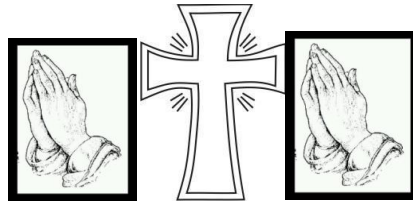


**CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM MOVEMENT CHURCH WORLDWIDE  
HEADQUARTERS, DAKIBIYU DISTRICT, ABUJA**



# **LECTURE/TRAINING SERIES (2018)**

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## **CONTENT**

Lecture 1: The Glorious (Healthy) Church	2
Lecture 2: Practical Teaching and Preaching of the Word	10
Lecture 3: Conflict Management in the Church	19
Lecture 4: Abiding in Jesus Christ: Key to Doing Exploits	25

# THE GLORIOUS (HEALTHY) CHURCH

Prophet J.A.B Ajayi

## INTRODUCTION

These Studies Give a panoramic view of features that make a Church to be identified as healthy and glorious and prepared for rapture. **It also seeks to expose the character disposition and nature of leaders that anchor a healthy or glorious church.** These leaders are spiritually, morally and emotionally healthy, so they could make a church healthy and glorious. They are leaders prepared for rapture (2Cor. 2). They can also prepare others for rapture.

The Paper also seeks to discuss the features of healthy followers in a glorious church. The church membership consists of growing and learning disciples. They promote healthy environment, despite hardship and help their leaders to stay healthy. They are followers prepared for rapture and influencing the world winning more souls for rapture.

**It discusses the rapture- consciousness of a healthy and glorious church.** A healthy church is not just earth-bound but heavenly focused. This gives an eternal perspective to church life and issues.

This lecture is expected to gear up individual members and leaders to get healthy and promote healthy relationship in the Church. The Church is so bombarded with many socio-political and economic issues of the present day that we are losing focus of heaven. There is a shift from one extreme to the other. At a point in time, the church was so rapture-conscious that they gave no regard to the dominion which God gave humanity to rule and to administer on his behalf. We refused to occupy for Christ, so the ungodly were taken over.

However, with time, the church started shifting to the other extreme; sermon and teachings in the church became dominated with the desire for financial prosperity, materialism, healthy living etc. Churches borrow secular principles and back them up wrongly with scriptures so that we could have the desire of the flesh (Romans 8:8). The danger is that some Churches no longer preach about Heaven, Rapture, Holiness, etc. It is as if many are doubting if Jesus will ever come back again. We are so used to the slogan “Maranatha” that it no longer gears us up deep expectation in our hearts. However, Jesus is coming back; whether we acknowledge it or not. This truth cannot change. Whether we preach or not, he will come back.

## IDENTITY OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

### 1. HEALTHY CHURCH BELONGS TO GOD. 1thess.1:1

“Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the Church of the Thessalonians in God The Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

✓ The Church is a congregation of people who are known and own by God.

- ✓ Their network is knitted together by the Lordship of the Trinitarian God over their lives.
  - ✓ In a Healthy Church, both the Leaders and the Followers are in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ✓ God is the cover and the provider for the Church
  - ✓ The Identity of the Church People can be found in the Trinity
- The Thessalonian Church was founded by Paul, Timothy and Silas, (Acts 17:1-14). Yet none of them is willing to lay claim of owning a Church. The Church still belongs to God.  
Note: The founding a Church is not synonymous with owning it.

## **2. IDENTITIES WITH GRACE AND PEACE**

1Thess1:1b. Grace and Peace to you. A Healthy Church will not joke with the Grace and Peace that comes from the Lord for His Church.

Truly no Church can be Healthy without the input of these two divine ingredients. There is no way a congregation of diverse human beings can build a meaningful Healthy Church except by divine infusion of Grace and Peace.

## **3. EVOKES PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FROM ONLOOKER.**

1Thess 1:2 – ‘We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.

## **4. HAVE CLEAR HEALTHY TESTIMONIES**

1Thess 1:3 – We continually remember before our God and Father. Your work provided by faith, your labour prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Apostle Paul testifies about three major identifiable features in the Thessalonians Church.

- Work (*Ergon*) of Faith.
- Labor (*Kopos*) of Love (Agape)
- Persistent and unwavering Hope and Endurance (*Hupomone*).

These three virtues are often used in New Testament writings as a Trilogy of the essentials of the New Creation Life (Rom.5:2-5, 1cor13:3, Eph. 4:2-5). You cannot cover the true identity of your church. You may deceive yourself but onlookers cannot be deceived. They know who is who in the roll call of Churches. There are churches that put big crowd not because the Church is respected by the attendees, but because they are naturally greedy and want to grab something temporal therein. Therefore, Church statistics is not a true measurement of the Glorious (Healthy) testimony of a Church.

- The Thessalonians Church excelled in works of Faith, so they can be identified as a Faith-Based Church.
- They excelled in labour of Love, so they can be identified as a Loving Church.
- They excelled in having persistent Hope in the Lord, so they can be identified as a Hopeful Church, Enduring and Believing Church.

Their belief and hope were not based on their human Founder or Pastor but in our Lord Jesus Christ in the Presence of God, The Father, There Are Great Testimonies.

## **5. CHOSEN BY GOD**

1Thess 1:4- For we know, brothers loved by God that he has chosen you. The Lord has a standard he uses to choose and promote his people; God cannot be bribed nor manipulated.

- He is not moved, confused or persuaded by our big titles and achievements.
- He knows what he is looking for and wherever he finds it, he releases his love and approval on the chosen Vessel.

It is an undisputable fact that God Loved His Church in Thessalonica and has chosen her for specific amazing works.

Is Your Church still in the love list of God? Or has he chuckled it out?

## **6. BUILT WITH GOD'S WORD; POWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

1Thess 1:5a (NIV) Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.

A Church that will remain healthy must have central attention to the Word of God. The Scripture must be well taught and clearly inscribed in the hearts of members. This is a generation whose operations are firmly based on Powers.

- Political Power
- Electrical Power
- Economic Power.

