



Give Attention to Reading

It is written “...Till I come, give attention to reading...” The topic for discussion today is another of my passion. The title is not mine and I so acknowledge the source as the new King James Authorised version of the Bible (NKJV - I Timothy 4:13). If the issue of reading could be so important to occupy such centre stage in Apostle Paul’s admonition to the young Timothy, please permit me to dwell on its even greater relevance in, and to this generation.

I’m going to talk about reading but not reading just for the sake of it or that theoretical heart-pounding reading solely for examinations. Let me then start by asking: Do you read? Are you a reader? What do you read? What are you reading? I hope you read quality literatures and not junks, edifying stuffs and not deflating no-value-add junks.

Why this discussion today again? You have heard it before and it has been drummed into your ears over and over again that readers are leaders. It is also true that real leaders are readers. We read learn, we read for and we read to excel.

Our reading habit is so bad some racists and bigots want a black man to know a do not know the source of know is I’m not one of used as an object of are, it is time to go back to time to bring back the adults, not reading to the children or for the children but teens and adults picking up books to read and read for good.



for pleasure, we read to continuous improvement,

that rumour has it that used to say if you do not thing, hide it in a book. I this rumour but what I do those that books would be concealment. In case you the basics of reading, it is reading culture in our

A reader would always be ahead because he has requisite knowledge. When you read about a project, you know more about it and no man can gainsay you. When you read more about a topic, you become more enlightened about it. You are as good as the last book you read. So if you are not reading, the opposite is also true.

How about the argument that books are fading away? Today is not for this argument but please know this for sure, books will survive the onslaught. In the meantime, go and get your books in any form and format: e-books, kindle, Google, good old paperback or hard cover, etc. Essentially today is dedicated to just read, enjoy it and make progress.

This quote provides times of excitement whenever the slide is projected in our classes – If you drop gold and books, pick up the books first, then the gold... You feel the excitement and the readiness for a heated debate immediately starting with some audible murmuring, and you see hand shooting up simultaneously with some funny laughter, the kind you hear the first time you are telling a group of area boys to go and work or else starve to death. Main opposition to this quote are those who want quick money or those who think they are wise – they are thinking someone else would pick the gold while they are picking the book first. What they fail to see is that in the books are several of the gold, ways to make more of such gold, and thing better than gold, e.g wisdom.

Why have you lost your appetite for reading or why not cultivate the healthy habit of reading? You may have excuses 101 such as in the olden days (in the 70s and 80s) conducive public libraries were all over the country, you could be there all day and come back late in the evening even met our future partners in the library but all those are no more. No excuse would do.

Though I do not have a perfect thesis titled How To Read A Book 101, I read Phyllis A. Miller's *Managing Your Reading* (1987) some years back and it has really helped me so I



yet have a perfect To Read A Book A. Miller's *Managing Your Reading* (1987) some years really helped me so I have a few proven suggestions to help when next you pick a book to read. Start on page one and... No no not so fast...The first step is probably to analyse a non-fiction quickly to see if it fits your reading need or interest and then look for a way to get the best from it for the time spent reading – thumb through the book, look at the paper colour, the print size, the length of the chapters, the graphics. Check the table of contents, this gives you or fails to give you a quick view of the author's topics and ideas' outlines. Do a

quick read about the author either on the sleeve or at the back of the book. This gives you an indication of how reliable the author is and how dependable and trustworthy the source. Check the copyright date. We live in an era of quick outdatedness, you may need to reject some ideas from the book or disregard outdated statistics. Next check the commendation or the praise comments for some major points of the book. Identify key concept words indicating leading ideas in the book especially in the table of contents. Finally, read a chapter which seems most to capture your attention. You can now go back to page one, and...

In my own case, I have found all the above very useful and the result is what I have just shared with you. Just to add that in recent times I get my readings from various sources like hard cover books, paperbacks, HBR blogs, outright 'Googling', etc. As for any relevant books, we first get the Kindle edition (www.amazon.com) – a not too expensive option or get the summary (www.summary.com) – a rather expensive subscription but worth every kobo spent. Once we enjoy the book, for further reading we may then order on-line or visit any of the good bookshops we have around. How do I get to read volumes? It is by the grace of God and a cultivated habit of not going for any appointment without a book or a summary or my Kindle. God has really helped me not to go late for my appointments, rather I arrive minutes before my time plus the waiting time, I have some good minutes at my disposal to read. Also when I'm not driving, I use commuting in the Lagos traffic to read or at times doze off. I also still wake up in the night to read.

I enjoy reading good books productively. I encourage you to cultivate a reading habit now. It pays. One of these days we would be talking about productive and fast reading, but first let us start reading. Readers are leaders and authentic leaders are readers!

See you next week...

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