



The

ZEAL

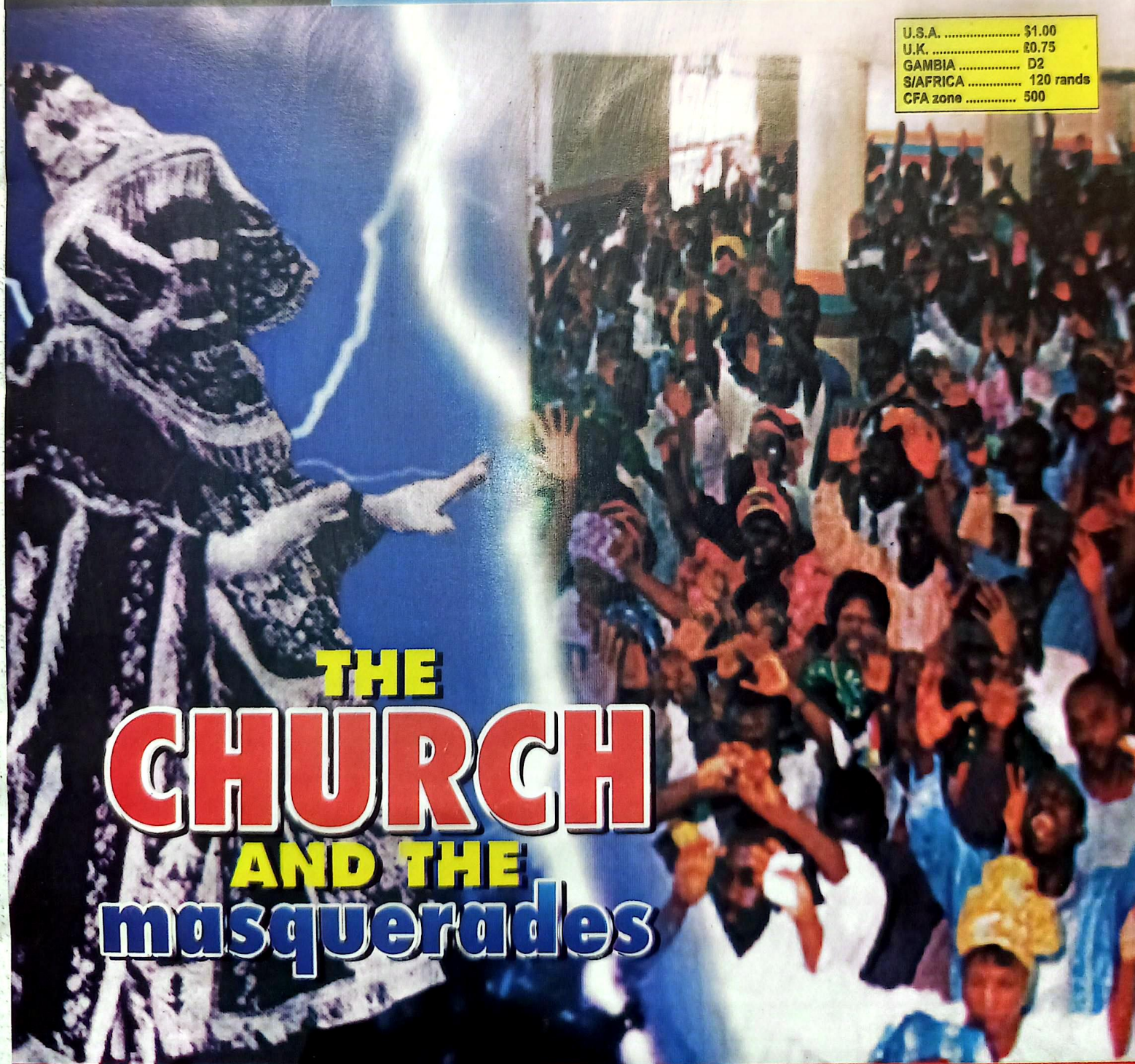


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PROMOTING REVIVAL AND MISSIONS

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THE CHURCH AND THE masquerades

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Find the missing Link.

How does God lead you?

Can you say in all honesty that you have implicit faith in your answer? Why not seek Him afresh?

Attain U.D.T.S. this season.

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COVER CHOICE:

The Church and the Masquerade (picture of people leaving a Church service?). The church has never run short of troubles! And more often, than not, her greatest headache is within. To sit in the congregation of the righteous has always been the devil's chief aspirations.

So we see that the Church has always had parallel look-alikes. In this powerful episode of the Zeal; our inspirational chief editor presents a careful research of many years, to motivate you to pray and to content for the glorious truth, which only can give life eternal. You've never read anything like it before!

(9)

IMPORTANCE OF PREVAILING PRAYERS IN THESE LAST DAYS

Dr. Kehinde Adebisi

The firebrand pastor makes a clarion call to the Church to engage in result-oriented praying to combat the challenges of 21st century depravities; and to prepare herself for the final harvest and the imminent return of the King of glory.

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ISSUES: THE BATTLE FOR THE WORD

Johannes Facius a renowned Bible teacher takes a cursory look at the new penchant for Humanism and the quest for extra Biblical revelations and desire to experiment with the unseen world. He affirms that "A little deviation to begin with will end with a great distance in the end..."

(15)

SOCIETY: REVOLUTION IS COMING!

Evangelist Amobichukwu forays through the strata of Nigerian society seeking to find values that constitute the strength and weakness of organized community: either built under God, or built under the guise of civilization; and concludes, "There is a missing link between the reality and what obtains in our land". But this is not unattainable; rather it is the propelling force that drives the nation! Find out.

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"THE ZEAL ISSN: 1117-7659"

The Zeal is published to serve as an instrument to promote revival and Missions. We believe that only a revived Church can send out missionaries. And God's charge to us is to 'present every man perfect in Christ Jesus (Col.1:28)' All articles in this magazine are copyright protected, and may only be reproduced with due acknowledgement and permission of PRAISE PUBLICATIONS.

TERMS OF ISSUES

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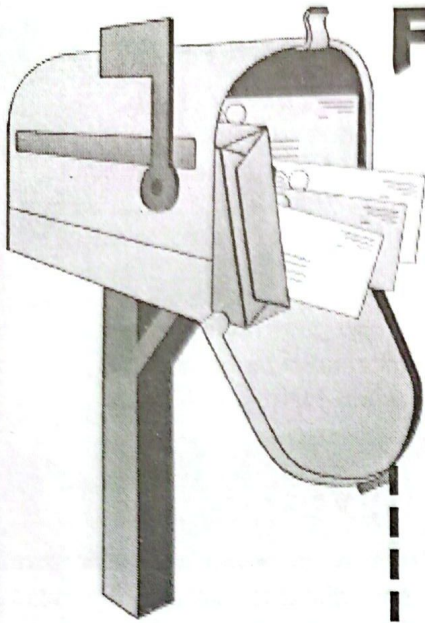
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FROM YOU TO US

Dear Sir,
I thank God for the magazine as it is a blessing to me; and my prayer is for God to continue to use the magazine to reach the unreached.

