

360° PARENTING

...sound parenting wisdom for raising today's child

**FREE
CHAPTER**

Osiri Wisdom



WISDOM OSIRI

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360° PARENTING

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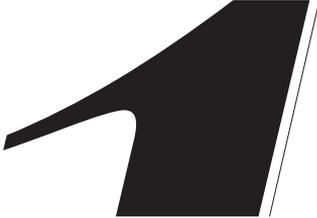
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Section



THE PARENTING PANIC

“Before I got married, I had six theories about raising children; now, I have six children and no theories.” - John Wilmot

Parenting is an exciting experience. Every active parent can attest to the fact that it is an interesting journey. I came across a quote that got me tensed, however, after a while I stared laughing uncontrollably.

“No matter how calmly you try to referee, parenting will eventually produce bizarre behavior, and I'm not talking about the kids. Their behavior is always normal.” - Bill Cosby

That was an excellent introduction to the journey I was about to take as a parent. Parenting is so dynamic, there is no one size fits all. Parenting will test you to your limits and bring you to your breaking point. In all of this, you will need courage to face the challenge of parenting. According to Erma Bombeck, "All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with a white carpet is one of them."

You will need courage to first lead yourself before trying to help your child. Remember the advice from the airline crew, "...in case of sudden loss of cabin air, first put on your oxygen mask before helping your child". The first time I heard that statement, I thought the crew made a mistake. The second time, I thought they were being insensitive. But after hearing it consistently on my many flights, I have seen the wisdom of that safety advice. You have to be alive to help another person. In the same vein, you have to be well behaved to impact same to your child.

"If you can control your behavior when everything around you is out of control, you can model for your children a valuable lesson in patience and understanding and snatch an opportunity to shape character." **Jane Clayson Johnson.**

The challenges which 21st century parents face are drastically different from what past generations of parents experienced. While the technology of the 21st century keeps making certain

things easier, and faster, it is definitely a challenge to parents in today's world. The Internet alone is a major stone on the plates of parents. The Internet is actually a double-edged sword, that can be your best friend in parenting or your greatest disruptor.

The Internet has the capacity to make or mar the parenting experience of a 21st century parent. Tools like smart phones and iPads with free Wi-Fi, are absolutely limitless in their possibilities. These tools have become potential substitutes and strong competitors to parents at home; and some of these platforms on social media have more influence on children than their parents. There is a sort of "Parenting Panic" that the 21st century has introduced into parenting and each parent has a peculiar experience to share.

The key point is this; the rules of parenting that worked in the past, can no longer be relied on today. Majority of our parenting theories from early centuries are currently obsolete and irrelevant, to say the least. Parenting is not for the faint at heart or individuals with a weak personality. It requires courageous leadership; saying "no" to an inappropriate request while smiling. **Parenting is for the bold.**

The Parenting Panic is so strong that some couples have either decided to delay making babies or even ruled it out altogether. Couples are more aware now than before, of the enormous responsibility that comes with having children. However,

because they have not been prepared in anyway to handle the responsibilities, the thought of parenting then creates panic. The mere thought of undertaking the Eighteen (18) years journey of raising a child into adulthood is scary to many. The parenting cycle of 18 years is just a conservative view. It could actually be much more than that, especially in underdeveloped or developing nations of the world.

When you factor in the overlapping effect of 2 to 3 other children, it looks like a life time project. This panic is real. The fact still remains that parenting is still one of the most important responsibilities known to the human race. Parenting is the ultimate long-term investment. It is worth investing an entire lifetime.

Another reason for this panic is that some of the emerging parents were not well-raised themselves. The reality is that, this set of parents are doing a great of a bad job. The increasing rate of vices in our world today, is a reflection of the type of parenting that is going on.

I visited a prison in my city, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State in the southern region of Nigeria, and I wept uncontrollably. I saw young men in their prime, languishing. I left there asking, “Who are their parents?” “How were they parented?” “What went wrong?” “Where did they miss it?” My heart was broken.

Cast your mind back a little, these are people's children. When they were born, celebration was declared. Special ceremonies and festivities were organized. As I pondered over these, a more troubling question came into my mind, “What type of children will these young men coming out of prison raise?”

*“I have come to understand that beyond what
I can build, who I have raised is the foundation
and pillar of legacy.
Parenting is a major builder of legacy.”*

So dear fellow parent, despite all the elements that create panic, let us roll our sleeves and get to work. It may appear as thankless job, but let's go to work. You may have seen others disappointed by their children, your case shall be different. Expect a rewarding undertaking. You will see beauty in your children, and relish their results.

