

THE PRACTICE OF CORPORATE PRAYER IN CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: A  
STUDY OF SELECTED CHURCHES IN OFFA, KWARA STATE

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## ABSTRACT

Through this research work, the biblical ways of practicing corporate prayer were examined both from the Old Testament perspective and the New Testament perspective accordingly. Samples churches from Mainline, Indigenous and Pentecostal were study in regards to the practice of corporate prayer in contemporary worship. The researcher therefore, carried out an empirical study to also find out the practice of corporate prayer in contemporary worship where Seventy-five respondents (twenty pastors and fifty members) were sampled. This study tries to find out the understanding of the respondents on the practice of prayer in today churches, the influences of indigenous contextualization and Pentecostalism; its positive impacts and its consequent deviations from the biblical standard. In this course of this work the weakness of unbalanced approach to the doctrine of prayer among these denominations and some heresies when compared with the biblical concept of prayer were addressed. As well, this work pointed out some things that remain highly commendable about the contemporary churches in particular to their enviable disposition to prayer. Finally, the researcher recommends in the light of the discovery from the research the need for the contemporary churches to re-examine their teachings on prayer in the light of the scriptures in order to correct the myriad of heretical practice they might discover through honest and open-minded approach to the biblical concept of prayer.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

Obviously, the wave of 'hot prayers' that started with the indigenous churches and been parading in western fashions by the Pentecostals, and in the recent time becoming a standard even in the mainlines churches have made and still making necessary impacts especially in the areas of persistence and emphasis on the power of the holy spirit to wrought wonders shows the undeniable trend the corporate prayer is taking in contemporary worship.

However, it is significant to note that this development good as it may be, has been used to twist biblical concepts of prayer towards African traditional occults practices as well as modern enslavement in the guise of Western Pentecostalism. As discovered through this research some adherents have been made to believe that they have to approach God through leaders for their prayer to be effectual. For those ones, the issue of the priesthood of all believers do not arise. In most of these denominations the study of the word of God, which should form the bedrock of all spirituality of man has little or no place at all again. The study revealed the lack of the basic knowledge of the Scriptures when it comes to praying. The Scriptures say "my people perish for lack of knowledge."

## 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The research as indicated above is a revelation of very complex and disturbing situation of the chains of heresies which are easily traceable to the Pastors/ leaders

themselves. It is here by recommended in the light of the discovery from the research that:

- i. The contemporary churches re-examine their teachings on prayer in the light of the Scriptures in order to correct the myriad of heretical practice they might discovered
- ii. The contemporary churches should be honest and be open-minded in their approach to the biblical concept of prayer.
- iii. More emphasis should be made on the study of the word of God
- iv. They should be organising proper consistent and biblical based training, retreat, discipleship and leadership courses for pastors and members accordingly.
- v. The study of this nature is limited by constraints of scope, it is thereby highly recommended that further research be carried out on this subject.
- vi. Such research should investigates liturgies of contemporary churches and the relative proportions of time allocates to bible study, teaching and biblical preaching in comparison to prayer, singing, dancing and other items in worship, their attendance and dispositions to all these should also be considered.