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God is a Good God!

- **James 1:17 (NLT)**  
  17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.
Always Remember:

Anything and everything that is good that happens in your life is from God.
Think About This...

Deuteronomy 8:18 KJV  But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.
Think About It….

- All education is a gift from God, preparing you for your future and purpose…

- **Important Point:** Statistics show that people who are educated tend to be more prosperous, they are healthier, they live longer and their kids have a greater likelihood of being successful.
Education is a Blessing from God!
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- 26 percent of the world’s population is illiterate – which means they cannot read or write in their native language.
- 2/3 of all the world’s illiterates are woman
- India and China make up 52% of all the world’s illiterates
- 40% of the population of the African continent are illiterate
- 11% of the United States adult population are illiterate
Literacy Rates

- Per capita income in countries with a literacy rate less than 55 percent averages about $600
- Per capita income in countries with a literacy rate between 55 and 84 percent is $2,400
- Per capita income in countries with a literacy rate between 85 and 95 percent is $3,700
- Per capita income in countries with a literacy rate above 96 percent is $12,600
African American Condition in the U.S.A

US Census Bureau Statistics

• 41.8 Million Blacks in the United States
• 84% over age 25 have a high school diploma
• Only 19% of blacks over age 25 have a college degree
• African Immigrants to the U.S.A. – 41.3% have a college education
African American Condition in the U.S.A

• 3.5% have an advanced college degree (masters, doctorate, MD, law)
  – NOTE: The figure was the same a decade earlier in 1999

• 25.8% of single race blacks live below the poverty level (up 1.1% from the previous year)

• 21% of single race blacks have no health insurance
African American Condition in the U.S.A

Homeownership by Race

- **White**: 74.80%
- **Asian**: 59.30%
- **Hispanic**: 48.40%
- **African American**: 46.20%
African American Education

- Nationwide: 70% of all High School Students finish High School
- Dropout rate by ethnicity (2007)
  - Total Pop: 8.7  White: 5.3  Blacks: 8.4  Latinos: 21.4
- In 2006: Less than 50% of all African Males finished High School with their class – They dropped out or placed in special education.
- High School Graduating African American Males 2005-06 is 47%
Good Things Don’t Come Easily…

There is always some level of opposition to the blessing of God in your life.
Pay the Price…

If you want to excel academically, you have to be willing to invest time in your studies.

There are no tricks to becoming successful academically.
Developing a Right Mental Attitude

Important that you see the big picture – Discover your purpose ASAP.

Vision

Parents can help… EXPOSURE
Developing a Right Mental Attitude

• If you do well in middle and high school, you can pretty much write your own ticket when it comes to college.

• It can be difficult to get funds for college
  – It is worth your while to get good grades
Developing Good Study Habits

• When doing your homework, find an environment where you can lay all of your study materials out and have easy access to reference materials.

• Work in a clean environment free of clutter
Not Good...
Developing Good Study Habits

- Try not to study in the bed, the kitchen or in a room where you would normally watch TV or play video games. “TEMPTATION”
Developing Good Study Habits

• Establish a study routine. **Humans need routine in their lives** – Brings order and helps you to prepare yourself mentally and physically to do what you must be done.

  (Disciplined athletes, musicians, etc. understand this principal)
Developing Good Study Habits

• Turn off your phone close out Facebook, twitter and other social mediums when you study. Do your socializing before or after you study.
Developing Good Study Habits

- **Set goals and reward yourself when you reach them.**
  - Schedule your work and include a reward system
  - Complete a significant portion of your work where you mastered a concept, finished a number of problems or have written a significant portion of your assignment.
Developing Good Study Habits

- **Reward yourself** with social time (Facebook, twitter, etc.), a little TV or some other form of entertainment (be cautious with TV)
- Maybe you reward yourself with a snack or spend a little time playing a sport or instrument.
- **Beware of indulgences…**
Developing Good Study Habits

• If possible, get involved with a study group or form your own with other classmates (that are not lazy).

The data indicates that students in study groups tend to do better (Rutgers College of Engineering)
Developing Good Study Habits

READ YOUR SCHOOL BOOKS!
Taking Notes in Class

• Important that you learn to take notes in class.

