



*The Church
Has Not
prayed
Enough*

Olalekan¹ Micheal

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Revival Watch Publications

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CONTENTS

Dedication

Preface

Introduction

The Charge

Who Are the People Praying?

The Incapacitated people

People Called By His Name

A Call To Humility

The Need For A National Repentance

Seeking God's Face Through Prayer

Time To Pray

How To Pray

There Will Be Joy Again

Let Us Rest

Final Word

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to God and to the entire body of Christ. It is my desire that we see the mighty move of God in our time and beyond. Amen.

PREFACE

This material is written to challenge the entire body of Christ to rise to the occasion in these days of great need as our nation goes through a season of labor pang. One thing is certain, if we labor in the place of prayer, soon our nation will be reborn and the sorrow of labor will be turned into joy. I want to commend our church leaders in every denomination for their heartfelt concern and prayer for our nation. I have a strong persuasion that if we wait upon the Lord more, taking note of some of the instructions in this material, we shall soon see the heaven open over our nation.

I, therefore, charge us all that with an open heart, we should humble ourselves and allow God to use us in the restoration and rebuilding of the walls of our nation. Without contradiction, the selfless labor of unknown watchmen and women is felt in our nation. These men who have positioned themselves at the wall of our nation crying to God and stopping the invasion of the enemy day and night. May you (they) never be tired and weary in this hour of need. Amen.

Beloved, as you read this material, I want you to look at yourself as being an integral part of the church irrespective of your denomination, and take action in the place of prayer. God can bring

about the salvation of our land through you if only you will avail yourself. Remember, God is simply looking for a man who will stand in the gap for our nation so that He will pardon and have mercy. You can be that pivotal instrument of change and revival of our beloved nation. People may not notice you, you may be hidden from the public scene, and you may not get the honor of any sitting president, but you can be sure that God will enlist you among His history and change-makers of all generations. Would you take up this honorable cause and pray until there is the desired change in every sphere of our national life?

My confidence in God is that we will see a new Nigeria.

Olalekan Micheal

Lagos, Nigeria.

2024

INTRODUCTION

The Promise

People have labeled the Nigerian church as full of prayer and yet the nation is where it is today. Some even believed that the main reason for our present predicament economically and otherwise as a nation is because of our so-called over-spirituality. On the contrary, only men of the Spirit will understand that the only reason why there is still Nigeria today as a nation is because of the righteous cry of many saints of God. If not for the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous, things that had fallen apart would have absolutely collapsed. It is obvious that this nation has reached its tipping point and we have done evil beyond repair, we deserve at best God's unreserved judgment but His mercy has kept us. This so-called mercy has been secured by valiant watchmen and women who stand at the gate of this nation to prevent the gates of hell to prevail against and subdue her. Despite all the ferocious attacks within and without, the wise will know that we are still here as a nation because God has chosen to hear the cry of His children. Do we not see other nations collapse and fall apart at the slightest of distress, yet our land has proved to be solid in the face of the greatest hardship? We may

not be there yet, but we are surely going to get there. The momentum is certainly shifting and God is working with the sweet-smelling aroma of His people's prayer to restore order and prosperity back to our land.

Truly the last few months have been very tough economically and many lives have gone wasted in the northern part of our nation to religious and ethnic violence but we have seen God's grace sweep in and tides gradually turning around in our favor. While many are crying for revolt and protest, I am of a strong persuasion that we must not rest nor give God rest until our nation is secured and her blessings are secured in the place of prayer. Nothing can be compared to the prayer of God's people. It is because it moves the everlasting hands of God to do the impossible for a people in desperate need of divine intervention. We have reached the climax and like the children of Israel, we must cry to God by the reason of our affliction with utmost confidence that deliverance will come and God will not delay.

It is time to pray more than ever before, it is the hour to stand in the gap and finish the battle of our Lord and God against the enemy of our land, it is the hour of sweat, tears, and blood. We must all rise or this nation sinks, we must all stand in the place of prayer before the God of heaven and

earth or this nation falls, we must all pray with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, or else this nation slides into more spiritual, social, and economic decay. It is now or never, and if never, it is now! Let the Elijahs of God stand before the God of heaven and earth to turn His fierce anger and judgment away so that there will be sounds of abundance of rain and we are soaked in God's blessings.

There is a promise that stands sure and firmly fitted because God is committed to it if we will fulfill its terms and conditions. Though this promise like many other promises in the Bible relies on certain conditions before they can be fulfilled. But this one in particular is very peculiar because it lays out distinguished ways to rescue our nations and save our degenerate society. It also comes with great promises to pardon, restore, and heal every aspect of our national life.

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV

1

The Charge

God is counting on us

God rules in the affairs of men yet He needs men to execute His will and counsel on the face of the earth. Angels won't do it, it is men and women, flesh and blood like you and I that God is entrusting this great mandate to. God is counting on His people, we *'the church'* to rise and take back the territories and places that the enemy has stolen.

One of the most unfortunate realities is that the church has been underperforming in her responsibility to further the agenda of heaven in our time. The result is the ruin that we see all over our land. God however is giving us the chance to reclaim our possession if only we would.

You will notice that in the earlier mentioned promise, the Bible started by saying 'if'. It seems

to me as if God is saying, I won't force them. It's a choice they must make. Whether they do it or not it won't change my status as God. But there seems to be a desire in the heart of God that His people will rise and defend the honor of His name in our generation. It seems to me as if there is a rallying cry for God's people to respond to the urgent burden in the heart of the Lord to bring back our nation. To me, the voice coming from the throne of God is, *“Oh that my people who are called by my name will rise and take back their land from the grip of the wicked one”*. Just as in the days of Isaiah the prophet, God is looking for a church to send on this daring mission to deliver the soul of our nation from the ultimate destruction that looms and hangs over her.

