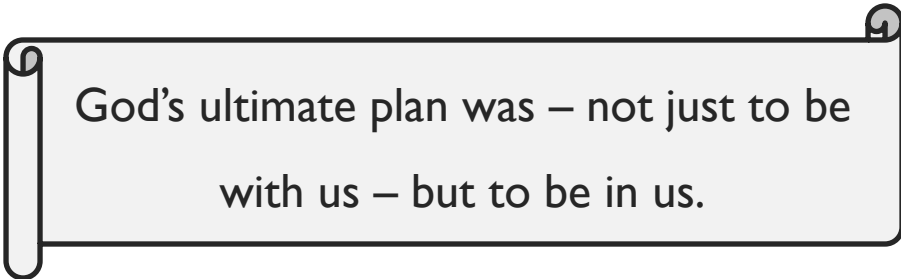
The Creator

Months ago, a casual friend had a problem with his laptop. He had gone round the city, giving various computer engineers for repairs but none seemed to have had a hold on what was wrong with the laptop computer – the laptop was of a different make compared to what the general populace used. He had in turn travelled to a neighbouring city – this city was known to have pretty good laptop engineers but sadly he came back home with the same story – no one could repair it. Someone then suggested that he checked up the laptop makers on Google and then try to contact them, which he did. The laptop makers simply sent him a few instructions to carry out and eventually the computer worked.

When there is a problem with a creation, only the creator can render a genuine solution. Like my friend who had to contact the makers of his laptop, this is what God expects us to do. God wants us to find out from Him whatever is wrong with us.

When there is a problem with a creation,
only the creator can render a genuine
solution

God created us in such a way that we'd be empty without Him. As a matter of fact, God's ultimate plan was – not just to be with us – but to be in us. It's always an amazing experience being with God, in His presence or whenever God is with you but God wants to get you to a point where He's not just going to be with you but actually be in you.



God's ultimate plan was – not just to be
with us – but to be in us.

This is why Jesus came to this earth. He came, not only to reconnect us to God, but also that God can be in us rather than just be with us. A relationship with God where He is in us, is the real deal – not even the great heroes in the Bible can match that (see Heb 11:39-40). God was with them but was never in them.

9

Worship

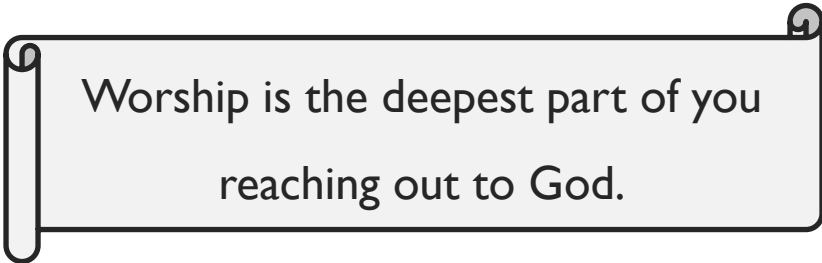
Worship, for me was a confusing subject many years ago. I thought it was the art of singing very slow-tempo songs with some attitude. I was wrong. Over time, I had a grasp on what worship really means, it changed my life. I am almost certain that a large percentage of those who claim to worship, are not worshipping; even though everyone worships. It appears as though I am contradicting myself but I'm going somewhere, so follow me closely.

Worship is NOT a religious connotation. Worship is not the bowing of your head so that it touches your knees, or lighting of candles, burning of incense, dancing in a funny way or wrapping your head with silk clothing and/or attending a religious meeting and so on. No! That is not what worship is. Worship is not an external matter, it is a matter of the Spirit (the real you) – remember you are a Spirit, you have a soul and you live in a body. Worship is internal. Worship is the deepest part of you (your Spirit) reaching out to God.

Worship is NOT a religious connotation

Worship is not an act, it's an attitude. Your job requires your body and soul (mind, will and emotion), so does your relationships, play, rest and so on. But worship requires your Spirit – this is true worship (see John 4:24). Remember your Spirit controls your soul and in turn your soul controls your body.

