

UNDERSTANDING THE SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESSING IT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LIFE

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ABSTRACT: *The spiritual environment is presented as a factor that must be taken into reckoning, in attaining outstanding success in life. This is so not only for individual humankind, but also for communities and nations. It is the environment through which the spiritual being of humankind, interacts with other spiritual beings, such as the Supreme Being, His angels and satan and his cohorts. It is the environment in which the wicked among humankind, lay ambush for their victims, to carry out their evil deeds, which may adversely affect the destiny of such individuals, that of communities and nations. Accessing the spiritual environment properly, involves deployment of appropriate values and activities which are described as religious activities. It is through these humankind can also interact positively with the Supreme Being, who can frustrate the powers of the evil spirits operating in the spiritual environment.*

KEYWORDS: Spiritual Environment, Humankind, Supreme Being, Values, Religions, Individuals, Communities, Nations, Sustainable Development.

INTRODUCTION

The desire of every individual humankind is to attain outstanding success in life and with such success not only manifesting in himself or herself, but also in his or her impact in the management of the diverse environments around him or her. This is a legitimate aspiration of every humankind. However, not every humankind ever achieves this lofty wish of theirs. Several reasons could be adduced as accounting for this. Prominent among which is the failure of most people to properly access the spiritual environment, to assist them in their quest to achieve their wish for outstanding and sustainable success in life. The fact is that one only accesses what he or she understands and recognizes as a major factor in attaining outstanding success in life. This is why it is important that people are first guided to understand this unique environment – the spiritual environment and then guided further, on how to go about accessing it. This is why this paper is started with this important pre-requisite to attaining outstanding success in life.

The Environments

he term **environment**, having attained an omnibus status in the lexicon of many users of the English Language, has made the term to be put into diverse uses by humankind. However in this wide array of uses, certain environments can be said to truly satisfy the accepted definition of environment as “**the surrounding of an organism in the place where it lives**” (Fatubarin, 2009a). This definition aptly fits the **natural environment**, where the plants and animals that make up the organisms live. These plants and animals are also known by some other names. The plants are known as the flora, the animals, known as the fauna and the microorganisms (known as microbes and such other names as micro flora, for the microscopic plants and micro fauna, for the microscopic animals). In this natural environment, humankind only operates as

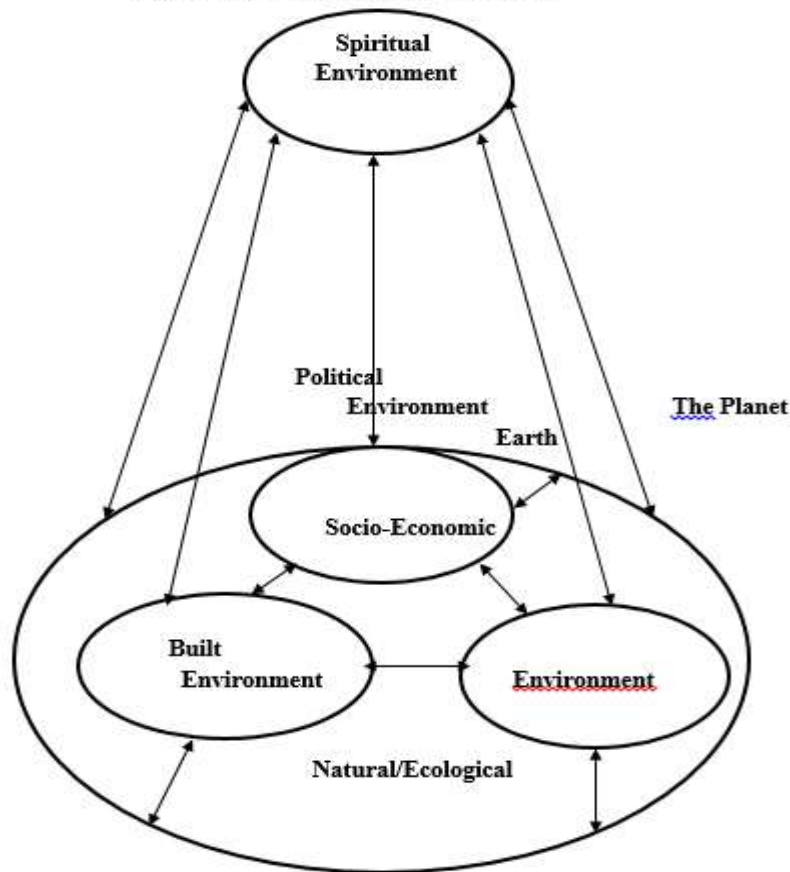
the anthropogenic factor. There are other environments brought about by humankind, in the planet earth. These other environments also fit the definition of environment. The only difference being that in these environments, humankind is the organism of reference. These environments are the so-called man-made environments, comprising the **socio-economic environment**, the **built environment** and the **political/governmental environment**. These are the environments which as earlier said, have humankind as the organism in focus and in which the surrounding is composed largely of human activities in the practice of the professions and through which the gross domestic product GDP of a country, is made possible. This is the case with the socio-political environment. There is the built environment, in which the original landscape of the natural environment is built up by humankind into structures, where the socio-economic activities are carried out. These activities include the agricultural activities, commercial activities, social services and activities related to infrastructural development, among others. There is also the political/governmental environment, in which activities relating to politics, governance, policy formulation, legislation and justice dispensation, among others occur.

