Introduction & Synopsis

Introduction: Need to restore Scripture over humanism

One of the biggest challenges the Kingdom church must confront frontally is the way some brethren allow their thoughts, ideas and expectations to override clear provisions of scripture. One area where this humanistic mindset is evidently used to great harm is the subject of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church today. Two broad groups have emerged when the present-day ministry of the Holy Spirit crops up.

.One is the group that insist the Holy Spirit and His gifts are not for today, having gone out of fashion with the establishment of the Church on the day of Pentecost.

Some major denominations have built their whole dogma and theology on this fallacy.

.The second group has a diverse range of saints who believe the same Holy Spirit who invaded the earth on the day of Pentecost is still relevant to the day to day life of saints. However, this seems to be the only point of agreement. From this common ground, a cacophony of voices springs up, ranging from the sublime to the absurd.

There was this funny postulation from one of the leaders of the so-called Apostolic Reformation who defined speaking in tongue as the capacity to speak many different languages or the art of linguistics! Sadly, no one corrected him since he was the Pope of his movement. Such distortions have been fueled by the inability of most "Pentecostals" and "Charismatic" to see it is impossible to serve Elohim ACCEPTABLY WHEN THE REALM OF THE SELF IS ACTIVELY ALIVE!

When the self-life is alive and well, what ensues is soulishness or worship propelled from the soul realm or mind, will and emotion rather than from the heart or spirit-man. Yeshua, Jesus Himself taught, during His epic encounter with the Samaritan woman, that true worship must be premised on two wings – In Spirit and in Truth. It is our responsibility to stop worshipping Elohim with the corrupt facility of the soul (our realm of self being where the mind, will and emotions hold sway).

To achieve this glorious state of true spirituality, saints are called to firstly deny themselves, take up their own cross and follow Yeshua, Jesus to Calvary where we will be crucified with Him

Matthew 16:24-25 (KJV) 24Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Galatians 2:20 (KJV) 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

When our self-life is crucified, we can no longer seek to pursue reputation, fame, wealth or humanistic empires through religious corporations masquerading as churches.

Crucified saints are dead to themselves; dead to personal ambitions and opinions; dead to desire to be seen and known and dead to their personal ideologies. Such people are made alive by the Holy Spirit who possesses them fully and determines all they say and do. Because He is the Spirit of Truth, Holy Spirit leads such saints into a full understanding of the plan of Elohim for the Church of Yeshua, Jesus.

It is that glorious plan which Satan successfully attacked after the early years of the Alpha Church which gave room to the Ephesians concept of lack of intimacy and preoccupation with dead religious works.

The end time reformation of the Church will begin with restoration of the Lordship of Yeshua, Jesus. For the Church to operate the way He intended there will be a restoration of the foundational synergistic ministries of the fivefold: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. These leadership offices and gifts Yeshua, Jesus bequeaths to His Church cannot function according to the whims and caprices of men.

That is why restoration of the sanctity and authority of the Holy Scriptures as sure foundation of the lives of saints is not negotiable. True Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers will not and cannot teach people from fleshly minds. They will be faithful to the letters and spirit of the Word of Elohim, believing in them alone, with the illumination of Holy Spirit, is the very tonic that is sorely needed to bring true and lasting revival to the Church in our generation.

The unarguable truth is there can be no genuine revival outside of the Word as its base. The events of a few years ago at Lakeland, Florida where supposed miracles were manifesting publicly while immorality ruled the lives of organizers was sure proof of this assertion. Whenever the children of Elohim first repair the altar of the centrality of the word, the true and lasting fire of revival will ignite again in the saints a passion for holiness; agape love, unity and a going forth to fulfil the Great Commission.

The congregation Elohim will use to bring this to pass in any city or region shall not be measured in terms of size, budget, gender, age, education and eloquence. What will mark out the congregation rather is a rediscovery of the true concept of Church. This true concept is what Apostle Cosmas Ilechukwu, Chair of Global Governing Council of International Ministers Fellowship, aptly called “The Church of His Vision”, the title of his ground-breaking book.

For the Church to function as a congregation of the called out of the Lord in each community, the Lord has endowed several supernatural abilities known as spiritual gifts and spiritual offices. It is interesting to see in many so-called living churches spiritual offices have been jettisoned in favour of carnal titles and offices.

This, in itself, is largely based on the transmutation of the simple concept of the Church from what Yeshua, Jesus had in mind to what men deem convenient, even the humanistic behemoths called denominations and personalized ministries.

Because denominations and their divisive, competitive DNA are not part of the plan of Yeshua, Jesus for His Church, they have largely done more harm than good. Denominations have been misled by the enemy to subtly and even overtly divide the church; instigated strife and competition and decimated the strength of the Kingdom. In order to sustain their humanistic agenda, denominations first have to discard simple scriptural models in favour of complex religious systems which create an aura of divinity. In other words, Church Offices and titles are created outside of what is in the Holy Writ to minister to human ego.

Scriptural Passages concerning Spiritual Gifts

There are several passages in the Holy Scriptures which clearly spell out what spiritual gifts are and their range. Holy Spirit used Paul the Apostle to lay out the subject in detail in several passages. These include:

- The epistle to the Romans chapter 12:1-8.
- In all of 1 Corinthians chapter 12 Paul explained what the gifts are and how they complement to manifest an organic Body.
- In 1 Corinthians chapter 13, Paul was used to warn the Church that spiritual gifts amount to nothing when they are not exercised in love.

- In 1 Corinthians chapter 14, Paul was used by Holy Spirit to give clear instructions on how the gifts should be used to edify other saints and not breed disorder based on projection of self.
- Further clarity on the subject matter is found in Ephesians 4:1-16 which centres on how the need for unity is enhanced when saints discover their individual gifts and use them to build up others as they are empowered by leaders operating in the fivefold office gifts, so the Body is empowered by what every joint supplies.
- Holy Spirit also spoke through the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 4:8-11 to charge all saints not to be apologetic about discovering and utilizing their spiritual gifts for enhancement of the Body.

  This book will seek to present a systematic exposition of the plan of Yeshua, Jesus for His Church to operate as a supernatural entity of functional body parts which sustain each other and the whole in a matrix of spiritual gifts. The course will thus debunk the popular concept of the church as an organization with a pyramidal structure under human Chief Executives which is the prevalent practice of the Laodicean church. In manifesting the spirit of Laodecia which Yeshua warned against in Revelation 3:14-21 we see clearly how the ways of Babylon have infiltrated the organized religious Church in this generation.

Synopsis

The questions that will be answered during this teaching are:

1. What is a spiritual gift?
2. How many spiritual gifts are specifically mentioned in the Bible?
3. What spiritual gifts are implied and in what context in the bible?
4. How are spiritual gifts to be utilized?
5. What are the ways to discover our spiritual gifts?
6. What do spiritual gifts say of the ministry the Lord call us to.
7. In other words, what is the co-relation between spiritual gifts and ministry?
8. What are the dangers of operating outside our spiritual gifts?
9. Is the presence and exercise of spiritual gifts sufficient basis for success in ministry?
10. If not, what are the essentials needful to fulfil ministry?

Various lessons will be released, as Holy Spirit gives illumination and utterance which answer these questions - not necessarily in any set order. As we open our hearts, He will transform us. As we surrender our minds, He will renew us.

The ultimate outcome is we will know the spiritual tools given to us and thus become properly equipped to render spiritual service with acceptable resources: Spiritual gifts!

Assignment

(1). Please summarize this chapter

(2). Please share any expectations you have concerning what the Lord will do for you through this book.