*Bro. Idowu S.
Ikeja, Lagos.*

Dear Inno Praise,
Greetings in the precious name of Yeshua Ha Mashischi. Thank you for the copy of "ZEAL" magazine that you sent. May the Lord use it mightily throughout Nigeria to bring His word to the unreached people of your country and even wider afield.

We do pray much for your country in its hour of distress but as you so rightly say, God is in control. We do pray that you can also widely distribute the CFI material, to increase the prayer cover for His people Israel and bring a blessing to those who stand with her.

*R. Valentine
C.F.I. Jerusalem.*

Dear Inno-Praise,
Rejoice for Jesus Cares!
The Lord is committed to the welfare of man in time and in eternity. And in line with this, He has, by way of

"The Zeal" lighted a candle. You must therefore feed the flame. Don't lose the vision of Christ. As to how and success, just think of how, even from the Patmos Island, "Revelation" became a reality-not just revealed, but written and read. God is wonderful!. And that was John.

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Synopsis

MAN IS NOT IN CONTROL

At his best man is still a product of his actions. Man's actions are a by-product of two contending forces – the force of evil constantly engineered by Satan; and the force of righteousness – an outflow of Christ's life in us. And man must act from either perspective. There are no middle grounds. In fact, he must be consciously aligned to one. He is either righteous or unrighteous.

There are two spiritual absolutes from which to examine a man's actions: **Holiness and Immorality**. (Rev.21:7-8; 1Pet.1:13-21). A man must either be contending for holiness through Christ or he is a bondsman to immorality. Immorality is not a weakness, but a heart condition. (Mk7:20-23).

It is a serious heart disease which expresses itself in all kinds of evils. **'...for from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts...'** There is no such thing as a good man who, however, is an adulterer; a fornicator, or a thief. If he does any of these things, then his heart has given him up for what he is: immoral. He cannot stand the presence of God.

Sin is not a weakness but a choice. You will either chose Christ and receive grace, or you reject Holiness and have "the motions of sins" operating in your life. (Gal.5:17). You will either yield to the spirit or you will yield to the flesh. Yet God commands holiness and obedience; He created man a moral being with a freewill, but responsible for his own actions.

God does rule and even over-rules (Ps.76:10) but He does not run a man's life or affairs without invitation. He is never an intruder! The devil is, and does compel men against their wish. Are you free from him?

Man, arrogant man acts as if he knows anything, but he is a slave of an invisible hand. His lot/role lies in his choices and allegiance; beyond that he simply acts a script, written and directed beyond his perception: **"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."** Jer10:23.

Even scientific man cannot explain his inventions. It just happens! A flash of thought; a dint of imagination and a propelling energy to act, and an unusual comes into being! He has invented something. What? He scrambles for a name, and comes out with one. Then it is.

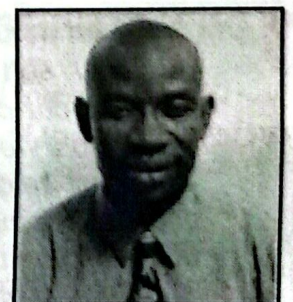
Therefore, who are thou O mortal man that prides thyself of thy power, of thy prowess, of thy knowledge, of thy wealth, and of thy estate in life? **You are not in control.** The Master of the universe says "on my own I can do nothing" "and what hast thou that thou didst not receive." 1 Cor.4:7

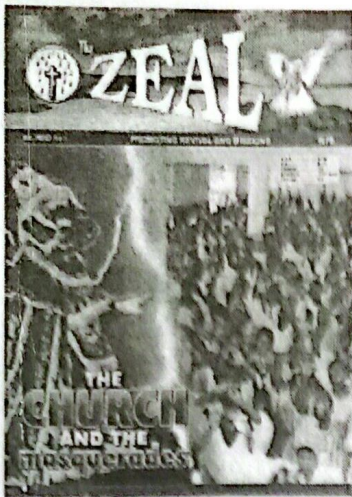
And to a believer: **"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"** Phil.2:13.

Man is not in control so choose ye this day whom ye would serve. Either your lusts or His will. **"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."** Jn.3:6.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Ti.2:11-14.

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COVER CHOICE

THE CHURCH and the Masquerades

Inno Praise

The church is the beautiful body of Christ; the powerful arm of the Lord to execute His will upon the earth; the tent in the wilderness; the tabernacle of witnessing the light of the world and the salt of the earth. This holy assembly of the redeemed is God's greatest desire for mankind; His sole purpose for sending Christ into the world.

The ecclesia of God is God's answer to this world system which the scripture described as "this present evil world". (Gal.1:4) that lie in the wicked one.

This congregation of blood washed saints; the witness of the Truth, is God's healing centre for the world.

The Church is the diadem of this age; the royal priesthood, a peculiar people and a holy nation; a chosen generation to show forth the praises of God. This body of intercessors (iTim.2¹⁻⁴) designed to be chaste, separated from sin and purposeful in bringing sinners to Christ has always been one of God's greatest concerns. This is because the devil has always sought a place among God's people.

*"How art thou fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning! How
art thou cut down to the ground,
which didst weaken the nations! For
thou hast said in thine heart, I will
ascend in to heaven; I will exalt my
throne above the stars of God: I will
sit also upon the mount of the
congregation, in the sides of the
north... (Isa 14¹²⁻¹³)*

To sit in the congregation of the righteous has always been the devil's chief aspirations.

As was the case in the beginning when Satan tried to frustrate God's beautiful purpose for man; his eternal hatred for the seed of Abraham physically represented by the state of Israel have not abated and shall never. The avenger had never been more frustrated and devious in his attacks as evident in the present Church of Jesus Christ.

In Job, he was there, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them..."
Job 1⁶

In Zechariah he was there to accuse Joshua.
Zech.3:1, 2

He moved against David and Israel. 1Chron.21:1

He withstood Daniel's prayers. Dan.10:13

He rejoiced at the Cross, but lost completely by it.
1Cor. 2:7, 8.

This insidious deceiver is a master at his job. Such is his evil conceits that the Lord from heaven declared in John chapter eight verses forty-four "**he is a liar and the father of it**".

What the devil could not achieve through direct opposition and murderous persecutions of the Living seed, he seemed to have achieved through compromise and Fakes.

The mask is a means of hiding the Truth. And there are so much "masquerades" and the "look-alikes" of the Church of Jesus Christ in our age especially in our nation, Nigeria.

The masquerade is a misrepresentation of the Truth and not an outright rejection of it; a mischievous deceit intended to confuse and misguide the people into believing error/ falsehood. The masquerade is never a true representation of the original, but a medium to convey the designed character of the personality that is portrayed. It is intended to give a physical interpretation to a spiritual phenomenon.

The masquerade can mimic the original; but worst still deviates from the ideals and purposes of the original.