The power factors dominate contemporary conversations. Therefore, the Church must demonstrate the superior power of God in the midst of political, economic and spiritual powers that are challenging it to a destructive duel. The Thessalonians Church was built under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Jesus warned his disciples not to start a Church Work or Ministry labour until they were endowed with the power of the Holy Spirit. If is all vanity and waste labor to go into ministerial work without the Power of the Holy Spirit. The Thessalonians Church was established with deep conviction that comes from the Holy Spirit. No wonder they could endure and persist.

## **7. IMITATES CHRIST**

1Thess.1:6a You became imitators of us and of the Lord.

A Church is a collection of people in whom Christ dwells. They were first called Christians in Antioch, because onlookers could see Christ in them. Like the Early Christians, Apostle Paul declared that they (The Planters) and the Thessalonian Church imitated Christ In all that they did. Jesus was their model of action and reaction.

Each Church must keenly take time to study the Life of Christ. He is our model and we need to understand not only his actions but the Motive, Theology and The Expectation behind his Motives.

### **8. HAVE STAMINA TO ENDURE SUFFERING.**

1Thess.1:6b – In spite of severe sufferings you welcomed the message with joy given by the Holy Spirit.

To be Healthy is to enjoy the vigor of the Body, Mind or Spirit. It Includes being robust, balanced wholesome and free from disease and sickness. It is the opposite of weak and delicate. Persecution emits a force which offer threaten to pull down the weak and the delicate. A church that is internally weak will collapse due to small pressure from persecutors.

The Thessalonians received the Gospel and severe Persecution. Acts 17 recorded how Paul ministered in Thessalonica. Act 17:5-14. His suffering gave us a glimpse of the rejection Christians must have suffered in Thessalonica. Jealous Jews used threat, blackmail and lies to instigate a mob against Paul. Yet the Church survived and grew to become a Model.

“Is Your Church strong internally to avoid internal disintegration? Is it strong externally to avoid attack and disintegration?”

### **9. A MODEL CHURCH**

1Thess.1:17(NIV) And so you become a model to all Believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

The Thessalonian Church is a Model Church. Model is translated from the word (*Tupos*). This is where we Got the word “Type”. It means influential pattern. All the aforementioned features made them so outstanding that other Churches made them a reference point. They were an example, not just to a few people but to all Believers in Macedonia and Achaia (Greek).

The Thessalonian Church was model of Faith, Love, Endurance and Focus. She was a Church built by the Word of God, Power and Conviction in the Holy Spirit. The most tragic calamity is that some Churches have become models of greed and waywardness, even for the world system to copy. They outshine worldly figures when it comes to hypocrisy, greed and manipulations.

### **10. MISSION MINDNESS**

1Thess.1:8(NIV) The Lord’s message rang out from you not in only Macedonia and Achaia, your Faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it. Apostle Paul and his team focused on planting Churches in the cities with the hope that their activities will spread the Good News into the suburb.

The word “Ring Out” means “Echo”.

The Thessalonian Church imported the Lord's message in its faithful form. They sent out the Lord's message both in action and through the Testimonies of their practical lifestyle. The echo of their spirituality reached far and near.

"How faithful are you to Christianity message? Are you seasoned in understanding, packaging and communicating of the Gospel Message"?

We are in an age where so much embellishment has been added to the Message "The Kerygma" is lost to the Gospel of affluence, which is in high demand. The Thessalonians imported the Lord's Message beyond regional circles. Their Faith was known everywhere. It is so obvious that Apostle Paul and others did not need to sell them to people. The observers and those ministered to were willing to carry the news of Thessalonian Gospel in action to the nook and crannies of the Nation.

Actually due to their geographical location, the Thessalonian Church was like a city on the hill. It was situated on a busy seaport. Thessalonica was the capital city of Macedonia – A Roman Province. It was also situated on a busy and commercially active equatorial way. Therefore, nothing they did was hidden to the eyes of the world. This is a great challenge, especially to Churches situated in state capitals, national capital cities and commercial centers. People see more than you what you think you are showing them. They know about you, more than you think they know.

## **GOD'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA**

### **1. REPORT CARD**

**NAME: Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7).**

**OVERALL RATING: B+**

#### **REASONS FOR RATING**

- i. I know your deeds and your toil and your perseverance
- ii. You cannot endure evil men
- iii. You put to test those who call themselves Apostles and they are not.
- iv. You have perseverance and you have endured for my name's sake and you have soon grown weary.

But I Have This Against You:

- i. You have left your first love

#### **IMPROVEMENT NEEDED**

- Need to remember where you have fallen and repent, with Christ being put first in importance in every aspect of your life.
- Need to do your first deeds, the works only as directed by Christ not just good works in general.

## **2. REPORT CARD**

**NAME:** Smyrna

**OVERALL RATING:** A-

**REASONS FOR RATING:** Rev. 2:8-11

- i. I know your tribulations your tribulations and your poverty (but you are rich).
- ii. The blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not but are synagogue of Satan.
- iii. Do not fear what you are about to suffer.
- iv. Behold the devil is about to cast some of you into prison that you may be tested.
- v. You will have tribulation ten days
- vi. Be faithful until death and i will give you the crown of life.