In my analysis, the lasting solution to parenting panic is a parenting concept I call 360° Parenting. I admonish you to be open minded and encourage you to consider subscribing to 360° Parenting.

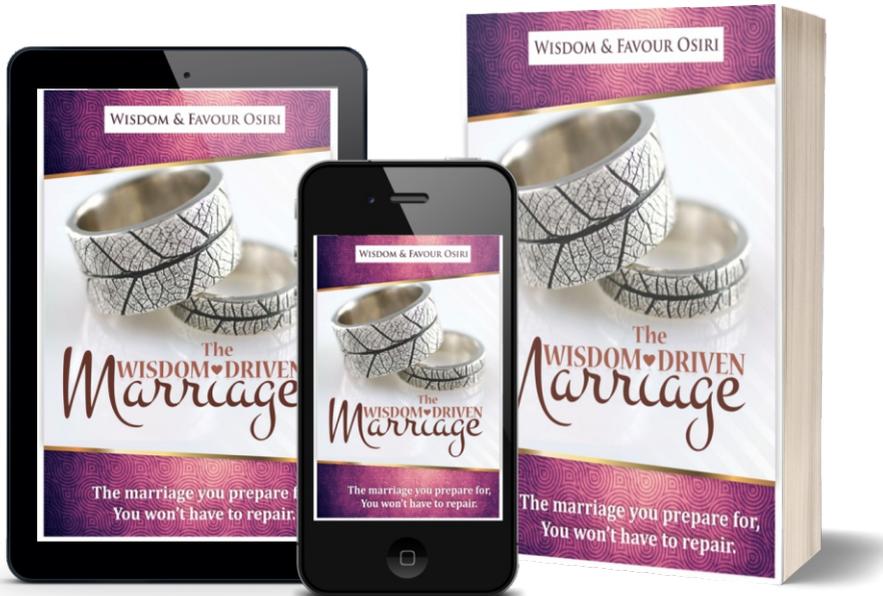
APPLYING IT

What lessons have you learned from this chapter?

What decisions have you made?

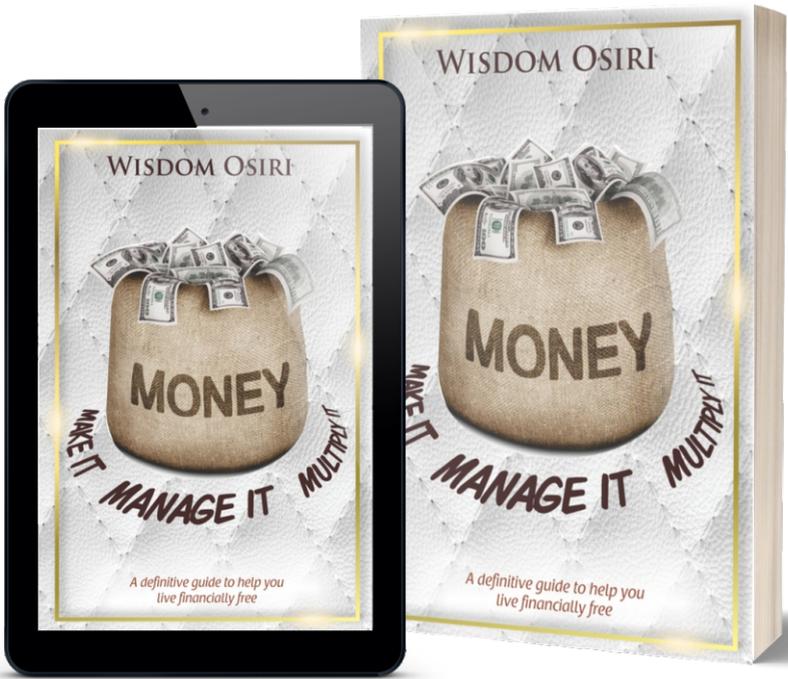
List the actions that you are going to take based on these lessons and decisions

