

Course 109

Kingdom Oriented Church Growth

An apostolic teaching of the Global School of Ministry - UK

Lesson 1

Introduction

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus made this clear statement during His deep discourse with the disciples:

Matthew 16:18... 18And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

That Jesus alone is qualified to build His Church is an elementary fact. However, He has elected to use human vessels to execute the master plan He designed for His Church. For this reason, Jesus did not consider His work on His Church complete until the Holy Spirit was released:

Acts 1:4-8

4And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Documenting His Life, Works and Master Plan of the Church

Clearly, Jesus knew that humans may attempt to build His Church haphazardly. He therefore ordained that the Master plan for the Church should be released and documented.

To capture His life, words and work in print for the benefit of the Jews, Jesus personally recruited a man with the right skills of documentation, Matthew the Tax Collector. For this reason, Matthew traced the family tree of Jesus all the way to David, the great King who God ordained as human progenitor of the Ultimate King and Abraham, Father of the race.

Matthew 9:9

9And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

Jesus also allowed the disciple who loved Him greatly, John, to gain a deep insight into His divinity and to record what he saw and experienced for the benefit of all who believe so that the issue of His dual identity as very God and very Man would be made known to all:

John 1:14

14And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 21:24-25

24This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

25And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

1 John 1:1-7

1That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

The Holy Spirit subsequently inspired a Medical Practitioner, Luke, who was trained to be systematic and have a keen eye for details to do a comprehensive biography of the Man, Jesus Christ for the benefit of gentile believers. Using source materials from various eye witnesses and after interviewing and cross referencing, the Gospel according to Luke was birthed, tracing the genealogy of Jesus all the way to Adam, father of the entire human race.

Luke 1:1-4

1Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

3It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Acts 1:1-2

1The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

The Holy Spirit also used a young man who was an eye witness of the life of Jesus to document aspects of His electrifying ministry as a miracle worker. Mark, writer of one of the gospels had a rich heritage in Christ. His Mother was one of the faithful women who waited on the Master. He was also related to great vessels in the early Church, including Peter and served as personal assistant to both Barnabas and Paul. His sources were therefore reliable.

Acts 12:12

12And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Acts 13:4-5

4So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

5And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

Even though Paul and Barnabas parted ways because of John Mark(Acts 15:36-41), Paul was later to demand for the young man who was an excellent resource fellow

2 Timothy 4:11

11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Among the few people cited in the two epistles that Peter wrote, Marcus, his son in the Lord was one of them.

1 Peter 5:13

King James Version (KJV)

13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

Beyond His own life and ministry, Jesus was also careful to ensure that the life of the early Church was adequately documented by Luke the physician who was ordained to be a travelling companion and biographer of Paul. In so doing, Luke built up on the account of the gospel which focused on the life, teachings and works of Jesus to capture the life, pattern, ministry and power of God in the early church.

Acts 1:1-2

1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

Even when many deserted because of the heat of the battle, Luke was with Paul.

2 Timothy 4:11

11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Even when His disciples seemed too slow in reaching out to Samaria (a city and people detested by Jews for their nature as a mixed race of Jews who did not go on the Babylonian captivity ordained by God but subsequently co-mingled in marriage with gentiles) according to the Acts 1:8 mandate, the Lord did not give up. He allowed persecution by Herod to scatter the saints and as they ran for their dear lives, they preached the gospel.

Acts 8:3-8

3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

In order to execute the twin agenda of taking the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth and to document what the Church is as the very Body of Christ and the agency of the Kingdom of God on earth before His return, Jesus chose an ardent Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus who was well schooled in understanding the Old Covenant. Some of the most profound revelations of the Church as the Body of

Christ, the habitation of God by the Holy Spirit; the One New Man of God which takes away the old division of the world into Jews and Gentiles were given to the man whose name was later changed to Paul. A snapshot of scriptures attesting to the special place of this vessel in documenting revelation concerning the Church and in demonstrating its Kingdom culture and ordinances is provided here.

Acts 9:15-16

15But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

16For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Romans 1:16-17

16For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Ephesians 2:11-22

21In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:1-9

It was Paul that God used to describe the Church in these immortal words:

1 Timothy 3:15-16

15But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

16And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

True Church Growth must be based on what the Holy Scriptures say!

In all these, God allowed the Holy Spirit to inspire human vessels to document His mind for His Church. How it started, how it operates and when its relationship with Jesus will be consummated are all documented by the very inspiration of the Holy Spirit who, among others, is here on earth to ensure that we have clarity concerning... the mind of Jesus for all things.

2 Peter 1:19-21

19We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Knowing that saints will be unassailable if they dwell in it, Satan has worked over time to shake the confidence of saints in the Word of God. He has used a variety of humanistic logic. One is the tendency to confuse saints through various agenda driven translations of the Bible that leave off vital truths. Another is the debasement of the sanctity of the Holy Scriptures through placing more emphasis on commentaries and imposing human names on the various translations in a way that suggests their authorship!

As more people do this as a mark of prestige and arrival as world theologians, they unwittingly erode the confidence of saints in the Word when their own imperfect lives unravel through their lifestyles or ministry excesses. As the dangerous game of branding bibles after human benefactors and ministries continues to explode, many new believers and unstable saints find their confidence in the simple, pure word eroded. Not too long ago, two of the men who have branded bibles faced severe shakings which led to divorce of their spouses after over a quarter century each of marriage!

Not only that, saints are in danger of see what God says through the filter of the personal interpretation of agenda driven ministers and translators and often do not see the need to rely on the Holy Spirit for illumination! It is interesting that only saints dare do this to the Word of the True Living God! No Muslim can ever conceive having his or her name on any translation of the Quran, the Islamic text. No Hindu or Buddhists can conceive such a thought to their religious guide books. It is only children of God who are glorying in such shameful deeds! The Constitution of the Kingdom of God is violated by those who are supposed to be its Ambassadors, making sinners to mock at God!

Of all the destabilizing plans of the enemy, nothing however matches the strange logic that God and His Word are too archaic and out of touch with the reality of modern civilized life! Consequently, men of fertile imagination are creating new standards of morality which essentially negate core instructions of God. The New Covenant which was pronounced by Jesus as superior to the Old Covenant and the only acceptable way to please the Father and function in His Kingdom has now been replaced by a raft of extra-biblical revelations which justify relativism – that venal sin which makes people to believe what they want to believe and expect a senile old man they call “God” to condone and even applaud. This is idolatry gone wild!

God is not senile. As the Ancient of Days, He never ages. What He was, is what He remains today and will ever be in future. From the day the Blood of the Lamb sealed the deal of redemption and purchase of saints from the hands of the wicked one, His standards are fixed and will not change. Those who teach otherwise will answer for every deviation they have caused saints to walk in. Those who allow fear of man and desire to glory in men to sway them to acquiesce with evil – in order not to be called intolerant by men will one day, to their eternal regret, discover that they were wrong. Dead wrong!

The Church Growth Crises

These days, people are planning, planting and growing all manner of “churches”. Some are extensions of denominations while others are supposedly fresh expressions of church or churches “designed to meet needs and expectations of contemporary society”. It is obvious that Satan, being unable to scuttle God’s program for humanity will settle for a tendency to corrupt it. Just as Cain’s sacrifice was unacceptable to God, so will the Lord not be swayed by the amount of energy expended in “church growth” projects where what are done run contrary to the plan and purpose of God.

