

PRAYER MOUNTAINS IN AFRICAN INDIGENOUS CHURCHES:
A CASE STUDY OF "ORI-OKE" OLORUNSOGO,
ORILE IGBON, OGBOMOSO.

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ABSTRACT

This project tackled the contemporary challenges that arise from the Prayer Mountain in line with the theology of prayer as presented by Jesus Christ and early Christian doctrines. 'Ori-Oke' Olorunsogo, Orile Igbon at Ogbomosho was used as a case study. This work presented better understanding of the concepts of Prayer and Prayer Mountains among the African Indigenous Churches. To evaluate Prayer Mountain in line with Biblical teachings. It also helps to have a wider knowledge about Prayer Mountains.

The methodology adopted in carrying out this research project includes: oral interviews with key officers of the Glorious Prayer Mountain, taking pictures of some special areas of the mountain and personal observation. Books and Journals in the J. C. Pool Library of Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary were also consulted. Internet materials were also of valuable use in this project.

The findings revealed that as good as Prayer Mountains are in AICs, it has been used to twist some Biblical concepts of prayer especially prayer on the Mountains towards occultic practices and enemies influences. There is lack of basic knowledge of the scripture when it comes to praying on the mountains. Therefore, Pastors and Leaders on Prayer Mountain should have theological training to avoid heresies and Biblical misrepresentation. All Christians should be rooted in the word of God and keep the priesthood of all believers.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Obviously the indigenous churches have made and they are still making their necessary impact especially in the areas of their persistent, emphasis on prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit through effectual fervent prayers to wrought wonders. Talking about Prayer Mountain for co-operate and solitary prayers they are thriving. Foreign mission established churches definitely have to learn a lot and are still making some adjustments in this direction.

However, it is significant to note that this development has been used to twist some Biblical Concepts of prayer especially prayer on the mountain toward African traditional and occultic practices. As discovered through the research, some adherents believe that they have to approach God through their leaders, and by getting to the top of the mountain. For this reason the issue of priesthood of all believers does not arise.

In most of these AICs the study of the word of God which should form the basis of all spirituality of man has little or no place as observed. The study revealed lack of the basic knowledge of the scriptures as foundation to prayer. The scriptures says “My people perish for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6).

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

This essay has surveyed the essential features in African Indigenous Churches. Having done this, it is necessary to make the following recommendations for the proper and Biblical appropriateness of “Prayer Mountain” in the contemporary Christian churches. The following are the recommendations to the Pastors, Church Members, Prayer Mountain Leaders, and Christians in general.

To the Pastors

- (i) Prayer should be taken very seriously accompanied by relevant theology and practices.
- (ii) Prayer Mountain should not be turned to commercial centers where money is requested for certain type of prayers
- (iii) Pastors should receive adequate theological education before establishing Prayer Mountain to avoid heresies and Biblical Misrepresentation or Misinterpretation.

Church Members

- (i) Church should be aware of the necessity of Biblical and authentic prayer mountains.
- (ii) Emphasis should be placed on prayers in the church before moving to the mountain that is to say that there should be cogent reason for not using the church for prayer.
- (iii) Church members should pray for spiritual leadership in the course of selection of Prayer Mountain. This is necessary because there is need for discerning spirit in this contemporary time where there are false prophets and fake prayer mountains.

As much as possible churches should use church auditorium for prayer mountains since God is Omnipresent, Omniscient and Omnipotent and he is not limited by time or space.

Prayer Mountain Leaders

- (i) Prayer Mountain Leaders should be born again. Christians (Avoid sins)
- (ii) Any Christian leader that is led to establish a Prayer Mountain should ensure that God is leading him to do so.
- (iii) Prayer Mountain leaders should avoid greediness and love of money but should pursue holiness, sincerity and faithfulness realizing that every one of us shall give account to what he does (Romans 14:12).
- (iv) Salvation message must be preached on the mountain always not only prayer.
- (v) Prayer Mountain leaders should not attribute success to prayer to themselves but rather to God