



LIVING LIFE WITHOUT CRUTCHES

EKEKERE SAMUEL UFOT

About the Author



Ekekere Samuel heads Soar leadership center, a company committed to raising leaders for these generation and the future generations. He is also a child education expert and family counselor.

Ekekere Samuel graduated with top honors from Cross River University of technology. Prior to starting Soar leadership center, he was once head of publications, assistant president and president of the Deeper-life campus fellowship. He was also the president of the Deeper-life corpers fellowship. Both fellowships are committed to raising champions. He has also served as production editor on the board of the Evangelist press for its Evangelist newspaper as well as on the editorial board of the bi-monthly Osun Copa.

Ekekere Samuel is an inspiring writer whose weekly write-ups are read in major blogs and are published on major publications. He is also the editor of “my college soars” a periodical that seeks to get the best out of college students. He is the author of over twenty books including titles such as “made unlimited for limitations. Shine your light, Ekekere’s motivation bible” amongst others.

Ekekere is a recipient of the NYSC merit award as well as the most inspiring student award at the Crossriver University. He is married to Grace and they live in Uyo, Nigeria where he oversees a growing network of people who are recognizing the power in their potentials.

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ekekeresamuel@gmail.com

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+2349055530115

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INTRODUCTION

OUR LIFE LONG DESIRE

WHAT ARE CRUTCHES?

GOOD CRUTCHES

THE 'WHAT THEY SAY' CRUTCH

THE BAD CRUTCHES

THE FEAR CRUTCH

THE DEPRESSION CRUTCH

THE FAILURE CRUTCH

FRIENDS CRUTCH

FAMILY CRUTCH

THE IDENTITY CRUTCH

SOCIETY CRUTCH

THE GOOD CRUTCHES

FAITH CRUTCH

PATIENCE CRUTCH

GOD'S CRUTCH

INTRODUCTION

I remember that time when I was little and had to depend on my parents for everything. I often hoped that one day; the tide would turn and I would not have to look in their direction. Everyone had that little days of dependency but a time comes when you think, you just have to go solo and do your thing. That time is called maturity. At maturity, having someone help us do a thing we can do by ourselves becomes hurting and painful.

We come into the world with a consciousness that after the period of training and weaning, we develop certain capability that makes us independent. Parents send their children to school so that they can be independent with the right skills. There is always the instinct that tells us that we should live our own lives. This instinct grows with us from when we started developing skills to help us with that future independence.

A child at his late teens begins to show that need for independence strongly against the guidance of the parents but the parents do allow him the freedom until he is around eighteen to twenty years when he is believed to be able to make independent decisions and defend his decisions.

life often supplies us with very difficult scenarios. The reason is this; life has superior powers that tend towards pressing us into submission and incapacitation. If you've seen a man with crutches, you would have observed how difficult those with crutches walk and work.

The crutches are meant to support them so that they could make better movements than they have been doing. I happened to have been in a crusade where wonderful miracles happened. The preacher prayed for those with different ailments including those who made use of crutches. He told the men with crutches to throw the crutches off and walk aright in the spirit of miracles. One man though, because of his fears refused to do away with the crutches that even when he had received his miracle, he never knew because the crutches were still hanging on to his legs.

Because life has placed crutches of limitations and dependency around us, we think that this is the way life should be. We accept the crutches even when they are unnecessary and not needed. There are situations that are crutches. It is important we know when things around us become crutches. We may be living our lives without knowing we could do more and get more than we are getting. We may accept the contentment that it supplies but that is not where we should be.

Life promises for everyone, unlimited independent possibilities. This is only available when you break away from that thing that is holding you down, those crutches. Then you can jump straight on into full strength and the fullness that life supplies.

In this book you will discover those crutches you are holding on to and then you will get the courage and strength to throw it off and walk straight on to your destiny in God.

CHAPTER ONE

OUR LIFE LONG DESIRE

As stated in the introduction of this book, we live with a desire to be as independent as we can be. This desire is a lifelong one. Why? This is because, from the day we discovered how to cry, we long to always have our way around every situation. Even at the point of death, we go towards it with that independence alone and gone. This propelling force in us was instigated by God the creator whose independence he instilled in man. Man thus taking the nature of God lives life having behind his mind the forever godly nature of independence.

Man always has that quest for independence because he has come to observe the dependent nature of society and the persistent strife for independency. He finds it difficult to adapt to what is called a dependent world. The world constantly pushes everyone to depend on each other. The driver depends on the mechanic, parents depend on teachers, and lawyers depend on doctors. No one seems independent enough to cater for all his needs. The human nature thus continues to be at variance with what the world supplies and thus continues to

fight very hard to reach independence. The fight begins at birth and ends at the time when our eyes close against this side of the world.

I remember as a little boy, I always had the desire to become a man. The reason was because I needed to be free from the claws of my parents' guidance. It was alright a good wish but I observe that when I grew I found myself increasingly dependent, first on my parents who supplied my every need and then I depended on my teachers at school for knowledge. I depended on my friends' warmth and the cycle continued. There was no way I was going to break free by myself.

But I observe that those I depended on changed as I grew. My teachers changed and my friends changed and I depended less on my parents but still I wasn't free. I was very dependent. Breaking free from my dependency has continued to plague me as I strive to make a way around them. Those things and people I depend upon are the crutches that have stopped my discovering who I really am. Freedom is a tenacious guest that is always there no matter how free we think we are.

No one is totally free. Those we often think have no problems have even bigger problems. I was in the church of a certain pastor and listened attentively to his teachings. He said, everyone needs everyone and no one is totally independent. As

much as little people depend on very powerful persons, even presidents also have very small people they must depend upon. It seems, our society is plagued with the dependency plague that the only time we discover true freedom is at death when we totally give up and even then, we depend on others to bury us just that we are unaware what happens to us. The nemesis that man is faced with is a critical one that has configured our minds towards thinking that we should remain dependent because that's how the world and our brains are wired.