A careful examination of 1 Corinthians chapter 3: 10-15 reveals that God is interested in how we operate His Church and the building blocks we employ in the process. God has already laid the foundation of the Church in the person and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Chief Corner stone. God also by His own Sovereign will and determinate counsel made Paul of Tarsus a vessel through which He unequivocally announced the master plan. God also used Paul to model how the Church is to be planted, grown and multiplied across the earth. All saints since that time are not engaged in anything new but to simply build on that foundation which is Jesus Christ. At the end of the age, God will call us to account for how and with what we built our own assigned portions!

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

10According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Satan knows that his ugly grip on this planet called earth will be broken if the Church is allowed to be what it is ordained to be. God has ordained to demonstrate His awesome powers through the Church and bless His saints.

Ephesians 3:9-12

9And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

12In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Definition of Terms: The Church (What, When, How)

In the early hours of Tuesday, October 4, as I was postured for a time of deep communion with Abba, I felt His hand on me to document an issue dear to His heart. There was no time to get clean sheets of paper so I had to do with scraps in my bible. Here is a transcript of what the Lord downloaded for feeding His sheep. It was a message designed to deliver saints from one of the grandest of grand deceptions: the deliberate attempt of Satan to confuse saints about the Church and the Kingdom and the twin perfidy of declaring the Church as dead by some impetuous preachers.

Jesus did not come to set up a religious system of rituals and attempts by humans to know God. God had enough of religion in Judaism and pronounced it a dead end for finding Him. Jesus came partly to fulfil all the types and symbols which religion tried to project. In so doing, He opened as it were, a new and living way of relationship with the Father through His Blood which is the only valid atonement for sin. Hebrews 10: 19-21.

Those who embrace His sacrifice and put their trust in Him transit from the dark kingdom of Satan and are conveyed into the illuminated Kingdom of God and become accepted as members of His family on earth. Colossians 1: 12-14.

God literally makes the individual a saint, His own set apart and sanctified person. To seal this deal, God literally dwells in the heart of this new member of His family by the presence of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

In effect, the individual saint is the first target of God in the reconciliation project. Sealed by the Holy Spirit, the newly minted saint begins a journey of life in and with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit begins to transform his/her way of thinking, desires of the heart and makes the will malleable to submit to the will of the Father which was a hallmark of the life of Jesus John 5:30; John 6:38;

Matthew 26: 36-46. This transforming and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is an inside out work of Grace beyond human ability other than the yielded will and desire to advance in Christ which manifests as the fruit of the Spirit and the character of God which other people can see and glorify God.(Galatians 5: 22-24; 1Peter 2:9-12).

The Holy Spirit, who is at work in the individual saint, unites him/her to other saints in the realm of the spirit bearing witness that they are of the same family stock. (Ephesians 4:1-5). Please request for the course note: Course 104: The Holy Spirit and Humanity which deals with this spiritual transaction in detail.

Every saint brought into the family of God by the process described above constitutes the Body of Christ. God's plan was to extend His family through the substitutionary death of Jesus so that many sons would be brought to glory. Hebrews 2:10-18. All sons, redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb receive a portion of the abilities of Jesus, the First Born, called spiritual gifts. No one saint has all the gifts. This is part of the extraordinary wisdom of God by which He creates in us a basic passion and hunger to walk in the fullness of Jesus by connecting with other saints who have what we lack. The mechanism of this corporate structure that is called the Body of Christ is articulated in Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-32; Ephesians 4: 11-16 and 1 Peter 4:10, 11.

All saints share another common feature which define them: they are called out of the world and its darkness of sin and sinfulness and given the privilege, power and tendency to walk a new walk of righteousness, holiness, love for God, fellow saints and sinners alike. That identity as a "called out" people is real and needful for the fullness of the Father's paternity to be made manifest in them. John 17:1-29; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 John 2:15-17.

Separated unto the Father in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit who is actively at work in and through them, The Church is one, globally, knowing no division on racial, ethnic, gender, age or socio-economic and political bias (Galatians 3:26-29). It is the One New Man of God where Jews and Gentiles find common ground devoid of the stifling restrictions of the Laws and traditions of Moses(Ephesians 2: 11 - 18).

The Church is the first fruit of the New Covenant which Jesus established as He fulfilled the Law of Moses (Matthew 26: 26-29; Mark 14: 22-25; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Because it is the fruit of the boundless love of God, it was sealed by the Blood Jesus shed at the Cross of Calvary when He uttered the Bill of Rights for saints, "It is Finished"(John 19:30). 50 days later, on the Feast of Pentecost, the Church was empowered to become a living reality of the New Covenant of Grace, Love and Mercy (Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-4).

From that day, the Church was activated and will live till the day its life will be consummated with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in the Courts of Heaven (Revelation 19: 7-9). Saints who overcome and are steadfast in the true Christ till the end when He returns will enjoy a brief residency in heaven in their conscious eternal bodies until the day they will descend with Christ as a mighty invading army to crush all rebellion amongst the Kings, Princes, Presidents, Prime Ministers and Generals of unregenerate peoples and nations Jude 14-16; Revelation 11: 15 – 18.

The victory of Christ and His saints will lead to the end of the age and the establishment of the physical phase of the Kingdom of God right here on planet earth. It shall be 1,000 years of pure bliss, joy and perfect peace which humanity has yearned for since the day Adam lost his mandate and made Satan the god of this world by default. Genesis 1:26-29; Genesis 2:15; Psalm 115:16; Psalm 2; Revelation 20: 1-7).

Nature, Character and Attributes of the Church

Because the Church has one God, One Lord, One Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-5), it reflects the nature, character and attributes of Jesus Christ who is the head. These include:

Love – God is Love, declares 1 John....The Love of God was amply demonstrated in the supreme gift of Jesus Christ to unqualified sinners John 1:11,12; John 3:16; Romans 3....That is why Jesus demanded that Love should be the supreme hallmark of the Church John 13:34,35. Unity – just as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are in eternal unity, so is the Church called to be completely united – lateral to one another and vertical to Him. Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit was specifically released to empower the Church to walk in the realm of miracles, signs and wonders. He is also to comfort the Church, teach, illuminate all truths and guide in the journey of life. To reject the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and any of His spiritual gifts for any reason under the sun is to reject Jesus Christ and the very basis on which the Church stands. After all, the Church is referred to as the habitation of God by the Spirit!

Ephesians 2:18-22 The Word of God – Jesus is the Word made flesh. He has also ordained that the written Word be the frame of reference for everything concerning His Church. It is imperative that the Church must embrace all provisions of the Word, rely on the Holy Spirit to illuminate seemingly difficult passages and be committed to rightly divide and skilfully serve the word of life to all and sundry. The idea of a component of the Church, by any name called which dwells in extra –biblical revelation to the degree that such negate specific provisions of the Word is contradictory and inadmissible to the courts of heaven. When the Word says to take heed how we build, it clearly brings to the table the issue of divine pattern as documented in the Holy Writ. In building an earthly tabernacle, God repeatedly reminded Moses to take heed to build according to the pattern shown Him on the Mount. How much more shall God demand diligence and building to plan concerning the very Body of Christ on planet earth? The Church Triumphant and the Church Militant

The only separation point is that this universal Church has two aspects: The Church Triumphant (comprising saints who successfully ran the race of life till the end and died in Christ) and the Church Militant (comprising saints who are yet alive at any given time who can overcome all odds and make it to the eternal realm as they continue to abide in Christ and use the effective tools of living the holy life that is entirely dependent on the workings of the Holy Spirit who they give right of way; living in love, watching, prayer with faith and faithful service to escape the snares of the wicked one. (John 15:1-8, 16; Matthew 26: 41; Matthew 20:20-27)

Why Congregate?

