

The image is a composite graphic. At the top, a globe is partially visible, with a blue ribbon-like shape curving around it. Below the globe, the text 'ADVANCING' is written in bold yellow capital letters. In the center, the word 'Despite' is written in a red, cursive font. Below that, 'ADVERSITIES' is written in bold yellow capital letters. In the lower half of the image, a man in a dark suit and white shirt stands on a green field, looking towards the right. He is carrying a black briefcase. To his right, a large, rusted metal padlock is mounted on a dark surface. A key is lying on the ground in front of the padlock. The background is a bright, cloudy sky.

**ADVANCING**  
*Despite*  
**ADVERSITIES**

ODINMA, IFEANYICHUKWU  
(ODIMS GREAT)

**Vol. 2**

# COPYRIGHT

## **Advancing Despite Adversities, Vol 2**

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God bless you all

## PREFACE

Sequel to the chat buster, *Advancing Despite Adversities* that has blessed an uncountable number of lives, this comes to add flesh to the bone of the former. We all face adversities at one point or the other in our lives. No one is shed from the vicissitudes of life that must inevitably come. Our duty is only to face them and through wisdom, turn them for our good.

Virtually all the powerful men we today crave to be like are those who managed well the crisis season of their lives. Adversity is like a test of life. Those who fail end up serving those that passed.

The truth is, it is an undeniable fact that life is a battle field. From the cradle to the grave, we are faced with diverse adverse situations. There are always battles to fight or problems to solve at just every juncture of our life journey (Rev. 12:12). We keep facing challenges, one after the other. Problems, chaos, downtimes, and things we can't just explain or even handle.

Job in his days observes:

Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble (Job 14:1 KJV).

When Pharaoh asked Jacob on the later's maiden visit to Egypt of his age, Jacob promptly answered: '...It has been few and full of struggles' (Gen. 47:9).

We are simply in a constant continuous battle. At every level we attain, sticks a new fresh devil to deal with. At times it comes in form of temptations, other times it comes in form of a straight all out spiritual attack. It may even come as a side effect of our poor choices or simply bad luck.

The battle is as old as the world itself; it is a universal war – a war for all men: small or great, educated or illiterate, sinner or saints. No one is shielded from this. At best we are only assured that we will only experience a battle of our size par time. Paul wrote the Corinthians:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*. (*1Cor.10:13*).

### OUR LIFE IS WARFARE:

Human life is a history of vicissitudes. We struggle daily with the common calamities of human life. Changes we would rather wish away. Adversities hit us at will, things happen we never plan for nor envisage. Sickness strikes, loved ones die, joblessness and all manner of unwelcomed episodes unfold in our lives. We often ask why. Some cry foul. Many simply give up.

The truth is, as long as we are still humans, living in earth, adversity will always come. Jesus was not cursing when He said: ‘...in this world you will have tribulation... (John 16:33)’ It is a fact of life. We are all in this together, both the rich and the poor alike. Some win, others lose out- mostly out of ignorance.

Understand this; there is no battle free age group, gender, nationality or sex. The battle against adversities is a general one. It spares no one. It is an ecumenical war, all encompassing and very lethal in nature. If you live long enough, you will certainly face adversity. Being ignorant of these facts does not make you an exempt but exceptional victim.

Success in the words of TJ Watson, founder of the IBM

cooperation, is on the other far side of failure. You will unfailingly come across failures and adversities on your way to enduring success. Expecting to go through life without adversity is not only unrealistic but also makes adversity fatal on happening

Like the failures you know, just every truly successful person has equally encountered failure. The only difference is in how they handled them. The one who tenaciously kept advancing despite failures and adversities is the one we today hail as icon. The others who quit are best remembered as symbols of folly.

# ONE

## ACCEPT YOUR MISTAKE

The fact is, YOU blew it! No one else did. At the long run, each of us determines his or her destiny. Both of our successes and failures are the fruits of our past choices. Our future will equally be as a result of the choices we make today.

Stop looking far for whom to blame. Simply stand in front of the mirror and you will find the man you seek. Always look for a route to get out of the rut than for whom to pass the buck. Stephen R. Covey, a US educator and author writes in his book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, “The proactive approach to a mistake is to acknowledge it instantly, correct and learn from it. This literally turns a failure into a success”.

Cardinal de Retz, a French ecclesiastic and churchman observes, “One of man’s greatest failings is that he looks almost always for an excuse in the misfortune that befalls him through his own fault, before looking for a remedy-which means he often finds the remedy too late”. Retz further states, “The man who can own up to his error is greater than he who merely knows how to avoid making it”.

Mark Houlahan writes, “If you want your life to be a magnificent story, then begin by realizing that you are the author and everyday you have the opportunity to write a new page”. No matter how many time you got it wrong in the past, every new day presents to you a new opportunity to do it right.

Someone mused, “Most people would learn from their mistakes if they were not so busy denying them”. Understand

this; we all fail at a thing. There is hardly a successful person today that has never failed. They only formed the habit of getting up each time they fall down.

Like William Gladstone observes: “No man ever became great without many and great mistakes”. Writing further, Edward John Phelps adds, “The man who makes no mistake does not usually make anything”. He has never tried something new that has never made an error.

Don't be ashamed to acknowledge your mistake or to accept responsibility for it amendment - It is an act of courage. It takes courage to risk failing. However, it takes even a greater courage to accept responsibility. Mistakes are a veritable part of greatness.

Examine daily the thoughts you allow in your head. Your thought determines your lot. If you keep thinking defeats, you will remain defeated. If you think success, chances are you will turn your defeat into a deafening feat. Zig Ziglar writes: “When you focus on problems, you get more problems. When you focus on possibilities, you have more opportunities”.

## TAKE CHARGE

Listen closely to what your mind is saying and the words that proceed out of your mouth. Do they depict the picture of one in charge of one's life or that of one busy with excuses.

Be responsible and respond well to adversity. Failure is only a clarion call to work harder and try again in a different way. You are not a failure because you failed. You are only a failure when you fail to rise again while busy looking for whom to blame.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Famous as Odims Great, Odinma Ifeanyichukwu is an internationally renowned motivational speaker, writer and educator. He is a great intellectual and an inspiration to youths. He has authored several books and has served as an editor to numerous firms. He currently sits as the CEO and founder of Glad's Foundations- an organization that aims at gladdening the heart of youths and aged worldwide. The inspiration to write this book came while he served as his University's student chaplain.