### **IMPROVEMENT NEEDED**

- He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.
- He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death

## **REPORT CARD**

**NAME-** Pergamos

**OVERALL RATING – C**

**REASONS FOR RATING – Rev 12:2-17**

- i. I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and
  - ii. You hold fast my name
  - iii. Did not deny my faith, even in days of Antipas.
  - iv. My witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells
- But i have this against you
    - i. Because you have those who holds the teaching of Balaam who kept teaching Balak to put stumbling blocks before the sons of Israel
    - ii. To eat thing sacrificed to idols
    - iii. To commit acts of immoralities
    - iv. You have also some holding the teaching of the Nicolaitans

### **IMPROVEMENT NEEDED**

- Repent therefore, or else i am coming to you quickly and
- I will make war against then with the sword of my mouth
- To him who overcome i will give some of the hidden manna
- And i will give him a white stone
- I will give him a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it

## **REPORT CARD**

**NAME-** Thyatira

**OVERALL RATING- D**

**REASONS FOR RATING – Rev 2:18-29**

- i. Many of you love the lord and
- ii. Have persevered in service
- iii. Local church divided between very Godly and ungodly factions
- iv. Have tolerated extremely disorder and
- v. Immoral conduct among yourselves

### **IMPROVEMENT NEEDED**

- I place no other burden on you, never the less
  - i. What you have, hold on fast till i come
  - ii. He over comes, he who keep my deeds until the end. (To him I will give authority over the nation (and)
  - iii. He shall rule them with rod of iron, as the vessel of the potter are broken in pieces
  - iv. I will give him the Morning Star
  - v. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Church

## **REPORT CARD**

**NAME – Sardis**

**OVERALL RATING –C**

**REASON FOR RATING – Rev 3:1-6**

- i. You have a name that you are alive but you are dead
- ii. Wake up and strengthen the thing that remain which are about to die
- iii. I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of my god
- iv. Remember therefore what you have received and heard and keep it and repent
- v. Local assembly divided between godly and the ungodly factions
- vi. Outward appearance of proper Church functioning but inward spiritual lethargy
- vii. Works found to be incomplete

### **IMPROVEMENT NEED**

- Wake Up Spiritually
- Remember The Truth You Have Learned And Keep It
- Repent Of Your Sins

**NAME – Philadelphia**

**OVERALL RATING – A**

**REASONS FOR RATING – Rev 3:7-13**

- i. Have maintained true brotherly love



- ii. Had little power; you counted on the lord alone for necessary power to accomplish.
- iii. Kept the lord's word: you had a mind set to simply obey what is stated in the word of God.
- iv. Did not deny the lord name: you maintained all that his precious name stands for
- v. Persevered for the Lord

#### **IMPROVEMENT NEEDED**

- None: Hold fast so no one takes away from you your special crown of blessing from the lord for being obedient to him in your personal and local church lives.

**NAME: Laodiceans**

**OVERALL RATING – F**

**REASON FOR RATING – Rev 3:14-22**

- i. You are neither cold nor hot; I would rather that you are either cold or hot
- ii. Because you are like warm, I will do I am about to, spit you out of my mouth (because)
- iii. You say I am rich and have become wealthy and have need of nothing (and)
- iv. You do not know that you are wretched and miserable
- v. You are poor and blind and naked

#### **IMPROVEMENT NEEDED**

- Buy from me gold refined by fire that you may become rich and
- White garment that you may clothe yourself and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed (and)
- Eye salve to amount your eyes that you may see
- Be zealous therefore and repent

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# **PRACTICAL TEACHING AND PREACHING OF THE WORD**

Most Senior Apostle George N. OMANGE

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Every genuine Church must grow and not be static. The New Testament Church was never scanty. After every Spiritual encounter and Word Ministrations, many souls were always won; and it grew exceeding large. In all the ministrations and work of Jesus Christ, many souls were always won in spite of oppositions from different quarters.

1.2 What was responsible for this tremendous growth in the Church?

# Definitely, it was not the CHARM, GIMMICKS, CHARISMA or MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKING as is rampant today in many Churches!

# It was simply PURE GOSPEL- THE WORD OF GOD & IT'S POWER

a) John 6:2 says a great crowd of people followed him (Jesus Christ) BECAUSE they saw the miraculous signs he had performed.

b) In Acts 13:44, it was mentioned that on the next Sabbath, almost the whole city gathered to HEAR THE WORD OF GOD.

c) Acts 13:49 says the Word of the Lord spread throughout the region

1.3 Today many people have different reasons for coming to the Church—oftentimes different from hearing the Word of God

1.4 Every Christ-like Ministry will attract crowds in the way Jesus and the Apostles did (Acts 13:44).

So what exactly attracted the Multitudes to Jesus and the Apostles?

1.5 Three distinct things that attracted multitudes to Jesus and the Apostles, namely:

a) Jesus loved the people (Matt 9:36)

b) Jesus met their needs (Matt 15:30; Luk 16:17-18; John 6:2)

c) Jesus taught them in interesting and practical ways (Matt 13:34; Mk 10:1, 12:37)

They are still very potent today.

The lecture of today is focussed on the third aspect i.e. the PRACTICAL TEACHING AND PREACHING OF THE WORD.

## **2.0 IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICAL TEACHING & PREACHING OF THE WORD**

### **2.1 Preamble**

The primary importance of Word Ministration is to equip people with the Word of God and bring them to God's Kingdom and depopulate the Kingdom of Darkness

There are 3 key words in the title. These are PRACTICAL, TEACHING and GODS WORDS

In simple terms, *Practical* connotes the demonstration or effective application to real situation. *Preaching* on the other hand implies delivering a sermon or similar moral instruction while *Teaching* connotes the impartation of knowledge to others. *Word* is described in several ways but the most appropriate theologically is that the *Word* is a communication from God; the message from the Christian gospel; the Bible, the Scripture.

Thus today's topic can be translated to mean the *effective demonstration and impartation of the knowledge of the Gospel and the communication from God.*

## 2.2 Justification

This topic is very essential because, events have shown that the *Word* is perhaps one of the least peoples' concerns when we come to Church.

Generally, when it is time for sermon, that is when many people doze off, chat, gossip, hold meetings or loiter around the premises. Not many people come to Sunday School. Many who come, come late. In fact there is the need to disabuse peoples' mind and emphasize that the *Word of God* or Bible does not start and end with Psalms like many of in C&S Churches tend to grow up with. I thank God that the situation is changing today.

## 2.3 The WORD

The *Word* is an embodiment of the communication from God and the message of the gospel and the Bible. The *Word* is a living thing and is efficacious.