The Church is one and inclusive of all saints. Any effort to make a gathering of saints exclusive to people of a particular race, tribe, age bracket and gender, socio-economic or political persuasion is inherently defective and fundamentally flawed. In the same vein, any tendency to take a few aspects of scripture, hold them tenaciously and use them to include and exclude saints from fellowship – the very basis of denominating the Church is not of heavenly origin and can never be acceptable to God! By their very back-bone of exclusion, denominations are enemies of the very Cross they purport to represent! Denominations can be redeemed however as we shall see in a future lesson.

Bases of exclusion

The Bible is clear on the three bases on which specific individuals can be excluded from a local congregation:

1. Those who live in presumptuous sins and refuse to repent. They are excluded to prevent corruption of the whole lump by the leaven of sin 1 Corinthians 5: 1-13.
2. Those who are divisive and hinder cohesion in fellowship by their pride, arrogance, gossip, back-biting Romans 16:17-18.

3. Those who are in scriptural error and refuse to change course and are therefore in danger of destroying the simple faith of immature saints through their pernicious doctrines. Jude 3-4. It is for the reasons above that Jesus charged His saints to flock together in love and unity
 1. Firstly to express His fullness (Matthew 18:18-20; 1 Corinthians 12);
 2. Demonstrate their unity commonality and in Him (John 17: 1-26)
 3. Provide a platform for those outside the commonwealth to “see” and recognize that the Church is of divine origin and separate from the world (John 13: 34-35)
 4. Strengthen each other and remind each other that holding onto Him is worth the effort (Hebrews 10:25)
 5. The congregations of God’s people in various localities, cities, states, nations and regions are instruments through which spiritual warfare is waged effectually and the power of Jesus their head is demonstrated Ephesians 3:10

A Critical Matter!

What we have described so far is a divine construct which Jesus said He alone will build! Matthew 16:18 and assures us that the Gates of Hell cannot prevail as they amass their arsenal against it. Jesus builds His Church today through the Holy Spirit using human vessels to execute His agenda.

How Jesus grows His Church – The Core Raw Materials used as building blocks!

1. The power of the Word – The Word of God is the Truth. It is the appointed instrument of liberty which delivers people from darkness. The Word also renews the mind and transforms the heart of the young saint, forming the nature and character of Christ by its sanctifying property. John 17:17; Romans 12:1; Ephesians 4: 23;
2. The Indwelling Holy Spirit. He has been given to teach us all things, comfort us in times of trouble and bring assurance of the Omnipresence of God. He forges the organic relationship we need with the Father and empowers our witness so that saints can demonstrate the power of the risen Christ. Please request for the epic download: GSoM Course 103: The Holy Spirit and humanity from ariseoffice@yahoo.co.uk and it will be sent to you, free of charge.
3. The Five Fold Office Gifts – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. Jesus who is the ONLY head of the Church has elected, of His own Sovereign will, to use some human vessels to express His leadership. Ephesians 4:11-16 says that collectively, they are charged to perfect (equip the) saints to do the work of ministry so that the House of God is filled with strong and effective co-labourers with Christ, not weak laymen who will be the answer to the need and prayers in Matthew 9:36-39. Rejecting, neglecting or not tapping into the graces these specially called co-labourers with Christ are amounts to rejection of He who sent them! On the Last Day, many will weep for shutting the gates of the flock committed to their trust from receiving the fullness of nutrients. Whatever fate befalls such sheep will be required of those who allowed them to remain in immaturity. A complete teaching note on what each of these five offices represents and their individual and collective mandate in the Church is documented in Course 12: The Ascension Office Gifts.

The fivefold calls for existence of True spiritual shepherds personally selected by Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, set apart for His holy use and released into the Church in EACH generation to represent Him. Jesus also grows His Church by first raising true shepherds to take care of them on His behalf. 1 Peter 5:1-4. True shepherds do not exist to milk the sheep and squeeze life out of them. True shepherds are not given to give a false sense of security to saints who are struggling with sinful pleasures or addictions in the name of love. John 10: 1-14. True shepherds exist to: model Jesus for His sheep, showing them that the Kingdom life is liveable; rightly divide the Word of truth and skilfully serve it to saints according to their deepest needs John 21: 15-17.

4. Persecution, Trials, Difficulties – God has ordained that through much affliction, people enter

into the Kingdom and become His Church. Persecution, trials and difficulties while intended by Satan to cause people to “curse God and die”(using the infamous words of the wife of Job) are nevertheless the very instruments which drive people to seek for the true meaning of life and in the process find God in Christ Jesus. Having found Him, such issues and challenges are used by God to build up the spiritual muscles of His people and cause them to grow in Grace which they draw down most in times of crises! 2 Timothy 2:3, 10-13; Romans 8:28-39.

The Organic Church Growth Process

The organic Church growth process was modelled by Jesus Christ, taught by Him and was also the focus of the teaching and methods of the early Church. Its success - both qualitatively and quantitatively- was very evident as you read through the Gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Proper study of the Acts of the Apostles and the Pauline epistles will reveal the vibrancy, freshness and dynamism of the Organic Church Growth Model. Let us look at the components of this Model, which will make the grade in the courts of heaven any day:

The first thing that happens in the organic growth process that Jesus modelled and taught is that God is the initiator of true salvation! The efforts of mankind to look for God always leads to religion and religiosity. The dynamics change when God arrests the attention of any one and reveals Jesus as the ONLY way to Him. God uses a variety of media to do this. The most prominent is human preachers, declaring Jesus by the unction of the Holy Spirit (either one on one, to a group or crowd; to preaching on radio, TV, Satellite, the internet, face book and other social media). God also works through the Holy Spirit in the conscience of humans revealing their need of salvation. In extreme cases, God uses angelic visitation to announce Jesus to people. This is one of the reasons God wants all who dare to be part of His workforce to match their desires with effectual prayers and spiritual warfare. With prayer, hearts of individuals and whole people can be made ready for divine visitation and readiness to hear the word Matthew 7: 7-9; 9: 36-39. With spiritual warfare, saints can literally bind the strong man over families, communities, cities and nations so that their hold can be broken and their captives set free to hear and be receptive to the gospel of the Kingdom Luke 11: 20-23.

Jesus Christ alone is to be preached! He and the Kingdom of God is the message His incarnation, life, passion, death, resurrection and return to set up the Kingdom is the central truth that must be preached Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4: 17, 23. Those who insist on preaching any other thing are doing a disservice to God and to their hearers. Salvation, which is the basis of entry into the Kingdom of God and membership of the Body is based on just one thing: the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ at the Cross.

Those who become children of God need to be transformed into disciples of Jesus Christ. The Great Commission is centred on making of disciples rather than gathering of crowds who fill out decision cards on the basis of the word of men! Matthew 28:19-20. To make disciples of all men, the Word of God must be taught systematically and comprehensively. The comprehensive presentation of the word challenges the child of God to make a decision: to bow to the Sovereign claim of Jesus by obeying the Word, even when inconvenient and allowing the word to dwell and induce an inclination to obey. Whoever is not intentionally making disciples may well be gathering a crowd of people who will take the shortest route to hell: the Church! When they bow to the authority of Jesus as King, they demonstrate the reality of the Kingdom!

