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GET MOTIVATED TO WIN LIFE'S BATTLE

the GAME *of LIFE*

ALL THE INSPIRATION TO WIN IN THE BATTLE OF LIFE



THE GAME OF LIFE

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INTRODUCTION

In the board game of life, we are each chess players. Every one of us has all the pieces we need in life but what matters is how the pieces are played. Life is a competitive game where all our pieces are at risk of being taken from us, all the things we hold dear. To not fall into this risk, you have to develop strategies to keep you winning.

There is a chance of losing. The difference for those who have continued to show prowess in life is how they have managed to come through some losses and still protect the most important things in their lives, the king.

For those who enjoy the chess game, you might have noticed the very strong similarities between the game you play and the issues of life. You might have played and achieved master status; there is a lesson in this game you so much love.

For those who have no idea of how the game of chess is played, you'd learn to love it and maybe you would desire to play it and carry its attributes

to issues relating to life. Like most sports game, the game of chess gives you a description of the technicalities that life presents. It provides a problem and the players compete against themselves to ensure they tackle the problems in good fate.

The chess board consists of a sequence of squares in sixty four squares with players, two at a time and thirty two pieces each of them having their relative style of play and function. The end goal though, which each player seeks to reach is the protection of the king piece by using virtually all the skills of the remaining fifteen pawns on each side.

Each player begins with sixteen pieces apiece; one king, one queen, two rooks, two knights, two bishops and eight pawns, each piece type moving differently with the objective being to 'checkmate' the opponent's king by placing it under an inescapable threat of capture. The game can be won by voluntary resignation which occurs when one player loses too much pieces or a checkmate or still a draw may result.

Chess strategy consists of setting and achieving long-term positioning advantages during the game while tactics concentrate on immediate maneuver. These two work hand in hand as the strategic goals are mostly achieved through tactics.

As you read this book, you will appreciate the lesson this novel game of life presents. You can be sure to learn one or more principles that will pedestal you to an even greater height. Read and be inspired into another realm in the game of life.

Benjamin franklin, former president of the United States wrote of the chess game. *The game of chess is not merely an idle amusement. Several very valuable qualities of mind, useful in the course of human life are to be acquired and strengthened by it so as to become habits ready in all occasions. For life is a kind of chess in which we often have points to gain and competitors or adversaries to contend with and which there a variety of good and ill events is.*

CHAPTER ONE

A GOAL

Every player who plays on the chess table sets his mind focused on one goal, to win. That is the primary goal. He comes prepared with a mind that is set towards winning. All those who have become chess masters had to defeat chains of players who were sometimes as good as they were.

As a player in life's game, you have to carry behind you the indispensable fact that someone has to win on that table for two. Your mind has to be focused towards the desired endpoint, winning.

The only people who win are those who come with a goal in mind. They come to win and will never accept defeat. The masters carry behind them the goal that they have to beat every player to become. They will even have to challenge other masters.

Apostle Paul was a master. He said of himself, I have fought a good fight and have finished my course and now there is laid for me a crown. Paul understood that there was a crown but the crown

wouldn't come easy. He had to fight a good fight, give a good picture of his ability, challenge the odds, ensure he won and then get the winning prize.

No true success ever occurs without the goal. The chess master understands that his focus is the prize and he keeps his eyes determined and fixed towards it.

Because of the goal, the players develop

- Tactics and
- Strategies

TACTICS: tactics refer to a sequence of moves that limits the opponent's options to his own gain. They are often short termed. The fact is there are often short term goals that have to be achieved while in the game of life in pursuit of the big goal.

Goals vary in type and style. As you play in life's games, there are everyday challenges and encumbrances that require short term tactical offences. You have to learn to develop short term everyday goals while working towards your big goal. Tactics produces results for immediate short term goals which gives us strategic advantage for the

attainment of the future goal. It requires good vision and prolific foresight to create them. There are situations in life that demands your tactical ability

In the game of chess, the fundamental building blocks of tactics are moves sequences in which the opponent is unable to respond to all the threats, thus creating an opportunity for the attacker's advantage.

As matter of fact, while playing the game of life, we must develop tactics that is capable of helping us get through our everyday challenges. Each step we take on our way up presents one enormous mountain that has to be brought down. Our ability to take each mountain as they come defines our tactical prowess for our everyday goals.

STRATEGIES: For strategies, the goal is long termed requiring longer time to be realized creating a scenario where the opponent is less constrained to respond. We do set long term futuristic goals. They're often giant goals not immediately envisioned but characterized by a longer time frame based on the survival of immediate short term goals like In the game of chess where the goal is a

checkmate on the king or a winning move. You do have long term goals. Your strategies are aimed towards ensuring that that future goal is an achieved in the longer run.

While evaluating a position strategically, a player on a chess board takes into account such factors as the relative value of the pieces on the boards, pawn structure, king safety and position of pieces. There are many considerations you have to consider in making your goals and reaching them. Sometimes, we are too audacious in setting long-term goals that we do not consider or evaluate the options and opportunities available towards those goals. We often drive our minds towards setting grandiose goals that are unimaginable and beyond conception. Your goals must have a possibility index even if it is long-term. You must define strategic constraints and work out modalities through which the future goals could be achieved within the constraints and possibility index

Goals are a necessity. However small or short term, big or long term, they still require a depth of discipline to maneuver through to them. The chess

gamer realizes that whether they make small changes or big ones, the overall small goals achieved in the form of applying tactics leads to the achievement of the future enormous goal of winning the match. You do realize that the little achievement of now leads to the attainment of your big future goal. You must therefore strive earnestly to pursue with all the ability that you have to achieve, with all the zest in you.