**Attributes of the WORD of God:** Some of these attributes include but are not limited to the following:

- a) The Word of the Lord is flawless (2Sam 22:31; Ps 30:5)
- b) Your (God's) Word is a lamp to my feet (Ps 119:105)
- c) The World and all in it was created through the spoken *Word* of God (John 1:1)
- d) The *Word* became flesh and made his... (John 1:14)
- e) You don't peddle the *Word* of God (2Cor 2:17)
- f) You do not distort the *Word* of God (2Cor 4:2)
- g) the Sword of the Holy Spirit is the *Word* of God (Eph 6:17)
- h) The *Word* of God must dwell in us always (Col 3:16)
- i) The *Word* of God is living (Heb 4:12)
- j) Do not merely listen to the *Word*..... *Do what it says* (James 1:22)
- k) The unfolding of your *Word* gives light (Ps 119:130)
- l) God's *Words* are true (Ps 119:160)
- m) You do not add to the *Word* (Pr 30:6)
- n) We are expected to eat the *Word* (Jer15:16) and ingrain it into our hearts (Ps 119:11) and should remain in us (John 15:7)
- o) God's *Word* will never pass away (Matt 24:35)
- p) God's *Word* is eternal life (John 6:68)
- q) We should not take away from the *Word* (Rev 22:19)

## 2.4 Relevance of Teaching the Word

It is important for a Christian to know the potency of the *Word*, their relevance in our lives; and apply them on a daily basis.

One of the primary aims of preaching or teaching the *Word* every time is to *correct, rebuke, encourage; with great patience and careful instruction* (2Tim 4:2-5)

This is very instructive. In effect, the essence of teaching and preaching the *Word* is to communicate God's Truths so as to continuously align us in God's path & reckoning; to rebuke us so that we don't go astray; and to encourage us in the knowledge of the efficacy in God's *Word*

Effective Communication and impartation God's truths has to be done with great patience and careful instruction. This implies the application of strategic principles in the teaching and preaching of the *Word*. This will guarantee the teaching the *Word* according to sound doctrines (Titus 2:1)

### Some Basic Strategies:

- a) To effectively teach and preach the *Word*, you must understand the *Word*. You must be able to appreciate the power and efficacy of the *Word*
  - b) You must appropriately demonstrate your message with illustrations that will be relevant and make impact. Jesus used parables to great effect.
  - c) Teaching and Preaching the *Word* must have a focus, a message that will reflect Christlike behaviour to emulate and live, so that we can be equipped to do God's exploits and empower us for the Kingdom. It is not an opportunity to settle scores or using examples of confidential matters by members of your congregation.
  - d) Your lifestyle must reflect Christlike and Godly attitudes, behaviour and attributes
  - e) The basic strategy used by Jesus during his Ministry while on earth was to Simplify his Messages to his audience using familiar examples as the situation demands
- The multitude therefore enjoyed his teachings & they are often willing to travel long distances leaving behind commitments only to attend his Teachings (Mark 10:1; Matt 7:28, 22:33; Mark 11:18 and 12:37)
- f) To attract the attention of unbelievers like Jesus did, spiritual truths must be communicated in similar practical ways.
  - g) Messages should be as practical as possible & as interesting as could be.
  - h) Messages should be made relevant to the felt-needs of the people at any point in time.
- People always have challenges and have different questions agitating their minds about several issues such as Love, Marriage, Paradise, Hell, Salvation, Holiness, Career, Prosperity, Healing, Health, etc.
  - For a growing church, it should devise strategies of finding answers to them from the Bible, showing the relevance to their lives. This is the Good news of the Gospel which are beneficial to the people.

- Better fulfilment brings out more commitment, more cost effective advertisements for the church at little or no cost. Sharing Biblical truth that meets a need creates a hunger for more (Luke 5:1)

### **3.0 TYPES OF WORD MINISTRATION**

There are 4 types of Sermon or Word Ministrations

#### **3.1 Topical Sermon**

These are Words or Sermon dealing with topical issues. It does not require any particular scriptural text as a basis; that is, a particular text of the scripture is not the source. The message can be drawn from several scriptural texts

Examples include:

- Marriage of the Lamb
- Divine Encounter: The encounter of Jesus Christ with the Samaritan woman (John 4:1-26); the encounter of Moses with God at the Burning Bush; the encounter of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple (Acts 3:1-10)

#### **3.2 Textural Sermon**

The sermon is based on textural passages in the Bible. It involves lifting the Message from the Bible text

Examples will include but not limited to:

- ✓ Encounter with Nicodemus (John 3:3)
- ✓ Seated, Clothed and in Right mind (Mark 5:15)
- ✓ At thy Word... (Luke 5:5)

#### **3.3 Expository Sermon**

This involves using a particular chapter or sections thereof to reveal the characters and relevance of Christian values

Typical Examples:

- Guard your Behaviour in Life (Gen 39:1-15) - Reference to Joseph's encounter and his comportment with Potiphar's wife
- Bless Me, O Lord (Jer 17:7-8)
- Heal me O Lord; Save me O Lord (Jer 17:14)
- Generally, people believe that Expository sermons are often monotonous
- Water Level continue to Rise as you stay Steadfast in the Lord (Eze 47)
- From Shame to Abundance (2Kings 4:1-8) – Story of the Widow's oil; and Elijah

#### **3.4 Specific Sermon**

These are sermons for specific occasions.

Typical Examples:

- Sermon for House Dedication; Burial; Naming Ceremony; etc.

## **4.0 CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF PRACTICAL WORD MINISTRATION**

### **4.1 Introduction**

Teaching and Preaching the Word is necessary in order to draw the Truths from the Scripture and share them with the assembly of people so that they can live by the Word.