For this discipleship process to take place, the Holy Spirit should be given right of way to place those coming into the Kingdom as well as those already in the Kingdom with the specific under-shepherds ordained for them from heaven. John 10:16, 27-29. The pattern of trying to make members of our family, neighbours, clans, races, age brackets, school mates and gender “members” of our local

congregations is an exercise in futility. Even when we seem to succeed, the hassles such people give and the destabilizing effect of not connecting with where God wanted to plant them leaves a sour taste in the mouth. We should preach Christ to sinners and allow the Holy Spirit to lead them into congregations where they will receive the right nurture ordained from the foundation of the world. As they grow in Him, whenever He wants to move them into another harvest field and they proceed to approach leaders for release in sincerity and transparency, they should be celebrated and let go. This way, we will give the Holy Spirit right of way to lead and guide. Ministers of God have no business quarrelling and fighting over the flock.

Those who are disciples need to become able ministers of the New Testament Church and effective co-labourers with Jesus Christ in building His Church. A four point plan makes this an exciting venture for every true minister. True ministers are those who delight in doing the will of the Father, just like Jesus John 5: 30; John 6:38. They are not insecure and have no need to gather a crowd around themselves to seek human glory. They rather engage in capacity building, no matter how small the congregation they lead is.

5.1 Train – Every saint has a fundamental spiritual right to be trained.

5.2 Equip – Every saint has a fundamental spiritual right to be equipped to discover and walk in the reality of which part of the Body of Christ he/she is designed by God to be and the Kingdom responsibilities assigned.

5.3 Activate- The Holy Spirit is for ALL saints, not a few super spiritual few! Every saint is entitled to know the gifts given to him/her and to be activated in using them to participate in growing the Church and contributing to manifestation of the present stage of the Kingdom.

5.4 Release- No saint is destined to be a “laity”, warming benches ad infinitum. There comes a time in their walk with God when they are released to serve Him without human restraint. The release may take the form of an ordination service or a simple laying on of hands in a normal weekly meeting.

Those who pass through this process are supposed to know their gifts and callings and whole heartedly get involved in spreading the sphere of the Kingdom of God either in the existing ministries, if it be the will of God or if He calls them into a fresh work, launch out in faith using what they have – within them: Jesus and the Holy Spirit represented by The Calling and Gifts.

Nothing external – money, facilities or media exposure is critically material to their engagement in the work of the Lord! Using the principle in 2 Timothy 2: 2, the work of the Kingdom and increase of the Church is advanced in an ever widening ripple. If the Church will understand and apply this simple biblical model, the whole world will be reached with the gospel of the Kingdom of God in a short space of time.

Outcome of the Organic Church Growth Model: real saints emerge that impact the world!

In grafting Jesus, the living word into the saints by systematically doing these four things (Teach, Train, Equip, Activate and Release) on a consistent cycle, all components of the True Church (whether local congregations or non congregational ministries) ensure that three core outcomes are delivered. If the Church of Jesus Christ will switch away from institutional religion falsely called Christianity and refocus on the individual saint rather than the organizations, finances, programmes or buildings, these divinely guaranteed outcomes become living realities. The world cannot but acknowledge the presence of saints and submit easier to the gospel of the Kingdom we preach which is superior to presentation of denominations for increased membership!

Saints are perfected and empowered to be who God ordained them to be and do what they were brought into the Kingdom to accomplish on planet earth. This includes taking their place as His Ambassadors to manifest Jesus Christ as His witnesses. The world may not be swayed by preaching but will certainly respond to the reality of the Presence and Power of Jesus through the saints they see

on a day to day basis. Jesus did not come to raise an army of religious zealots who will kill others in His name or even subdue them by military might or political action as has been advocated by some. His very last words on earth indicate that saints are to be WITNESSES to Him! Witnesses are purveyors of the Love of God that was ultimately demonstrated in the wilful sacrifice of Jesus to pay the price for the sins of the whole world. Declaring and demonstrating this awesome love of God is the grand reason why we are left on earth after salvation.

Acts 1:8

8But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

To have many sons who are like Jesus is the grand design of the New Covenant:

Hebrews 2:10-12

10For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

12Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

True under shepherds need to feed saints rightly to the point where we evaluate all our thoughts, words and actions on this one premise: “what would Jesus do if He were in my shoes on any given matter?”

1 Peter 2:21-23

21For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

The onus is upon us to yearn for and tap into the grace of God to manifest Jesus in His holy nature and heart full of love for The Father and all humanity. We must also press into the life that is totally under the control of the Holy Spirit who uses us to demonstrate the Power of the risen Jesus according to His Word in Acts 1:8 and in John 14:12-14.

John 14:12-14

12Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Saints, let us let go of every tendency to religiosity and press into the state of greater works! We cannot do so with strife, sheep stealing, political correctness, compromise and the loads of worldly music and programmes which minister to the flesh, excite the soul and leave the spirit man high and dry! This state enables us to exercise our reconciliation assignment as His ambassadors without stress:

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

17Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2. Preparation for the ultimate priesthood and dress rehearsal for the age to come

Organic church growth also leads to the emergence of saints who are prepared to practice their priestly duties in this life which will be consummated when Jesus returns to set up the full phase of the Kingdom in a physical reality which will engulf the world according to the Word of God.

Revelation 11:15

15And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.

Part of the reward faithful saints look up to when time is swallowed up in eternity and mortality in immortality is that they will minister principles and ordinances of the Kingdom to the billions of people who will translate from time to eternity without knowing Jesus and the Kingdom Revelation 1: 5-6; Revelation 5:9-10

Our kingly and priestly assignment in the now is, in a way, a dress rehearsal for the full reality of what we shall be doing in the time to come when Jesus returns! The world is going burst in sin and rejection of Jesus. Politicians, economists, scientists and sociologists believe humanity is at a dead end with no real logical way out. Even nature and the entire creation are basically at the stage of groaning, yearning for deliverance from bondage and expectantly looking forward to the things that are about to happen. The world cannot be saved by any natural effort, even if spirit filled saints become Presidents of all nations on earth! Only the return of Jesus Christ will bring with it the universal peace, prosperity, security and joy which all humanity yearn for but are unable to attain. Saints, it is our manifestation in the fullness of redemption – something that is very close that the world intuitively knows is the next great event!

Romans 8:18-25

3. The Saints will have no difficulty seeking first the Kingdom of God in all situations!

True Saints who are rightly raised in the essential nutrients offered by the organic Church growth model do not find it difficult to let go of everything else and focus on the one thing which matters and which will last. They discover true satisfaction as they sideline all other humanistic dreams, aspirations and training to focus entirely on seeking first the Kingdom and its righteousness. Matthew 6: 19-34; Romans 14:17-19. The peace of God which passes all understanding envelops their hearts and minds as their values and life priorities change! John 16:33; Philippians 4:4-9;

Matthew 6:31-34 King James Version (KJV)

31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added

unto you.

34Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

For the true saint, real satisfaction can never be found in material possessions but the exciting Kingdom life imparted and kept alive by the indwelling Holy Spirit:

Romans 14:17-18King James Version (KJV)

17For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

18For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Biblical Governance for Kingdom Oriented Church Growth

Every Kingdom has a constitution which is either documented or a set of unwritten conventions. God has documented the way He wants the Church to be run. That is simply what the Bible is. Truly, God still speaks through a variety of extra-biblical channels including prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, dreams, vision, audible voice and a host of other ways. The proof of whether an extra-biblical revelation is of God or not will rest on how far it is consistent with sure principles of the Kingdom in the Bible or whether such revelations contradict the Written Word. Any word so called but which contradicts clear provisions of the Bible when rightly divided should be viewed with skepticism.

No one can validly claim to be a Kingdom citizen whose life and ministry runs counter to what is written. Let us now examine how God wants the Church to function as an instrument of declaring and expressing His Kingdom.

Presbytery and Diaconate

For this reason, any congregation or ministry which wants to procure divine approval must follow the example of Jesus and the early Church to separate spiritual leadership from day to day management of the business affairs and finances. This is a provision God began to articulate through the instruction He gave to Moses through his father in Law, Jethro in Exodus 18:13-26. With the coming of Jesus and the legacy He left in the New Covenant, the principle of separating spiritual formation and managing the business of ministry became an imperative.

Example of Jesus

The Fivefold offices of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher rested in Jesus who was the fullness of the Godhead in body form. Jesus never allowed issues of organization, finance or the business affairs of His dynamic ministry to cause Him to veer off the main thing for which He came. This was to announce the Kingdom of God, seek and save the lost and demonstrate the presence and power of the Kingdom by delivering captives of the wicked one through healing and casting out demons Luke 19:10.

When it came to organizing a public meeting, the disciples acted as business managers for the vision holder. This was evident in preparing for and managing crusades. They ensured that attendees sat down in orderly fashion, counted them, distributed food and cleaned up so that scrambling and bedlam would not disrupt the meetings:

Luke 9:10-17King James Version (KJV)

10And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and

went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

11 And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

12 And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

13 But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

14 For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company.

15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.

16 Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

17 And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

It was also evident when the disciples had to row the boat while Jesus, the vision holder took a much needed nap.

Mark 4:35-41 King James Version (KJV)

35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

He appointed Judas Iscariot as Treasurer of the tiny fellowship of 13 people. Judas kept the funds and managed it.

John 12:4-6 King James Version (KJV)

4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

When He needed a colt for the triumphant ride into Jerusalem, Jesus deployed the disciples to do the work:

Mark 11:1-7 King James Version (KJV)

1 And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples,

2 And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him.

3 And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and

straightway he will send him hither.

4And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him.

5And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt?

6And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded: and they let them go.

7And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him.

When it was time for eating the Passover meal, Jesus allowed the disciples to do all the arrangements:

Luke 22:7-13 King James Version (KJV)

7Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.

8And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.

9And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare?

10And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in.

11And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

12And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready.

13And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

Example of the Early Church

The early church almost missed track when the Apostles, who were now the spiritual leadership of the work took on themselves the management of the ministry. Not only were they stressed out attending to the complaints and crises that arose, the work was in danger of failure due to strife. Thank God for the Holy Spirit who inspired Peter to recommend that the Presbytery should focus on prayer, ministering the word and of course provide leadership while a diaconate should be put in place to deal with the day to day material issues of food and money. The result was true Kingdom oriented Church Growth as Acts 6:1-7 attest.

Acts 6:1-7 King James Version (KJV)

1And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

2Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

3Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

4But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

5And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

6Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

7And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The Presbytery manifests fully in the Five fold:

With other revelations of the Church, God used Paul as a vessel to explain that Jesus spread out His five offices of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher into different saints He calls into ministry. When such saints detach themselves from day to day business, financial and things which constitute 'other business', the saints are perfected, equipped and rapidly matured to release the callings and gifts deposited into them as well as be open to receive from others. That way, the Church of Jesus Christ is healthy, strong and vibrant!

Ephesians 4:11-16 King James Version (KJV)

11And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Any work so called which does not tap into this divine model, no matter how seemingly successful is not a Kingdom enterprise!

The Body Ministry in the Organic Church is sure proof of the Kingdom of God at work

The Kingdom of God is not in words but in power. It is a lifestyle that can be seen because it is demonstrable by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the individual saints! The Church is a living organism – a truly functional Body of Jesus Christ that He left here on planet earth to demonstrate...

His person and power to a dying world. This is why Kingdom oriented Church Growth emphasize organic rather than organizational growth. The core proposition is this: every child of God is blessed with some measures of the Holy Spirit but only those who are baptized in Him operate in more exuberant and manifest measure of His presence and power.

Ephesians 4:7 King James Version (KJV)

7But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

True shepherds cannot rest until saints discover what Jesus freely blessed them with and begin to exercise same with holy boldness!

1 Peter 4:10-11 King James Version (KJV)

10As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

In a ground breaking download, Abba gave us a clearer understanding of the Holy Spirit that is now Course 103: The Holy Spirit and Humanity. Please request for your own free copy from ariseoffice@yahoo.co.uk . God has so ordained it that the Holy Spirit comes into each saint in four interrelated measures. The first three are automatic and require no effort in the saint!

1. The Seal Measure. The Holy Spirit is He who convicts an individual of sin, righteousness and judgement. On conviction, He shows the sinner Jesus Christ as the ONLY solution to the sin problem and activates faith for salvation. John 16:7-11 King James Version (KJV)

Immediately the individual responds by believing in the heart and confessing with the tongue, Salvation is effected (Romans 10: 6-11). The definite act of Salvation is sealed by the Holy Spirit. The seal announces divine ownership and guarantees the ultimate redemption on the Last Day.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 King James Version (KJV)

21Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;

22Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Ephesians 1:13-14 King James Version (KJV)

13In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 4:30 King James Version (KJV)

30And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

As the individual is sealed by the Holy Spirit, there is a wiring of his/her spiritual DNA. This happens with the root gifts the Holy Spirit imparts which essentially will define the spiritual identity of the saint. What the saint will be and do in the Kingdom is therefore basically received at the New Birth!

If the saint has the benefit of enlightened Spirit inspired teaching and proper pastoral nurture, it will not take long to discover which part of the Body God has designed him/her to be. Let it be said plainly that ALL saints are in this way blessed with at least one spiritual gift! This gift or bunch of gifts will make a way for the holder. With the gifts will come the supernatural ability to do some things well and to have a passion for certain things in the Kingdom. Romans 12: 6-8 mention some of the specific gifts which are freely given to people and will manifest without difficulty in local congregations.

Romans 12:6-8 King James Version (KJV)

2. The Transformation Measure: No one can live the spiritual life that is pleasing to God by human resolutions and self-effort. It takes the inner working of the Holy Spirit to make us will and do what is right!

Philippians 1:6 King James Version (KJV)

6Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Philippians 2:13 King James Version (KJV)

13For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Furthermore, it is the Holy Spirit who actually bears fruit through us when we are properly attached to Jesus Christ the true Vine. John 15:1-8 King James Version (KJV)

Galatians 5:22-23 King James Version (KJV)

22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

3. Unity Measure. Once we receive Jesus in our hearts, the Holy Spirit unites us with all other saints who are part of His Body! This makes us one in Christ with an instinctive feeling of kinship with other saints, irrespective of their backgrounds or location. True leaders should emphasize this reality cooperating with other ministers in their localities and cities.