We must never forget that God needs every one of us to take up this noble challenge. The host of darkness may be many, the problems may be gigantic, the system may be webby and difficult to unlock but when we all come together in the unity of faith, we can put the enemies to flight. We know that one of us will chase a thousand and two of us will chase ten thousand. Why then should we as individual denominations, missions, and ministries simply be chasing a thousand when we can cooperate and agree across denominational lines to chase tens of thousands? Whether we do it separately or collectively, one thing we must not

fail to do is agree to pray for our nation. We must agree on the time, we must agree on the points of prayer, we must agree on the length of prayer, and we must pray.

Oh that the church and God's people will rise
Rise to the occasion in this time of need
Oh that we would fight for our nation so lost
God is counting on us, if only we would rise.

The victory is sure, the promise is sure
If His people will rise, then will our land be saved.
The time is now, we can't but rise
The alarm is high, it's the day and time to fight

Our weapon of warfare though potent
Is not of the carnal flesh, but mighty through God
To pull down the stronghold of sin and evil
That has so long held our nation bound

Our weapon is quick and sharp, it pierces and
bruises
With it we can cast down every imagination
Every high things can be subdued and repressed
That the knowledge of our God might be exalted
in our land.

Ours is the weapon of prayer, laced with the word
of God

By it we can move the mountains and win the battles

Through it we can restore order and peace

Even abundance to our national sphere

Let the saints of God rise, let the church unite

Let's put our differences aside and wrestle

Against the principalities and powers threatening our land.

Then our land will be free again, if we will all rise to pray

Let us together pray to the God of creation for our nation's peace and tranquility as we meditate on this beautiful second standard of our beloved nation's anthem.

Oh God of creation,

Direct our noble cause

Guide our leader's right

Help our youth the truth to know

In love and honesty to grow

And living just and true

Great lofty heights attain

To build a nation where peace and justice shall reign.

Amen!

2

WHO Are The People Praying?

With all the overblown hype that the Nigerian church is a praying church with little result, one must ask the following questions:

- ★ *Is God unfaithful to hear prayers?*
- ★ *Is He lying when He said, He would listen when we pray?*
- ★ *Are we missing something in between?*

The truth is that God is ever committed to answering prayer. He answers the prayer of the sinners and the saints. Although we know that the prayer of sinners is an abomination to God. What this means is that the only prayer God attends to with seriousness when a sinner prays is that for mercy. A pardon for sin, so that such a fellow can be translated out of darkness into the marvelous light of God. Make no mistakes, many unbelievers are enjoying God's blessings today not because God is answering their prayers but because they

may be operating faithfully under certain laid down principles of God for the earth. For example, an unbeliever that gives will never lack blessings. Those who sow, whether they are saved or not, will reap. These are laws that govern the universe and God is not a law breaker. So, don't say, but this fellow is not a believer, yet God is blessing him or her. That is probably because that fellow is following God's principles.

But who are the people who can turn the hand of God to change the affairs of a nation? They are the people who the Bible refers to as ***God's people***. They are 'the redeemed' by the blood of the Lamb. They are those whose names are now written in the Lamb's book of life. They are those who have been translated out of darkness into the light of Christ. They are those who have received the power to become God's children because they have received Christ. They are those who have been born again not of the corruptible but the incorruptible seed of God's word. They are now the heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. They are those who are now citizens of heaven with assurance and confidence towards God. They are people who no longer live in condemnation and guilt of their past deeds, who as the Bible says are now in Christ, and old things have passed away and all things have become new. They are those who have been sealed by the Holy Spirit until the

day of redemption. They are people who after they have been saved are daily walking in obedience to the will of God; and are living in holiness with great and passionate hatred for sin. These are God's people. They are the ones with access and right to stand before God because they now have the privilege of being children of God.

They are those to whom God will not deny His will especially for a sinful nation to be saved. Many of us do not understand that God has more concern for our nation than ourselves. God is more interested in our land than we can ever imagine, He has a greater stake in this matter. Even though He has nothing to lose, He has everything to lose. By this I mean, that even if everyone in our nation goes to hell, it does not make God less God, but what about all His investment in humanity, that would have amounted to waste and the enemy (satan) will boast of sabotaging God's plans by sending them into eternal perdition. Therefore we must get this all cleared in our minds that God shares a larger concern over the moral decay that we see all around us and He is willing to overturn it. If only His people will pray, He will do what He delights in the most, i.e. answering the prayers of His saints, and restore our land. We know this because the Bible told us that the prayer of God's people is a symbol of worship as it ascends as a sweet

smelling incense before the God of heaven and earth. Therefore, it is to Him who answers prayers that all His saints must gather and pray.

Can we now say that the current crops of churchgoers in our nation fits the description highlighted above? Are many today in our local churches truly God's children? Do they have their names written in the Lamb's book of life? Are they washed in the blood and is their garment white as snow? Are many walking in obedience and holiness? Unfortunately many are not, but thankfully, God does not work with the majority but a very few. God can save with one or with many, it does not change anything. The most important thing is that it is God who is working and not any one of us. It is God that is moving and not one of us. We may pray, we may fast, we may preach, yet it is God who works all these in us both to perform His will and good pleasures - all praise, glory, and honor be to Him forever. Amen.

Now that we have established that only God's people can pray to deliver our land against the spiritual and moral onslaught of the enemy, something needs to be done about it urgently. This calls for a lot of in-reach efforts by the church to bring many who are yet to be saved to the point of salvation. If there is any urgent request to unleash on heaven today, it is the cry

for the salvation of many who are mere churchgoers but have not experienced the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, or the love of God the Father, nor tasted the sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

We can not neglect this duty to bring men into a complete transformation by praying and preaching them into salvation. If we must win against this enemy, our house must be in order, our sons and daughters of whom God promised to pour out His Holy Spirit must be radically born again of the same Spirit so that they can see the vision of the Almighty for this world in decay and bring deliverance to many who are out there sitting in darkness and the regions of the shadow of death.