It provides an opportunity for the assembled people to encounter Jesus Christ through the Preacher and or Teacher

It also provides opportunity to hear a living voice who interprets the scripture

**Four critical steps are important in practical Word Ministration. These are:**

- a) Studying the Word of God. This involves studying the scripture/Bible
- b) Preparing the Message
- c) Teaching the Word
- d) Communicating on Message

### **4.2 Preparing the Message**

There is always a message from every passage in the Bible. It is therefore necessary to link the message to God's desire and the needs of the people. Indeed, it is the HOLY SPIRIT that gives the message. The Preacher or Teacher is actually the medium or Tool. Thus preparing the Message involves:

- Preparing the Message using the Bible
- Talking to the Bible
- Asking God to teach you to make the message unique and relevant. You do not need to imitate or copy anybody
- Relating with the Holy Spirit for directive and Ministration

### **4.3 Steps to "Preparing" the Message**

#### **a) Read the Scripture**

This involves:

- ✓ Studying the Bible to master the Word
- ✓ The Word of God is the subject matter. Therefore, you must read, read and read the Scripture passage thoughtfully and carefully ... trusting the Holy Spirit to teach and guide you into the truth (John 14:26; 16:13)
- ✓ Studying the Challenges Facing the People

#### **b) Get a notebook to write**

- As you read, questions come. As you study, answers come
- Generally, ask yourself some basic questions, such as
  - i. What is the purpose of this text? What do I want it to accomplish
  - ii. What do I need to explain; defend, apply from the Message so that the purpose will be realized?

**c) Make Notes**

- i. Write down the things the congregation can benefit from the Message;
- ii. State Your Outlines in terms of Universal Truths
- iii. **Draw your inferences:** Based on careful study of the text, you need to find relevant points that will serve to teach, reprove, correct and train the body of Christ (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Write down your inferences and key points from the passage you are dealing with.
- iv. **Find relevant examples:** In accordance with the highlights or the key points in the message, find fictional narratives, real experiences, stories or testimonies to illustrate your point. Jesus taught in parables. It becomes much easier to communicate when you have good, and if possible, real examples to back your message up. Whenever you come across an incident or a phenomenon that could illustrate your message, note it down for future reference.
- v. **Generate Practical Applications:** At times, you need to the extra mile to bring out practical application of your inferences into everyday living. For eg: Jesus is alive! So what? What does it mean to me on a daily basis? What am I supposed to do? What should I avoid? Generate practical applications to guide them as they learn to walk with God and depend more on him.
- vi. **Examine Yourself First:** Once you have your sermon ready, spend time examining yourself. This is what Apostle Paul says, *“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- vii. **Inspire and Challenge:** This is what you are called to do on the pulpit with the help of the Bible you hold in your hands, and the Holy Spirit by whom you should be led, every moment of your sermon, with every word you speak! You are not called to discourage, demotivate or condemn people. You are called to edify, encourage and inspire them to go forward. Challenge your congregation to a higher standard of living for God and His divine purposes for their lives.
  - Pray that every listener be inspired to take their walk with God one step further.
  - Pray that God gives every listener a heart of flesh that is set on obeying God (Luke 6:43-45);
  - Pray for them to become new creation in Christ (2Cor 5:17).
  - Pray that God should effect changes in the congregation/listeners and bring about hunger for spiritual food and growth (1Pet 2:2)

**d) Pray and ask God to minister to you**

**4.4 The Message**

The Message to be delivered or taught generally has 5 parts:

**a) Prayer**

Mount Prayer on the Message and ask the Holy Spirit to take control

**b) Message Title**

- Introduce the message.
- Repeat the Title for the benefit of those who did not grasp it the first time
- The Message Title should be short, brisk and captivating

➤ The Introduction should

- i. Capture the Attention of the Audience
- ii. Agitate the Need for the lesson
- iii. Orient people to the lessons of the Message

**c) Body of the Message**

- i. Take the text of the Message: For every text/passage mentioned, repeat to allow people get them
- ii. Discuss the message in totality
- iii. Demonstrate or illustrate the message with surrounding events of issues and common place events, as applicable. Note that Jesus Christ used parables to make his audience perceive the quality, essence, and how to do the needful to inherit the Kingdom of God

**d) Conclusion of the Message**

The focus of the message should be on Jesus Christ

Avoid focussing the message around or on yourself

Avoid using the platform of the message to deluge and engage in character assignation or settle scores

**e) Make Altar Call**

Request members of the congregation to use the opportunity to walk with God (Amos 3:3), Surrender their lives to Christ (John 3:16) and

To build a relationship with God because the battle is of the Lord (2 Chro 20:15)

## **5.0 DO'S AND DON'TS IN WORD MINISTRATION**

There are important issues that have to be born in mind while delivering the Message. These are presented as Do's and Don'ts of Word Ministration as follows:

### **5.1 DO's**

- a) The message should be between 30 and 40 minutes. But with perfection, an effective message can be delivered within 15 minutes  
Indeed, it is not the length of time of Message delivery that matters. What matters most is the effective impartation of God's word and Message into people  
Generally, endeavour to make the message snappy and short
- b) When making reference during word Ministration, the scriptural text referred to should be repeated in order ensure that the congregation get you correctly
- c) Preacher/Teacher must give respect and honour to the Pulpit  
The pulpit is an honourable place and represents the mercy seat of God, with the Holy Spirit driving the Message with the preacher/Teacher as the tool to actualize this. Always invite the Holy Spirit to take control
- d) The Preacher is not expected to lean on the Pulpit. There must be a gap between the Pulpit and the Preacher
- e) Manage time effectively. One challenge that Preachers face is Time Management. We need to guard against it
- f) The Preacher must be clean and smartly dressed. All eyes are on you. Your appearance must speak for you!!"
- g) Must be seen to lead a good and Holy life; Be a good example;



- One of the things that turns people "off" in teaching is the inconsistency in the life of their teacher/preacher ... who does not practise what he preaches! There would be no credibility in his teaching (1Tim 4:11-12).
  - Best way out is *contained in Ezra 10 i.e. to Study, Practice and Teach. Ezra 7;10 noted that Ezra had set his heart to **study** the law of the LORD, to **practice** it, and to **teach** His statutes and ordinances in Israel.*
  - Be husband/wife of one wife/husband
  - Must refrain from vices such as Alcohol drinking; fornication/adultery; fighting; etc.
- h) Must be self-disciplined: He must put his/her body and soul under the control of the Holy Spirit.
- i) Must be brave and speak the Truth always

