

**Problems and Prospects of Power Evangelism in Nigeria –  
A Case Study of Ibadan land**

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## ABSTRACT

The use of the gifts of words of knowledge, prophecy, speaking in tongues, deliverance, miracles and healings have become popular in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century evangelistic campaigns among the Pentecostal Church in Nigeria especially in Ibadan land.

These study seeks to examine what are the inherent problems associated with the practise of these power gifts and the prospects of the use of these gifts to the Body of Christ and the nation at large.

## 5.1 Recommendations:

The mark of a true Church is always the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. There is the need to shift gear and re-assess the situation of the world so that the impact of Christianity can be felt more than ever before. This can only come from the Holy Spirit Himself and the power He gives.

Where a member of the Church is gifted or anointed in power gifts, the Church should embrace him/her and encourage him/her and make use of the gifts so that it can be useful to the Body of Christ. Those who have the gifts should be encouraged and should not be allowed to waste.

To fail to practice power evangelism would be a betrayal- it is a betrayal of this world in which sickness of body, mind and spirit is so dangerously evident and which needs all the healing it can get. It will also be a betrayal of the Church, which had been commissioned by its Founder to preach and heal. More than anything else, it will also be a betrayal of Jesus Himself who gave us the commission because He was sure we had been given the power to continue it on earth. Therefore, there is the need for the Church to seek God's face for the manifestation



of these power gifts not only among few denominations that have been practicing it but also in every local Church.

Biblical faith expresses that God is very active and present in nature. More than this, He does things that are not fully understood by men, rather make them to marvel. God is not standing back so that things will always happen by nature. Such a unique manifestation of God includes demonstration of power gifts in evangelism. The overwhelming testimony of the scriptures is that God wants our healing and He is working for this. The Church must, therefore, allow the full manifestation of power gifts rather than seeing it as the practice of a particular Christian denomination. However, power evangelism should not be a venture into magic or occultism. It must work within God's self-consistent laws.

Many Christian have also been wounded by the gifts of teaching and by many other spiritual gifts. Do we throw out these gifts because of these? . The manifestation of power gifts should not be discarded because of the problems associated to its practice since it is not the panacea for everything that ails the Church. If they were not necessary, the Lord would not have given them to the Church.

The power gifts should not be over-emphasized in the church else they become the sole direction of Christian service. The church should



always remember that it is Christ who manifests these gifts in us. These gifts are not and should not be taken as an alternative to the traditional gospel of the Christian church. They are only part of the gospel.

A body made whole by the power of God is the greatest miracle of God's love and mercy, but the greatest miracle of all ages is the life washed by blood. As marvelous as it is, it is secondary to the healing of the soul -----" (Kathryn Kuhlman, P. 24). Whenever power gifts are not geared toward bringing men from darkness to the marvelous light of the Son of God it will be exercise in futility.

Christian healing is not meant to discourage anyone from seeking medical care; there is nothing in it that opposes good medical practice.

The manifestation of the power gifts is not designed for "super saintliness", Christians do not need to be "holier than thou" before they experience these power gifts. Although, these gifts appear extraordinary, ordinary Christians are given the gifts. Each brand-new Christian can be channeled for the manifestation of these gifts.

Therefore, no Christian should feel he/she is superior when he/she is used as a channel of manifestation of these gifts. To deify those who manifest these gifts is unscriptural and should be completely discouraged in the Church.

The scripture is not given as a substitute to the Holy Spirit and the gifts He gives. Even the Scriptures point to these gifts and the Church must take hold of everything God has given to her through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:21 Eph. 6:11). The Pentecostal churches need the breath and wisdom of the orthodox churches. Praying for the sick and casting out demons are New Testament practices, which should not hastily be pushed outside the sphere of Christian experience.