

THE ROLE OF MIRACLES IN
THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH GROWTH
(A CASE STUDY OF
THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD)

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RECOMMEDNATIONS AND CONCLUSION

A. Recommendations

This study like every other one seeks to put the following recommendations forward to the Redeemed Christian Church of God and also to the Christian Churches in respect of Church growth.

Firstly, the Redeemed Christian Church of God will need to combined the virtue of quality growth with the present quantity growth of the church. In order to see this fulfilled, there will be need for intensive discipleship programmes's to build up the faith of the teaming populace at the church. Thank God for the numerical growth of the church, the quality of souls must not be jeopardized in the process.

The church will also need to expand their curriculum for the training of the leaders and ministers in the parishes. Since the church capitalizes on the use of laymen for the location parishes, they will need more training to be able to properly discharge their God - given responsibilities.

Moreover, the Word of God should be given more time in the church programmes. Since human beings are naturally disposed to miracles, signs and wonder which of course is regular with the teachings of the Bible, there will be need of them to also be established in the word of God. Doctrinal and theological emphasis will stabilise the growth and concretise people's faith in God.

I wish to also recommend to the pastors, leaders and Ministers in the church to be hard working for the purpose of continuous growth, Pastor Adeboye is laying a very high standard for all the church Pastors, the members will not appreciate anything lower than this, hence, pastors and other ministers need to be hard working and seek the face of God to be able to pass message across to their members.

Secondly, the Christian church also have the following lessons to learn from the growth of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. Leadership is the key to church growth in the contemporary times. According to Robert H. Schuller "leadership is think ahead, planning for the future, exhausting all possibilities, envisioning problems and dreaming up solutions to them, and then communicating the possibilities and the problem solving ideas to the decision Maker:¹

Pastor Adeboye is such a leader, whose leadership skill is very progressive and dynamic, every church need this to effectively experience growth. Also, the personal testimony of Pastor Adeboye's Consecration, commitment and courage is an enviable virtue to emulate. Every leader who believe in church growth should be able to pay the price so as to experience God in real sense of the world. Pastor Adeboye is a humble and a praying man, he believe God for the invisible and God prove his faithfulness to him.

Another recommendation is that, the contemporary church leaders and members should learn how to give the Holy Spirit his due position in the church.

¹Robert H. Schuller, Your Church Has Real Possibilities (USA: G/L Publications, 1974) kp. 49.

Redeemed Christian Church of God give the Holy Spirit time and chances to operate, hence the result of the miracles and growth is remarkable.

Furthermore, the love, respect and co-operation which Pastor Adeboye is enjoying in the church and among his immediate assistants contributed immensely to the growth of the church. Whenever there is a peace, harmony and tranquillity in the church, there is always an amazing opportunity for growth as the people are going to work together without any inhibition.

The use of laymen and women for the pastoral ministry is a great instrument used by the Redeemed Christian Church of God. There is a place for the laity in the ministry and as such it must be properly utilized to foster growth as never before in the history of church growth.

Despite the fact that we need to train our Pastors there is still more room to accommodate ministers who are working outside the church fulltime ministry.

B. Conclusion

This work has shown that the gift of miracles as in use in the churches today is one of the major contributor to rapid church growth. It is visible in the life of Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye and the Redeemed Christian Church of God; it has also help the growth of the church.

It then becomes obvious that the role of miracles in the contemporary church growth cannot be over-emphasised. Many people are attracted into church programmes because of the reality of supernatural occurrences . In this project, survey of the Bible and historical data of the church substantiate the fact that miracles are indispensable in modern church growth. Right from the days of

Jesus Christ, the multitude followed him, because they saw miracles, signs and wonders. This same manifestations continued to the time of the apostles, down to the modern day Christendom. It is there, no gain saying that miracle is an integral part of our gospel.

Having studied the growth pattern of churches and the contributions of miracles to church growth, one can also conclude that while miracles help numerical growth of the church, its contribution to the qualitative growth of the church is questionable. One can therefore recommend further studies in this area.

Notwithstanding, this work readily affirm that church growth is both a number game and a discipleship concept. If truly there is church growth, it must be quantity growth with quality growth. Therefore, churches, including the Redeemed Christian Church of God are encouraged to aim at not only using gift of miracles to draw crowd unto salvation, but also discipline them, teaching them to observe all things that the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the church and individual believers to do.