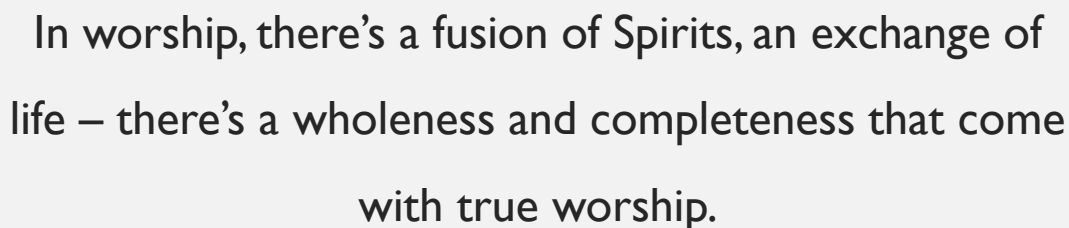
The only thing required of your Spirit is worship. Every day you live, you use your soul and body – everything you do is perpetuated by the body and soul. Some people just never use their Spirit for anything – that's where the emptiness comes in.



Worship is the deepest part of you
reaching out to God.

Exercising your Spirit in the art of worship is about all that is required of your Spirit. Worship helps us to unite with God. In worship, there's a fusion of Spirits, an exchange of life – there's a wholeness and completeness that come with true worship.

As opposed to being an event or an experience, worship should be a lifestyle. Just as the body and soul are constantly active in all the various human activities, so does your Spirit need to be in constant worship – there lies the fullness of your soul.



In worship, there's a fusion of Spirits, an exchange of
life – there's a wholeness and completeness that come
with true worship.

Conclusion

God is a jealous God. When He made man, He made us incomplete. He intended for us to grow into completeness – a point where He won't just be with us but actually be in us.

The only man that can feel optimum, absolute satisfaction and fulfillment is a man who not only fears, honor and enjoys God but has God living in him.

The void and emptiness man feels cannot be filled by dating or marriage, sex, money, drugs, work, parties, and so on. It's not a sex-size void or a wealth-size void – it is a God-size void that only God can fill. God has got to be living in you not around you before you can feel completely fulfilled.

How do you get God to live in you? Easy! Just invite Him. Sincerely confess your emptiness to Him, tell Him you know only Him can fill the void in you. Confess that you believe in Jesus, His son, whom He sent to planet earth, to die for your sins. Then confess Jesus as your Lord – because Jesus is God.

If you sincerely said that prayer whether verbally or in your heart then you are whole. It works like magic – better than magic. From now you'd start to feel a peace that passes all understanding. Things will start to become right.

You still have a task, that is to train your mind. This starts with renewing your mind with the right information – the best of which you'd find in the Bible. Get a copy of the Holy Bible, read and read until you start to unconsciously act out the contents and knowledge in it. That's your cue to a preliminarily trained mind.

The God-size void in your soul – only God can fill it.

- The words of King Solomon used in this book were extracted from the book of Ecclesiastes in the Holy Bible using e-sword (electronic Bible) – version 7.6.1 Copyright © 2000-2005 Rick Meyers
- Except otherwise stated, all scriptures quoted in this book are from the Message translation of the Holy Bible.
- Microsoft Encarta 2009 - Copyright © 1993-2008
- Void of Feeling – A Personal Story:
<http://www.experienceproject.com/mobile/story.php?e=617360>

My friend of many years, Olusola Akinboade. I launched this book on your birthday so it'd serve as a gift to you. I couldn't have asked for a better friend. You're the best. God bless you. Happy August 12!

My ReadWriters Team – with you I believe its possible to write a book in only a few days. Damilola Ige, ReadWriters manager, you inspire me.

Folunmi, thank you for your unrelenting support especially during the production of this book. God bless your heart.

Copyright © 2013 by Bolu Onasanya

All rights reserved.

By payment of the required fees, you have been granted the non-exclusive, nontransferable right to access and read the text of this e-book on-screen. Except as permitted by the author, no part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the author.

First eBook Edition: August 2013

BoluOnasanya

iBridgeHub,
NuStreams Conference and Culture Centre,
KM 110, Abeokuta Road, Off Alalubosa Estate GRA,
Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

☎ + 2 3 4 (0) 8 1 3 0 9 4 0 5 5 2

☎ + 2 3 4 (0) 8 0 3 5 2 0 7 6 6 7

✉ bonus2much@yahoo.co.uk

▪ www.twitter.com/readywriters



Bolu Onasanya is an Author, Public Speaker, Entrepreneur and Change Agent.

Bolu Onasanya is the author of 'Never Say Die!' a book that teaches practicable and indefectible truths about 'life success' through perseverance and persistence; even when quitting seems like the best option.

Bolu Onasanya is the host of the program, 'The Stories Untold' with her maiden edition in Obafemi Awolowo University, December 2012 which is also set to launch its radio show soon; serving as Bolu's first radio show.