This work must start now or never, we must wage this internal war against sin, nominalism, and religiosity that is hindering many from coming to Jesus. Let us set aside our activities and methods, let's stop pointing men to our church denomination, ministries, missions, and age long traditions but to Christ. Let us now labor in the word and intense prayer over the souls of men, women, and children in our assemblies until they are saved. Many of our youths and adults must now begin to look up to Him who was pierced and be saved. Then the people of God can pray in

unity and have our nations turned around for God.

¹

¹ Truly we have a lot of people in the church running from mountains to valleys for prayers. What we must not forget is the specification of men who will pray and prevail. While many are concerned about personal battle, God is looking for a church which will join the battle of the lord in combating the armies of the aliens destroying our nation.

3

The Incapacitated People

What happens when the people belong to God but are incapacitated? This is the second phase of the attack against the church. Our enemy, the devil is a mastermind at incapacitating God's people. He knows that the only way to hinder the prayer of God's people is to bring sin. What did Balam say to Balak? As long as God is in the midst of Israel they are indestructible but the moment they allow sin in their camp, they would not need anyone to fight them, their God will be the One to destroy them. If this is not true of the present Church, I don't know what is. We have allowed sin in our camp and now, both us and our nation are no longer blessed.

Let me make this clear, if you or I regard sin or iniquity in our heart not even in deed, God will not hear us. As simple as that statement is, it shows why the prayers of many of us are not answered. This is not even what we have done by action but that which is in our hearts. It means that each time a child of God holds a grudge,

resentment, hatred, malice, anger, unforgiveness, impure thoughts, and many more within his or her heart, there is no way his or her prayer will be answered. Those little foxes are capable of destroying the best prayer vine. Only people who have dealt with these matters can pray effectual prayers. Notice that the Bible says that it is the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous, not the effectual prayer of the sinner or anybody that avails much. What it means is that we may be fervent but if righteousness is not the foundation upon which we stand, we would have wasted our effort and energy. It will merely be another wasted time. It may look as if we are doing something but unrighteousness will leak everything away.

You may say ‘but I try my best to please God’ and still get nothing done in the place of prayer. It is because of your heart. The heart matters to God. The way people see you outwardly is not the same as God who looks beyond what you say or the things you do but your inner heart. As a child of God, the outward life is a true reflection of the inner life, however, many today are nothing but hypocrites. They live nice outwardly but live bad inwardly, such individuals should not expect anything other than disdain for their prayers.

Let me show you how the Bible puts it and how dangerous this matter of iniquity of the heart is, in hindering our prayers:

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear.

Isaiah 59:1-2 NKJV

We know that God's hand can save our nations and restore order to our land but what about this matter of sin of the heart that is prevalent in the church today? Many are now lusting after strange things in their heart. For some, it is sexual lust - pornography, lust for wealth and position, and so on. These will not allow us to pray and win. It will only lead us to more woes and failure. Jesus taught us that all a man or a woman needs to do to commit adultery today is to look lustfully at the opposite sex. Today we have hundreds of millions of people who claim to be Christians staring at computers screens, tablets, phones, TVs, and other devices watching naked people have sex. How can such people wage war in the place of prayer and win the battle against the tide of perversion sweeping our lands? Can the defeated help those in defeat? Can the oppressed rescue the perishing? Can the captive deliver those in

captivity? No! Until many Christians themselves are delivered, they have no right or audacity to think of rescuing others.

This is the place where self-examination is clearly important. This is the point whereby we all must take stock of our lives and see if there are no wicked ways in us. We must be like David who will ask God who searches the reins of the heart and thoughts of men to search us. We must ask Him to use the piercing sword of His word to divide our inner hearts and expose the rubble underneath that is hindering our prayers. Until we do this, we will keep praying for our nations and keep getting no positive results.

Finally, sin stops us from ascending in intercession. One way the enemy stops God's people from reaching the peak of an intercessory life is through unconfessed sins.

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

Psalms 24:3-4 NKJV

Until we are cleansed from secret and unconfessed sin, we must never expect God to answer our prayers, at least on behalf of sinful

nations. To qualify for this role, our lives must be spotless and void of anything wrong. We must come under Christ's righteousness to say, "The prince of this world has come but found no fault, no guilt, no sin, no wrongdoing in me". It is then that we can expect God's blessing upon our lives as we pray.

He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Psalms 24:5 NKJV

God's blessing will come on our land because He is willing to bless and bring order but we, His people must also stay in order, we must reorder our ways back to the right order for Him to bring the expected blessings upon our nations.

4

People Called By His Name

One of the saddest things we see in our generation and nations today is the damning and alarming rate at which the holy name of our God is being dragged into the mud. Many so-called Christians have misrepresented Christ in their jobs, communities, and nations, leaving many to blaspheme the holy name of Christ. None of us will forget the impact the godly lives of the early Christians had upon the then-pagan world. After observing the lives of the early saints for some time, the people concluded that they had a similar life as Christ, so they called them Christians. Do we suppose that these early believers were drunkards, brawlers, abusers of women and children, perverse? No! They were conscious of the name of Christ. They would do nothing that would bring shame or dishonor to Christ and God's name. See how Paul described what manner of men they were and how they behaved amongst the people.

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. 1 Thessalonians 1:5 NKJV

He also mentioned that he will allow no offense at all in any matter so that the ministry of the gospel is not blamed or reproached (2 Corinthians 6:3).