These man-made environments of humankind in the planet earth, are creations of humankind, made possible by the endowments of the modern form of humankind, the *Homo sapiens* (Fatubarin, 2009b). Such endowments include his highly developed brain, which accounts for his unparalleled intelligence, his multi-dimensional evolution, which has brought about his immense ability to explore and exploit all environments and undergo multi-dimensional development in all facets of life. Another endowment is his ability of live in communities of human populations, in which social interactions of much more sophisticated nature much beyond the level of social interactions of other lower forms of life occur.

The spiritual Environment

There is however an additional environment, which has not sufficiently registered into the consciousness of most people. It is therefore rarely talked about and as such, usually forgotten or glossed over, when discussing the environments. This is partly so because it is abstract in nature and partly because it is extra-terrestrial in nature – occurring within the spiritual realm. This environment is the **spiritual environment**. Fatubarin (in press), gave a graphic impression of the spatial relationship of this spiritual environment to other environments in a figure similar to the one below

The figure below, illustrates the spatial relationship of the environments and their possible interactions in the planet earth



This spiritual environment is like the natural environment, a creation of the Almighty God. It however has been in place, ever before the natural environment was created by the Almighty God. It is the environment in which the Almighty God exists. It therefore predates all forms of creation. To appreciate the existence of this environment, it may be necessary to first of all, understanding the nature of humankind as a three-fold-being, comprising the physical, the social and the spiritual (Adeboye, 2013). The physical being of humankind, makes possible the creation of the man-made environments, through his highly developed brain. The social being of humankind in conjunction with his physical being, make possible his interactions with all the environments, both natural and man-made. If the above explanation has accounted for the role of the physical and social being of humankind, the question then arises, **“What is the role of the spiritual being of humankind?”**

It is the spiritual being of humankind that is engaged by him on all issues of life, much beyond the capacity of his physical and social being to resolve. It is this spiritual being that is deployed in all issues of life that border on his destiny, that of his communities and that of his nations. It is this spiritual being that is deployed into a unique environment – the spiritual environment, to interact with the spiritual beings, not readily seen with the ordinary human eyes. Such beings include the Supreme Being – the Almighty God and His holy agents, such as the angels, in

taking decisions on issues of life that are of benefits of humankind and such that sustain such issues for the eternal benefit of humankind. These issues are not only of vital importance to humankind, but are also much beyond what his physical and social being, have control over. They are issues much beyond his intelligence and his connections through his social interactions. It is also this spiritual being that humankind uses to interact with the devil and his cohorts, which are also spiritual beings, existing within the spiritual environment. It must be recalled that humankind right from the garden of Eden, lost the opportunity of interacting with the Supreme Being alone, the very time our first parents in persons of Adam and Eve, allowed satan into their life, through the snake that deceived them into eating the forbidden fruit.

The spiritual environment, is one that people who are endowed by the Almighty God with spiritual eyes, can have a glimpse of. Such people include the highly spiritual Men of God. Such people can peep into the spiritual environment and make declarations concerning the future of individuals, communities and nations. Some people with demonic powers, can also have a glimpse of the spiritual environment and use such evil powers to make sure that certain good things concerning individuals do not come to pass. Communities and nations can also have their destiny truncated, if their leaders, known by whatever names they are called, are not in good standing in the spiritual environment.

