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Let us Agree

*The Church and her role
in national democracy*

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Bezael Enlite

Let Us Agree

(The Church and her role in national democracy)

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Preface

The aim of this little book is to help Christians navigate the narrow path concerning their involvement in democracy, especially as a group—the Church of God.

Christians are often misguided by their emotions, fear of some religions, and sadly also by their ethnicity. Christian leaders are generally as much in this pit of confusion as the people they are leading.

As at the time of writing this, the preparation for the next general elections in Nigeria is already in high gear, the elections being just a few months away. The different political parties have selected their respective presidential candidates. Unfortunately, the church, as manifested through the utterances of many of the leaders, is already displaying

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the lack of understanding that leads to problems. A major one of these problems is division within the Church. Another problem that often results from the current mind of the Church is that Christians end up on the wrong side spiritually throughout the duration of a particular government, and this causes them to neglect their spiritual duties to the government and the nation. Once elections don't turn out the way they desired, they are told, "this is not the choice of God but of man;" they believe this and so neglect their duties of effective heartfelt praying and prophesying for the government. The government ends up being without the supply of the spirit needed for it to succeed.

As Christians, we must tread a narrow path as we try to balance the knowledge of God's sovereignty and His will with our civic duties, as we participate in the politics of democracy. The truth is not usually popular and is often counter-intuitive, but we must strive to know

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it and to walk by it. I pray that this little book will help those who desire to please God in all respects achieve that aim in the area of politics and democracy.

August 2022

Chapter 1

The Word is True

The word of God is true. The scriptures are true. The most true of the words of the Bible, if such a grading can be done, are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, when we read such words as quoted below, we must be careful to take heed.

All things are possible to him who believes. Mk 9:23

Truly, truly, I say to you, if you shall ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you in My name.

Jn 16:23

According to Derek Prince, the most influential persons on earth are not heads of states, politicians and the billionaires, but those who know how to get their prayers answered. This is because they can release the omnipotence of God into situations, and this is

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far beyond anything that the wisest or the most powerful human being on earth can do.

It follows therefore that we must pay attention to our prayer life, and we must pay attention to what the Lord Jesus said about it. Remember that the Lord said that nothing will be impossible to him who believes. This means that if you can walk in true faith in prayer, then nothing will be impossible for you.

Now, no matter how much faith you have, once a matter concerns other persons as much as it concerns you, then something critical must be added so as to bring the faith of each involved party together; and that thing is *agreement*.

"Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them

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by My Father who is in heaven.” Mat 18:18-20

As children of God, we have the power to bind and to loosen, and we have the ability to receive anything from the Father. However, what is often the hindrance from doing these things effectively is that agreement is required when we come to pray, and that is often hard to achieve. For this reason we must work on ensuring agreement when we come as a group to the place of prayer concerning a matter; if we don't do this, we hinder the prayer. A husband and wife who are not in agreement hinder the power of God in their home.

Negotiated Agreement

Sometimes, agreement can be negotiated. As an example, there was the case of a woman who was sick and in need of surgery, and a minister was called upon to come and pray for her healing. He was full of faith, and believed that the surgery would not be needed because *with God nothing shall be impossible.*

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When he arrived, he prayed for the woman with all the faith in his heart, but nothing happened. In fact, he felt the prayer was hardly touching heaven. He prayed in himself to know what the problem was, and the Holy Spirit let him understand that the woman was not in agreement with him. So, he stopped praying. He realized that his faith was much higher than hers, and that she was unable to reach that level so as to be in agreement with him. He was able to believe that God would answer their prayer so she would be healed without needing the medical intervention, but she could not. So, he asked, "what can you believe?"

In response to his query she replied, "I can believe that the surgery will go smoothly, that the doctor will know what to do, and that at the end of the operation, I will be healed." The man of God said in effect, "No problem; I can believe for that with you." So, in agreement they prayed, asking the Lord to guide the

hands of the doctor to bring healing to her, and to give her a speedy recovery. And the Lord granted them what they requested. After the surgery, despite it being a major one and to the amazement of the doctor, she was not even in post-operative pain, and she healed in record time. The power of God was evident. The Lord honoured their level of faith. They were in agreement.

Cancer Tackled

I remember the story told by a preacher about his own healing experience. He had developed a deadly cancer in the skin—a malignant melanoma. After the news of the 'death sentence' was given to him by the doctor on his case, his wife suggested that they should pray and ask the Lord to heal him totally. He confessed to his wife that his faith was too weak and could not stand up to such a demand on the power of God. You see, at that time, his spiritual energy was low because he had been distracted by much worldly activities so that

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he had not been feeding his faith. So, his wife asked him, "What can you believe?" He said he could believe that the disease was not as bad as the doctor said it is. The wife said, "No problem, let us ask the Lord for that." And they did.

Now, he was referred to a bigger hospital for cancer treatment. At the big hospital, the specialist there reviewed the case, and told him in summary that even though the first doctor was right that he had a form of skin cancer, but that there was some good news. The news was that there was a good chance at cure from surgery; this was because researchers recently described certain subclasses and stage of the cancer, and the one he had was the type and stage which was potentially curable by surgery. In summary, his case was not as bad as the first doctor had said. He had surgery and was cured.