Bolu Onasanya is the Founder/Chief Executive Officer of Bonas Consulting; CEO, ReadyWriters; Co-Executive Director, Jumpstart Dream Academy (an NGO whose focus is on Education); Sales Manager, New India Technologies, Nigeria (Nigerian branch of an Indian IT firm). Bolu also works with Creative Truth Publishing House.

Bolu Onasanya is currently championing a campaign, iReadHOPE, a global reading campaign, geared towards sparking up a reading culture around the world (www.ireadhope.org). Bolu is also a volunteer trainer with Wakose Academy.

Bolu Onasanya also put his music gift to use; in 2012, he released his debut single, 'Too Much Baba' that enjoyed thousands of online views (stage name, 'Bonus'). Bonus has performed on different musical platforms and has been reviewed by trusted music personalities. He started his career in entertainment as a break dancer cum dance instructor; as well as on-stage actor.

Bolu Onasanya is a graduate of Obafemi Awolowo University where he studied Medical Rehabilitation, majoring in Occupational Therapy.

Bolu Onasanya has served at various capacities in several groups, organizations and initiatives over the years. He has also been involved in planning, organizing and implementing several programs and projects in Nigeria.

Bolu Onasanya expresses and exemplifies a wide range of skills and thoughts in leadership, constructive positive change, people and project management.

Bolu Onasanya loves to talk about Jesus and is completely overwhelmed by his love for God.



Hi,

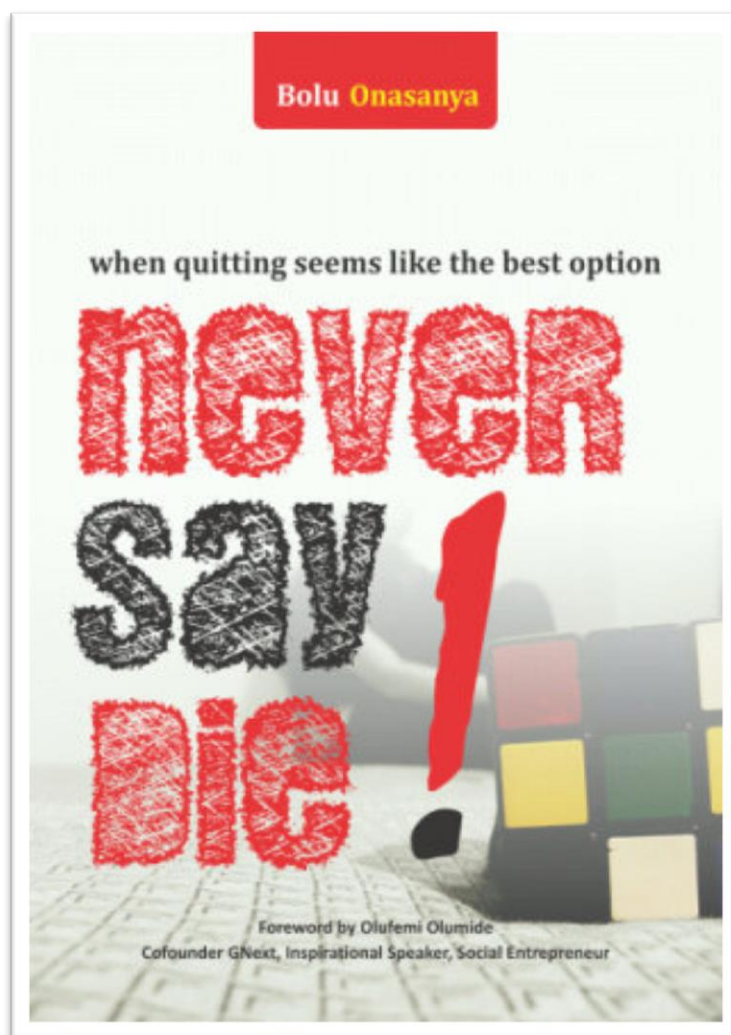
Hope you had a great time reading this piece and I sincerely hope it has touched you in any way.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Share with me how this book has touched or whatever your opinions are about the book.

I would also love to speak at your meetings, conferences, and so on – I'm just an e-mail away from you.

Best regards,
Bolu Onasanya

- ✉ boluonasanyabonus@gmail.com
- Facebook: Bolu Onasanya 'Bonus'
- Twitter: [@BoluOnasanya](https://twitter.com/BoluOnasanya)
- ☎ + 4 4 (0) 7 0 2 4 0 5 6 2 3 9



Never Say Die! is a book that teaches practicable and indefectible truths about ‘life success’ through perseverance and persistence; even when quitting seems like the best option.

This book was published (in print) in October 2012.