This spiritual being of humankind, is what has evolved with humankind in his multi-dimensional evolution. It is through his spiritual evolution that humankind came to recognize the existence of the Supreme Being and His roles in the affairs of humankind – the roles which are initiated in the spiritual environment. A good example of this role, is that manifested in the life of Job (Job 1: 6 – 12). In this episode, God had an interaction with satan on Job and God gave satan the permission to take Job through a test of his faith. Job to the glory of God, went through the test unscathed and in a way that made even satan to accept that Job was indeed a man of God. The interaction of God with satan occurred within the spiritual realm, in the extra-terrestrial spiritual environment. Only the manifestation of this interaction occurred in the physical realm, in the planet earth, in the life of Job.

The spiritual environment is unique in the sense that all those decisions that account for successes of individuals, communities and nations on earth, are initiated in this environment. Such decisions include those of outstanding achievements, break-through, developments, among others. Similarly, decisions through which all these successes are perpetuated and made to last for ever, through their sustainability, are usually taken in the spiritual environment. In a similar vein, decisions that bring about unpalatable consequences on individuals, communities and nations, terrible occurrences that affect the destiny of individuals, that of communities and nations, are also usually initiated in the spiritual environment. Examples of such terrible occurrences, include the curses and other issues that run counter to success in life.

Examples of the terrible decisions that humankind take in the spiritual environment that affect adversely the destiny of individuals and that of communities and nations, are those bordering on corruption and violence, which are great abominations before the Almighty God. They are offences for which the holy bible claims that the world at the time of Noah, was destroyed (Genesis 6:11, 12 & 13). A new title on this all-important issue of spiritual environment, contains the variety of cases of corruption and those of violence. The title is “**Understanding the Spiritual Environment**” (Fatubarin, in press).

Over several ages of evolution of humankind and the advancement in the physical and social being of humankind, a number values needed for attaining outstanding success in life, have become revealed to humankind by the Almighty God, who makes all good things of life possible.

Such values include those Fatubarin (in press), referred to as core values of life, in another publication titled “**The Nigerian Nation and the Time-honoured Values and Virtue.**” Examples of these core values are the godly values, also known as spiritual values, which Methodist Church Nigeria referred to in her 2013 Calendar as Christian Values. Other core values include the individual personality values, family values, societal or community values and national values.

There are also others, such as value of appropriate attitudes, values of abstinence from indecent social habits and value of impact. Besides the above, are others such as cultural values, traditional values, ethical values, environmental values and aesthetic values.

Humankind has also been exposed to the appropriate virtues and attitudes needed to cultivate these values and make outstanding success of not only their life, but also that of their communities and nations. The biblical narrative however teaches us the need to carry God along in our bid to buy into the values of life and the virtues and attitudes needed to achieve them. This the bible recounts in the statement that, “if Paul plants and Appollo waters, if the blessings of the Almighty God are missing, no good success can come out of such an endeavour.” This is a lesson for all humankind to access the right spiritual environment, in all issues of life dear to humankind. Such issues of life include those of personal success, personal development and one’s destiny in life and the destiny of ones children, one’s spouse and all loved ones. They also include issues of our communities and nations.

Humankind, Religion and The Almighty God and The Spiritual Environment

At this point in time in this attempt to make people have a clear understanding of the spiritual environment, it must be made clear to readers, how the trio of humankind, the religion and the Almighty God, come into play in this discussion on the Spiritual Environment.

Humankind and The Spiritual Environment

Humankind earlier on described as a three-fold being (Adeboye, 2013), is a special creation of the Almighty God equipped with the spiritual being, that enables him to communicate and interact with the spiritual environment – a creation of the Almighty God. It is important to underscore that it does not matter whether one is a believers or not, to interact with the spiritual environment, to access what ever one desires, whether good or bad. All one needs to be, is a humanbeing – a feature which confers on one, the benefit of the spiritual being, needed to access the spiritual environment.