## 6.2 DON'Ts

- a) Preaching or Teaching the Word is not a showmanship issue. It is a serious business. Remember that the Holy Spirit is in control, if invited!!!
- b) Being a Preacher or Teacher of the Word does not make one the Lord or super; but to be used as God's tool for Message Delivery
- c) Do not use slangs or mannerism that are not part of your nature e.g. You gonna... wanna..., etc. People will tend to tag you as such
- d) Do not imitate others. Just be yourself. Where there is need, make emphasis in your own way using familiar examples
- e) Avoid being apologetic especially if you took a wrong verse, use it in line with your message  
Note that the appearance of Jabez story in 1Chro 4:9-10 is very short and appears to be misplacement where it is located. But it still served its purpose
- f) Don't do anything that will bring the Pulpit to disrepute or ridicule
- g) Don't curse, convict, castigate during word ministration because the pulpit is a place of blessing.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

The Word of God represents divine Truths communicated by God not only for healthy living but to position Man for God's Kingdom. There is need for practical steps to be taken for the teaching of God's *Word* and this requires that:

- a) Messages rendered at any point in time should be determined by the needs of the people in audience.
- b) The choice of Bible passages and truths therein must be relevant, appropriate and practical.
- c) The practical Teaching, cognizance is given to several considerations including: Age, Profession, Education. Challenges Problems (spiritual, etc.)
- d) The message of the Gospel should not be rendered with a "Take it or leave it" attitude.
- e) Sinners should be persuaded to turn a new leaf (Rom 12:1-2) ...."to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God; ...not to conform to the pattern if the world"

Finally, it is important to emphasize that practical and effective teaching of the Word is one of the strategies to attain a Glorious Church and Effective Church growth. Our Church must

continue to make more conscious efforts to achieve this. This could be by adopting and enacting a policy to encourage more members to go to Bible School, Pastoral Colleges and School of Prophecy. May God help us IJN

# CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN THE CHURCH

Special Apostle Evangelist R. O. Ajibade

## INTRODUCTION

One of the best known words of our LORD Jesus Christ is the promise in **John 16:33** –

*“.... In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*

Most of us have lost focus on the first part of the verse, which is also part of the promise. We direct our attention to the second part of the promise. The first part is also a promise: In the world ye shall have tribulation – trouble, conflict.

Working in the Church does not mean that you landed yourself in Perfect Working Condition. With the prayers, devotions, and encouraging sticky notes, the Church is the best place to experience no conflict at all! Then, got the job in the Church or you gets into the ministry to which you are called, and your first conflict slaps you out of your dreamed perfect work place or ministry.

The Church is a unique environment: part business, part family, with blurry lines of community and co-workers.. This blurring of boundaries means we have an even higher call to understand and handle conflict within the church.

***Conflict is a part of life.*** You cannot get away from this fact. As a leader or a follower, you are sure that you will face relational conflicts. There is not leadership model that will totally eliminate disagreements or clashes of personality. ***In fact, the tension that comes from conflict can be healthy and beneficial to growth if dealt with correctly.*** A Canadian Philosopher and Theologian, Jean Vernier, wrote,

*“Communities need tensions if they are to grow and deepen. Tensions come from conflicts.... A tension or difficulty can signal the approach of a new grace of God. But it has to be looked at wisely and humanly.”<sup>1</sup>*

The question is not “Will I face conflicts?” but “How can I best manage conflicts when they arise?”

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

### ***What is Conflict?***

**Conflict** – This is defined as a strong disagreement between persons or a group of individuals that result often in angry argument. It is also defined as a difference that prevents agreements.

**Conflict** is also defined as mental struggles resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes, or external or internal demands - Webster Dictionary

It is simply a clash of differing point of opinions and/or values. It is a situation in which two or more people desire a particular goal perceive as being attainable by one person at a time. It can also be explained as actively striving for one's preferred outcome which, if attained, precludes the attainment by others of their preferred outcome, thereby producing hostility.

**Church** - an assembly of persons for worship and religious instructions – Webster Dictionary

The Bible simply defines the Church as “....where two or three are gathered together in my name....” **Mathew 18:20**

**Management** – a process of deciding how to bring together two divergent views or group to achieve greater good.

**Conflict Management in the Church** therefore, is a process of handling divergent of opinions or attainable goals of a group or individuals within the body of Christ – Church – to achieve goal set before the Church.

## **CONFLICT AS A SPIRITUAL MATTER**

The Holy Bible, right from the beginning introduces us to conflict. *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.* **Genesis 1:2**. From our little knowledge of God, He is God of orderliness and light. The earth was not in the state He wanted, He had to order it. This is why at the end of each exercise, it was written “....And God saw.....that it was good - **Genesis 1:4**.

God was satisfied, the situation was in line with His objective.

Every conflict in the Church has spiritual implication, if not handled spiritually, we would not achieve the mandate God has given us. The Bible says,

*12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

**Ephesians 6:12**

If we are conscious of this fact, we would apply what our Lord Jesus told us.

## JESUS AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

When Jesus addressed problems, he tackled them head-on. During the Sermon on the Mount and in **Mathew Chapter 18**, He dealt with the issue of conflicts brought about either by someone offending you or you offending them:

*<sup>23</sup> Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; <sup>24</sup> Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*  
**Matthew 5:23-24**

*<sup>15</sup> Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. <sup>17</sup> And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*  
**Matthew 18:15-17**

While the Lord was addressing the problem of sin, there are broader principles at work in his teaching. And no matter which side has caused the problem, the solution is the same.