Ephesians 4:1-7 King James Version (KJV)

1I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

7But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

If we understand and emphasize these truths, the High Priestly prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ in John

17 will find expression in our local assemblies as well as the Churches in our cities and Nations. Irrespective of where we worship, saints are of the same stock. The plan of God in these Last Days is to use the united Church in our localities to demonstrate to principalities and powers in heavenly places, the manifold wisdom of God in birthing the Church! Ephesians 3:10

4. The Demonstrative Measure: This is the only measure of the Holy Spirit involving any effort on the part of the saint. All the other three measures above are God initiated! The saint who has tasted the three measures above and who understands the exciting nature of being a vessel through which Jesus builds His Church and demonstrate the awesome power of the Kingdom comes to a point in his/her walk with God where the desire to be used mightily by God ignites three things: a deep yearning for more of the Holy Spirit (John 7:37); a passion for more expressed in fervent prayers, separating for a season from non Kingdom activities (Acts 1:6-8; Acts 2:1-4) and release of faith (Galatians 3:2-5). The Holy Spirit is released in a greater measure upon such people. As He comes in to take charge of the lives of such people in a more intimate way, the Holy Spirit releases gifts which enable the recipients to walk in cutting edge demonstration of divine power. 1 Corinthians chapter 12 details the gifts which come in this manner.

1 Corinthians 12:1-10

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

The Church of Jesus Christ is to be grown primarily with and through the spiritual gifts of individual members as they release what is in them to meet the needs of other saints and in humility receive what is in other saints. That way, the Church at any level – just two or three people, a family, local congregation or the Church in a community are able to demonstrate a life and power which is clearly superior to the world around them!

Romans 12:4-5

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

This is why saints are commanded to congregate and not to live as lone rangers. In spite of our wonderful experiences on face book and the internet generally, the need for true face to face spirit,

soul and body relationships in our localities and cities is imperative. Saints, stop looking for a ‘perfect church’ and go into a place by the leading of the Holy Spirit to be His agent to change it from inside out to be an organic rather than organizational church!

Hebrews 10:25

25Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

True Kingdom oriented Church growth differs intrinsically from the carnal game of numbers where saints are counted as cold statistical data! Each saint is a vibrant, vital part of an organic whole. The process of teaching them, training, equipping and activating saints to walk in the reality of their awesome inheritance in Jesus Christ and releasing them to their role as Priests in the Kingdom who continue this cycle is the core of Kingdom oriented Church Growth!

Planting New Congregations + Divine Perspective of Church

God can use any saint to activate a new work. It is critical for such a person to check his/her heart constantly to ensure that there is no evil seed the enemy plants. Such evil seed will manifest as a mindset that he/she “owns” the congregation or ministry and is free to dip hands into the till to meet personal needs without any accountability to anyone. This cannot be true and any such activity is bare faced stealing in the sight of God!

Corporate Funds of a ministry should be in the hands of a committee of those who understand and know how to use money in service of the King and the Kingdom. They should be honest and sober people who fear God and do His bidding. They cannot by any means turn the assignment given to them to personal advantage or fail to resource the needs of the spiritual leadership.

In an ideal situation, the Holy Spirit will guide such saints to prayerfully plan how the needs of the ministry is resourced and provide for the needs of vision holders and full time ministers in a sustainable manner.

In the same way, vision holders will be used of God to pioneer new ministries and break the ground. As saints connect to the vision, are trained and equipped for the work of ministry, there should come a transitional point where the vision holder steps back and affirms those who are qualified by Jesus Himself to fit into roles designed for them before the foundation of the world.

This process of bringing saints into leadership and diminishing his/her individual powers by the same measure is a mark of security in Christ. Truly, there may be some people who will try to take advantage of this change of scenario. Their disposition should in no way negate the process. Rather, checks and balances should be installed to ensure that every part of the Body functions without threat to the overall health of the Body.

Those upon who the Lord lays His hands to use as vessels of honour to build His Church must remember that sacrifice is the basis of the Kingdom. Jesus Himself is the greatest demonstration of sacrifice. In various exhortations to His disciples and all of us, He demanded sacrifice of equal measure so that we can walk in tandem with Him:

Matthew 16:24-26

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.

25For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

26For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

It is by our dying to self that multitudes can truly come into the Kingdom and grow therein. The entirety of saints that have come into the Kingdom owe their status to the extreme and total sacrifice of just one personality: Jesus Christ!

John 12:24

24Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

The divine Perspective of Church

The Kingdom minded Church is not an organization or a denomination. It is not a game of numbers where we engage in gimmicks of various sorts to attract people to come and swell our numbers. It is also not evaluated by the size or beauty of buildings, no matter how expensive or ornate. It is also not a religious organization driven by dogmas of men and schemes to generate more revenue.

It is rather the expression of Jesus in perfect union with saints who are in alignment with Him and with each other. Their numbers do not matter. What matters is their vertical alignment with Him as Head and lateral alignment with fellow saints in a strong bond which is mutually edifying and which releases synergy that cannot be stopped or deflected by Satan or his human agents!

A relational organism, the Kingdom minded Church is grown personally by Jesus Christ Himself through the Holy Spirit who is at work within each saint that is part of His Body. It is through this organic, Spirit empowered and led ministry that the Church is able to demonstrate that it is of divine origin and separate from the world and its stiff organizational religions.

Matthew 18:19-20

19Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Unity of faith based on Love of God and one another and intense focus on the agenda of the King is the bedrock of power and blessings. Any where a group of saints understand, embrace and walk in this reality, they will be on holy ground which moves heaven to respond to their situation and needs!

Acts 2:1-4

1And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Psalms 133

1Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

2It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

3As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

We have spent considerable time at the feet of Jesus to understand what He has in mind for His Church to be and do. As we approach the end of the age, it is in the divine plan that all the spots of sin, wrinkles of traditions of men and other such things which include dis-unity and a poverty mentality be systematically purged in the Church. As Ephesians 5:25-27 reveals, Jesus is releasing the sanctifying power of His Word to cleanse His Church of all contaminations since the enemy began to mis-lead it to be an organisational construct.

Jesus is preparing His Church to be radiant and glorious, ready for re-union with Him in the not too distant future. It is important that we do not just read this download from Him. We need to evaluate how we are living and ministering as His Church and make amends with repentant hearts if we missed it in any way. That is why we need to critically evaluate these benchmarks to see in what way we have fallen short of the master plan of the owner of the Church.

Negative Tell tale signs of what Jesus is not building ...

Let us never forget that Jesus said He will build His Church! There are ways He builds and methods He does not employ. We need to mature to know these things in order to escape the error of those who believe, like the world, that “the end justifies the means”. In the Kingdom, the end and the means are of equal import. Let us not just do... whatever that catches our fancy and believe that it will be well pleasing and acceptable to God.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

10According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Saints, please let us allow the Holy Spirit to x-ray how we are doing Church and see if it is biblical or not. This is not to condemn us but rather to convict us to the degree that we can repent of every erroneous way and return to the Lord for mercy and a new beginning! May we be like babes who can be corrected – while there is still some time!