The Religions and the Spiritual Environment

Humankind during his evolution, developed his spiritual being to a stage, when he recognized that there is a God that rules in the affairs of humankind. He therefore needed to commune with this God. It was this that made humankind to evolve the religion, as a means of communing with God. Initially, he also evolved “smaller gods,” called deities, as an intermediary, to commune through them with the Almighty God. Along the line in the development of humankind, religions of diverse types and sects evolved, with some, Christianity and Islamic religion in particular, recognizing God as the Supreme Being. Other religions still continue

with the worship of the lesser gods. It is through the religions that humankind access the Almighty God in the spiritual environment, through prayers, reading of the holy bible and quoran, meditating in their contents and other religious activities. Such other religious activities include alms giving, wining souls for the Almighty God.

The Almighty God and the Spiritual Environment

The Almighty God is the creator of humankind and the spiritual environment (as well as the natural environment). He rules in the affairs of humankind who uses all forms of religion, to access Him. He controls the spiritual environment and all dwellers of this environment – the spiritual beings of the holy and unholy forms, only have access to the hearts of humankind, trough Him wish. Before considering how individual humankind, communities and societies and nations can access the spiritual environment for outstanding success in life, it is important to recognize the following:

- i. That the Supreme Being who created humankind, created him in His own image, possibly because God intends that humankind should resemble Him in all things, including the actions humankind takes at all times.
- ii. That humankind created as a 3-fold-being, comprising the physical, the social and the spiritual being, has the spiritual being of him as the major edge over other creations, a unique one as such, that makes him and him alone to explore the spiritual environment.
- iii. That this spiritual being of humankind could be said to be intended by the Almighty God for the following:
 - a. Recognizing the existence of the Almighty God – The Supreme Being;
 - b. Linking up with the Supreme Being, who is also a spiritual being and through such a link, appreciate the greatness of the Almighty God and accord Him all honour, adoration, praises and worship He richly deserves;
 - c. Linking up with other spiritual beings such as the Angels of the Almighty God and the devil and his cohorts, if he so desires in his mind, as done by our early parents – Adam and Eve;
 - d. Making these links through the spiritual environment, which can only be accessed through the spiritual being of humankind.
- iv. That humankind has unlimited opportunities to attain success on earth and work for a place of eternity in either heaven or hell, while on the planet earth. This is the design of the Almighty God for humankind.
- v. That attaining good success on earth can be possible on the following conditions:
 - a. That humankind makes conscious effort to cultivate the values of life, by consciously imbibing the appropriate virtues and attitudes needed to cultivate these values;
 - b. That humankind seeks the face of the Almighty God in the spiritual environment, to strengthen and bless his efforts in cultivating the values, through imbibing the appropriate virtues and attitudes needed to cultivate these values;
 - c. That humankind seeks the face of the Almighty God to counter all spiritual forces that may operate in the spiritual environment, to block his efforts in accessing the blessings and grace of the Almighty God. One of such spiritual forces is that of the devil, which is always in this spiritual environment, raising complaints about the wrong deeds of people before the Almighty God in the spiritual environment. There are also the forces of the evil ones among humankind, who do not wish one well. Such evil ones may have the witches and wizards and people with other evil spirits, counted among them. They too operate within the spiritual environment. There are also the forces of curses, that are running in the generations of some families, either on the father side or the mother side or both.

- d. That there are diverse temptations of the carnal body, that may sway one away from accessing the right spiritual environment. Such temptations constitute what are referred as sins, with such sins including those of diverse forms of corruption and violence – sins which the Almighty God loathes and has demonstrated His abhorrence of them at the time of Noah (Genesis 6: 11, 12 & 13);
- e. That seeking the face of the Almighty God will have to be done, through prayers, kind thoughts, words and deeds, which may not exclude, cheerful giving, winning souls for the Kingdom of God, among others.
- f. That seeking the face of the Almighty God, may also include involving proven Men of God and Assemblies of People of God, in giving one some support. Such support may involve special prayers, standing in the gap for one between one and the Almighty God, deliverance ministration, breaking of yokes and curses, among others. It is in (e) and (f) above, that the good religions also come in handy, in assisting people with accessing the spiritual environment, for outstanding success in life.