For example, **God's purpose for healing is for the glory of his name and the well-being of man.** But for the masquerade, healing is a testimony of individual prowess, a personal spirituality and a means for keeping the people bound to a cause. Ac. 3:12-16.

Also, we give as a token of love: an expression of gratitude to the one true giver, God who freely gives us all things to enjoy. We give as a mark of communion, a testimony of our faith in His person; and the surety of His promises. Therefore, all should give and with equal devotion too: First, to God and his kingdom and then to fellow men as a token of care.

However, the masquerade commands giving as an exchange for favor. You give in order to secure protection and prosperity. You return your share for special prayers and, display your gift for position and applause. You may cheat your fellow men and give the Church and the Pastors; and still live in the favor of God they say. Your life may be full of sin, but if your offering is large you are blessed?

Ah, God will judge the masquerades for they have perverted the way of the just; and strengthened the hands of evil doers!

The masquerade craves authority and superiority of revelations even when such revelations contradict God's purpose as revealed in the Holy Bible; but denies the authority of the Scriptures over every aspect of man's life.

Where the Word contradicts their lusts they castigate it as a shed of opinion peculiar only to the prophet's situation.

If the Word opposes her pursuits, the masquerade rejects it; but pays lips homage to it when it is convenient to achieve a selfish goal.

It preaches righteousness as a means and not righteousness in itself.

When righteousness is convenient they use it but when it contradicts their goals, they discard it!

The masquerade is a thorn in the flesh of the Church.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" Eph. 5²⁵⁻²⁷

THE BRIDE of the Lord is Holy; she is pure, chaste and separate from the world. She is without spots, wrinkles, blemish or any such thing. The bride is powerful, faithful and submissive.

The bride of the Lord is dynamic, fruitful and devoted. She does not fret. She is caring and reigns over her environment with Love and meaning. She has vision: the glory of her Lord; and mission: the establishment of His will over the affairs of creation.

The bride of the Lord is the Church; the ransomed of Jesus.

BUT the masquerade is a flirt! She dines with the world and romances the princes of the earthly wealth.

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the Scripture saith in vain, The Spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?" Jas 4⁴⁻⁵

She does her own thing, chooses her own men and sets her own standards.

She does not submit to the whole counsel of God, but twists the Scriptures to her own gain and convenience.

She elevates her men above what is written and believes her prophets/Pastors more than the word of God.

She makes light of sin and mocks at righteousness. She is popular and entertaining but she is hollow and void.

The masquerade harbors iniquity and occultism; and gives a false message of hope – speaking great swelling words of vanity. Jude 16

The masquerade is large and loud but it has no real children.

It gathers crowds but no real followership.

It holds nothing sacred except the secrecy of her true identity.

The masquerade cannot influence its environment but creates confusion and mirth.

It gathers men, and charms them with her tales of the supernatural, but could not change their lives to instruments of righteousness.

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It holds her captives to bondage of endless nothingness and routine.

The masquerade does not define purpose and mission but keeps men in a circle of programs and projects that has little or no eternal value.

The power of the masquerade is in her ability to distract!

Many men and women who would have been servants of the Church and warriors of the kingdom have been diverted by the masquerade, brainwashed and sent back to "this present evil world" to become merchants of Venice bringing back to the establishment "gold and silver that are cankered". Jas 5³

Many have brought their filth and corruption into the Church and the offerings of the bride are no longer a sweet smelling savour unto the Lord. And so we have unanswered prayers; unimaginable sins and strange occurrences in the Church.

The masquerades have taught the Church strange doctrines even false doctrines and doctrines of demons.

She has taught the Church divorce and remarriage; single parenthood, encouraging fornication and sexual perversion.

She has brought the Church to the depth where witches and wizards could fellowship together with the Saints all in the spirit of Love and tolerance!

The occultists have been made deacons and deaconesses and men of questionable characters and wealth have been ordained elders because of position and secular influence.

The church is reeling like a woman with a broken heart while the Pastors; and the hirelings alike are smiling home with their booties.

"My people hath been lost sheep; their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountains to hill, they have forgotten their resting place. All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, we offend not, because they have sinned against the Lord, the habitation of justice, even the Lord, the hope of their fathers. Jer. 50⁶⁻⁷

The masquerade has taught the Church to play politics while removing the power of transformation from the pulpit.

The soldiers of Christ have become servants of men and slaves to their appetites. (Phil 3¹⁸⁻¹⁹)

They have exchanged their glory, the resurrection power that transforms sinners to saints and righteous men, and changes community of savages to communion of saints; for more secular relevance ; the desire to rule men through the avenues of reason and interest (using supernatural influences), the very offer that Satan made to Christ on the mount of temptations! (Matt 4)

Our Pastors have abandoned their flocks in search of secular fleece to preside over the corruption of this 'world system' of greed, selfishness and dictatorship which Christ forbade:

"But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all". Mk 10⁴²⁻⁴⁴

Many are no longer converting souls to Christ, but are now bribing sinners to vote them into worldly prominence as Lords of the manor in the assembly of occult and bloody men, in order to cleanse the stable of their filth, so they say!

When men's souls become of less importance to a Pastor than the seat of Pharisees and the tables of the moneychangers, then Christ will soon sweep them off the temple!

"And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them." Matt. 21¹²⁻¹⁴

Ezra cried,

"The people of Israel and the Priest, and the Levites have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations... For they have taken of their daughters for

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IMPORTANCE OF PREVAILING PRAYERS IN THESE LAST DAYS

Dr. Kehinde
ADEBIYI

The events of our time make it crystal clear that we are living in the last days and every believer must have the understanding of this time and what God expects of His church.

Rom13:11-12- "And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light".

Beloved, this is not the time to sleep but a time to be alive in the spirit showing forth God's glory and working sacrificially for the expansion of his Kingdom.

God needs praying soldiers in His army for this end-time move of the Holy Spirit. These are people who through prayers will bring the needed revival into the sleeping Church of today. Isaiah said, "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace and for Jerusalem' sake I will not rest until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth (Isa.62:1). "Ye that make mention of the Lord keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." (Isa.62: 6-7).

The church today is yet to be a manifestation of God's glory and praise. Many assemblies of the church of God have caught the vision of the world in place of the heavenly vision. God needs men and women who will pray violently with understanding and vision until the church of God is made a praise in the earth.

Why do we have to pray before the power of God could be released to effect a change in our environment and in the church? The reason is this, when God created man, he gave him dominion over the earth and every other creature (Gen1: 28). Adam's dominion was so great that he had the authority to give names to God's creatures without obtaining permission and was not challenged by God himself. It was up to him to determine the events on earth (Gen.2: 19-20). Adam lost this power of dominion when he fell, but we have regained it in Christ. Matt.18: 18 says, "Verily, I say

unto you, whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven".

Job 22:27-28 says, "Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee and thou shalt pay thy vows. Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways".

