

TEMPLE BUILDERS MINISTRIES

“Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD” Haggai 1:8

THE CRUCIFIED ONES

TEXT: “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:29

THE COMMISSION AND THE VISION

Jesus is calling all well meaning, zealous and diligent Christians to rise up for Him to reform His Church. If the world is not seeing us as a solution, or differentiate Christians from the world then we are enjoined to consider our ways. (Haggai 1:2-7) For centuries and decades we as Christians have been trying to bring God into our cultures, ethos and traditions yet wondering why we are not functioning the way Jesus promised that we would function (John 14:12), Jesus is saying, consider your ways.

The Holy Spirit was given for the purpose of establishing the Church and running the Church. The Holy Spirit supports and participates only in God’s programmes that are in God’s plans and purposes (Isaiah 55:8). Apart from His specific mission of glorifying Jesus, sanctifying the believer and bring us into unity in sanctification and of faith, He would never be involved (John 16:13-14, John 14:26, John 17:17). So the Holy Spirit would not support Church psychology, philosophy or Church politics. Neither would the Holy Spirit celebrate any human being or minister no matter how gifted. We can tell when we are functioning as Christians. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch because of what they were observed doing. Like Jesus. (Acts 11:23-26) Our duty is to seek diligently so that we may be able to assess what we are doing right or what we are doing wrong. To grow or increase numbers in our congregation is not a problem for the Holy Spirit as long as increasing our membership is not our goal or vision. He would build His Church if it is His Church (Matthew 16:18b). The building is the believer Christ died to build as a Holy habitation for God (Ephesians 2:20-22). This is the reason God created human beings and the reason Jesus died for mankind.

The time to criticise is over. Time for finger pointing, selfish motives, territorial preservation or control by holding on to congregation members as if they belong to us instead of belonging to Jesus is over. The dynamics have changed because the dispensation has changed. Denominational and territorial segregation has never worked neither would it work nor have a place in the glorious Church Jesus is building. That Church is a Church of glory, without spots or wrinkle. (Ephesians 5:27)

- Unity of faith or unity in the body of Christ is God’s vision for His Church. Unity of faith is therefore believing and having the same understanding of God, His purposes and plans for His church and His creation. (Ephesians 4:13) In essence God’s plan is that every believer

believes the same thing and receives the same interpretation of God's Word in the Bible and from the Holy Spirit.

- This constitutes the mandate given to the Holy Spirit. Believing empowers to become. (John 1:12)
- To sanctify as a means to holiness is the mandate of the Holy Spirit. (John 17:17)
- Holiness as the end of sanctification is what God wants to achieve to take us into the fullness of God or the indwelling Christ. (John 14:23)
- Any concept, plans, strategies, visions or designs that are not God's would not receive any support from God (The Holy Spirit) the church administrator. The Holy Spirit would not do what God did not send him no matter how many times we mention all God's names or Jesus Christ or Holy Spirit. He agrees only with the word of God (1 John 5:7-8)
- Our duty towards Jesus as priests is to seek diligently to know what He said. It is the word that makes us spiritual. We are first spirit and can only relate to God as spirits (John 4:23). So by following God through His word we walk in the Spirit (Romans 8:4-14)
- The Holy Spirit would show you when you are moving into delusion or deception. Words like being too spiritual are offensive to the Holy Spirit.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER AND PONDER ABOUT

- We need to agree to unite for God and for God alone. Any idea or concepts that cannot be found in the book should be discarded.
- Traditions and practises that are not supported by God's Words should equally be discarded. These put barriers that the Holy Spirit would not touch or cross. Jesus considers them unbelief and declared that tradition renders God's commandment ineffective (Matthew 15:6). Jesus could not cross the line of unbelief. Unbelief neutralizes God on our behalf. Unbelief is a demon and so is everything that works hand in hand with it.
- Mind games, politics and practises that border on craftiness do not receive the support of the Holy Spirit (Job 5:12, 1 Corinthians 3:19).
- Seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness should no more be treated as a slogan but should be pursued with all diligence (Matthew 6:33, Hebrews 11:6). It is a commandment. When we seek we would find (Matthew 7:7).
- Briefly put, the kingdom of God we are to seek is the fullness of God in our spirit, soul and body. This means to find out all we need to do for God to fulfil His promises. Mainly consecration, sanctification, cultivating the fruit of the Spirit and the pattern of Jesus Christ.
- The congregation that God would increase must seek these first before anything else.
- Teachings on prosperity and how to find spouses must be relegated to where it belongs. Anyone seeking first prosperity and life partner may get results, but you should be aware that that result is not from God. It is from another source. The Holy Spirit does not respond to pursuits based on ignorance. Seeking first the image of Christ is what honours God and what the Holy Spirit would honour in the believer and the congregation.
- Our focus must change. God focus not ministry focus. The Church is to be prepared for Christ as His bride. We cannot afford to be possessive over someone else's bride.