These are not ways He grows the Church:

He does not use gimmicks and has no need of any. Jesus does not endorse use of false promises, worldly advertising and promotional strategies to grow His Church. He declares the truth about life without Him and the fact that He alone is the Only way of reconciliation with the Father. John 14:6 The reason He does not employ the principles of the world in advertising and making empty boasts and claims that are not real is because He Himself is Light with no iota of darkness and falsehood at all. Jesus therefore always employs the principles of heaven in growing His Church and transmits this through His servants and co-builders. A worldly principle or method has the potential of corrupting the Church He does not employ sin, sinfulness and sinful people to build His Holy Church. It will be a contradiction in terms if Jesus allowed impurity and unrighteousness to be means of building His Church. His demand is for us to be separate! 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 He does not employ racial, cultural, ethnic, gender, age or socio-economic models which exclude those outside the approved

circle. Jesus came to break down walls of partition so that the ONE NEW MAN OF God can emerge through His Church. Ephesians chapters 1, 2; Galatians 3;26-29 He does not need the corrupt self of man who is the old man with its craftiness and tendency to boast or manipulate people. Galatians 5: 16-21 He does not encourage His saints to build with the spirit of strife, vain glory, and competition. Those who build with this mind set are doing a dis-service to the Name of the Lord! Jesus will not endorse a situation where a man or woman goes to plant a congregation to generate money for personal use or enrich the 'founder'. Those who do so have made money their god! Philippians 3:17-21

The Church is not and can never be:

1. The Building of brick and mortar – The Church is the people: the saints who have been redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb. They can meet up anywhere – homes, offices, shop fronts, caravans, portakabins, community centres or dedicated buildings with religious architecture - in the full assurance that Jesus is with them(Matthew 18:20). The Church is the habitation of God by the Spirit in the redeemed! Any where there is undue emphasis on the building to a degree where disproportionate resources are spent thereon is a red flag of mis-placed priority. People should always occupy prime place and building capacity is of paramount import in Church growth! It is better, from a Jesus perspective that saints meet in a ramshackle building and are been disciple and equipped for ministry rather than meeting in an ornate cathedral but are lifeless!
2. The denomination – denominations are great enemies of the Cross because they thrive on division and deviation from the central gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. Clinging to a specific revelation received by a founder or council is more important to a denomination than obeying God. It is truly doubtful how much good God can find in most denominations which actively divide His sheep and engage in the moral equivalent of perpetual civil war! It is the spirit of denomination with the various dogmas of men they cling to which has ensured that the Church of Jesus Christ does not operate in unity. By clinging to dogmas set in concrete, each denomination helps to make a mockery of The Church. One of the end time visitations of the Church is the redemption of denominations and unshackling saints from their religious yokes.

Ephesians 4:1-7

- 1I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
- 2With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
- 3Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- 4There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;
- 5One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- 6One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- 7But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

3. A religious corporation as run by celebrity preachers making as much money as they can from clients who get blessed through their ministries or get milked by offloading their fortunes on them. Such corporations are based on sinking sand: the frailties of their human founders. They easily crumble therefore either in the lifetime of such founders when they stumble or not too long after their demise!

Philippians 2:17-21

- 17Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.
- 18For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.
- 19But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.
- 20For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

21For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

4. Extension of Judaism – Galatians 1: 6-9; Galatians 4:21-30; Galatians 5:1-15. There is a major attempt to recruit many unsuspecting saints back to the bondage of a system which Jesus has already fulfilled. Using religious phraseology and types which have long been fulfilled, these modern champions of Judaism have no idea how much more superior the New Covenant is. Beware of judaizing the gospel!

5. Anti –Semitic. On the flip side, there is also a movement which is essentially anti-Semitic which masquerades as New Testament ministry. By its fruits however, this deadly virus is known: hatred of Jews and everything which suggests them as a special people of God according to His covenant with Abraham. God is not yet finished with Jews! According to the gospel of the Kingdom, the Lord allowed generality of Jews to remain in unbelief so that He will have occasion to open the life gate for gentiles to embrace Jesus Christ and the Kingdom. These former gentiles who are now His own special people are to be used by God to reach out strategically to Jews so that they can be grafted back into the tree which is their root. Romans chapters 9, 10 and 11 detail this assignment with clarity.

6. Anything which is dependent on involvement with the occult in any way or association with Free masonry, the Grand Lodges, etc – 1 Corinthians 10: 21-22. Saints owe themselves and God a duty of care to get out of any ministry and remove themselves from the covering of any minister who has anything to do with the occult. Failure to do so will mean endorsement. The Kingdom oriented Church in any place owe God and itself a duty to understand by the Spirit, the foundations of the nation laid on the altars of darkness masquerading as light and deal with such in prayer and spiritual warfare.

7. Any effort undertaken by the human soul and personal charisma, even if such seem successful and even manifest the supernatural. Some ‘miracles’ are not of divine origin neither are they directly of satanic origin. Some come about when the manifestation of colours in lighting, music and sound, projection of a stronger soul(will, mind, emotion) on a weaker one and persuasive positive speech makes some one believe in a healing which seems to work for a little while! The end of the age will witness these soulish miracles which are nothing more than charismatic witchcraft.

8. A family owned-business where a man, woman or family use the funds of the ministry for personal consumption and pleasure. Many couples are in the mould of Ananias and Sapphira pretending that they are serving God when they are actually serving their own bellies and building personal empires to leave legacies of wealth and financial security for their off springs! If you have been used by God to start a ministry, you need to be secure in He who calls you to let go of financial management to those with the gifts and abilities to run same and account to you!

Understanding The Kingdom of God

The word of God never plays with words. Of the Kingdom of God, these are truths:

The Kingdom was announced by John and preached by Jesus. Jesus never came to establish a religious organization Matthew 3:1-2; Matthew 4:17,23; Matthew chapters 5, 6, 7; Matthew 24;14 The incarnation of Jesus and the mystery of His life, death and resurrection represented an invasion... by the Kingdom of heaven to the kingdom of Satan and man on planet earth The Kingdom of God which Jesus brought from heaven is in received in the hearts of the redeemed in the now (John 3:3,6,16; Luke 17:21) It needs to be demonstrated by the life we live (Matthew 5,6,7; Romans 14:17,18) It is not of this world and does not run by its principles (John 18:36) We are its Ambassadors in the Now (Matt 16:19; Acts 1:8)

The full phase of the Kingdom will be inaugurated when Jesus returns. Many will miss the inauguration (Matthew chapters 24; 25). Whoever is deceived to pursue another Kingdom has no one to blame! Flesh and blood cannot inherit the full phase of the Kingdom which will be inaugurated when Jesus returns. Those who will inherit it will be changed into eternal bodies through the rapture of saints or through death. 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. The Church on the other hand is a divine entity regarded as the Body of Christ – comprising everyone who is saved by faith. It is the token of the New Covenant that was inaugurated in the Blood of Jesus – announced during the Last Supper (Matthew 26: 26-29); Sealed by the Blood that was shed at Calvary and empowered to function beyond the norms of nature by the Holy Spirit which was released to fully activate her on the Day of Pentecost(Acts 2:1-4).

The Kingdom oriented Church is the one which lives in the consciousness that the Kingdom of God is the ultimate state and experience of the redeemed: a time when Jesus will bodily re-unite with His Church as King of the whole world with faithful saints functioning as Kings over specific territories and peoples including those who will transit into eternity when He returns. Accordingly, the Kingdom oriented Church does not focus on buildings or human organizations or programmes but on the following:

Ensuring that saints transit from babes to disciples; from servants to intimate friends of Jesus who love Him passionately and share His heart beat; who hear from Him and do His perfect will equip them from disciples to ministers who live out the present stage of the eternal priesthood of saints; The saints function in the authority of Jesus and demonstrate the Power of the Kingdom by the miracles which confirm their connection with Him. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 11:20; Acts 1:4-8 In so doing, the Kingdom minded Church functions in the truth that we all have one King and work in the same Kingdom therefore there is no need for quarrels, strife, competitions and other carnal behaviour among servants of the same King. Ephesians 4:1-6 The Kingdom minded Church will focus on a dual mandate: to prepare to occupy in the now while preparing for the world to come.