Paul declares; I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me. The ability to do all things and achieve your set goals is in acknowledging the tactical and strategic impact that having Christ could do in your life. The enormous influence of Christ opens the new air of dynamic capability.

Jesus Christ knew the effect of having a goal. He came down to earth with a heavenly goal to win the world from Satan's dominion. The world was the prize. He had to develop a strategy for achieving such enormous goal by tactically starting with his twelve disciples each of which he tactically won through different methods. Christ though never played the game of chess; he realized however the

strategic differences in attributes of his twelve pieces, his disciples.

Just like the dynamic pieces of the chess game, the disciples each with their dynamic style and position sought to pursue earnestly the goal that Christ had set before them to protect the interest of the King God.

Take counsel in the words of Solomon in the final verses of his book the Ecclesiastes where he writes “let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, fear God and keep his commandment for this is the whole duty of man. Solomon was invariably saying that all the wise counsels he had made from the first chapter to the end were in a bid to solve the major issues of life in order to achieve the entire goal of fearing God and keeping his commandments.

Begin to set your goals now.

CHAPTER TWO

THE RIGHT POSITION

Taking a brief look at the chess board, it has been described in the introduction as having checks of two colours and 16 pieces on each side for the two players. You would have observed that the game involves correctly positioning of pieces.

Each piece has its position and the game does not start without the players having rightly positioned the pieces. It's the same in life. To be able to begin the battle that life presents, you have to be rightly positioned. There is a right place most suitable for you to begin your journey to conquering. Not everywhere is best to start, but somewhere has the perfect ingredients for your launch. Rockets are launched at an airspace base not in any airport.

Every piece is played from its rightful position else there would be technical imbalance in strategy.

When you launch from the wrong position, you end

up spending more time to achieve the goal. The grandmaster of life has rightly positioned you for the most impact you should be making.

The individuality of the pieces ensures that they play their roles independent of others. Your individuality too is defining the effect only you can make. Your style is dynamic and best suites the position in which the grand master has perfectly played you into. God himself made this comment about you; before you knew yourself, I have known you. He was reiterating the fact that he had made you and positioned you just at the right time in your mother's womb for the right place and purpose.

The pieces are never static on play. Every piece is subject to the mercy of the chess players' technical prowess. They change position as it suites the player in a bid to attack and capture the opponents pieces. Christ showed this example when he gave the order to his disciples to "go and preach the gospel to all nations". He was invariably telling his disciples that he is commissioning and moving them to capture souls outside their immediate country. The fact is, for you to make any impact; you will

have to move out of your comfort zone. You will have to change positions. That is the duty of the grandmaster that plays you his piece where he determines you would make the most impact.

The essence of the position is to get the other players piece while also protecting the piece that you use for the attack. Though sometimes, the pieces may be lost. It is for the overall goal of attaining the champion status of the game. One sure fact is God has positioned you to be very vital in the purpose he has set for you, though sometimes he could position you deliberately in a war torn or persecution infested region. This was the situation of the disciples and apostles after Jesus left the earth.

Jesus had given his disciples the mandate of reaching the world but had asked that they remain at Jerusalem until they be endued with enough power to take up the task. His notion was that when they were endued, they would obey his directive naturally to step into the entire world. Guess what! This did not happen. God had to force a wave of persecution to push them out. The goal had to be

protected “God’s interest.” Souls had to be won but the apostles also had to lose their lives too as the sacrifice. Every of the apostles died as martyrs except one. God wouldn’t have wished their death. No! But they were the sacrificial pieces upon which souls could have a surrendered life to Jesus and have the most priced eternal life

In life, we do often shift positions. Sometimes it is to our benefit while at other times, it is in sacrifice for a better position. We must realize like the game of chess that it is a must to change positions if you will have to reach the total good which God has made in the future

Paul the apostle wouldn’t have received acclaim if he remained the Pharisee that he was. No! He changed positions. Though he lost many privileges, those were the pieces he should lose so that he could confirm his prize

There are two types of positioning

- Static and
- Dynamic

STATIC: in this case, as in the case of chess, the pieces are limited to one spot but have the influence that their capacity has such as the king. The safety of the king is meant to be static only protected by his entourage of aides. There is something that has to be static. Our future goals have to be fully defined and seen as a whole unchanging lump. Its position as a spur and propellant should not have to change. It has to drive us into action to protect it.

Jesus our grand master understood that there were certain things that should have static positions. He had one, the fulfillment of God's goal and that was not going to change even when he had to die. He protected God's interest to the cross.

DYNAMIC: Some pieces are quite dynamic in their movement. They often have to make compulsory movements. Some have limited movements while others have generic movements. Something in our lives will always have to move and be repositioned. Friends, family will have to be repositioned. They will come and go. The people around us are bound to change. They are bound to be influenced by

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