Many believers are yet to understand the amount of authority and power backing our prayers to change things. One reason why the church is yet to move in the realm of power and glory is because the people of God are yet to begin to pray the way they should. Prayer will make the hand of God to perform the impossible. Prayer will bring down the glory of the Lord to bear upon situations in our individual lives and in the life of the church.

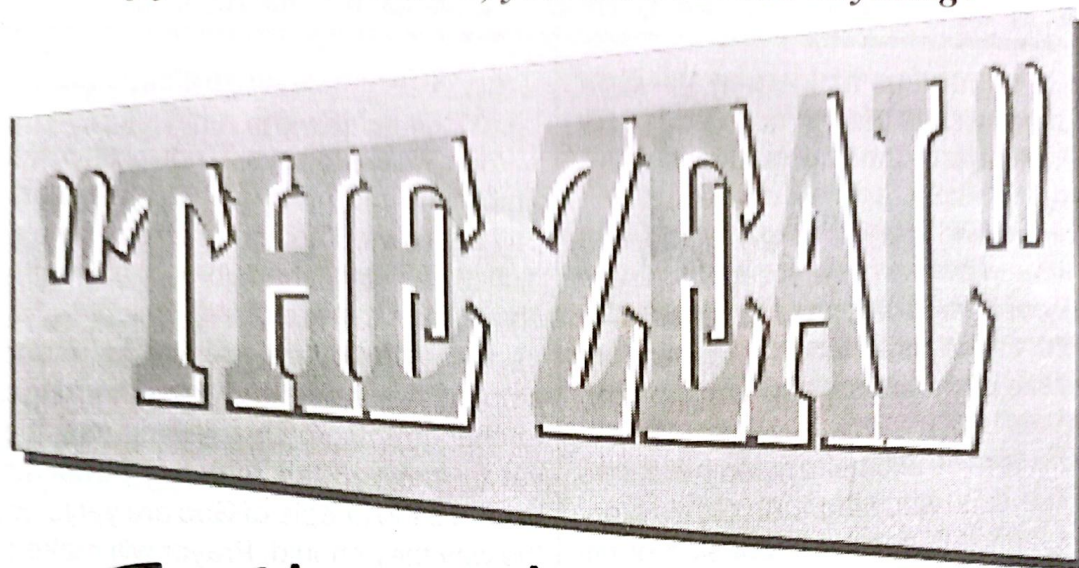
Prayer will transform a believer to God's power channel. Elijah was a man of prayer. He determined a number of events that took place in his time by prayer. The scripture says "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruits (James 5:17-18).

This same man prayed and the fire of the Lord fell from heaven, and consumed the sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust and licked up the water that was in the trench, right in the presence of the prophets of Baal and the children of Israel, that all the people fell on their faces, and said "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God" (1Kings18: 36-39). God's power and glory was definitely demonstrated and his name praised on that day because Elijah was a man of prayer and because he prayed. You and I have a better covenant with God than Elijah had in his time. Why don't you utilize this privilege, and through prayer, demonstrate God's power and glory in these last days?

You should do better than just to pray. Prayer should become part of you life. You should be a man or woman of prayer. Our Lord Jesus Christ was a man of prayer. Though the Scriptures says

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God anointed him with the Holy Ghost and with power (Acts 10:38) yet he would regularly withdraw himself from the crowd to a solitary place to spend nights with God in prayers (Matt.14: 23; Lk5: 16; Lk.6: 12). And throughout his ministry on earth, he demonstrated God's glory and praise.

THE MAKING OF PREVAILING PRAYERS:

It is not enough just to utter words in prayer. The prayer worth making is an effective and prevailing prayer. We shall consider three conditions, which determine a prevailing prayer.

1. FAITH – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Heb11: 6.

It is by faith that we approach the throne of God in prayer. A prayer made in doubt is no prayer and will gain no entrance into the presence of God. Faith is one quality of Christianity that God cannot resist. The Scripture says “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord –James1: 6-7. With faith you can achieve anything by prayer. “Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth – Mark9:23. With the prayer of faith, you can move every mountain of life. Always pray believing and nothing will be impossible to you.

2. THE WORD— Prayer must be Scriptural and backed by the Word. The Word of God presents our legal right to receive anything from God in prayer. Hence, it is important to be able to back up our prayers with the Word of God. The power of God in his word when spoken by faith breaks through every barrier created by the forces of darkness to ensure that we have whatever we want in prayer. The Word of God is quick and powerful.

“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it

shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” Isa.55:10-11. Beloved, there is power in the word of God. It is the word that reveals God. The word is God. Jn.1: 1 that is why the scripture says “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever” Isa.40: 8. It does not matter how humanly hopeless your situation may be the word of God spoken by faith in prayers cannot but bring down a miracle into that situation.

3. PRAYER SHOULD BE MADE FERVENTLY WITH PERSEVERANCE

The Christian walk is full of spiritual warfare. A praying Christian must understand the need for us to overcome the forces of darkness working against us; in order to uproot the kingdom of Satan and establish the Kingdom of God. Jesus said “Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strongman? And then he will spoil his house”. Matt.12: 29. The scripture says: “The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16b. Your prayers should be fervent to produce results.

Once again we shall examine the life of Elijah. This man prayed earnestly and it did not rain on earth for 3 years and six months. After this period he again prayed earnestly and persevered in prayer until the heaven gave rain.

1Kings 18:42-45 says, “So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel: and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees. And said to his servant go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up and looked and said, There is nothing. And he said go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said; Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel”.

Seven times, Elijah sought the face of the Lord with perseverance, praying earnestly in faith, casting himself upon the earth and putting his face between his knees. He did not give up until the heaven gave rain. Initially there was no sign of rain,

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themselves, and for their sons: so that **the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people** of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass". Ezra 9¹⁻²

The Church does not fear God any more. They have abandoned the altar, the Holy sanctuary in pursuit of filthy lucre.

Like Judas, they are bargaining the souls of men with their assured intimacy to God. The leaders have confused the Church and abused the saints. **How does the post of an ordinary Local Government Chairman or a mere bench warmer in the house of 'unserious representatives' and even licentious governorship impress Jesus Christ more than the eternal oil of consecration; except for a people devoid of understanding and obviously with little respect for Holy things.**

Any Pastor or Preacher that abandons his post for politics is worse than Esau!

The Church can never be subject to any other power! Whether in Nigeria or elsewhere in the world, whether in this age or in that which is to come. She can never be subservient to any mundane power or authority. She gives honour to "the King" as ordained by God but shall never receive directives from him!

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principalities, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all". Eph 1¹⁸⁻²³

HOWEVER, the distinction between the church and the masquerade is very thin requiring spiritual discernment and objectivity.

Sometimes, the activities of the masquerade can be found in the church especially in our Land where most of our Pastors have nothing original either in terms of messages or in ministry. They are all copy cats reproducing with slight modifications of interest, whatever is perceived to draw the attention of the crowd.

Messages and even mannerisms and practices are copied whole sale without recourse to its Biblical soundness and heaven's approval. It is widely believed that what ever comes from the big shots are spiritual, even their personal weaknesses and excesses. But in reality, they are closer to error and attacks. So every thing ought to be tried by the inerrant word through genuine prayer of intercession.