Concerning the Kingdom of God now and then.

True saints are on pilgrimage on earth in this present life. 1 Peter 2: 11, 12. While they are actively engaged with representing Jesus here on earth(Matthew 5:13-16), they are also earnestly looking forward to the world to come when Christ will rule and reign, after subduing all opposition and bringing closure to the reign of sin on the renewed earth Revelation 20:1-6. That is when their son ship, priesthood and king ship as co-heirs who will rule with Christ will be more evident. In that day, a saint, for instance, will be assigned to rule America with others as Governors of the various states and Mayors of cities. Multiply this over all the nations of the earth; all States, districts and regions and you will see the vast army who will act as Regents on behalf of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Jesus will physically rule from Jerusalem as Supreme Head of all humanity. There will be no more sicknesses, death or destruction in that day. Snakes will lose their capacity to bite. Lions will lie shoulder to shoulder with sheep! Children will put their fingers into the mouth of vipers and will not be hurt! This has been the desire of the nations and the yearnings of man since Adam lost the first estate in Eden. It is truly Eden restored!

Satan knows this truth and has purposed to make many saints to miss it. His two chief tools is temptation to sin so that his victims will miss this glorious future. Where he fails, Satan switches on to spawn doctrines specifically designed to make saints to follow “another gospel”. In each generation, Satan releases a peculiar “other gospel” which is so sugar coated that only the grace of God will preserve the very elect from falling for it.

In this generation, the core tool is the Pseudo-kingdom message. This is centred on many dogmas including but not limited to:

Denying or downgrading the divinity of Jesus; Denying or downgrading the issue of His Second Coming. Anyone who has bought the lie that the return of Jesus is unimportant, has by that same measure made himself ineligible for taking part in that glorious day when saints will re-unite with Him to usher in the full phase of the Kingdom! There are a host of other doctrines which make the saint the main issue, rather than Jesus! Jude verses 3-4. Denying or devaluing the necessity of the Church as the Body of Jesus Christ on planet earth at this present time.

The doctrine of escapism laid the foundation of the pseudo-kingdom gospel

Before the present erroneous pseudo-kingdom gospel was spawned, Satan had hoisted its equally dangerous opposite on many religious groups for several hundreds of years. It was the doctrine of escapism whereby saints only existed on earth to “wait” for the day of the rapture. They were encouraged to see separation from the world as an excuse to be irresponsible for their societies and nations while on earth. With heaven only latched onto their minds, saints were to give way for sinners to run the show here on earth while they daily looked up to see when the Rapture would occur. Consequently, saints refused to participate in a host of activities. In one African nation, religious leaders even dissuaded their youth from spending 6 or more years in the University to study such specialized courses as Medicine, Pharmacy and Architecture. This irresponsible approach to waiting for the Kingdom to come was an act of direct disobedience to the commands of Jesus to “Occupy” till He comes as well as several injunctions for effective presence of saints on earth. Luke 19:10-28; Matthew 5:13-16;

It is not a lawless Kingdom!

Nowhere in the New Covenant are saints permitted to live by their soul (mind, will, emotion) or the motions of their physical bodies. Nowhere does God permit any saint to suggest that the New Covenant has no rules! Every Kingdom has four fixed constants:

The Four core components of the Kingdom:

1). A King who is a supreme ruler. Jesus, the God-Man is King of the Kingdom. The Kingdoms of this world have a limited span. As yet, they are permitted to stay under the suzerainty of Satan who keeps them through deceit and lies 1 John 5:19-21

A day is coming however when the Kingdoms of this world will become His Kingdom as Revelation 11:15 reveals. In that day, Jesus will return in glory, vanquish the armies of this world and their kings. He will set up a Kingdom and rule with as many saints who were faithful in what was committed to them on this side of eternity. Luke 19:11-28; Revelation 1:6-8; Revelation 5:9, 10; Revelation 20: 1-6.

2). A Constitution or rule book which states the rights, privileges and obligations of citizens. The Bible is our constitution which no man has the right to tamper with it. Those who are truly Kingdom citizens do not struggle with the Word. They posture to receive Grace from God to obey the tenets of the Constitution of the Kingdom and do not in any way consider it legalistic. It is simply an exposition of the culture and lifestyle of the Kingdom. No true saint dare commit treasonable felony by tampering with the Word!

3). A domain or dominion. This is the sphere of the realm, another way of saying the people and territory which make up the Kingdom. It is true that God created the heavens and earth. To that degree, He is ultimate ruler over all affairs on planet earth. However, in this present time, God has given man a conscience in which is wired His will. God has also caused His truth to be preached for all of humanity to hear and respond. Man has a free will from God to obey or dis-obey Him; to submit to His Kingship Authority or to rebel.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of mankind prefers to live in rebellion to the will of God and

enthroned Satan as their king, just as Adam did in Genesis 3. The principle is outlined in Romans 6:1-23. Of all mankind therefore, those who of their own free will accept His Love and eternal life in Jesus Christ are those who constitute His domain. Even among those who purport to be born again, the vast majority want to live the way they like. Jesus Himself emphasized that the very narrow way into the Kingdom in Matthew 7: 13-23. In effect, it is only a small proportion of the people on earth today who have consciously brought their lives, willingly, under the total rule of God. In Spirit and Truth, these are the true citizens of the Kingdom of God!

It is safe to repeat this truth: right now, the world system lies in the hand of the wicked one, rejects the authority of God and will progressively grow away from Him until Jesus returns to put down their rebellion, put Satan where he belongs then rule and reign on earth. 1 John 5:19. At Calvary Jesus judged Satan, paid the price for the original sin of Adam so that all those who receive what He did for them will be liberated and set free to the glorious liberty of sons.

4). Ambassadors of the King: These are those who represent him at the court of other Kings. In this present life, saints are called out of the world to be Ambassadors to it representing Jesus Christ as His witnesses. John 17: 9, 14 – 16; Acts 1:8. To be able to live out the ambassadorial life, saints need to press further into the Lord, laying hold of the grace poured out at Calvary to become truly spiritual beings who do not judge or act according to what their carnal senses suggest but in reality, die to their old man and carnal natures. This way, they simply become mere vessels to contain, carry and manifest the life of the risen Christ!

So let us reflect on these:

How we live on a day to day basis: does it reflect the love of God which is the poured out life which flows towards others, meeting their needs? Our attitude in the midst of challenges and difficulties- whether with spouses, children, parents, siblings, fellow saints, those we lead and those who lead us: does it reflect the love of God? Our core motive in ministry: is it borne out of the Love of God for His own sheep which He gave us the privilege to be His under-shepherds or are we motivated by what we will get from the sheep? Our attitude and witness to those who are not yet saved: does it reflect the extraordinary Love which caused Jesus to be incarnated, live on earth and die at the Cross? Are we transmitting that love unto salvation by both our lifestyle and preaching of the true gospel of the Kingdom?

Let us reflect on these critical scriptures and petition the Holy Spirit to work out Love in and through us for we cannot attain by our own strength!(Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:13:

Jesus Himself charged us, clearly that the core of the New Covenant is Love!