Chapter 2

The Secret of Agreement

God does answer prayers offered in faith, if there is agreement as necessary. Couples and groups of brethren should know how to attain to agreement and thus pray in faith. You should never come to prayer as a group until you have ensured that everyone is *on the same page*, as we say.

The church in the nation should work on agreement on national matters. I say boldly that the church in Nigeria can end corruption and insecurity if they will come into agreement among themselves and with the Lord. The problem is that different groups have different thoughts about the cause and the potential cure of all these problems. Some are praying in faith, while some are praying in anger or in unbelief. Different groups are

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asking for different things, and so there is confusion, and no results in prayer.

For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Jam 1:7-8

The church has become that 'man'. We have been unable to receive anything from the Lord.

By the way, no agreement is valid unless it agrees with the Lord. That is what is called praying according to the will of God. If people are in agreement amongst themselves, they will certainly have power and may get things done. However, if in the process they are in disagreement with God, working against His will, then the power of God will not be available to them. Indeed, they may draw down His judgement. A study of the tower of Babel will make this clear (Gen 11:6-9). Agreeing with God must be first, and when it comes to communal praying, each person

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agreeing with God is the easiest way to get each person into agreement with the rest.

I say this because on many matters, especially when it involves a large group such as the church in a nation, it is hard to negotiate into agreement the way they did in those examples of healing I narrated earlier. Such matters, such as concerning the outcome of the next general elections and who the next president will be, are often too complicated; the points to agree on are often too many. The simple solution is for us all to agree on the simple things which are clear and common to all on the matter; in these clear and common things, we must all follow what is revealed in the scriptures as the will of God.

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever... Dt 29:29

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We must be careful not to come to prayer bearing things that are indeed too complicated and which are likely to differ from person to person. David admonished thus:

*O Lord, my heart is not proud,
nor my eyes haughty;
Nor do I involve myself in great matters,
Or in things too difficult for me. Ps 131:1*

We must follow what is revealed in the scriptures to us concerning the points; that way, we are all agreeing with God and at the same time fulfilling the crucial condition of agreement with one another.

An Example

Let us take the choice of a good leader for a nation as an example, and that is the reason I am writing this message to the church in Nigeria.*

*Please note that though this was written in 2022 to the church in Nigeria, the principles are true and eternal, and they apply to Christians everywhere.

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Now, we all want a good president, come 2023. We want a righteous National Assembly. We desire that the next president will do the country good by appointing good and effective ministers. How can we turn these desires into reality? For the Church, it is not by political mobilization but rather through prayer. Only the power of God can accomplish such things for us (they are too complicated), and we release this power through prayer.

We have already seen that we *must* be in agreement when we come for prayer. If we are not in agreement, we may as well kiss our desires bye-bye. Our refusal or inability to do the right spiritual things can hinder the blessing of God. In the wilderness, the Bible shows us the example of Israel tempting God and limiting His power in their lives. In the hometown of Jesus, He could not do any mighty work because of their unbelief, even though He had all the power available.*

*Ps 78:41 KJV, Mk 6:5

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In fact, our lack of agreement has been making it difficult for the Lord to do for us what He actually desires. If we will not hinder God's power concerning the next elections in Nigeria, we the remnant and people of God, must overcome the hurdle of lack of agreement.

The Situation

The current situation I have observed is like this:

One; people have become weary of prayer. You keep hearing, "We have prayed enough."

Two; emphasis is placed on Christians getting their voter's cards.

And three; churches are gathering around certain candidates and against some, as dictated by the pastors.

On the first observation, we see disobedience to clear instructions of Scripture. We have been instructed in direct terms to persist in prayer,

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and anyone admonishing against clear injunctions we have as Christians is speaking for Satan.

Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. Luke 18:1 NLT

Pray without ceasing. 1 Th 5:17

Anyone saying that we have prayed enough is asking us to disobey the Lord and is therefore an agent of Satan in our midst.

Concerning the second observation in which emphasis is being laid on Christians registering to vote, we have to be careful not to cross the line into 'numbering Israel.' As much as it is right and important that Christians do their *civic duties* in the society, we must never think that our salvation lies in identifying a good candidate and then rallying enough support as believers to help the person win an

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election. Not only would we be committing the sin of Israel in asking for a king, we would also be committing the sin of David in numbering Israel.

Chapter 3

Israel's Sin, and David's Sin

Israel's sin in asking for a king was that they thought deliverance comes by having the right man. Now, even though God uses men, we must never focus on any man. Let Him use anyone as He wishes, but we cannot decide for Him. I will explain more about this later.

The sin of numbering Israel is an interesting one. Let us examine it a bit.

Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel. So David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan, and bring me word that I may know their number." Joab said, "May the Lord add to His people a hundred times as many as they are! But... Why does my lord seek this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt to Israel?" 1 Chr 21:1-3

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Please read about the consequences of the action in the rest of that chapter of Chronicles. The summary however is that God was sorely displeased and He punished Israel for it. David saw the angel that was killing the people in the land. About 70,000 died within three days, before God decided to accept a sacrifice in order to end the plague.