- We are to build human temples. (Isaiah 66:1-2). God would be able to trust us with His flock and bring in the harvest if He sees that our consciences and motives have been purified to agree with His plans.
- We are enjoined to be wise not crafty. Movements and revivals have been known to grind to a halt mainly because of human factor. The day Charles Parham showed up at Azusa Street revival to remind revivalists that whites and blacks should not be fellowshiping together the Holy Spirit left. The Holy Spirit cannot be manipulated or used to hijack God's commission to His servants. He has specific roles for everyone God calls. (Acts 13:2)
- We may think if one minister can do something anyone can do the same. This is true if it is your calling. It is like an Evangelist trying to be a Prophet without the gifting. This would end in failure even if it appears to be succeeding for a while.
- Satan has been able to hijack ministers who want to engage in ministry God did not send them. Not every minister is called to pioneer. If we know this it would bless the body of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
- Attempts to make the Church attractive to the world must stop. Churches must not be social clubs. God adds to His Church. God added to the first Church because it was fulfilling God's plans (Acts 2:42-47). Size of a congregation is not a sign that God is there. Human beings tend to gravitate to CONVENIENT churches where it is so much fun but no power. We tend to seek to pacify our conscience by going to church. Jesus has warned that we may prophesy, cast out demons and do all sort of things but still be cast away. Jesus is looking for the fruit (Matthew 7:15-23)
- We should avoid at all cost attempts to be lured into competition, taking credit for anything or any desire to be described as a founder of anything. Leadership and spiritual authority is a responsibility. God only ordains. Man may appoint but only God ordains (Acts 13:2-4). We get into trouble when we try to occupy offices we are not called by God to occupy. This is where competition and denominations sprang from. God respects authority conferred on people whether civil or church. But we would be smart to know that the fivefold ministry can only be conferred by Jesus Himself (Romans 13 1-7, Ephesians 4 7-13).
- We could examine ourselves to root out scheming; you could tell if your motives are impure. Once your foundation is corrupted with crafty scheming or manipulations God can't use it. You would have to maintain it with manipulations and crafty scheming. God does not touch buildings with serpents in their foundation (Psalm 11:3).
- These practices stop revivals and present a major stumbling block for God's true move. Ambition is the mother of frustration.
- We are to stand by each other to help fulfil our ministries. You may be a pastor with Apostles, prophets, evangelist and teachers in your ministries; if you suppress them you are trying to suppress God. The Holy Spirit would leave you alone to run your church by yourself.
- Every teaching about submission to authority must be submission to God and His word first. When we are submitted to God's word submission to authority becomes automatic. Teachings on submission to Church authority have been corrupted since the papal system of Church government.
- Overemphasis on submission to the Church is a clear indication that there may be trouble in one's ministry. This may be suppression of other ministerial gifts which is control and manipulation. (Witchcraft)

- Unfortunately insecurity on the part of people given Church authority has led to more corruption and suppression of ministerial gifts. Please note suppression breeds rebellion. When we attempt to suppress one another forgetting that we have the same spirit of God, the reaction would be the same as Apostle Peter's reaction to the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:19-20, Ephesians 4:1-6). However there can never be an excuse for rebellion at any level.
- We should treat God's Church and flock with respect (1 Peter 5:1-5).
- The commandment is to love God first then our neighbour as ourselves. Jesus demonstrated this by washing His disciples' feet (John 13:12-17)
- We are to respect, love and cherish our leaders, but no leader is higher than Jesus Christ who washed the feet of His disciple.
- We are called to serve not Lord it over anyone.
- The book of Proverbs is recommended to help believers deal with cultural differences. Cultural differences have become an issue because we are not following God's teachings about relationship with fellow believers and the world. The Bible is a complete book with enough teachings on how to conduct ourselves. Any practice in the Church that is blamed on cultural difference is false and unsanctified. We have simply chosen to ignore what God said about how to behave (1 Timothy 3:15)

ON CHURCH GOVERNMENT

- Church government and council may be formed in accordance with God's injunction, the teachings of Jesus and the first Apostles. Unity of the brethren is the key.
- God did not call us to have human coverings. Mentorship is good and important. But mentorship should never be misconstrued as spiritual covering.
- The only spiritual covering approved by God is the covering provided by unity of brethren coming together for fellowship based on God's own agenda (Hebrews 10:25). The first Apostles had a covering. Their covering was the unity they had from the beginning which they rightfully described as the council of elders (Please read Acts 15:1-31). And among the elders there would be a leader like Apostle Peter. The leader that behaves like Jesus.
- We should always remember that Christ in the leader is who we submit to. The commandment to love in essence has taken care of a lot of issues if we understand it. Christ is the cover for everyone. He has set His ministers in his body to work through them to build His body.
- Unity is power. Unity is what the Holy Spirit does by uniting our understanding of the scriptures.
- There are two types of unity. Unity for man's purposes or unity for God. The first attracts demonic activities and ultimately God's judgement and the other attracts the Holy Spirit and God's favour. One is motivated by man the other inspired by God.
- The story of the tower of Babel explains the unity that could be found when we gather people and God's resources for our self promotion (Genesis 11:1-9) God had to confound them. The other was the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) God united them and poured upon them the promise of the Spirit (Psalm 133:1-3).