Eli the priest was out of the Will of God, but the young Samuel was closer to God, yet Israel did not know it. 1 Sam 3⁴⁻⁹

The Old prophet dwelt securely under the apostasy of Jeroboam but ruined the effective ministry of the young dynamic but undiscerning prophet from Judah 1Ki.13¹¹⁻³⁰

Even the young apostle Paul had to correct (the Pillar) Peter's tendency to tradition rather than Grace. Gal.2¹¹⁻¹⁸. **In all these cases the old were repentant because they are spiritual.**

But in our days the masquerade stifles contrary opinions arrogating to itself sole revelation in the issues of prosperity and social behaviour.

The unholy marriage between the Church and the Nigerian politicians who in most cases are corrupt, cultic and greedy even idolatrous is the greatest hindrance to the growth and maturity of the "eye of Africa".

Because of this unwholesome development, the Church is finding it difficult to preach the truth and rebuke evil men. Instead, the Pastors prefer to collect money and pray for the progress of men who ought to be told "your money perish with you if you do not repent".

The result is that the Church is weak and we now have a form of religion but deny the power thereof. Where we ought to offer hope and direction, we ourselves are confused speaking with discommoding tones and twisted lips full of hypocrisy and partiality.

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THE BATTLE FOR THE WORD

-Johannes Facius

The two issues that have surfaced in my own life and spirit over the last two years is that I believe we are in a tremendous battle-first of all for the authority of the Word and secondly-over the Cross of Jesus Christ. I believe the Word of God and the Cross of Christ are on trial today-not just in the world, but even in the Church.

A tremendous battle for the authenticity and the authority of the Word of God is raging on. There is a tremendous battle over the finished work of the Lord Jesus as the only sufficient work for the believer, the Church and God's purposes for the nations.

I want to preach the Word of God as the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I recognize my human weakness and the potential I have for being mistaken.

I am coming to minister to you in both these qualities. I believe that the Lord is also challenging His people today on the issue of the written Word of the Lord-is it still our supreme guide and authority for our lives, behavior and all else in our Church and in our personal lives? It has been the strategy of the enemy from the beginning-to try to destroy the credibility and authority of the Word of God.

I want to invite you to go through some Scriptures with me, beginning in Genesis 3:1-7,

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made and he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said you shall not eat of every tree in the garden?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden but of the tree which is in the midst of the garden God has said, you shall not eat it nor shall you touch it lest you die.' The serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"

"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were naked and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings."

Has God really said? This is where it all started. This is by no means a new problem. This is the origin of every falling away...that we are being tempted to doubt the authority of the Word of God and of course, the great temptation is linked to the fact that we might not understand some of the reasons why God is telling us some things and we would like to understand.

We are not satisfied with the fact that God has spoken and that's it. And that we must then obey without discussion and without challenging God. And it is a very subtle thing that happened in the garden, because what the serpent really did was say, "Do you really think God meant it that way, that you are not to eat of this tree?"

Would God who is a God of love, prevent you from entering into an extra ordinary dimension?" because that's what the serpent is saying. If you eat of this tree, you will enter into an extraordinary new dimension and you will receive a part of God's understanding and wisdom. Do you really think God would deny you that?

So the woman looked at the tree and she saw that the fruit was good. And here is the first problem. Here you find in the first pages of the Bible the spirit of humanism and you might know who is behind humanism right from the beginning.

Why shouldn't you eat it, because it's good? It will taste good and you will become wise and it is desirable. Just because things might look good, taste good or appear to be good can never qualify that this necessarily is from God.

So the woman was deceived because she saw that everything that is good must be from God. But that's not the case, not good in the spiritual sense, good in the human sense, of course. And so she was deceived and that's her own confession: "The serpent deceived me." Now what is deception?

It is falling away from the authority of God's Word-that's deception. Whenever we neglect, ignore or doubt or challenge the supreme authority of the written Word of God we are entering into deception. Deception is not a mental or emotional state; it is disobedience to the Word of God. That's what we call apostasy.

In II Corinthians 11, the apostle Paul is referring to this event in the Garden, *"Oh that you would bear with me in a little folly and indeed you do bear with me for I am jealous for you with godly jealousy for I have betrothed you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear lest somehow as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."*

This is interesting because, as I said, maybe the major reason Adam and Eve fell into deception and rebelled against God's Word was almost a desire or caving in their hearts for some new spiritual dimension. They were not satisfied with what Paul here calls the simplicity of Christ. They were not satisfied to simply follow the naked Word of God.

They had a desire for something more, a higher dimension, something that had to be more like God. It is that simplicity of Christ that is being challenged all the time in the Church. We want to enter into new dimensions.

In the Charismatic Church there are lots of experiments being made to search out the spirit world and this is a very dangerous field. There is a word in Revelations to one of the Churches where Jesus in His prophecies to the churches in Asia Minor says, "To you who know the depth of Satan." Here were some people who wanted to jump over the borders, get out of the framework and get into experiencing the spiritual universe, to know more about the spirit world and demonic forces. That's a temptation to those of us who are in spiritual warfare. We do have some biblical insights, but not very much and we must abide within the biblical framework; otherwise, we will find we are being misled and deceived.

At the end of the Welsh revival, Evan Roberts, the leading evangelist and even Jesse Pen Lewis, somehow fell for the same temptation to research the spiritual world, to research the demonic hierarchy and satanic system. They wrote the book, *War on the saints*.

In the last part of their lives, they suffered a great deal from depression. Evan Robert ended his life in darkness and in depression. They were not satisfied with the biblical framework, to move within the revealed Word of God, but they wanted to experiment for themselves, to try to understand what kind of demons there are and what kind of principalities and powers.

We are called to the simplicity that is in Christ, however, and to walk according to the Word of God. Any attempt to break this barrier and get out of that framework will be disastrous and will lead to deception. "The serpent deceived me." God said, "Do not eat of this tree because if you do, you will die." But the devil said, "Well, God is a good God. If you eat of the tree in the Garden, God is a good God. He will never give you something bad, would he?" **The bad things are not from God but from our own foolishness and we have to harvest whatever we sow.**

Deception is the fruit of abandoning the truths of God's Word. The last Days is a very popular subject-eschatology. We believe certain things are going to happen in the end times. The Lord has called us to pray for His purposes, but whenever the Bible speaks of the anti-Christian rebellion, we notice something interesting. In Psalm 2, where we read about the kings of the earth rising up against the Lord and His anointed One, we notice which form the anti-Christian spirit is taking in that rebellion. "why do the nations rage and the people plot a vain thing.

The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His anointed, saying (and here comes the expression of the anti-Christian spirit). "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."

What is this? This is the Law of God. This is the Word of God. This is rebellion against God's Word because God's Word is the framework for human life and it is a framework for

the life of the Church and for you personal life. This is the true sign of the anti-Christian spirit. It is an apostasy, a falling away, from the written Word of God.