For a long time, I wondered what the problem was with a simple census, until I realized that it was not a simple census at all. It was a census of men of war, and in doing it David was essentially taking the glory for the victories of Israel and placing it on the strength of his army. It was a grievous sin in the eyes of the Lord.

How does that apply to us today? How are we sinning in a similar fashion?

We sin like David when we believe that we have victory in our numbers. We sin thus when

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we tell ourselves that Christians have the required number to command victory in elections, and that if we could mobilize ourselves, then we may take any office we desire. We are like David when we spend our energy on mobilizing 'Christian votes' for our 'saviour'-candidate. We are in error when our emphasis shifts from the choice and sovereignty of God to our numerical ability to decide, as a group, who will be elected. We err when our prayer of "thy will be done" now means "let the person we have decided on win."

What we see now is churches declaring PVC*-Sundays, so that if you do not have your PVC, you will not be allowed into the service. All of this because we want to mobilize 'Christian votes' for our candidate, and not at all because we are concerned about Christians being dutiful citizens. Assuredly as David displeased God in numbering Israel, so are we

*Permanent Voter's Card

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displeasing Him with these activities—and there will be consequences, if we do not repent.

We must remember that we cannot ever put our trust in the flesh. Our PVCs are flesh. All flesh remains grass. The arm of flesh—the strength of numbers—cannot be our strength.

*Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
And makes flesh his strength. Jer 17:5*

See, Christians are supposed to do their civic duties, which include voting and paying taxes, and for this reason, I teach that Christians must vote, and I do vote; but for the church to mobilize and behave as if their votes is the key only displays gross misunderstanding. It is the salvation of God that matters. When we want to mobilize, we must focus on the arm of the Almighty God. Voting must be seen as a civic duty only, and all who campaign that Christians should get their voter's cards should also campaign that they should obey

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other basic rules of the society, including paying taxes and following traffic rules. Failure to do this simply means we are making the arm of flesh our strength concerning elections.

Chapter 4

How to Divide the Church

Now, in the case of the third point which describes the current situation, in which churches are gathering around candidates, we have a matter which certainly produces division. It breaks down agreement. Allow me explain.

Let us observe the following current facts about the political parties we have today in view of the 2023 elections:

The presidential running mate for NNPP is a Pentecostal Bishop.

The flag bearer for ADC is a member of a Pentecostal church.

The running mate for PDP is a Christian and church member.

Labour Party's flag bearer is also a Christian and church member.

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Two of the most prominent presidential aspirants of APC, before the primaries in which they were not successful, are Pentecostal pastors. They are still committed members of the party.

Now, these are not all of the political parties but I have highlighted these to make a point. Simple common sense should tell us that as children of God, there is absolutely no chance of us coming into agreement when it comes to political parties or candidates. The head of the APC presidential campaign is a member and elder of the same denomination as the presidential flag bearer of LP and of the running mate of PDP. I saw the head of the campaign organization for one of the parties praying to God and giving Him all authority over their campaign; he was telling God that the others trust in money, but that he and his crew do not. He claimed that his group are the only ones that will give God glory for victory (I'm sure the others don't agree anyway). I do

not even know the church he attends because he ended his prayer with “in the name of the Creator of the universe.” I always wonder why people cannot mention the name of Jesus, unless for certain reasons they are ashamed to do so; it is not a hard name. I wonder what other prayers are going on in the other quarters.

We can't Agree Here

The summary is that agreement in terms of candidates or political parties *cannot* happen, and all our zealous attempts at getting good governance through political agitations are only dividing the church and weakening her ability to bring in the power of God through prayer. And right now, I fear that if we are not careful, we will miss another opportunity to have the best of God done for us.

Now, having different political persuasions is not a problem in a democratic dispensation. I believe that members of the same church may

belong to different political parties, especially in a country like Nigeria where the political parties are not actually based on different ideologies but are only convenient alliances for winning elections. I am convinced however that it is not right for any church to have an organized support for any political party or for individual candidates. Each of us may persuade our brethren to join our side, but on an individual basis. We are forbidden by the Spirit to carry the affairs of any party or aspirant to the pulpit, especially to canvass support. Churches should indeed teach members righteousness in politics and democracy. They should teach how to conduct themselves when engaged in politics so as to be pleasing to God.

Warning

I warn those who think they can use the pulpit to campaign for any candidate to know that they are playing with fire. That is how to invite demons into your midst.

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Please note that my warning is about the use of the pulpit and the congregation of the brethren. I affirm that it is right for Christians to participate in partisan politics and to seek to persuade friends and brethren to believe in their political cause. The pulpit, however, must be reserved for the non-partisan preaching of righteousness and the gospel of Jesus.