First, **go to the person quickly**. Jesus counseled that, if someone is worshiping God and remembers that he or she has offended a friend, the appropriate response is to **stop right there and go immediately** to the offended individual. With those words Jesus made it clear that **correct interpersonal relationships are more important than correct ritual**. This tends to grate against religious folks who say that God must be our first priority. It is true that God should be our primary focus. However, our relationship with God is better gauged by our human relationships than by religious ritual. Although we cannot guarantee that the offended brother will accept us, we are obligated to make every effort. The Bible advises, *<sup>18</sup> If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.* **Romans 12:18**

Secondly, **go to the person** with whom you are experiencing a conflict and address the issues face-to-face. Avoid involving a third or fourth person, especially if their knowledge of the situation will worsen the problem for the offending individual. Such discussions tend to intensify the conflict and further undermine the relationship. Judging from the amount of conflict experienced in our world, this is surely one of the most overlooked commands in Scripture. The fact that we are not appalled by the amount of broken relationships and persistent hostility between people is a sad indicator of our spiritual health as a believing community.

In both cases, Jesus advises is to take the initiative. When you have done something wrong, you go and make it right. When someone else has wronged you, you still take the first step.

You might say, “That’s not fair!” But take note, God is not asking us to do anything that he has not already done. Jesus is not asking us to do anything he has not modeled for us. He gave up heaven to come down to earth, become a servant and die to repair our broken relationship with the Father. In Jesus Christ, God takes the initiative to reconcile us to Himself.

### **THIRD PARTY INVOLVEMENT IN CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

When the above steps have been taken and the conflict could not be resolved, Jesus advised: “.... if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. <sup>17</sup> And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”

This is when the third party could be invited – take one or two more.

It was pointed out at the beginning that conflict should be viewed spiritually and be treated accordingly. Apostle James asked a very serious question.

*“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? **James 4:1***

If conflict is a product of lust – selfish desire, it might be difficult to resolve without the third party because of pride or perceived self-esteem. This time around someone of a higher spiritual pedestal should be invited to manage it. Litigation – going to court - is not encouraged in conflict management within the Church. Paul rebuked the Corinthians Church for this.

*“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? <sup>2</sup> Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? <sup>3</sup> Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? <sup>4</sup> If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. <sup>5</sup> I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? <sup>6</sup> But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. <sup>7</sup> Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?*

**1 Corinthians 6:1-7**

The Church, through the Scriptures, has technical know-how to handle conflict if the parties are truly born of God. Apostle Peter advised, “....Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. **1 Peter 5:5**

When conflicting parties refused to submit to one another or the authority of the Church; the Bible says they should ....*be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*”

Third party involvement could be through one of the parties in the conflict or the Church authority. This might be through a Conciliator, Facilitator and Adjudication.

### **CONCILIATOR**

A Conciliator is the messenger of peace between the conflicting parties. He encourages attitudinal and behavioural change, better communication and seeks to douse the tension. He does not attach much importance to the removal of the main cause of the conflict.

### **FACILITATOR**

A Facilitator helps in the conflicting parties come to a mutually satisfying agreement. The work facilitator is closely related to Mediator, he may be invited to help handle some aspect of the conflicting issue based on skill perceived by the conflicting parties.

### **MEDIATOR**

A Mediator is a third party invited to mediate between conflicting parties. He must be impartial and neutral person working to assist them reach a satisfactory negotiated agreement.

### **ARBITRATION & ADJUDICATION**

The following third party mechanism has to do litigation. In **arbitration**, an arbiter- a court of appropriate jurisdiction, commonly agreed by the conflicting parties is appointed to arrive at a judgement. The arbiter is an authoritative and legitimate third party superior in strength to the conflicting parties. Recommendation reached is binding on the parties.

**Adjudication** is settling of conflict according the existing laws of the land. The adversaries in the conflict have not influence in choosing the third party and one only one party is needed for an intervention to occur. The decision making authority is a judge.

### **STEPS IN MANAGING CONFLICT**

1. Recognize that there is a problem at hand.
2. Seek outside assistance if necessary
3. Empower people and parties involved in the process by encouraging participation at all levels.
4. Identify and clarify the issue through dialogue and emphasize a common ground.

5. Co-labour together for mutually agreeable solution
6. Covenant together for solution

## CONCLUSION

**Effective leaders do not ignore conflict.** They manage it by creating an environment in which people are enabled to work through relational friction on a one-on-one basis. Only after such efforts have failed are others allowed to enter the conflict, and then only for the purpose of bringing about reconciliation. Conflicts cannot be avoided, but they can be managed. **And a wise leader will devote himself or herself to learning how to do just that.**



## ABIDING IN JESUS CHRIST: KEY TO DOING EXPLOITS

Most Senior Apostle/Prophet Joel Akin Aribanusi

### DEFINITION OF WORDS

Abide – to live, dwell or reside in a place. Abiding is a present continuous word, it is not a one-off action, but an action that continue all the time, either when convenient or not.

Jesus Christ – means the anointed Savior. Jesus is the Savior (Matt 1:21). Christ is the anointed one

Exploit – is having a bold or daring feat, achievement, etc. It's having a notable or heroic act.

In general term we are living in Abuja, in particular some are living in Garki, Wuse, Kubwa, Apo, etc. Looking at specifics, some are in Area 1, Zone 1, etc. These give details to the reality of where we dwell or reside.

When we have the perspective of Jesus as a place then it will be easier for us to comprehend abiding in Christ; which is to live dwell or reside in Jesus Christ. We should have the understanding that God is omnipresence – He is everywhere at the same time (Psalm 139:8; Prov 15:3; Isa 66:1), therefore God is here, in our homes, offices, business, etc. This understanding will enable us to walk with Him in reverential fear, that God is here I should not commit sin.

### ANALYSIS OF JOHN 15:1-7:

John 15:1 *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."*

John 15:2 *"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."*

John 15:3 *"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."*

John 15:4 *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."*

John 15:5 *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

John 15:6 *"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."*

John 15:7 *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."*

### **TO ABIDE IN CHRIST, *you must***

1. Be born again (experience the new birth) – John 3:3,5; 2 Tim 5:17; Rom 12:1-2
2. Meditate on God's Word on daily basis – Josh 1:8; Col 3:16, Psalm 119:9-11
3. Possess fruit of the Holy Spirit – Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:9
4. Run away from sin and all appearances of evil – 1 John 3:9; 1 John 5:4,18
5. Live the life of prayer and fasting – Mark 9:29; 1 Thess 5:17

### **WHAT IS DOING EXPLOITS?**

Earlier exploit is defined as having a bold or daring feat, achievement, etc. It's having a notable or heroic act. But doing exploits is the act of being bold. There 3 servants of King David that what they did could be counted as exploit, 1 Sam 23:8-17.