Have you noticed that the world holds us more accountable than we do ourselves? Do you notice that we have now become the epistles that people read and anytime they find a fault in our lives they quickly point it out? That is the way God designed it - it is because we are the light of this world. We are the beacon of light and hope while the world lies in darkness. If our light now becomes darkness, how great is that darkness? If we who ought to bring light now suddenly turn off the light, we are no better than Peter who denied Christ and brought His name to an open shame. The world as we know it today lacks taste and unless we *'the salt'* live up to God's expectation there will continue to be tastelessness around us. Instead of being salt many are now themselves tasteless and the world takes the church as unserious.

Let us evaluate ourselves in the light of eternity and by the word of God. Are we truly living up to the name of Christ by which we are called? Do we still maintain the Bible standards despite the changing culture and times? Do we still hold ourselves accountable before God so that His esteemed name would not be dragged into the mud? The world, demons, and the devil are constantly looking for a way to bash the name of Christ. That's why it becomes big news when a Christian makes a mistake. Any other person can make a similar mistake and not be held accountable, but because of the name of Christ, a Christian will never go scot-free. The more reason why we must trust God to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Though our world is changing, cultures are changing, people are changing, God's principles have not changed.

Here is an admonition for every true Christian, "depart from sin".

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19 NKJV

For Christ's sake, let us all avoid anything that can bring disrepute to the name of Jesus Christ. The enemy is often looking for a way to blaspheme and speak against the name of the Lord. We must not give him an occasion.

When we fulfill this condition, we can stand faultless before God to bring our nation back to God. Also, because our obedience is complete, we can judge every disobedience in our nations in the place of prayer and preaching without guilt and condemnation. God is counting on us to uphold His name, it must not be dragged into the mud!

5

A Call To Humility

Pride is the original sin and the natural disposition of every fallen man. From pride stems all other sinful and treasonous acts that men commit against God. To be proud does not necessarily mean to lift your shoulder against God but mere defiance of His laid statute and order makes you think you are something when you are not. Like the publican of old, we must humble ourselves as unworthy creatures who have obtained mercy and cry, “Lord have mercy”. Is it not that God fills the hungry and thirsty with His good riches and fatness but the proud and full He sends away empty? If we will receive from God, then we must humble ourselves under His mighty power so that He can answer us beyond what we ask or think.

The truth is that God has certain ways with which He wants His children to live. These ways sometimes are the way of the floor. God can and will only be able to carry people who are willing to go so low. But we see the pride in our

assemblies today as we show off our latest cars, fashions, and other goodies of life at the expense of what God would want us to do. It now seems as if worldly gain is godliness as the Bible forewarned. To be poor now looks sinful even though we are not magnifying poverty. Those who are rich no longer take heed to the admonition of the scriptures *that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.* 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Of the three dangerous things that the Bible says Christians should flee from concerning the world in 1 John 2:15-16 is the pride of life.

Many of us Christians today are trusting in our strength. This has landed us in big messes in which we now wallow. Let our Uzziah be careful lest we become too fat and pride enters our heart, and we die a leprous failure. Our Asa must not forget God our strength, lest our years of service become a waste and we shoot ourselves in the feet. Let those who today like Nebuchadnezzar show off their wealth, fear lest we become animals feeding on grass. The modern church is now arrogant and proud, we have trusted in the arms

of the flesh rather than in the strength of our Lord! We are like the Galatians who graciously began in the Spirit but would want to finish it in the flesh.

Nothing would do but a complete surrender to God, and an absolute obedience to His will. It is either our way or His way. We must understand that our big equipment will do no good but add more to our woes. We must realize that we are making no progress with souls though we have big projects backed by sponsors. Is it not safe to say that we are the guilty Laodecians? In all honesty we claim to be rich yet we are poor in soul winning, we claim to operate in power yet the powers of darkness are terrorizing our land. We claim to be the light yet our nation sits in darkness.

How long would we fool ourselves, should we not admit that we need God in these desperate days of our national history as a church? Forget about your denomination for once, let us all see through the heart of Jesus for the souls of men and our nation. Enough is enough of promoting the interests of our ministry at the expense of heaven's interest over our nation. Don't we realize that when the enemy wants to rubbish believers they are not so concerned about the denomination but they attack the name of Christ?

Shall we not stop giving the enemy an occasion to blaspheme our Christ by eating the humble pie and returning to Calvary?

Remember that it is the meek who will inherit the earth. A meek church will certainly inherit the nations. When we have brought ourselves low and cried to Him about our inadequacies, our utter helplessness, our failures, and a need for divine intervention, then our God will turn around and help us. He will give us the power to possess our nation in the place of prayer and beyond.

Friends, let the bishop, the pastor, the apostles, the evangelists, the prophets, the deacons, and all of us put on sackcloth and ashes and humble ourselves by fasting. Let us cry to God that we need Him more than ever before. Let's admit that our programs and activities have failed and now we need Him to move and cleanse our nation and church. Let the Lord come and do a quick work in our midst again. Amen.

6

The Need For A National Repentance

When the church repents, then the nation will repent. Just as when the king of Nineveh repented, the entire nation repented and God had mercy. We must repent on behalf of our nation. In God's agenda, the body of Christ is the arrow point for His working in the New Testament world. Whatever fault is in the church will reverberate into the national space. When there is a national revival in the body of Christ, the nation is transformed. In the same light, when a national repentance is spearheaded by the church, then the nation will be forgiven. We must repent of our own faults - the church must repent of the lack of prayer and fervency in the things of God.