• Be sure that you write down the high points of what the teacher discusses.
  – Note the areas that you have trouble understanding
  – Note the areas that your teacher says are important
Taking Notes in Class

- Review notes as soon as you can after you have taken a class.
- Organize your notes in a notebook. Include a title and a date for your notes.
  - Keep your notes in a set place so you can gain access to them.
- Recopy your notes if necessary.
Tips for Staying Motivated
Tips for Staying Motivated

• Surround yourself with your dreams
• Find ways to keep yourself engaged directly with the thing you would like to do. (So your goal does not seem so far removed...projects, summer interns, etc.)
Tips for Staying Motivated

• There is no quick fix for lack of motivation
  – The key to overcoming procrastination is having a vision for your life (Bigger than the classes you're presently taking)
  – Discipline yourself through routine.
  – Disciplining yourself to do school work is like getting into shape physically.
Tips for Staying Motivated

• When you first start to exercise....Your body does not want to do it because it is out of shape and your mind and body is not use to this activity
  – You are very vulnerable at this time and that is when you have to establish your dreams.
  – You are going to have discipline yourself

“Warring Phase”
Tips for Staying Motivated

• Motivation and confidence will increase as you master the subject matter.
• In time you will actually gain pleasure from studying because you are growing stronger mentally and intellectually and you will want to study.

At some point in time you will want to put more hours of study in because of the “rush” you have received up to that point.
Preparing for Exams

• **Do not wait** until the last minute to study for an exam – **Avoid the stress** of doing things the last minute.

• Leading up to an exam: it is important that you do your homework.
  – If you having trouble with your homework, seek help from your parents, teacher and your classmates.
  – Most teachers will be excited about you asking for extra help – **Many students don’t.**
Preparing for Exams

• Go beyond just doing the homework that is assigned.
  – Problem Solving: find other books containing similar problems and do them. Go on the internet and find example problems
  – Memorization: practice repetition by speaking the information out loud or writing it down.

• Get involved with a study group

Repetition!
Preparing for Exams

• If permissible: Get copies of old exams if they are legal to acquire. Review and take exams from previous years.
Tips for Taking Exams

• **Don’t freak out** – If you properly prepared for the exam you should have a high confidence level toward the exam.
  – Start your study for an exam at least **two weeks** ahead of time if feasible
  – Get plenty of rest before the exam…Don’t try to stay up late the night before…**Fatigue will jeopardize your ability to think and recall information.**
Tips for Taking Exams

• If possible, don’t study the night before – RELAX!
Tips for Taking Exams

• When you get your exam:
  – **Listen** to your teacher as to how to take the exam
  – **Read** each question at least once, preferably, **twice** – Many students make careless mistakes because they did not read the question properly.
  – If you have time, **CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!** (After the exam is over or after completing a problem)
Tips for Taking Exams

• Don’t get bog down with any given question – KEEP MOVING THROUGH THE EXAM AND COME BACK TO IT LATER.
Dealing with Stress

• Much of the stress associated with academic study comes as a result of procrastination
  – Learn to do things early!!

• Take your mind off of the things that stress you out – Do constructive activities
Dealing with Stress

• **Advice to Parents**
  – Stay calm and reassure your student
  – Help your student to develop a routine for their life – **Discipline is learned**.
  – Sometimes students get stressed. Monitor them and encourage them to do things that can relieve the stress. Intervene and help them to relax.

• **Extremely important** that you don’t allow your student to over-subscribe themselves in outside activities.
Balance is the Key to Life

• Important to balance your academic life with other constructive or fun activities that you enjoy
  – Constructive activities include sports, music, hobbies, etc.
  – Become good in at least one thing in your life – Helps to build your confidence.
More Tips for Parents

• Ask your student what they are studying. As they tell you what they learn, they are reinforcing the concepts they have learned.

• Be supportive to your student – Communication is key. Develop a relationship with your child’s teacher.
  – Studies have shown the most successful students have parents which are engaged in the education system.

• Help students to manage the amount of extracurricular activities.
Tips for Parents

• Don’t pass off your short comings and failures to your children

• Encourage your student when they don’t do well. Help to nurture their self-esteem.
  – A knock down is not necessarily a knock-out.

  “Successful people are not those who never fail, but those who never quit”

• Stay abreast of educational opportunities for your student.
Thank You!