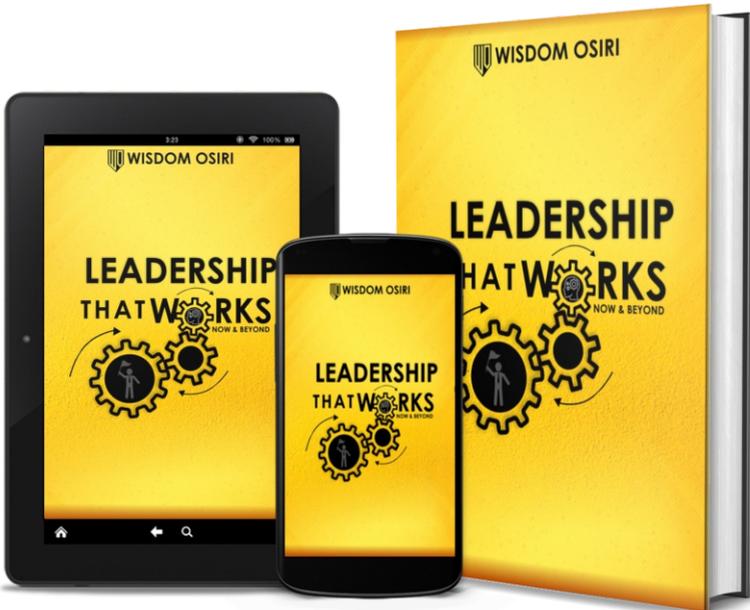
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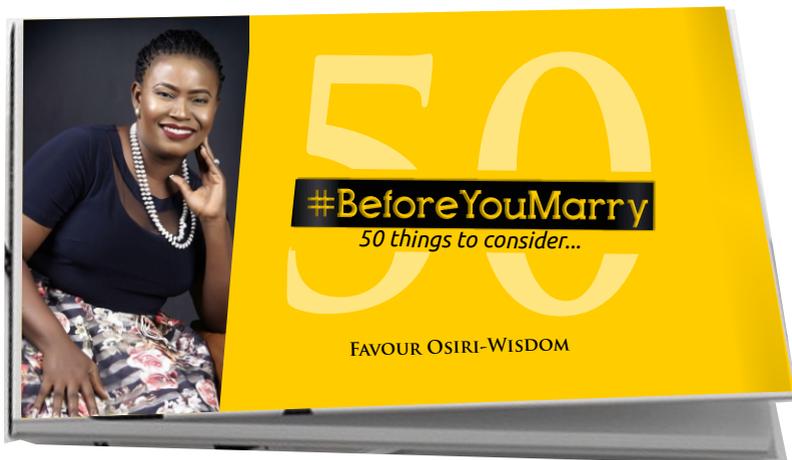
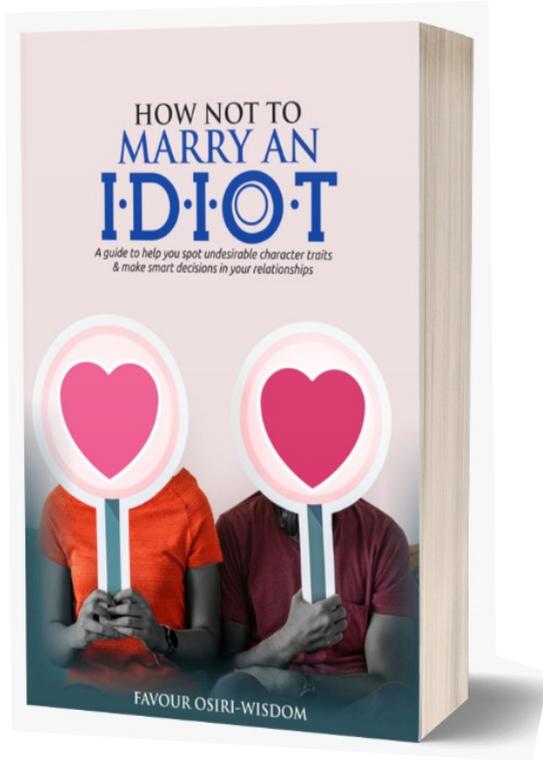


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360° PARENTING

Parenting is a major assignment for anyone who has brought a child into this world, or is given charge over another person's child. When parenting is done right, the benefits are great. In addition to learning the wisdom, the principles and the habits of 360° parenting, this book will:

- Help you overcome every form of parenting panic.
- Better equip you for your parenting role and responsibility.
- Help you identify your child's unique personality, thereby enabling you to build a solid personal relationship with him or her.
- Help you identify and direct your child towards a clear life direction.
- Equip and position your child for a future that both of you will be proud of.

THE AUTHOR

Osiri Wisdom is a pastor, author, relationship and life coach as well as a dynamic teacher of God's word. With a strong blend of academic and ministerial backgrounds, his teachings cut across Relationships, Entrepreneurship & Leadership.

With a sound pastoral and leadership training, a degree in Management and an MBA, Pastor Wisdom has served in various capacities, including Deputy Registrar of a top private University in Nigeria.

He serves as Lead Pastor of the Wisdom Place Church Port Harcourt, Nigeria which he and his wife Favour pioneered in 2013.

He is blessed with a great marriage and 3 wise kids.