Let's face it, the sins of our nation are beyond what can be overlooked. Everywhere you look are shades of greed, deceit, lies, fraud, evil, and corruption. Justice has lost its place and to live right has become wrong. Purity and virtue are a

thing fast disappearing from our public square and the nature and culture of honesty, dedication, integrity, and hard work are fast eroding from our land. To cap it all, even faith in God is being infringed upon as unity becomes a shadow among us.

We are a nation more divided today not because of our ethnocultural differences but the reproach of sin over our land. The hand that kept us all together has been angered that only His mercy stands as a thread keeping us from disintegration. This matter of sin in our nation has made a mess out of every aspect of our land, even our religious institutions have been plagued by it. What more can we do than cry to heaven to forgive our nation? Nehemiah the great rebuilder of the walls of Jerusalem confessed the sins of his fathers and that of his people, even his own sin. Daniel sought the face of the Lord for the deliverance of his people by approaching God in a similar way. God is demanding that we repent and be delivered as a nation. This great responsibility falls on the church to repent on behalf of our leaders and nation. Let us ask God for mercy on our national leaders at every strata, let us confess the many sins of our youths, let's confess the sin of every Nigerian, and finally the sin of the church. Let us not in any way cover our sin so that we and our land will prosper again, and while we forsake

those sins, we can be sure of the rain of God's mercy leading to an era of change and blessing.

Our strength is in the blood of Jesus. It is the blood that can cancel other voices of vengeance rising against our nation as a result of the many innocent blood that have been shed in our land. We know that the blood of Jesus speaks better things than the blood of the righteous Abel. While the blood of Abel speaks vengeance, the blood of Jesus can speak 'mercy' on behalf of our nation.

Our sin may be as scarlet; even if they are red as crimson, God can cleanse us and make us white as snow if only we would repent. We can take solace in that the blood of Jesus has the potency to cleanse all sins. Also, God is faithful, to forgive our national sins provided we confess them, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

May the church rise and pray for mercy on behalf of our nation. May we as individuals rise, may we rise in groups, in diverse locations and pray asking the God of heaven and earth to have mercy and save our land from the ruin of sin.

Oh that we would be willing and obedient to this call, then we would eat the good fruit of our land again.

7

Seeking God's Face Through Prayer

Sin hides God's face from His people. When God's people truly repent, they can seek His face and find Him. Who will argue that the glory has departed from our land and we are but an Ichabod in the company of smaller nations. Our once great nation has been profiled as filthy and labeled with all sorts of negative names because of our sins. But God is faithful to forgive, restore, and bless if we confess and seek Him wholeheartedly. Our nation must begin to seek God again as in the days of old. We, the people of God in Nigeria must return to Bethel where we once met our God face to face and saw His glory. We must be determined to worship Him as in the days of old. Oh that we would hunger and thirst after God again. May we like David in 'Psalms 42:1' pant for the living God as though our entire life depends on it - in reality it does.

Do we not have precious promises from the Lord that if we ask we will receive and if we seek we will find, and if we knock the doors of mercy and answer to prayer will be widely opened to us? But we also must show a holy desperation and desire to see God return to both the public and private spheres of our national life. God would be found if only we would seek Him wholeheartedly. His plans for us and our nation are good and not evil to give us an expected end of glory. This expected end can be received for our nation if only we would seek Him passionately for His divine intervention - I am sure that He would not hide but show Himself faithful, true and kind.

May we God's people seek Him now that He can be found - may we trust our nation to His mercy. May we seek Him in deep consecration and devotion of our lives and times to Him, that we may receive the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth for our nation. May the Church give up our many programs and activities for His divine realities - may we seek His power as of old. May we start desiring those early realities of revival that formed our denominations and gave rise to the move of God in our land in past years.

The result is that the Lord whom we seek will both clean His temple and nation. The same God who moved in the early 1930s, and the 70s can

move again and make our nation great again. Let us remember the Lord and where He has brought us from, let us seek Him as in the days of old, that we may see His manifestations as in the days of old.

8

Time To Pray

After God's people have fulfilled these conditions, we can pray with confidence that God will hear. But again there are certain limitations to this, and those limitations will determine the extent to which our prayers will be heard.

The first limitation is the kind of prayer and the second, the motivation for praying.

- ★ The kind of prayer - the object, subject, and preference of our prayer matters.

- ★ God's will or our will

What kind of prayer?

On this subject, we must take an X-ray of the nature of our prayer and why it seems to be ineffective to combat the very challenges of our days. In all honesty, what we call prayer today in our major denomination is self-serving and selfish at best and such prayer does not stand a chance

against the demonic invasion against our nation and lands. Many of our members have no idea of what true intercession is, that's why like a baby, everything they ask in prayer is all about them and not about God. The truth of the matter is that the church needs to raise more mature sons and daughters who will put God's interest ahead of theirs; who will do God's will ahead of theirs, who will pray for others before themselves. Such people are the anchor upon which the salvation and deliverance of our nation lies if it will truly come from the church. However, I tell you the truth that if deliverance does not come from the church, it can not come from the world.

The condition for which God has devised for this kind of effectual prayer to be answered is found in this short statement:

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven - if we would truly pray the will of God, then our nation will change. If we leave our selfish denominational ambitions and take the heavenly ambition to see righteousness reign in our land, then we will have a move of God and a divine intervention. Beloved, if we don't stop promoting our little work and cry out to God to honor His name, we will not see the desired changes we want in our nation.

When Jesus began to teach His disciples a lesson on prayer, one thing seemed to be of utmost importance, and that is the will of God. One of such 'wills' of God is to have everyone saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Let us not be deceived, it is righteousness that exalts a nation and sin brings reproach to a people. The reason why our nation is on a downward spiral fall is because there is a magnitude of continuous sinning in the land. Who will deny that our land is polluted with the blood of many innocent people? Can we deny the atrocities committed by our young ones whose delight is to see others cry as long as they are laughing. Anyone who has been on the street lately will see the height of immorality and indecency among our young men and women. Even the older ones are not left out. The saddest part is that this corruption has found its way even into the church - the household of faith. These and many more atrocious events have left the fate of the nation in a quagmire.