If you are thinking of freedom, you are one of the billions who hope to achieve one form of freedom or the other. A good advise is, don't be afraid. While it is a natural law to be dependent, you can and have the ability to break that law. No law is beyond the capacity of the human mind to break. Yes there is a lifelong bond, and there is a lifelong desire to be free, there is also a lifelong capacity to break away and tell those crutches they are unnecessary.

CHAPTER TWO

WHAT ARE CRUTCHES?

I had a senior colleague at high school who resided around my community. She was a quiet beauty who attracted the admiration of her mates. While on her way to school one day, she was hit by a driver and lost one leg. She had to depend on crutches. This was actually my first experience of crutches. I was a little boy in our community and I watched her grow with those crutches and felt so bad that that she just could not do without the wooden and metal crutch. I'm grown now and she still makes use of the crutch.

Crutches are things we depend on to help us do what we should naturally have done without it. It could also mean depending on some person to help us do what we should do naturally by ourselves. Joel Osteen told this story of a young lady who had a boy friend who had told her that she was unable to drive round her city because he thought; the city was too busy for a pretty girl to drive round. He offered to help her with daily driving her to work and back until one day pastor Joel Osteen gave her a pretty good advice "try driving yourself". At

first the young lady thought it was impossible. But she headed to Joels advice and tried driving herself first slowly along the side of the road and then she tried the highway. After 6 months, she did not need any one to guide her. Her boy friend was actually the crutch which she depended upon to help her with her driving needs.

When we think, some person is too important and without them, we will be helpless, those persons are crutches. Nothing should be too important as to control your own capacity to do what you can and should do. When anything makes you live life depending on it, it becomes a crutch. While accident victims require crutches to help them walk, strong and hale person don't. It would be foolish thinking and detrimental to ones body to use crutches when one can walk straight with the legs.

As a young undergraduate at the university, I had lived with a relation who schooled at another university in my city. I had often looked up to him for advice and direction that he thought I could never do without him. Because I believed his every word, he assured himself and convinced me that I was without personal directions. Though, he had arrived the city long before I came and was quite older, he had assumed that he had rights to control my decisions. I knew he was just another crutch I needed to break away from and the opportunity came when he left the city and I moved away from his area of influence. When

he left, he kept calling me on the phone and giving orders. I knew I wouldn't have to live this way. I had to remove his crutches by changing my phone number. Once he lost contact with me, I regained my self confidence and reputation and got along with mine.

I had this experience with my dad. My dad was a stern man who I feared while growing up. He had this intimidating mane that I dared not look at his eyes. I hardly spoke to him and I hardly associated with him. Our relationship was a odd type. My dad's influence lowered my self-confidence. Even when I could help myself and do without him, when he was around I developed cold feet because of his fear. I knew though that somewhere along the road, I would have to push his crutch away and be me. The chance came when I was 16 and I seized it. I told him at his face that I was grown and I was capable of making judgments, which should always be considered too and sometimes ahead of his judgments. Guess what? It worked! From that day, my dad changed his demeanor towards me. He respected me and always asked for my input in issues that involved the family. I had succeeded in taking off his crutch.

That crutch may be a situation that has demeaned your importance like that of my dad and I; you have the capacity to do away with your crutch. Whether you believe it or yes, nobody or situation wants you to be bigger. Those you are

under want you to remain there. It is bad situation to accept where we are as the final busstop when we can rise up to greatness. We will have to learn to pull those crutches off our sides and tell them you can do without them

I remember the bible story of young David and Goliath. David had offered to fight Goliath but King Saul thought the crutches of helmet and vest which he wore that could not give him confidence against the giant was what David needed. David knew however that what he needed was to do away with the crutches. The war vests didn't just suite. He told himself, I just need to pull this off. He was confident about his ability and he had the vests pulled off. Guess what? He moved like a young lion and with what he had, a tenacity and a poise, he defeated the giant Goliath. He did not need the crutches

Don't let any one force some crutch on you that does not fit you. You need to discover who you really are. You have so much in you that should not be covered by what people think say or observe about you. When you begin to live like you need the advice, confidence and bolstering of others, they become the crutches upon which you think you cannot do without.

I was filled with high hopes after I concluded national service and decided to return home. My father had promised to help me get a job with his firm and I returned believing that I was

immediately going to get my life started. I returned home to see my sick father and we had to battle to save his life. He died along the way at the hospital and my hopes were dashed. He was sure a crutch that I depended on. His death affected me that I failed to discover what I had. His death was a crutch. I told myself, I am not going to allow my dad's death be a crutch. I shook myself off the feeling of this crutch and discovered I could do more than I was doing

Situations could be crutches in our lives that makes us think and act in a weird manner. Whatever the situation is weighing you down; you have much more in you than the situation knows. Don't push yourself down by accepting crutches when you can walk your way into destiny

CHAPTER THREE

GOOD CRUTCHES?

In the first chapter, you saw that we find ourselves in a world where we are wired to depend on everything and everybody. If we think of crutches in a good light, we could get some insight that will help guide our everyday.

I have observed that crutches are not necessary bad objects or people that hang around us. There may be good helping hands. We know that only accident victims with walking impediments tend to use crutches. They are thus very useful as walking tools only to the one with a broken leg. We could have situational and people crutches that are good and dependable. We need good friends that we can fall on when things become so bad. We need family that can be relied upon when every other has failed.

Situations in life are also crutches that are meant to build us into developing confidence in ourselves

Crutches are good especially when they offer the kind of help that we so desire at a particular time. But is the good crutch that very good? The answer is actually in knowing when that

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