

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO THE CHURCH BY THE PANDEMIA

A PASTORAL APPROACH (SHORT VERSION)

Dele Olowu

Relevant facts on the Pandemic:

No consensus among experts on the origins, nature, evolution, spread or cure of this virus that used to infect animals but jumped from bats or some other (pangolin) mammals through the food chain. Now spreads primarily through human to human droplets when in close contact.

Society and economy have been devastated while the world scrambles for a proper policy handle. Two perspectives have emerged—at the beginning: **lock down** to prevent transmissions and deaths but later the concept of **herd immunity** that suggests that the death rate was exaggerated

COVID-19 is a shocker for our atheistic, humanistic, hedonistic and scientist world—that believes that science has all solutions and acknowledges only the material world. Huge investments in missiles and nuclear arms have proved totally powerless against an invisible enemy.

Though the crisis has led to a few benefits to the church—especially digitalization and reaching outside buildings—her leaders have followed in the discourse on the virus while other groups: scientists, politicians, vested business interests and the medical establishment have taken strong positions that reflect their interests. This has allowed the anti-spiritual perspective/narrative to fester and grow. It is like the Lord has NOT spoken.

How does God speak? And Has the Lord spoken to the Church?

The answers are positive. Both in the written scripture and though spoken word by His prophets (*logos/rhema*):

Modern Prophets—Pst Adeboye's child in convulsion plus others even some years before...and in great detail.

Ancient Prophets—Moses, David, Solomon, Joel (Deut. 29.21, 1 Chro.21, 2 Chro. 7.13-14, Joel 2: 12-21)

The Lord Jesus Christ—Mt. 24: 7-8, 25: 1-13, Rev. 2. 14-15.

Why the church has been silent?

Loss of Focus and *Purpose*—to be the salt and light to the world of darkness—submission to militant ethism, scientism and humanism. Divisions within and outside of denominations etc. Massive departure from the word and gospel truths with all kinds of heresies...homosexuality, celibacy, superstitions and tradition, syncretism, tokenism and money--etc

Loss of *Purity*-sin, Arising from above: Lack of integrity, priests that abuse their trust in sexual abuse of boys and girls, divorce and re-marriage and excessive flamboyance.

Loss of *Power* and the hunger for the gifts of the Holy Spirit—see below.

The church lost her power to solve problems of this world using spiritual resources—led to global prominence and acclaim.

Message to the Church Members and Leaders alike:

Assurance on the Veracity of God's Word—the source of 3 lost Ps and of Natural/spiritual Immunities.

Humility and Genuine Repentance—Reassertion of the Spiritual and Material world--
Understanding Multiple Causation (Primary and Secondary)

Unity to enhance Collective Thanksgiving, Supplications, Intercession, Worship.

Teachings and Prayers focused on the King's Return and the Need for Power—Parable of the Virgins. 1 Tim.2: 1-4, Mt.25.

Message to the World:

Providing a Pastoral/Spiritual Narrative

High cost of Sin and the Blessing of Righteousness Pr.14.34

Re-focus Charity —especially basic education, health and sanitation for all peoples irrespective of race, tribe, creed.

Leadership of the 7 Mountains of Culture....examples of the Media (focus on COVID-19 survivors), Governance (USA).

Conclusion: COVID-19 is a wake call for the church. We need to make use of the many opportunities that abound to make us have influence and impact. But we need power to be effective witnesses -Acts 1.8.

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