When you go to the local market or store, everyone seems to only want to outwit the other. No justice, no equity, no truth in the land, and in the language of the young people 'our nation has become a potential scam'. Let's not even talk about the corruption, nepotism, and terrorism that is destroying political, economic, and social space. Only Christ can clean up these messes. Until

righteousness reigns in the land and the people are truly changed, the economic recovery of our nation might only be a short-lived experience. While we pray, we must hold the hands of heaven to bring many sons and daughters into the kingdom of God. The deliverance of many from the grip of sin and satan must be at the center of our petition. When the people are changed, we know that the society will change and become clean again.

Let the church rise to pray for this great desire of God for our nation. Let us begin to hold the hands of heaven for our communities and every place where we are represented as the body of Christ and begin to trust heaven for a change. Are you a teacher in school? You must enforce the will of God in the place of prayer until your students and school are won for Christ. Are you a trader in the marketplace, a business man or woman, are you an artisan, do you have a white collar job, or do you serve in the government? Whatever space of influence you find yourself, you must be ready to enforce the will of God in the place by seeing to it that you pray souls into the kingdom of God. All our parishes and branch churches must see to it that prayers are offered for the deliverance of both the lawful and unlawful captives of the devil in their society. We can no longer fold our arms, we must wrestle and earnestly contend for the

salvation of our nation. This is a fight to contend for the soul of our nation and this will not be done by empty speech or even protest but by laying bare before the throne of Grace and not letting God go until His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. I am sure that our God is willing if we are willing. While we engage in this noble cause, we must be confident that our God wants to save and will abundantly pardon those who will come. Why not fulfill the joy of heaven by taking the battle to the enemy and conquer your land for God? Nothing can stop this move of God as we pray, if we will not stop it. Nothing can hinder God from hearing our prayers for our nations if we will not hinder him. Our major focus must be to pray and do his will on earth as it is in heaven.

Motivation - God's interest or our interest.

When denominations pray today, they do not see beyond the veil of their little group and see the expanse of nations and ethnic people waiting to see the wonders of God. In most cases, we pray for more growth for our church and other ministry involvement but rarely for the cause of Christ to be expanded throughout the earth. Although this may not be seemingly wrong, we are simply limiting the power of prayer. We are only shortsighted and blinded not to see beyond

ourselves into deep places. Whether deliberately or ignorantly we are seeking our glory in most cases and not His glory. There again we get ourselves trapped. Because it is either for His glory alone or there is no glory at all. Whatever He does through us must be only to bring Him all the glory.

If our motivations are wrong and selfish then our prayer will lack potency. Until we begin to look beyond our denominations and see the big picture of the desperate urgency in the heart of God to see that our nation is recovered by recovering the many lost souls around, there will be little or no change.

What we fail to realize is that the greatest way to clean up the mess in our nation is not just adding to the number of churchgoers but people who are radically transformed by the life of Christ. When people are genuinely saved, our streets and communities will be safe again; businesses will thrive again; poverty will be pulled away; even our places of worship will be full again. The only way we can solve the problem of low attendance and membership is through proper soul winning, and serious disciple multiplication movement. This God-centered focus will not only save our nation but also our dying denominations. We can make it about Him, so that He can make it about us? The hard but simple choice is ours.

When we pray, we must fix our eye on His glory and His glory alone over our nation. Not that we want to be bigger, have more infrastructure, and even money than others. We must simply see souls that are perishing in need of a merciful redeemer. Let's ask God to anoint our eyes with eyesalve so that we can see the burden that burns through His heart for our nation and nations, then we will pray and recover all that the enemy has stolen.

9

How To Pray

Spirit Guided and Information-Driven Prayers

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27 NKJV

According to the word of God, when we pray and do not receive, it is not because God has not heard but because we pray amiss. It is as though we are wasting our bullets and simply misfiring. Some other times, the problem is that we are not specific in making our request known to God. This problem is what Paul referred to as ‘fighting as one beating the air’. We are not praying the correct prayer. One major reason why we get little or no answer to our prayer is because our motive for praying is wrong in many cases. In the

situation where we have found ourselves as a nation, nothing but a spirit-guided prayer will clinch the victory we desire. It can not be a general casual prayer as usual that has not done any reasonable thing to touch the problem but the Holy Spirit inspired prayer from the throne of Heaven. The spirit of God is the one who knows the mind of God and the depth of our problems as a nation. Thus, He is the most qualified to pray effectively in us and through us. We must lay before Him as weak feeble sons and daughters made of clay and trust Him to help our infirmity. We must confess that the arms of flesh have failed us and we need His divine touch and infusion of living fire.

Since nobody knows the mind of God Except the Spirit of God, therefore, it is expedient that we totally depend on Him to help us in praying for our nation. Spirit-driven prayers are also Word-driven. This way we pray what God has said, and enforce the will of God on earth and our nation. Through the Spirit of God we can pray the promises of God for our lives and nation with utmost confidence and assurance that we will get results. One of such promises is the primary theme of this book - “The promise of God to heal our nation if we repent and pray”. So when we hold Him at His word, we can be sure that under the full ministry of the Spirit, God will intervene.

We must look at what God's word says about the situation of our land and ask God to honor His word as we pray accordingly. Of such rich promises the 67th Psalms - a plea for mercy so that our land will yield her increase, for the Lord to bless us His people, and that the nations of the earth may fear Him.