- Ananias and Sapphira were also united. Theirs was against God so it ended in death (Acts 5:1-10). The one hundred and twenty disciples' unity birthed the Church on the day of Pentecost.
- So where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus He is there (Matthew 18:20). And wherever we are united for God's purposes and plans the Holy Spirit establishes by Himself as the administrator, government is formed, council is born.
- The High priest asked the Apostles who gave them the power to do what they were doing seeing that they were not ordained by the Sanhedrin, the Apostles reminded them it was Jesus Christ who they crucified. (Please read Acts 4:1-14) The priest and Scribe came to question Jesus about where He got His authority from. They could not answer when Jesus question them about where John the Baptist got his authority from (Luke 20:1-8)
- Authority comes only from God. God approves any council He inspires. Council that meets with His requirements, following His plans, purpose and design. This design is to see Christ formed in the believer not congregational sizes but the fruit that comes out of death to self (John 12:24)
- Any congregation or ministry that is building for Jesus Christ can never be threatened by any other ministry nor minister, neither should anyone be intimidated. Such things belong to the past. There would not be any room to accommodate such ministries in the glorious Church Jesus is building. Apostle Peter was not threatened by Apostle Paul or any other disciple
- Any minister who feels intimidated by another minister's anointing should spend time in sober reflection. He should be able to determine whether he/she is in ministry for God or for him/her self. God has His plans and position for every believer.
- It is also important that we should note that God does not reward overzealousness. God does not reward assignments He did not send us. Nadab and Abihu the sons of Aaron though they were priests died for intruding into the office God did not call them (See Leviticus 10: 1-3). God described their work as strange fire. This is a warning to those who think they could offer to God work He did not send them. Even if we think we are succeeding, this is the root cause for the proliferation of false prophets, apostles or any ministerial gifts.
- God's grace is for His assignment not competition. God expects us to inquire from Him about His call upon our lives. Our work would be tried. (1 Corinthians 3:13)
- There is no room for competition. It is named as work of the flesh (Galatians 5:20)
- Such terms like powerful men or women of God do not exist in God's Kingdom. They are offensive and an affront to Jesus Christ.
- Accountability is crucial for Church government or unity. This means we are accountable to God and to one another. Apostle Peter regarded as the leader of the elders was accountable to the council of elders when he was question about his interaction with the gentiles. He gave account (Acts 11:1-18). Apostle Paul withstood Apostle Peter in love (Galatians 2:11-14).
- Accountability connotes responsibility (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). That means we can't choose to come and go as we like.
- True submission is submission to one another in love (Ephesians 5:21). Any other form of submission is tyranny. The papal system was burning Christians who opposed practises

that were contrary to the scriptures calling them heretics. A Church in rebellion burning believers for desiring to read the bible for themselves whilst calling them rebellious. Unfortunately, these sorts of practises have been refined and are still happening.