Accessing the Spiritual Environment for Outstanding Success by Individuals

The spiritual environment is an open environment available to all humankind to access, irrespective of their attitude to religion or to religious beliefs. This is so because all humankind has a spiritual being, as a major component of their three-fold- being. Since no one is quite sure of how humankind accesses this spiritual environment, all that are being put forward in this section, are mere postulates on the possibilities. It is however been postulated that for an individual to attain outstanding success in life, the spiritual environment must be involved. This is so because the issue of success is a destiny issue, for which the spiritual environment must be involved.

It is being postulated further that four conditions must be fulfilled by such an individual. These conditions are:

- i. Such an individual must have acquired the values of life, appropriate for the issue in which such an individual wants to make his or her mark or attain remarkable success.
- ii. Such an individual must be free from all encumbrances, that can militate against successful exploration of the right spiritual environment. Examples of such encumbrances are the sins.
- iii. Such an individual must have made conscious effort to forestall all other forces, must beyond such an individual, which may work against one's interest in the spiritual environment. Such forces may include curses.
- iv. The individual must be in good standing with the Supreme Being, through a true religion.

Further light is shed below, on each of the four conditions listed above, for accessing the right spiritual environment for outstanding success of individuals in life. Comments are also passed on exceptions to these conditions that have been noticed among humankind.

Outstanding Success of Individuals and the Core Values of Life

Over several generations of the evolution of humankind on the planet earth, the Supreme Being has made it possible for him to harness a number of his key endowments, such as the brain, his spiritual being and his interactions in different populations in which he finds himself operating most of the time, to put in place a number of core values of life. Besides these core values are other values that humankind must effectively deploy, to attain outstanding success in any human endeavour. These values are most probably the raw materials that the Supreme Being acts upon, to bless the efforts of individuals by producing success with the efforts of such individuals.

Some examples of these values are worth citing, to further underscore the point being made in this section, on their importance in making individuals attain good success in life. Every individual humankind who knows the value of education wants a good education. Such an individual also wants to have a good job, a good car and a good house, among other important goodies of life, that help to show outstanding success in a person. To achieve these legitimate demands of good success, an individual needs to possess some core personality values. This is irrespective of whether such a person is a believer or not.

These key personality values include love of one's self, personal integrity, discipline, diligence, honesty, reliability, self control, focus, among others. These personality values are particularly important, because they help in making other core values possible. They also help in sustaining them. They help in making outstanding success possible in individuals. They are values individuals need to have a good education and those material needs of successful life, such as a good job, a good car and a good house.

Take for example, the value of diligence. In a nation where many people do not value industry and hard work, where many handle their personal assignments with levity, not to talk of government jobs, which many see as "no-man's jobs," jobs that do not require any personal sweat! God will definitely reward diligence. Diligence, the bible recounts makes people rich (Prov. 21:5). Diligence prevents reproach in a person's life (Prov. 12:27). It is also the stuff leaders are made of (Prov. 12:24). Diligence is also what is capable of making people stand before kings. It also attracts attention of one to people. If therefore a diligent person becomes a successful, it will not be a surprise to observers.

Freedom of individuals from encumbrances and other spiritual forces of darkness

Where an individual is imbued with these core personality values, he or she must also expectedly be free of encumbrances, such as secret sins and grudges against other people. However, because of the carnal nature of humankind, it is desirable that individuals seek these personality values from the Almighty God, through the spiritual environment. This is where prayers and good deeds come in handy. This is also where the good religions come in handy. Every humankind needs the blessings of the Almighty God on one's individual efforts. One also needs His grace, to shun sins and ward off all evil forces available in the spiritual environment, such as the powers of the rulers of darkness and those of curses on generations of one's parentage, as in the case of some people.

Good religion however comes in handy in this issue in some areas:

- a. It will enable one to acknowledge the existence of the Almighty God.
- b. It will make one to love God and love one's neighbour as one's self.
- c. It will enable one to carry God who created all these good things, such as values, virtues and attitudes along, in one's fervent desire for these good things. This is borne out of our knowledge that the Almighty God will not deny His loved ones any good things of life, they request from Him.
- d. Good religions which place much premium on prayers, supplications and kind deeds, will make such individuals requesting for these good things of life, to take them before the Almighty God in prayer, as often as one prays.
- e. Good religions will make such individuals refrain from all such deeds, sayings and thoughts that are evil and as such, can constitute barriers towards attaining these desired goals.
- f. Good religions will make believers do all such good things that will make God to be pleased with them, so much so that He will readily grant their wish. Such good things include praising

God always, obeying His commandments, reading and meditating in His Word and winning souls for His Kingdom. All these are besides other good deeds believers readily engage in.