Despite our political differences, we can as brethren still come together in prayer. We can be in agreement in prayer in every aspect of what we are supposed to pray about. All we need to do is to stick with what God has revealed as His will in the matters of praying for the government. We cannot judge aspirants after the hearing of our ears or the seeing of our eyes. We can only judge in righteousness as commanded when we allow the word of God to be the final judge. We do not know the heart of any man, so we are to lift up the word of God, which is living, and allow it to elevate the

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righteous and bring down the wicked. We allow that word to bring the will of God to pass as we play our politics in righteousness.

Chapter 5

Praying in Agreement

The following are points we can be in agreement about as we come to prayer. Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord, and make our requests based on these points. We must all agree on these, because they are the expressed will of God.

1. Power belongs to God

For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the nations. Ps 22:28 KJV

It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings. Dan 2:21

This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers and the decision is a command of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes. Dan 4:17

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The scriptures above show that the making of kings and rulers is in the exclusive list of God. It is part of His duties as the Judge of the whole earth. Only He does it, and no one can contest His decisions on it. Reading through the Bible shows us that kings in Israel and in gentile nations, both near and far from Israel, were appointed by Him. He commanded Elisha to anoint Hazael as king over Syria (Aram). He said it clearly that He raised Pharaoh by Himself, for His purpose. Cyrus was ordained by God, and even named long before he came to the scene; he was a man who did not even know God before He was used by Him.

This is what the Lord says to Cyrus, his anointed one, whose right hand he will empower. Before him, mighty kings will be paralyzed with fear. Their fortress gates will be opened, never to shut again.
Isa 45:1 NLT

*I am the Lord;
there is no other God.*

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*I have equipped you for battle,
though you don't even know me. Isa 45:5 NLT*

Let us not think that there is any nation on the earth that is outside the rulership of God, just because they do not claim to be of faith in Him.

Also, let us remember, that democracy is only an activity that He gave to man to be occupied with. It doesn't take away His sovereignty. Even when it comes to the tossing of a coin, the decision is not a game of chance. What I am saying is that it is not right what some have often said, that since we are in a democracy, God only gives us a leader by approving the one we choose. That is not based on scripture at all. And if indeed you know how democracy works in most nations, you would understand that you actually do not have as much of a choice as you think; there are too many points in the process at which an invisible hand can steer things. A shortlist is all that is presented to the people to choose from. Indeed, like a

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Chinese analyst said about China, there is selection before election. Too many things have already happened.

Many will be surprised to know that even though God had chosen Saul ahead and told Samuel about it, yet Samuel did not impose Saul on Israel; they sort of 'democratically' selected him through the casting of lots. By a fair process, they chose a man who God had already picked by Himself. Samuel knew what would be the outcome of the process, but the people could easily have thought they were the ones making the decision. So it is with democracy; it is merely the current physical activity of selection of leaders, and it is what most nations of the earth today employ. The power still belongs to God.

When we come to pray about new leaders, let us worship Him with this knowledge.

2. He is the God of mercy

When we come to pray, we must ask for mercy. A major reason many stumble when you tell them that God appoints leaders is that they assume that every choice of God will be to them like David was to Israel—a king who brought much peace and prosperity to his people, and trouble to their enemies. The fact that the world has a lot of bad and wicked leaders has led many to believe that God didn't appoint them, since He is a good and able God. They also inferred that maybe He *doesn't* get involved. But this is inaccurate reasoning.

God appoints leaders according to the *judgement* of the season. If He wants to do the people good, He appoints a good man, but if it is the time for judgmental affliction, He sends a bad person. As an example, a man needed to be raised to punish idolatry in the people of God in Egypt, and to get them yearning to leave the house of idolatry for the Promised Land. So God picked a man who knew how to punish people.

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For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "for this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate my power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth." Rom 9:17

A time came when He also determined to punish the Egyptians for their sins, so He said,

Moreover, I will deliver the Egyptians into the hand of a cruel master, and a mighty king will rule over them," declares the Lord God of hosts. Isa 19:4

Sometimes you see people fight hard with campaigns and every means in their power to get a good leader into office. They do their best so they can get the best person elected, but they do not even for a moment ask if the people deserve a good leader actually. It is arrogance for a people to assume they must get a good leader. What if all the people are due for is judgment for their sins? They would get a bad leader who will start wars, ruin the economy, enrich himself and generally make their lives

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miserable. When Israel first harassed Samuel until the Lord gave them a king, Samuel warned them that the king they were demanding would be an oppressor. They didn't even know who he would be, but Samuel warned them that the implicit action of rejection of God would lead to such a person taking the throne. And so it came to pass.

Actually, the way they rejected God as king over them was that they refused to ascribe their suffering to the anger of God against their sins—a thing they should have done and used the situation as an opportunity to call for national revival. Instead, they decided that Nahash the king of the Ammonites was oppressing them mainly because they didn't have a king. But that was not the case; the Lord who was ruling over them only allowed Nahash to punish their idolatry.