With the authority of the Word of God, I must say to you: **If you are not in line with the Word of God in some areas of your life, you are in apostasy in those areas.** It is amazing what is happening, not only in the secular world.

I live in Europe and we are now in the European Union. One nation after the other is almost forced by harmonizing process of European legislation to accept free abortion and pornography and now homosexual marriages.

The liberal part of the Church is already deep into it. We see it is a breaking down of the Word of God, the commandments of God. That's the anti-Christian spirit working in this world. *All of this began one day with a little deviation.* Now it is becoming a world apart from the Word of God.

It's not just the liberal part of the Church who no longer believes in the new birth. This spirit is also working right into every church and every part of the Body of Christ. A little deviation to begin with will end with a great distance in the end...

To be continued.

This message was given in Jerusalem by Johannes Facius, a renowned Bible teacher.

Courtesy of CFI Jerusalem

...LAST DAYS

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but he refused to be moved by what he could see. He chose to believe his God and continued praying until he had what he wanted. I believe we also need a type of rain in these last days.

A rain of God's power and glory, a mighty move of the Holy Spirit with signs and wonders like the world had never witnessed which will bring harvest of souls into the Kingdom of God. But there must be men and women that will pay the price in prayer like Elijah did. Will you be one of them?

May God be able to depend on you, in Jesus name, Amen.

REVOLUTION IS COMING

Evangelist Amobichukwu

When society is rotten with humanness as ours is, we need a revolution. When men's heart waxes wanton against God, we need a revolution.

While the moral fabric of the society is fast becoming completely eroded, we need a revolution. When society is laden with corruption, we need a revolution. While the psyche of a nation is being wantonly abused by sinful behaviors as Nigeria's is, we need a revolution.

While greed, avarice, has become the order of the day, and crime makes society unsafe, we need a revolution. When looting, fraud, ineptitude and unaccountability characterize the public life of a people, revolution is imminent. As long as there is bitterness, hatred, envy and nepotism in the public service, I will preach a revolution.

When there is general apathy and confusion, we need a revolution. When the church of Jesus Christ, can no longer function as "the light of the world", and has lost its saltiness, the resultant rottenness cries for revolution.

When the youths of any nation have become engaged in nefarious activities, preferring the fellowship of cults and occultism to meaningful pursuits that bring peace and development, then that society needs a revolution.

As long as religion encourages worldliness, and teaches men that they can buy their sin-laden consciences with money, I'll preach revolution. As long as children roam the streets unkept, uncared for, and for the most part unfed and abused, my sermons shall be revolution.

As long as women are abused and the widows and the fatherless have no say, I'll continue to preach revolution. And there is no mistaken the fact that we need a revolution in this crisis period of our history.

We need a revolution to clean up the mess. I mean the mess in our individual lives; the mess in our homes; the mess in our leadership; the mess in our churches; and the mess in our society. Even the human race as a whole, is in a crisis period of sufferings. But we must be objective in this revolution. Or else we will have anarchy. We must be thorough or else we will leave some "seeds" of destruction which will pollute and plague the new society. We must be sober, to avoid the influences of "deceptive emotions." Of course, we must be absolute as to leave no room for a second thought".

*Yet before we proceed further, I am aware that I am "begetting" in some of you already, some measures of over-zealousness, and animal apprehension. And that's the more reason we need a revolution. Intolerance and impatience are in themselves tumors that need urgent incision. So, hear me out!

Yes, we need a revolution because everything else has failed. We have tried force. We have tried Law. We have tried will power. But they have all failed. The broken lives, the crushed hearts beating to the rhythm of misery, the stinking atmosphere of corruption all around us, and the depraved behaviors that are apparent in our society are pointers to the fact that everything else have failed. Therefore, we need a revolution.

I am not preaching "change", because change in itself is suspect! A man may change from bad to worst. So also, the situation of a people can change from better to worse. A people's living standard could be wrecked by stroke of change. And the fortunes of a nation can be wasted by an ineffective and unguarded change or changes. Therefore, a mere change in our case will be disastrous! We need a revolution.

Every society needs the "salt of love" and "the Light of Truth", otherwise it will be rotten by human selfishness (ours is stinking already!). We need the "Light of Truth" because a love that is not based upon the "Truth" is naked greed/ lust. Every true love is illuminated by the Truth which is in Jesus.

Right now there is a combat that is touching every life; it is the war between Natural Human Love and Selfishness, and Love is losing the fight. Natural human love has failed. It has failed because it is based upon selfishness, and selfishness has run riot. Something is lacking. And what is lacking must be supplied. God has a solution. Therefore we need a revolution.

Surely, if the Lord Jesus is worth anything, He is worth everything. "If the Christian faith is worth believing in at all, says Findlay, it is worth believing in heroically". This is the revolution I preach: It is the revolution of LOVE (AGAPE). Love that flows from the heart because it issues from the throne (Rom.5:5). The Love that was in Jesus is the Love that is to rule the church, rule the home, rule our individual hearts and rule our society. When man is Love-owned, Love-motivated, he does not shrink from any sacrifice. Love always gives more than she gets (1Cor.10:33; 1Jn.4:17). Love never takes advantage of anyone. Love always bears the burdens of the weak.

Our loveless souls and lack of empathy should be rebuked by the zeal of a young American convert to communism in those days, who wrote to break off an engagement to his fiancée in this way:

"We communists have a philosophy of life which no amount of money could buy. We have a cause to fight

for, a definite purpose in life. We subordinate our petty, personal selves into a great movement of humanity, and if our personal lives seem hard, or our egos appear to suffer through subordination to the party, then we are adequately compensated by the thought that each of us in his small way is contributing something – something new and true and better for mankind. There is one thing in which I am in dead earnest and that is the communist cause. It is my life, my business, my religion, my lobby, my sweetheart, my wife and mistress, my bread and meat. I work at it in the daytime and dream of it at night. Its hold on me grows, not lessens as time goes on. Therefore, I cannot carry on a friendship, a love affair, or even conversation without relating it to this force which both drives and guides my life. I evaluate people, books, ideas, and actions according to how they affect the Communist cause and by their attitude toward it. I've already been in jail because of my ideas and if necessary, I'm ready to go before a firing squad"

Do we love Jesus that much? Can we be committed to Love (Agape) to such a point where our thought, our conversations and our actions are controlled and energized by love? If not, why not? We must have a "Love-revolution".

In this revolution, we shall take no man's life, rather we shall lay down our lives that others may come to know the Truth. We shall suffer, that others may enjoy. We may be in lack that others would have enough. We must endure, that others may succeed; and their progress must be our joy. No matter what evil the enemy may bring into a life, love will change that evil so that it will bring forth a fruitage of good.

This Jesus kind of love is the heart-cry of our society. Boys and girls need it; we all are hungry for it. That is the problem in our country today. We have followed after money, we have followed after pleasures, and we have followed after things of vanities. Now it is time to follow love.