All these activities help believers to make their access to the spiritual environment easier. They make access to the right spiritual beings, who carry these requests to the Almighty God, easier and faster. They also contribute much in making the gifts to be enduring with them and contribute equally much to assuring the sustainability of the gifts among generations of their children, particularly if they too buy into all these activities of their believer – parents.

The question may arise, “**How do some so-called unbelievers’ come to benefit from good success of life?**” To answer this type of question, it must be mentioned that all one can do is to put up a number of suggestions. First among these suggestions, is that the Almighty God acts in the way He pleases, most of the time. The bible recounts that God Almighty said that He will show mercy to whom so ever, He so pleases. As such, such individual unbelievers, may be beneficiaries of the uncommon favour of the Almighty God. This is particularly so, if they imbue themselves with the core personality values, which God has made available to all humankind, to buy into and the Almighty God is so impressed with this and is well disposed to favouring them.

Secondly, such so-called unbelievers may besides the core personality values they possess, might have imbued themselves with a number of other values of life, for which God will not fail to reward. Such values include love, with this love extending from one’s self to one’s family members, love of one’s community and love of the nation. The Almighty God will always reward any labour of love, rendered genuinely to one’s family, one’s community and one’s nation. Besides love, are other core values of compassion, commitment, service and justice. Others are nationalism and patriotism. These are all values of life that God will be pleased with and would want to reward people who possess them with His gracious favour.

Accessing the Spiritual Environment for Outstanding Success by Communities

For communities, societies and groups of people who are united by certain features such as cultural affinity, religion and social values, accessing the spiritual environment may differ in some details from those of individuals. Where such communities or groups of people are making requests for their communities or groups for certain things of life that are pleasing to the Almighty God, all the members must probably fulfill the following conditions to make them achieve good success with their request:

- i. They all must be in one accord, in having a fair knowledge of the core values they require to achieve what they need; Prominent among these values are love, peace, compassion, tolerance, commitment and justice;
- ii. They all must be determined to acquire such values;
- iii. They all must be united, focused and diligent on such things they need.

The leadership of the community or group, must endeavour to be in the vanguard in the above-listed conditions for achieving good success with the requests of the group. Since the issues the group is pursuing are such that will require accessing the spiritual environment to obtain appropriate answers to the requests of the group, it may be in order to expect the members of the group and at the very least, their leadership, to be in good standing in the religious imperatives, to get good reports concerning their requests. The story of the release of Paul and Silas from prison where they were kept, buttresses this issue of oneness in accord, in group requests to access the spiritual environment. Similarly, the accessing of the holy spirit at the

time of Pentecost, involved the Apostles of Jesus, unity of action in staying in one place at the upper chamber in Jerusalem. There they awaited the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the holy spirit to them, before they embarked on their mission of spreading the gospel of Christ across the nations of the world. This, they succeeded in doing, through the power of the holy ghost.

Most communities are as diverse as most features used in characterizing them. Some will be believers, while others are not. While most are for the over all good of the communities, others may not care, while a few may even work in contrast to the good of their communities or societies. **How do such heterogonous communities or groups benefit from outstanding successes, which only the Almighty God can bestow on communities?**

This is where the example of the bible in the community where Lot lived, may be relevant. The Almighty God may consider the plea of the few members, who through their commitment to the societal and communal values, may receive the grace of the Almighty God, in accessing the right spiritual environment. Besides, if just a few of the community members are in good standing in the spiritual environment, the Almighty God may in His gracious mercy, accede to their requests on behalf of their community, for outstanding success. The Almighty God may also just pick on some communities and shower them with His favour, as He did in the ages past, for the family of Joseph in Egypt.

Accessing the Spiritual Environment for Outstanding Success by Nations

For nations, accessing the spiritual environment on behalf of the nation, may not be as easy as it for individuals and communities or groups of people. For instance, it may not be easy to have all the citizens of a nation being equally prepared spiritually for any assignment, no matter how much they are committed to it. Similarly, it may not be easy for any nation to get all the citizens on equal and acceptable standing on such core national values as nationalism, patriotism, justice, love and service, all of which are needed to achieve outstanding success on any issue for the nation. Yet, nations do achieve good success in such issues as economic development, environmental management, break throughs and other areas of human endeavour, that distinguish nations as being developed and with outstanding records in all indices of development. How then do such nations go about it?