The point is that we must be careful not to come to prayer with the arrogant attitude that

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we deserve a good president and therefore the Lord must give us one. Good leaders are a reward from God to help us maintain our righteousness. He doesn't want the rod of the wicked to fall upon the lot of the righteous, so that the righteous will not put forth their hands to do evil;* that is why He gives righteous rulers. But if the people continue in their sins and rebellion against God as a nation, then, no matter how hard they try, they will not get a good leader. The best they will get is an Absalom who would worm his way into the hearts of the people through external actions. Absalom's heart was not right, but he pretended to be a good man so that he would be accepted by the people when he would hatch his plan to depose and replace his father David—a plan that worked until God thwarted it. The king would still be wicked. A good example is the case of Adolf Hitler. By 1938, Hitler had made Germany the most powerful and feared country almost in the

*Ps 125:3

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whole world. He achieved all of this without war. Many historians believe that had he died in 1938 before the mass executions began, he would have gone down in history as the greatest statesman in the history of the German people.

We should rather come to God to ask for mercy, and not come demanding a good leader. Thank God that He doesn't expect that everyone in the nation will know the truth and walk by it, but He demands that the elect must know this truth and pray according to it. He says that the salt of the land must rise in prayer and handle their words appropriately. They should come with words of repentance and plea for mercy.

*"Because of the multitude of oppressions they cry out;
They cry for help because of the arm of the mighty.
"But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker,
Who gives songs in the night,
Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth*

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And makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?'

"There they cry out, but He does not answer

Because of the pride of evil men.

"Surely God will not listen to an empty cry,

Nor will the Almighty regard it. Job 35:9-13

One of the things we must repent of is the arrogance of the masses in a democracy. What I mean here is that the average one among us often has this feeling of self-righteousness in which he thinks he is morally better than the leaders. The average person has little pity for leaders but rather wishes them evil as they are blamed for all the problems around. We read wrong motives into almost everything they do, and are quick to find faults with their actions. We tend to amplify the negative things that result from their actions. It is almost as if we need them to fail so we can feel that our criticisms were correct. That is a very wrong attitude, and it is unfortunate that Christians participate in it. The church must repent of it in prayer. The Lord holds us responsible for the

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ills of our leaders unless it is shown that we have been committed and consistent intercessors on their behalf.

We must be careful not to infuse the atmosphere with so much unbelief that it is almost impossible for anyone to do what is good. Remember that the people of the land of Judea filled the air with so much unbelief that Jesus was not able to help them. So thick was the unbelief in Bethsaida that the Lord Jesus had to lead a blind man out of the town before he could minister the healing power of God to him; this was despite the fact that the man had faith in himself.* We must be careful not to fill the atmosphere in our nation with such toxicity. We must be contributors of faith.

In view of all these, when we come to prayer, we must say, "Have mercy Lord; mercy is what we need."

*Mk 8:23

Chapter 6

Still Praying in Agreement

3. The king or ruler He desires

Now let us get to the issue of asking for a Head of State and rulers. When we are praying, it is important we know exactly what we are asking for. Sometimes we humans want one thing but actually ask for another. This is because we use our limited human wisdom to judge where our solution lies. We want freedom and so pray for a Messiah, but when the Messiah shows up, we crucify Him because we don't understand the way true freedom comes. That was the case with Israel. Another example is that of James and John; they were desirous of positions of importance, and so they went to ask to sit on the left and the right of Jesus Christ in His kingdom. He told them they didn't know what they were asking for.* Yes, He understood that they wanted positions of importance, but the

*Mk 10:38

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very thing they asked for, the left and right of Jesus Christ in the kingdom, were not actually such. Those positions only look like positions of power when viewed with worldly eyes. The truth about them is that they are positions reserved only to honour those who have suffered for the cause of God, and who will continually and eternally give their lives for others. It was not exactly what these sons of Zebedee were thinking.

Yet another example is a young single Christian woman who asks the Lord for a rich husband. What she really wants is deliverance from poverty, but her culture and experience tell her it comes from marrying a rich man. If she persists, she will get a rich but no-so-good a husband. God says she should have just asked for her real desire, which is deliverance from poverty, and not added that rich husband thing to it.

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Now, beyond knowing exactly what you are asking for, another thing to bear in mind about making requests is that every object requested comes with attachments. It is good to know what is attached to what you are asking for. You cannot want to have children and not realize the depth of responsibility you are asking to undertake. See, your life will change. I remember a lady complaining vehemently that, “so I will not live my life again because of this child?” This was a perfectly healthy child but she apparently did not seem to realize that being a mother requires adjustment in career plans. In the same manner, many women are asking for husbands but are not willing to lose their independence and become like Sarah. The same thing occurs with some men—they don't seem to understand that two shall have to become one flesh, so that when God answers them and gives them a wife according to their request, conflict starts. They didn't realize that there is more to a spouse than what they expected.

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For this reason, we must always know exactly what God wants to give us, which He said we should ask for; we should ask for that alone and allow Him make the choice of persons to use, otherwise we may ask for what is actually not good for us. We may get what we are asking for but miss the things we actually need. When it comes to blessed leadership, God often chooses who we wouldn't expect; He often sets upon the kingdom the least likely, so get ready for His surprises.

Some have prayed that God will give us young leaders, that it is the turn of the youth. One wonders when He said or indicated so. No, it is just their own idea of what it will take to make a good leader.