Daniel 11:32.....***but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploit.....***

The following constitute kingdom exploits:

- i. Evangelical Outreach – Matt 28:18 – 20, Mark 16:15 - 16
- ii. Standing in the gap (prayer and intercession) – 1 Thess 5:25; 2 Thess 3:1; Heb 13:18
- iii. Feeding God's flock – John 21:15 - 17
- iv. Loosing the bands of wickedness – Isa 58:6
- v. Breaking yokes (deliverance) – Isa 58:6
- vi. Taking care of the needy (being hospitable) – Matt 25:34-46
- vii. Working miracles and healings – Mark 16:17 – 18
- viii. Leaving all for Jesus Christ – Mark 10:28

### **TO DO EXPLOITS, THE FOLLOWING MUST BE DONE:**

1. Give your life to Jesus Christ – John 3:3,5,16
2. Walk in faith – Heb. 11:6, Mark 11:22, Rom 1:7, Rom 10:17, Rom 14:23
3. Live a life of obedience – Isa 1:19, Deut 28:1
4. Live a lifestyle of holiness – 1 Pet 1:15-16, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Eph. 5:5
5. Do not violate God's covenant – Dan 11:32
6. Possess the knowledge of God – 1 Cor. 2:2, Phil 3:10, 1 John 2:3-5
7. Put on the whole armour of God – Eph. 6:1-18
8. Put away strange gods from you – Gen 35:1-3
9. Mortify your members of earth – Col. 3:5-10, Gal. 5:19-22
10. Put on the robe of righteousness – Isa 61:10
11. Bear the fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22-23
12. Be led by the Holy Spirit – Rom 8:14

13. Be disciplined and self-controlled, control your tongue, appetite, etc.
14. Focus on Jesus Christ alone and not any man – Luke 9:62, Heb. 12:2, Jude 1:21
15. Separate yourself from all the things that pertains to the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and pride of life – 1 John 2:15-16
16. Be submissive unto God all the time – Jam 4:7
17. Husbands love your wives – Eph. 5:25
18. Wives submit to your husbands – Eph. 5:22-24
19. Children obey your parents – Eph. 6:1-3
20. Occupy for Jesus Christ – Luke 19:13 (D’odi mu, emi fere de, beeni Jesu wi)

#### **BENEFITS OF ABIDING IN JESUS CHRIST:**

- i. Possess the mind of Christ Jesus – “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.” 1 Cor. 2:16
- ii. Fruitfulness – “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.” John 15:4. “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5
- iii. Answered prayer - “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7
- iv. Revelational knowledge – “... Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.” Rev 4:1
- v. Eternal Life – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16
- vi. God’s own people – “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 1 Pet 2:9” Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” 1 Pet 2:10
- vii. Sound health and prosperity – “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” 3 John 2
- viii. Living life of peace – “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isa 26:3

#### **REWARD OF DOING EXPLOITS**

- i. Wisdom – “...and he that winneth souls is wise.” Prov. 11:30
- ii. Radiance – “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Dan 12:3

- iii. Partaker of the tree of life – He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. Rev 2:7
- iv. Dominion over nations – “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:” Rev 2:26
- v. Inherit all things – “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” Rev 21:7
- vi. Gaining all – “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,” Mar 10:29 “But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.” Mar 10:30

#### **Description of a Christian Life as recorded in the New Testament**

<b>Christians are called to be like..</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Soldiers	2 Tim. 2:3,4	Like a Single-minded soldier, we should respond to the order of our commanding officer the Lord Jesus, with unquestioning obedience.
Farmers	2 Tim. 2:6	Farmers labor strenuously and consistently in order to reap a fruitful harvest. We also must work hard in serving the Lord.
Athletes	2 Tim. 2:5	Athletes follow strict training rules so as to avoid being disqualified from their race; we must display a similar measure of self-control.
Workers	2 Tim. 2:15	Our work is to “rightly divide” or correctly handle God’s Word so as to avoid shame.
Vessels	2 Tim. 2:20, 21	We must take care to keep ourselves pure, like a clean dish, so that we will be “useful for the Master.”
Fishers of men	Matt. 4:19	As fishermen, we are called to “catch” men with the Good News of Christ.
Salt	Matt. 5:13	As salt, we act as a godly preservation in an evil society; moreover, we make people thirsty to know their Creator.
Light	Matt. 5:14-16	As light, we point the way to reconciliation with God, and we reflect God’s character, for He is the Light (John 1:7).
Branches	John 15:5	As branches, we bear godly fruit as long as we are attached to the Vine, Christ.
Stewards	1 Cor. 4:1, 2	Like administrators, we have responsibilities to manage. God will evaluate how we handled the resources He has given us.
Ambassadors	2 Cor. 5:20	We are representatives of God’s kingdom to the lost citizens of this world.
Living Stones	1 Pet. 2:5	In former days, God dwelt in a physical temple; now He dwells in His people, the church.
Priests	1 Pet. 2:5,9,10	Like priests, we have the privilege of approaching near to God, and the responsibility of helping others in reconciling themselves to Him.
Sojourners	1 Pet. 2:11	As children of God, we do not belong to the world. This world is not our home; we are only “passing through.”

Source: NKJV, Study Bible (Second Edition)

## **CONCLUSION**

Jesus Christ is in need of worshippers, those that will worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). Once you have the heart of a worshipper automatically you are enrolled as a worker in God's kingdom and this is evidenced by the release of His gifts or talents to you (Luke 19:13 – 27). When you commit yourself to the worship of Jehovah God, kingdom exploit is made easy.

Rev 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Rev 3:2 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

Rev 3:22 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

The above verses are invitation to give your life to Jesus Christ or to rededicate your life back to God. Open today the door of your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ; you will become His worshipper and eventually a kingdom worker.