1. *God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, Selah.*
2. *That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.*
3. *Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.*
4. *Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Selah!*
5. *Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.*
6. *Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us.*
7. *God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.*

Psalms 67:1-7 NKJV

As we pray, let us also be well informed. Let us get correct and factual information about the state of affairs of our nation. We must be conversant with

what is going on in the mainstream and through that information, let us channel our request to heaven. For example, if we hear about economic sabotage, we can pray effectively and not blindly against it. We must trust God to fish out people whose desire is to see our nations in ruin. The Lord must break their staff of bread and turn their wisdom into foolishness.

We must also pray for our leaders. If they do wrong we suffer, instead of wishing them evil or praying for their mistakes we must pray for them. Recently, regarding our economy, my prayer for our leaders is for the Lord to have mercy on them and give them the wisdom of Joseph to manage our economy. We must also ask the God of heaven and earth to help us secure our nation from the invasion of the foreign enemies and those within our borders. Let us not forget that except the Lord watches over our nation, our already infiltrated security infrastructure will only fail. If we pray, we can be confident that the perpetrators of evil and corruption in our nation will be met by the flaming wrath of God that will either make them surrender to the Lordship of Christ, or destroy them if they do not repent.

Without a shadow of doubt if we cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the place of prayer, we will be able to win our nation back through prayer. When

we give Him the lead in the place of prayer, He will give us the strategy to winning this great battle for the recovery of the soul of our nation. Can we trust Him to lead while we follow? If we do, our victory is sure.

Praying With Authority

Jesus said, “anything we desire in prayer in full assurance of faith we can have it.” He further said that, nothing which is His will for us will ever be denied us. So why don't we come boldly to the throne of Grace and obtain mercy on behalf of our nation. There is a promise of the availability of divine grace to help us and our nation in these desperate times.

We have already been given the key of the kingdom, and whatsoever we permit on earth will be permitted in heaven. Until we put on our fighting gloves and begin to exercise the authority that we have been given in Christ Jesus, the enemy will keep terrorizing and afflicting our nation and the people of our land. One of God's means of awakening His church and people is allowing suffering and hardship. This will rouse the sleeping giant who has long been slumbering to rise and take the battle to the enemy of our land. The devil will never give up his prey

willingly but we must stand upon the Word of God that even the lawful captives in our nation will be delivered. God has promised to contend with those who are contending with us and save our children. We can be certain that God will not bail out on His promise if we will not bail out on our duty to call upon His name for the deliverance of those whom satan has held bound. The earlier we realize that heaven is counting on us all for the deliverance and salvation of this nation, the more effort we will put in prayer until heaven breaks open and pours out righteousness upon our land.

Are you concerned about the state of our society, the moral depravity and decay among our young and old? Are you genuinely troubled about our failing economy and want an intervention? Are you burdened about the glory of our nation being destroyed by a few greedy sons of the devil? Do you feel troubled at the killing and persecution that has been on the rise in certain parts of our land? Do you feel insecure by the alarming amount of insecurity around us? Then you must pray! You must pray not once but always and in all situations for our nation. You cannot afford to join the group of talebearers whose interest is to be famous online but a part of secret warriors whose aim is to be famous before the throne of Grace.

We the people of God are the final lifeline to rescuing what looks like a sinking ship and we must all rise to the occasion. We must take up our authority founded in Christ, the Rock of Ages and defend the honor and the glory of our Land. When the church prays, God always acts but when the people of God refuse to pray, the devil will go on a mad rampage to stop God's people. He will use any means possible to stop the work of God. In the book of Acts, when persecution arose and God's people refused to act the enemy struck James and killed him. While this evil went on, the church stayed mute while the enemy performed its enterprise. At the time when James was in prison, there was no record of where the church prayed until the final blow was dealt and he was killed. They just have simply said, this dear brother died in the will of God, but I want to submit that it is not the will of God. The Bible told us that when Herod saw that the killing of James pleased the Jews, he arrested Peter with the intention of doing the same. However, when the Church prayed, God disappointed the device of the crafty so that their hands could not perform their heinous enterprise. Imagine if they had not exercised their authority, Peter like James would also have been killed and they would still have probably thought that it was the will of God for these devoted saints of God to be murdered by the enemy.

This is why the Church must come together and pray, we must not allow the enemy to continue to run the show while we think that what is going on is the will of God. I must submit to you, whatever we see in our land today is not the will of God but the enemy has done it. If we will all gather together in the unity of faith, we will bring down the wall that the enemy has raised, we will set the many captives free and bring joy into our land. This is a cause to which God is calling all of us to. We must be ready to stand before the God of heaven and earth and plead for the liberation of our nation from the hand of the wicked one. We must trust Him to do mighty things in the midst of our nation again and deliver us from the hands of the enemies who are stronger than. Let us therefore lay hold on the promises of God, let rise in the place of prayer and rescue our nation from the grip of darkness, let us believe again and use our authority in Christ to save this nation from the ferocity of the kingdom of darkness which is about to swallow her. God is counting on us all, we must not let Him down.

10

There Will Be Joy Again

There is a promise from God that rings in my heart and I believe God will do this in our nation.

For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts.

2 Kings 3:17

God will do great things in our nation and there will be joy again in our streets and community. What God will do will surpass any imagination of men. He will wipe away all tears and take away all sufferings. He will make all things new and restore joy to our nation. The long overdue joy of our nation is coming soon and the night of sorrow and tears will be over.

Before Philip went to Samaria, we had never heard anything of joy but the moment he shined the light of Christ, there was joy. We also must be aware that as we sow in tears, we will reap in joy.