What do we actually want when we come to ask about national leaders and a head of state? What are the real needs of life in that area? We want a country where there is freedom to serve God.

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We want a country where peace reigns.

We want a country where there is prosperity and development.

We want a country where there is justice.

We want a nation ruled by laws, where there is order and respect for personal rights.

The truth is that if we have these things, sane people will care little who the individual who God uses to bring them in is. Many times, our prayers are skewed by our perceived definition of justice, when we should just pray that God should give us a nation where righteousness, peace, prosperity and joy is abundant.

So who is a good leader or president? It is one who these things listed above will prosper under his or her tenure.

In Nigeria, it is clear that we live in multi-ethnic society, and the constitution states clearly that it is a secular country. Also, going

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by the previous actions of the Almighty as shown to us in the scriptures, we know that He can use anyone from any tongue or tribe or religion to get these things done. So, when we want to pray, we may read out to the Lord the scriptures outlined next (and other similar ones); we read them to Him and ask that He will give us a leader, according to His will and mercy, who will promote freedom, peace, justice, prosperity and development.

Prayers

Scripture: (Thus says the Lord:)

*He who rules over men righteously,
Who rules in the fear of God,
Is as the light of the morning when the sun rises,
A morning without clouds,
When the tender grass springs out of the earth,
Through sunshine after rain.'* 2 Sam 23:3-4

Prayer: "Give us such a one in the name of Jesus."

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Scripture: *For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. Rom 13:3-4*

Prayer: “Lord, give us a ruler that will not promote fear of good behaviour, but who will praise the same and will punish evil, in the name of Jesus.”

Scripture: *By justice a king builds up the land...*
Pro 29:4.

Someone puts it like this:

“Now when it comes to how rulers are supposed to uphold justice, there are three specific areas the Bible will frequently mention as a way this gets accomplished:

- A just ruler hates or abhors bribes (integrity)
- A just ruler does not show partiality (impartiality)
- A just ruler defends the rights of the poor and needy (compassion)

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Prayer: “Lord, establish for us in your mercy a ruler who will be of integrity, impartiality and compassion. In the name of Jesus.”

Scripture: *Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads. Dt 1:13*

Prayer: “Lord, in your mercy give to us rulers who will be wise, understanding, and who will appoint such ones to work with them. In the name of Jesus.”

These are the things we can ask the Lord for, and we would all be in agreement. They are based on divine precepts and the desire of God.

We are not allowed to ask about their tribe, age, education, colour of skin, sex, or religion (God can use anyone in this nation we are in, which is secular-by-law).

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Not only should we pray like this when we are together, but each should pray in a similar fashion in their homes. The agreement must not be cosmetic but a true heart-held conviction.

Now, when the time to vote comes, I recommend that each should vote for the person that *best* reflects to them what they have been praying for. The vote would thus be a statement of faith.*

4. All thing are ours

So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God. 1 Cor 3:21-23

In the entirety of the universe and in the whole of creation, the thing that the Father holds most dear to His heart is His people. Yes, the

*See the appendix for my sermon, 'In the time of elections'

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body of Christ is the most important thing to Him. If everything was to wind up today, that is all He would be left with. Think of it, it is like the precious pearl that the merchant sold all he had to get.* At the end of some five years of activities in a university, the single thing that the period contributed for many people is the knowledge, as shown by the certificate. All the sweat, hunger, sleepless nights, protests, expenditure, etc., end with just one thing for the student—a certificate. So it is with the Father and the church of God.

For the Lord's portion is His people. Dt 32:9

Creation was for Christ and the body of Christ. Adam was actually made in the image of the Christ to come; it must have been, because God is spirit and does not have a physical image to copy for Adam. It was in the image of the Christ to come that he was made in.

*Matt 13:46

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The earth was made for Christ's body.

The oceans, the skies, the plants and the galaxies, all were made for Christ.

All throne and authorities were made to serve the purpose of God concerning the body of Christ.

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.
Col 1:16

Nations were created to serve the body of Christ. Moses told us prophetically that He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel*; we know that to be the true Israel of God, which God revealed to Paul to be the body of Christ. Every political office was created for the same

*Dt 32:8

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purpose. Whether you understand it or not, every president and other officers in the nation will arise to do the will of God in our lives. We may not know what they are doing but they are doing the work God commanded for the building up and purification, and possibly involving chastening, of the body.

For this reason, when we are praying, we should stop the habit of praying as if we are the victims. No, we are not. We are the children of the kingdom of God who all these things are serving.

We must declare it loudly before God when we pray.

“Thank you Father, because all things are ours.

“The presidency is working for us.

“The legislative houses are working for us

“The armed forces are serving Your purpose in our lives.

“All things are ours.

“In the name of Jesus.

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“The president, whoever he may be, his vice, governors, etc., will serve the purpose of God for us.

“In the name of Jesus.”

Brethren, let us stop praying and complaining as if we are endangered. See, Assyria, Babylon, Medio-Persia, Greece, Rome, etc. all rose and fell for the sake of the people of God and the coming of the kingdom of the King of kings. All these kingdoms were preludes to the kingdom of Christ.