Our youths have sought satisfaction in sex, in pleasures, in cars, in orgies, and in material possession; but they have found out that these do not always satisfy. Now, they have void. That's why there is drug-problem. That's why there is cult-problem. That's why crime is on the increase, and society is unsafe. Parents are confused, Governments are limited; and the law is ineffective. Rom.8:3,4.

We are alarmed! We are alarmed because the strength and purity of every nation are the youths. When the youths are corrupt, anarchy is imminent. Therefore we need a revolution. That is the answer to our sadness and despair. It will take the bitterness out of the heart and smooth the wrinkles on the face. It will wipe away every memory of the unkindness of the past. Love will

make hard bitter men gentle as Jesus. It happened to Saul of Tarsus; it will happen to you! Join the movement.

Love will make you what your heart has craved. Love is the seed of growth. The only lasting change in a man's life is a love-change, a love-revolution. Love will make us sensitive to the sufferings of our fellowmen. Love will lead us to brokenness. It is the way of the Cross. It will make us humble; humble enough to confess our sins, our pride, our selfish, our wickedness, our unbelief, our lusts, our heartlessness, our greed.

This revolution will bring healings to our broken hearts, the hurts on the inside: the lurking cry of vengeance against injustices suffered from those who cheated us at one time or the other; the broken relationships; the frustrations of unrealized dreams; and a sense of worthlessness arising from past failures. We will learn to live in love and in simple fellowship with God and with one another. Then shall we be ready to avenge every form of disobedience; for the love I preach is not passive indifference, but an active on-going assault on all that opposes the Truth.

Everything that opposes God in our lives and in our society is an enemy, and usurper, which must be dethroned. Therefore we need a revolution now!

The strongest weapon of warfare is love. The most sublime virtue is love. It may be the most fragile, but it has the most enduring strength. "Love never faileth". 1Cor.13:8.

If we love as Jesus loved, we would devote our lives for the redemption of men; and though we cannot die for their sins, we can live the love-life for their salvation. The Preacher said that: "the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all". Eccl.9:11.

Nevertheless Love is the greatest.

When we receive love, we receive God's ability. We are clothed with power from "on high". This confers on us Jesus-like fearlessness, His ability, His courage, His strength and His ruggedness. It makes us thoughtful, gentle, and tender-hearted, enabling us to see men through the eyes of faith: To see the poor made rich, the sinner become saint, the naked clothed, selfishness and hatred turned into love.

This is the revolution we need and it is the revolution we must have. Any other revolution or change is suspect and disastrous.

YOU NEED A REVOLUTION OF LOVE IN YOUR LIFE TODAY.

Curled from Zeal 1996

As a dear brother put it: "The leadership does not believe in righteousness as an end, but in righteousness as a tool; so if righteousness favours them, they use it, but if not they discourage it"

Also, it is not difficult these days to hear worldly men attest to the level of the spirituality of men of God. They also determine the spiritual correctness or otherwise of their pastors doctrines.

Thus, rather than be subject to the force of the Word of God, in trembling and fear, these infidels are the judge of the Law, because the tale tale of the pastors and their gimmicks have made the Word ineffective to their hearers.

The topic of sin and genuine repentance is anathema to most church leaders today because it offends the psyche of their donors and spoils their services. Therefore, rather than preach against sin, they preach moral correctness. Instead of rebuking fornication, adultery, corruption and covetousness which are front rows in the pew, they counsel the people to refrain from such things that can interfere with their prosperity and hinder their miracles; as if money is God's first word to man. Therefore, the church is filled with masquerades.

The mixed multitude is usually stubborn and typically disobedient and self indulgent.

The Church probably has fewer virgins now and few faithful men and she is not ashamed. They openly request for pregnancy texts before wedding etc. as if to say that every fornication results in pregnancy.

One shrinks/cries in shocks when streams of pregnant women whose babies are fruits of unfaithfulness are called out for prayers in large assemblies and simply discharged with a caution and one wonders whether their responses are not out of fear/concern for safe-delivery rather than penitence for their shameful deeds.

The threat of curses by the Pastors for any one who rebukes them thereafter is a question of spiritual perception and sometimes ignorance or even arrogance.

Any Pastor whose flocks is filled with witches, wizards, adulterers, adulteresses, fornicators and

cheats should be humble to confess that **"the fire is going out of his altar"** even if he is seeing the miracles of Samson and 'Balaam the Son of Bosor' ii Pet 2¹⁵.

In the letters to the seven churches recorded in the book of Revelation; the Smyrna church which had no sin and no rebuke was poor, yet rich and powerful in the spiritual realm and relevance. (Rev.2:8-10; 3:7-10)

While the Laodiceans church which looks like the Nigerian church, with all its earthly riches and fame was about to die. The candlestick was about to go out but the slumbering church could not discern, because of the masquerades! (Rev.3:14-19).

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MASQUERADE:

- It is elaborate and entertaining.
- It seeks social relevance.
- It is fashionable and modernistic.
- It lacks power and holiness.
- It is routine and inward.
- It is loud and appeals to the senses.
- It harbors sin and lawlessness even iniquity.
- It is traditional and tribalistic.
- It is egocentric and humanistic.
- It encourages hero worship.
- It is worldly and sectional.
- It does not reprove sin and ungodliness, but promotes what it calls love and understanding.
- It does not accept the supremacy of Scriptures all Scriptures but promotes "tolerance of" other shades of human opinions.
- There is no absolutes with the masquerade; all is fluid and depends on individual perception.
- It calls correction and rebuke criticisms!
- The masquerade does not believe in human development but preaches material acquisition and worldly comfort which it calls prosperity.
- It emphasizes miracles without a sound and genuine spiritual base/experience.
- It has a shallow doctrine and lacks Biblical standard of action.
- It has no standard for discipline.
- It does not regulate conduct but takes emotional feelings as signs of spirituality.
- The masquerade is seductive and corrupting.
- It does not evangelize, and has no definite mission statement.

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- It makes money and spends it on itself while neglecting the poor in her midst.
- It is lazy spiritually but full of programs and secular activities.
- It is a city-builder; and inventor.

BUT THE CHURCH:

- The church is chaste, separate; and dynamic.
- She is holy and powerful.
- She is spiritual and disciplines.
- She is humble and thorough.
- She seeks the lost and cares for them.
- She ministers to the will of God and well-being of man.
- She does not compromise.
- She loves Christ supremely and totally devotes to Him.
- She does not play politics.
- She loves men and intercedes for their advance, and reconciliation with God.
- She fights the Devil, punishes evil men and rejects worldly inducements. But she is caring.
- She builds the Kingdom of Christ through evangelism and missions, while taking care of the needy within her.
- She relates to men for their souls not because of money or advantage.
- She works, prays and cries out against sin, but loves the sinners enough to point them to the cross of Calvary.
- The Church trains her ministers and allows them the freedom to exercise the various spiritual gifts and offices without bias.
- She calls her erring members to order and disciplines disobedience.
- She worships God in the beauty of holiness; in spirit and in Truth but rejects carnal fanfare and noise.
- Often she is lonely and persecuted, even poor and lowly but never forsaken.