We who have gone forth in the place of prayer for our nation will reap the harvest of goodness and abundance. Incidentally, the same Samaria had a miracle of abundant provision in its early days when there was a great famine. In twenty four hours, God gave that city joy because there was a man of prayer who had spoken by the Word of the Lord. God, who did that early miracle can do it again. Whatever greatness our nation has experienced in the past can be repeated in our time but we must all pray. None of us must behave like the economist of the king of Samaria whose projection of the economy is based on the stats of men and not on the miracle working power of our God. As we pray, let us expect a miracle. There will soon be joy in our land. Amen.

One thing our nation seems to have in common with Samaria is the mercy of God that never seems to leave her. The same Samaria experienced Jesus' power when Christ encountered the woman beside the well, and with utmost assurance we can be sure that God will visit our nation again. He has delivered us in the past when the situation looks more harder than this and we are sure of His great deliverance again. I am convinced without a shadow of doubt that our nation will experience God's saving power and the healing springs of living water will flow to every sector causing revival and

transformation. There will be joy again in our land. The trees shall yet bud again and abundance of fruit shall be found in our land.

God delights in hearing our prayers. He wants to hear and answer more than we are eager to receive from Him. He can do beyond what we ask or even think provided we ask because of His mighty power at work in us. Let us therefore take great delight in the fact that God promised to hear us from heaven. Do you notice that the Bible did not say 'He may hear but He will hear'? Once we play our part, God is saying, 'He will not default on playing His. He will do what He delights to do - He is the One who hears prayers, and to Him we all must come. Not only will He hear but He will forgive the sins of our nation and cause righteousness to reign again in the land. This way, our children will all be righteous and the rain of righteousness will produce a great harvest of mercy. The joy of salvation will fill our streets and the joy of heaven will fill many hearts. Soon there will be a shout of blessedness in the lips of many whose sins were forgiven and those whose sins will be completely forgiven. No longer will the devil hold our nation captive because we would have been translated as a nation out of the grip of darkness into the glorious light of Jesus.

Our nation will be healed, God has promised. He said, He will heal us of our backsliding and love us free because He will turn His anger away from us (Hosea 14:4). As we lay hold of this promise, we know that every aspect of our land will be revived. Our economy will boom again, the health of our nation will be revitalized and satan traumatized.

11

Let Us Rest

One of the biggest lessons I learned about God is that He does not always answer the way we want. We must not forget that His ways are not our way and His thoughts are not ours. Therefore we must all learn to rest and trust His all-pervasive providence when we have prayed. The Church must learn from the American Evangelical Church as I have told friends in my close circle.

In 2015, I supported President Donald Trump for the presidency with many Christians like me. Four years later, I chose to stay neutral, all we had to do was pray but the Evangelicals put their guns all out for the president. It was the biggest mistake I believed the church made after the refusal to separate church from state. This move gave me unrest in my spirit, I knew that is not the way of God. That year President Trump lost the Election, and not only that, the already frail church lost her credibility. I believe God wanted to teach the American Evangelical Church to pray and rest. A lesson to simply pray and trust Him whatever the outcome is.

When we have prayed, we must also rest knowing that God knows the best outcome. As the 2023 election was fast approaching, we began to pray that the will of God over Nigeria will stand and that the promises of God for our nation will not fail. Some of us will remember how statuses and DPs were flooded with the prophecy of how our nation will be known for righteousness by **Pa. SG Elton**. However some of us have our preferred candidate, it is as if we have it all figured out and we want God to simply dance to our tune. Many were disappointed about the outcome, yet we who have prayed know that God answered our prayers. We who have labored know that God can use a heathen king to perform His counsel. So, whatever the outcome is, it is the best as far as we are concerned. In the same light, we must rest after we have prayed, let God have His way and make the best course for which He wants to answer. Rather than think for Him on how He should answer, we must be still and know that He will be God over the affairs of our nation.

Let everyone get to their businesses and works, and wait for the miracles of God to manifest in our land. I am persuaded that our land will be filled with abundance and there shall be plenty again. Our Lazarus will surely come back to life.

Our dry land will turn into flowing water, and all dry bones shall live again.

You may be wondering why I am so sure about God's visitation upon our land, here is why. Some years ago the Lord gave me a vision: in the vision, the whole world was in distress and there were a few nations where there were opportunities and safety and many people were coming into Nigeria being a part of those few nations. I saw white people trying to come into our nation from a place that seems to be a bushy area. Knowing fully well that God will be true, we can all rest and wait for His miraculous acts.

There seems to be a warning however that the Lord will be giving us: We must not forget Him when all is well. It is certain that God will do great things but we must not forget our God when He has rolled away our reproach and wiped away our tears. To sound this alarm in a very clear way, I think I'll draw from an article I wrote sometime back.

Final Words

No Repeated Mistakes

The church must be very careful not to make the mistake we made about four years ago during the unforgettable endSARs protest. Our young people simply got carried away and there seems to be little done by some of our elders to call them to order and curb some of their excesses. Some people may have the right motive but with wrong execution. Truly our greatest power is 'Prayer' but when we do it in front of cameras and show off the whole thing online, we already have the praise of men and our reward. In two of my unpopular podcasts, I warned against this method with great pain as someone who has received mercy both to pray and hear God on the matter of our nation.

We must not make the mistakes of the past generations, we must seek Revival God's way so that we can get God's blessing. Nothing is more urgent in his day and time than for us to see God move with His mighty power upon our land to heal and redeem this land from death and destruction that ravages many. We must pray until our desires over our nations are met, we must bend our knees before God so that He can bend His ears and answer our prayers. One thing is certain, He has promised to hear us if we would

pray, let us therefore with holy hands and hearts
cry to God and He save us and do great and
mighty things in our land.

It's time to pray!



OLALEKAN MICHEAL

THE CHURCH HAS NOT PRAYED

ENOUGH

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