In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Dan 2:44

The Lord is building His church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. We must keep marching on with the gospel. We have the promise that “*of the increase of His kingdom and*

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peace, there shall be no end." Every political party or throne or president will serve that purpose. There is no choice for them about it.

Let us stop praying like victims. Let us pray like those who have the victory through Christ.

Chapter 7

Activation by Faith

It shall be done to you according to your faith.
Mat 9:29

One principle we learn from the scriptures is that it is only through faith that the plan and blessing of God comes into reality in our lives. If you do not walk by faith, you can sink right there in front of the Lord Jesus, as Peter began to as he walked on water on the command of the Lord Jesus.

It is crucial that the Church possesses these truths I have endeavoured to share in this short teaching. See, physical things will ultimately follow the state of your spirit. A lot of people will afterwards get the impression that they were right from the beginning when, in reality, it was the force emanating from their hearts that created the physical reality. There is

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indeed a spiritual force generated by our fear or faith, whichever one created the physical reality. As a caution, those who think they can be Islamised are by their fear limiting the church. It is called the grasshopper complex. You may never fulfil your destiny with that kind of heart. The grasshopper complex comes from the words of the spies that went from among the people of Israel to spy the Promised Land.* They saw themselves as grasshoppers when compared with the giants in the land, and so they concluded they were not able to take the land. And that was their reality. If they had followed Joshua and Caleb who believed more in the plan and power of God than the sight of their natural eyes, they would have possessed the land.

What I am saying is that our faith is not just for our personal needs; we have to activate the goodness of God concerning our nation by that

*Num 13:33

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same faith that we use to get our personal needs met. Once we can do that in agreement, there will be a mighty release of the power of God to touch everything in this nation.

It is important we continually generate a positive spiritual climate in our country through our faith. It makes it easier for those in power to do right. That type of atmosphere even inactivates their negative decisions and actions. We should not be busy shooting arrows at the government because of our anger and bitterness, but we should be the ones to release an enabling spirit through positive words. Our positive declarations and prayerful utterances for the nation must never stop. There are enough critics out there, so much that we are not adding anything of value in joining them, but intercessors are scarce. Those who declare good upon the land are few; let us swell those ranks.

Claim It

Let us start claiming the seat of government by faith; no, not in trying to have our church members occupy it, but in declaring that whoever sits upon it will serve the purpose of God for this nation and for the church, because all things are ours. Invoke some powerful scriptures on the person.

The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes. Pro 21:1

Let the church agree and declare this verse above over the seat of government. Let the people say, "the head of state and legislators will do the will of God for our good. The Lord will make them do His will, as it is written that the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; in the name of Jesus."

Let the church invoke the wisdom of God and prophesy it over the rulers of the land.

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Let the church ask of God that He would send wise counsellors into the courts of whoever comes into power.

Let the church call Josephs and Daniels into government by prayer. These are wise technocrats who possess God-given wisdom, and who can save the nation in different areas; they are not elected but are appointed by presidents and rulers. In response to our faith, the Lord will send someone who was not elected to sit on the right of the president, and another on his left, and they will be like the anointed ones besides the golden lampstand. Remember that Zechariah saw the vision of a golden lampstand, and two olive trees feeding it with oil so that the lamps would keep burning. The trees represented the prophets who caused Zerubbabel to succeed through their prophesying. Through the counsel of the appointed olive trees, the elected one will do the will of heaven.

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To provoke such operations is the duty of the church; our duty is not political criticisms.* The church that spends her time on political criticisms, protests and mobilization for elections has thrown away her advantage and has focused on fighting in the earthly realm—a realm where Satan is strong.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds). 2 Cor 10:3-4 KJV

*Note that I am talking about the church as a body and as an institution. I am not at all saying that Christians cannot participate in pressure groups or be members of civic societies. I am just saying such activity is not the primary weapon of the body of Christ.

Appendix

In the time of elections

This message is about righteous principles as it relates to democracy for the average citizen. How should a Christian react to elections? Below are a few points outlined to help.

1. Pray without ceasing (1 Th 5:17)

Prayer is powerful; James taught us that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (Jam 5:16). The people of God can make changes in government and in the society by their prayers. The problem is that they generally do not pay the proper attention to this ministry or they ruin the power in their prayers through grumbling, faithlessness, lack of patience, and other behaviours that ruin spiritual power when engaged in by children of God.

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Whether it is democracy or any other form of government, the fact remains that God still rules in the affairs of men, and He is still that one that ultimately determines who will rule. Our votes are just the method that He uses under the scheme of democracy. Space will not allow me now to give testimonies upon testimonies that illustrate this biblical principle. I remember one brother who came to see me once; he told of how he won an election when he was not at all well-known among the political powers or even properly funded. He followed the instructions given Him in a dream by the Lord. Later when he had become very well-known he sought another elective office, the same Lord told him in another dream that no matter what he does he wouldn't win. At the end of the day, the votes were counted and he seemed to have won, then for certain reasons the elections were annulled. God just showed him that He was the one in power and not the masses by

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their votes or the men who seem to be in power.