- Jesus warned about not judging one another lest we be judged (Matthew 7:1-2, Romans 14:4). This is because it is possible for Church authority to rebel against God by engaging in sinful practises. Rebellion would flow to the congregation. A Church authority that is suppressing its members or ministers (which is witchcraft) would continue in strife and would end up being a specialist in teaching about submission to authority instead of submission to God. Watch out!
- We are also exhorted to take heed when we think we are standing (1 Corinthians 10:12) and also to Judge ourselves and maintain honesty. This is important to keep a conscience that God can use (1 Corinthians 11:31)
- How do we tackle the issue of rebellion? We do this by looking for the cause before labelling anyone rebellious. These are God's children. Anything we do or say about our brethren we are doing or saying about Jesus. We are part of the body. Called to serve and lead by example. We need to always investigate the root of issues
- There is a bar. Jesus is the example of leadership, next the first apostles and any minister would demonstrates the fruit we are commanded to look for. We should remind ourselves of the dangers of rebellion among Church government, ministers and congregation.
- Any disobedience is rebellion. Any abuse is rebellion.
- Unity is nurtured by collective responsibility based on united purposes for God. None of the fivefold ministry is called to function alone. It would be like attempting to drive a four wheeled car with three or two wheels or a car without a steering. We are to find or discover our ministries and see where we fit in (1 Corinthians 12:12-29).
- We should lay less emphasis on who is ranked higher than another. We should be more concerned with service. All our attempts to take credit for anything are being noted by heaven (1 Corinthians 3:12-15). Our motives are going to be tried of what stuff it is made of. Jesus taught when His disciples asked Him who is the greatest, He warned them to become like children (Matthew 18:1-5).
- Theology, philosophy, psychology, culture, ethos and tradition have no place in the glorious Church. Apostle Paul warned against this just as Jesus warned against the leaven of the Pharisees (Colossians 2:8, Luke 12:1-2) It has robbed the Church of power, power needed to convict the world because we have been busy trying to modernise the gospel to make it appealing to the world. This is not to denigrate intellectual pursuits and exercises, but it must be relegated to where it belongs. Theology has never healed headache nor has it power to transform anyone.
- Eloquence may make us sound intelligent, but we have seen that the Holy Spirit working through anointed vessels is the only one given to convict or to teach (John 16:7-11, John 14:26)
- Not by might or power, only by the Spirit (Zechariah 4:6, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5).
- We are commanded to honour our parents and elders who watch over our lives. (Ephesians 6:1-2, Hebrews 13:17) There is order in Heaven and spiritual leadership is important. Any headless entity is a freak. But Christ is the Head of every man (1 Corinthians 11:3)

WHAT TO DO. THE PATTERN OF THE TEMPLE

There are a couple of suggestions as to the plan or pattern of the building that Jesus is seeking to build in His Church. Once again the fivefold ministry was given as specific mantles upon individuals for the purpose of building a holy habitation that is sanctified to be possessed in full by Jesus Christ in whom dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) bodily in our spirit, soul and body (Ephesians 2:20-22, 1 Peter 2:5, Colossians 2:9-10). However it is crucial to understand that ministerial gifts are given as human guides to direct us to the Holy Spirit. They are to show believers how to relate to the Holy Spirit. One ministerial gift cannot function without the other. It is no more the time for brandishing titles. It is time for work; the work that produces results that can be seen by both believers and the yet to believe. Fruit are results. The word of God is the spiritual building materials. (Haggai 1:8)

TOPICS TO HIGHLIGHT FOR CONSTRUCTIVE TEACHING

1. Foundation Christian living. Hebrews 6:1-2
2. Everything on the blood of Jesus Christ, the application and communion.
3. Consecration
4. Total sanctification 1 Thessalonians 5:23
5. Cultivating the fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23
6. Gifts of the Spirit 1 Corinthians 12
7. Ministerial Gifts Ephesians 4:12-13
8. Seven Spirit of Christ Isaiah 11:2-3
9. Absolute surrender
10. Accurate understanding of the New Covenant details Jeremiah 31:31-34, Jeremiah 32:40, Ezekiel 36:23-38, Hebrews 8:7-13, Hebrews 10:16-17.
11. The book of Proverbs is very good to teach believers on how to conduct ourselves in the Church and in the secular world. This would always take care of cultural differences

John G Lake taught in his message on the power of consecration to principle that Successful Christian living rests on three essential principles. First: Knowledge of all the teachings of Our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ whose words are the final authority where every question must be brought to final decision. Second: Consecration to do all the will of God as declared by the Lord Jesus. Third: Recognition of the Holy Spirit as the revealer, guide, interpreter, teacher and empowerer. He further stated that without the spirit of God in our hearts our consecration would be valueless.

THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD (1 Corinthians 2:10)

It is pertinent to reiterate some basic truths as contained in the scriptures about the deep things of God.

- God's call on the life of any of the fivefold does not include teaching the deep things of God
- Deep things of God belong to the Holy Spirit alone and are one of the reasons Jesus died. The veil was rent so the Jesus alone would be the only mediator between God and man, whilst the Holy Spirit remains the revealer (Matthew 27:51, 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 9:15).
- It is important therefore to warn against attempts to intrude in Jesus' and the Holy Spirit' private affairs. It would be like attempting to help a man out by helping to sleep with his wife. It is a mystery and a very private matter (Ephesians 5:32).
- The promise is when we as ministers have done what we are suppose to do by teaching or showing our flock how to relate and hear the Holy Spirit themselves, the Holy Spirit takes over to fulfil God's promises as contained in His word. (Please read details in Jeremiah 31:34, Hebrews 8:11)
- This is what Apostle John was referring to that the anointing in you would teach you (1 John 2:20,27)
- These are the main promises of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Brethren let us roll up our sleeves, come together, preach the gospel of the kingdom of God and make it simple.
- Let us help to build up believers that would be like babies who would inherit God's kingdom in fullness.