Sometimes, the Church is made up of few individuals, a company of believers, an assembly of righteous men and even a multitude of those who 'are obedient to the faith'.

But always she is simple, obedient, loving, purposeful, caring and separate from sinners.

She is always ahead of her time, since she has been before the modern society; and is the reason and meaning for it.

Every advance in technology and human development is to enhance the spread of the Gospel otherwise it will lead to human destruction.

Man has no intrinsic goodness so every virtue he has must be regulated or else it will be grossly abused.

Therefore, the Church is "the light of the world" and "the salt of the earth".

The Church of Jesus Christ of Nazareth is universal!

STOP PRESS!

Let it be clearly stated and understood that the church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria will resist/ reject any and every attempt to foster on her another concept of "the establishment".

The Roman Catholic Church had it, and killed the Truth in their midst. The Anglican Church employed it and caged the Truth and thereby became dead. The Methodists, et al adopted it and perverted the Truth and consequently became cold; that even Wesley can never recognize nor accept their present state or leadership.

Therefore, the dangerous tendency by the popular Pentecostal leaders towards "the establishment concept" is not only worrisome but must be resisted by the power of the Holy Ghost. Even as saint Jude wrote:

Dearly loved friends, I had been planning to write you some thoughts about the salvation God has given us, but now I find I must write of something else instead, urging you to stoutly defend the truth which God gave, once for all, to his people to keep without change through the years.

I say this because some godless teachers have wormed their way in among you, saying that after we become Christians we can do just as we like without fear of God's punishment.

The fate of such people was written long ago, for they have turned against our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ." Jude 3-4(LB)

MISSIONS AID INTERNATIONAL

WHAT IS THE GREATEST THING YOU CAN ASK GOD IN PRAYERS?

- Blessing Praise

"But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of He-ro-di-as danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her." Mt.14:7-9.

"And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, though I fear not, God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her lest by her continual coming she weary me." Lu.18:3-5.

What do you ask in your prayers to an Almighty God like ours? Herodias and her daughter asked for the head of John the Baptist from the king; while the widow asked for her to be avenged of her adversary from the Judge.

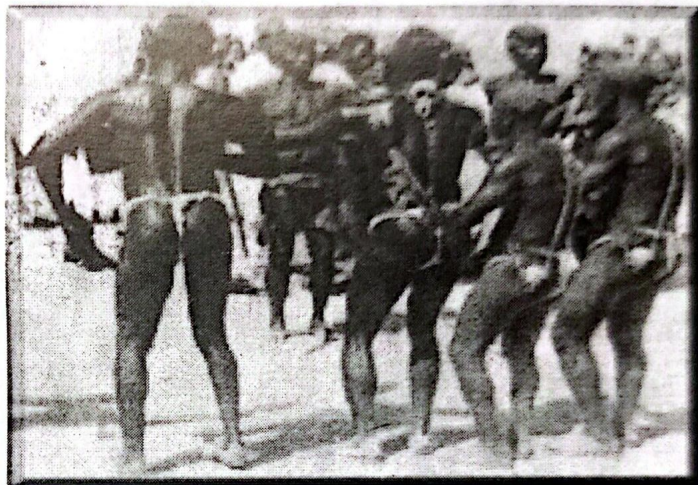
As Christians what is the greatest thing we can ask for in prayers? In Ps.2:8, God advises us to ask for the souls of the heathen: *"Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."*

One of the factors that determine what to ask for in the midst of other needs is priority. What is your own priority in the midst of the dozen needs pressing in your heart, which even wants to tear you apart? Have you ever fasted and prayed with night vigils for months for the souls of the heathen?

Secondly, have you ever been burdened on what gift (the souls of the heathen) to give to our Lord Jesus Christ on the day of His coming? It is important to note, that gift of souls is what God esteems most than any other thing you can think of. And we should employ perseverance like the widow in Lu.18:3-5.

For us in Disciples On Mission we are asking for the souls of the heathens in Africa and we are praying and preparing for the year 2005 to lunch-out to new frontiers. What of you? Will you want to lunch-out with us? We will be glad if you take that decision.

Write us today with the address below, if the Lord has spoken to you while going through this write-up or before now? Do you have a Christian friend or relation whose paramount need is to reach Africa? Share this vision with them.



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AN EYE OVER ZION

In 1991, George Bush, the then president of America drew up a middle-East peace plan. In it, PLO will return to Israel, and be given a homeland prelude to a Palestinian state; Arafat will renounce terrorism and recognize the right of Israel to exist. Every phrase to the contrary in PLO charter was to be expunged and then the Palestinians will be given limited autonomy and right of self defense and shall be responsible for maintaining Law and order in its own territory of Gaza strip et al. Arafat will transform from a fighter to a statesman. The state of Israel will be allowed to live in peace in her God-given land.

This was the noble delusion that gave rise to the popular "Oslo peace accords". The world was impressed, but the thoughtful prime minister of Israel Yitzhak Shamir was not amused. He spotted the deception and the flaw and refused to bulge. Instead he made provision for his returning people from the then Soviet Union who had found the light of freedom. Despite his numerous antagonists and meager resources, he built homes and encouraged the "Aliyah".

George Bush was infuriated and so were the enemies of the Jews. And finding no other way to punish Shamir and stop his advance America refused him the "Ten billion dollar loan guarantee needed to stabilize the tender economy under the influx of the returning Jews. The pressure was much, and the prime minister lost!

The will of George Bush triumphed, and a liberal prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was elected; along with the dovish Shimon Perez and Arafat rejoiced. It was "accord concordiale" and the celebrated Oslo II peace accord came into force. The excited world quickly and hysterically declared Arafat a man of peace and awarded him and his "friend-in-peace" Yitzhak Rabin a joint noble peace prize! But even while Israel bathed in the euphoria of the elusive peace and began giving up its

Biblical land the subtle Arafat declared:

"Today, we begin our path towards an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," PLO chairman Yassar Arafat told thousands of cheering Ramallah residents three days after the Israeli Defense Force withdrew from the city. The crowds cheered, "We give our allegiance to you." Arafat went on to say, "...at the end of the tunnel we see the minarets... the walls... the churches of Jerusalem."

It is now fourteen years! But much has happened since then, and it is curious to note that even Mr. Rabin sustained this violence, sorry, peace with his own life. Yet that peace has eluded Israel; and Chairman Arafat once considered the problem in the "Intifada" is no more. Yet Arafat's prediction is almost a reality!

Today, a new "road map to middle-East peace" process has been drawn by another US president who incidentally is a stock of Bush and the very first son of President George Bush. Again the world endorses.

Interestingly it is being presented to another Likud leader and the valiant son of Israel, Ariel Sharon. We are watching.

This time around, one hopes that caution and precedents will be soberly considered before Jerusalem signs a platitude for disaster. The signs of the end are here! -Judah.

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