We must approach prayer knowing that it is God who makes rulers. He appoints kings as it is written,

So that everyone may know that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world. He gives them to anyone he chooses — even to the lowliest of people.
Dan 4:17 NLT

So, in the time of elections, we pray for the Lord to choose the leaders that will do His will in the season. Pray that He will thwart the plans of the wicked ones who want to destabilize things for their own benefit. Pray that He will grant peace during the whole process.

It is important that you confess the sins of the land and ask Him for mercy. God will never appoint good leaders for a people that

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continue to walk in iniquity unless certain righteous ones therein specifically ask Him for mercy. Those that can thus ask for and receive His mercy are called the salt of the land. The salt must do its work of praying.

2. Do not condemn or criticize the government

Condemning (wishing evil upon people) or criticizing the government are some of those habits of Christians that kill the power of their prayers and erode faith. Refusal to do these things does not mean you agree with or are pleased with everything the government is doing; it just means you are focused on God as the true source of blessing in your life and that you realize that the power still belongs to God even in the minute details. It also means you understand what you have been called to do as a child of God.

We are not called to criticize; we are called to pray.

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You must not dishonor God or curse any of your rulers. Ex 22:28 NLT

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior. 1 Tim 2:1-4

Everyone in life has his God-ordained assignment, and that of the Christian is to pray for the government. Criticizing the government is the job of the opposition party and the numerous critics that we have in the society (many of whom are not at all better than the people they are criticizing). If you have a wise counsel for someone in power, do what you can to send them a word if possible, otherwise specifically pray about the thing that you believe is wise to do; you will be amazed at what the Lord will do. Criticizing, raving, ranting, judging and such activities do

not change things; they only create an atmosphere of chaos in the realm of the spirit. Let your anger and frustrations motivate you to pray.

3. It is lawful to campaign

Sometimes because we say that God actually rules in the affairs of men, some think it is therefore wrong to participate in the political processes, but that is an extreme and wrong opinion. The sovereignty of God does not excuse us from working according to what is right within the context of the current form of administration in the society. We must continue to do our physical duties.

Spiritually, it is lawful for those involved in the political process to campaign for any candidate or party of their choice, even if it is the opposition party to the current government. That is different from just criticizing the government. If you are involved, be constructive in your campaign

even as you point out where your party or candidate may be better than the opponent, even if the opponent is the current one in power. Christians are to set the example in civility.

4. Plan to vote

Again, the knowledge of the rulership of God among men in choosing who will rule doesn't mean we should not vote. I have heard people say things like "I vote for God," or for Jesus Christ. These divine persons do not have a ballot box or space on the voting sheet. You can only vote for God in prayer and in your personal life.

Voting is a civic duty, so please do it. Don't worry about the possibility of rigging; if you do not vote God will find it rather tight to judge the riggers. Your vote is a spiritual indictment for the riggers; it will provoke the judgment of God on those who do so.

5. Vote based on righteous convictions

As you plan to vote, remember that your vote is a statement concerning your morals, so be careful as you make your statements before God. He is watching you. Your vote is also a statement about what you really desire. Do not vote based on tribal sentiments and such thought processes; vote for the person who you believe is the best of the available candidates and who is closest to what you are praying for God to do in the society.

I remember a room-mate of mine while I was a university student. He came back one day raving about the extreme incompetence of one of the candidates for the just concluded elections into the leadership of the student body in his faculty (he was a law student). He spent quite some time describing how the fellow in question was not fit for the office he vied for and how occupying the office would bring no good to the association. He really tore the fellow to shreds (apparently the fellow

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won the election, I think as president of the association). Then he concluded the tirade by informing us his roommates that he voted for the fellow.

Shock, shock!

“Why would you do such a thing? You just described how unfit the chap is for the office!”

His answer was, “because he is my brother.” (‘Brother’ here meant they share the same geographical area of origin.)

What??!!

I was flummoxed, but thinking about it now helps me to understand why God doesn't often find it fit to appoint for us good leaders. God cannot appoint good leaders for us if we continue to tell Him that we are not concerned about it. That fellow just said to the Lord by his vote that, “I am OK with an incompetent leader as long as he is from my village.” That is the real prayer of people like him; the words they use when they pray are negated by their

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voting pattern. These are some of the things we do as Christians that kill the power of our prayers. It is called double-mindedness.

For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Js 1:7-8

Remember, the way you vote is making a spiritual statement, therefore consider your ways.

6. What if he loses?

Please note that no matter how prophetic, holy and righteous you are in your choices and votes during the elections, the candidates you vote for may end up losing. God may choose some other persons apart from the ones you want, and you may not know the reasons He did that. Remember that your vote is a statement while the Lord is the chooser of who wins. You just make the right statement and

keep moving. No matter the outcome, be thankful in everything.

7. Last point is—do not stop praying

Prayer is the main weapon we have, and it is potent. Continue to prophesy good upon the land. Speak positive words. Rebuke the spirit of chaos, violence and such negative things. Continually wage war in the realm of the spirit with your words.

It is well with this country, in Jesus' name.



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