The truth every one must accept is that, no good thing comes out of any individual, community/group or nation, without the blessings of the Almighty God. Since such good things are part of what can be accessed from the spiritual environment, it means that some measure of spiritual input must have gone into achieving such good things. **How do nations go about achieving such good things of life, that only the Almighty God bestows on nations?**

Firstly, it can be assumed that certain good things of life, can be assessed from the spiritual environment, through collective input of individual personality values by all those put in charge of assignments involving such good things. Examples of such individual personality values required are similar to those for achieving individual goals.

Secondly, where the leadership is deeply committed on any issue that will facilitate development of the nation, people involved in such leadership at what ever level, must commit the totality of their individual and collective endowments (physical and spiritual), to achieving such as issue. Besides, such leadership may have to go a step further, to ensure that they deploy such group virtues of supervision, monitoring, consultation, motivation, prompting and similar

virtues. These are to ensure that all people no matter how small their involvement is at the “performance chain” on that assignment, remain committed to the assignment.

Thirdly, all citizens of the nation who through the grace of God, have bought into certain vital spiritual national values of patriotism, love, service, commitment, among others and are interested in the success of their leaders, will continue to wish such leaders success in their national assignments. They will also wish such leaders well, even in their domestic and personal affairs. Such demonstration of unsolicited love, probably counts in the spiritual realm, to grant favour for such a nation in the spiritual environment, which later manifests in the physical realm.

Fourthly, where a nation is pursuing a just cause, it is imperative that the citizens of such a nation, demonstrate collective commitment to such a cause. Most of the citizens must demonstrate such commitment, through their cooperation with government, in seeing to success of all policies on such an issue. Through such actions, the spiritual environment will most likely favour such a cause. Lastly, is the input of believers, as individual citizens, as groups such as religious groups and fellowships and those in leadership positions, whether in political parties, governments, judiciary, legislature and other policy makers. These groups of people must see to it that they regularly back up their leaders, the country and the citizens, with prayers. Such prayers of believers, avail much not only within the spiritual environment, but also before the Almighty God, who has a final say on all issues of life.

There is also the factor of the grace and favour, of the Almighty God, which he can at any time bestow on any body, any group or any nation, at His own discretion. This is the type of grace and uncommon favour the Almighty God showered on the nation of Israel in ages past. Where in spite of all the above-discussed avenue for accessing the benefits of the spiritual environment, certain individuals, communities or groups and nations, are still lagging behind, this may be due to a number of factors.

Prominent among these factors are:

- i. Lack of the virtues and appropriate attitudes only God can bestow on people, for achieving the values, that make for good success in life.
- ii. Lack of appropriate knowledge, determination, focus and diligence on issues of importance in destiny, which only the Almighty God can make possible for good success in life.
- iii. Non-association with a good religion, that can assist in making the will of the Almighty God manifest on those things, that make for good success in life.
- iv. Involvement of individuals, leaders of whatever group – be it the home, community, groups and the nation, in all things that constitute corruption and violence, on which much light had earlier on been shed in this paper. Corruption and violence are abominations before the Almighty God. He is not likely to be well disposed to bestowing his kindness on people involved in such violent things as murder, ritual killings, rape, sex with infants and corruption, in forms of political corruption, inflation of contracts and frauds.

This may be a major reason why individuals, communities and groups of people and nations, are not making head way in many parts of the world.

CONCLUSION

This paper is of special interest to all people, irrespective of their religion and belief. It is also of special interest to all people writing or commenting on the environments, particularly the environmentalists. This paper has underscored the special importance of the spiritual environment over all other environments. It is the environment that God has put in place for humankind to access whatever he wants in life. It is an environment which only humankind among all creations, has access to and one in which he can access to fellowship with his Creator. It is an environment crucial to outstanding success of life. It is one that must just be accessed in a right manner, to assure sustainability of all good things of life. Humankind must access it in the right way, to please his Creator – the Almighty God. Accessing it wrongly, also has its own repercussions, which expectedly, can never be pleasant to the Almighty God, who wants the best for humankind, whom He has created in His image.

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