

**THE IMPACT OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS
IN THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH**

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ABSTRACT

This research work tried to find out the role of spiritual gifts in the growth of the church.

Three churches within Ogbomosho metropolis were selected to carry out the research study. These churches were (1) Caretaker Baptist Church (An evangelical assembly) (2) Cherubim and Seraphim church (An African indigenous church) and (3) Christ-centred Life Bible Church (A Holiness Pentecostal Church). Well validated questionnaires were constructed to elicit relevant information from varying respondents in each of the sampled churches.

The major objective of the study was to find out about the impact of spiritual gifts on the growth of these sampled churches both qualitatively and quantitatively. The hypotheses of the study stated in null form went thus.

- (i) There is no significant relationship between the role of spiritual gifts and church growth and
- (ii) Big churches (size) have better potentials for the use of spiritual gifts than small churches (sizes).

In total, eighteen gifts of the spirit were examined for use in the sampled churches.

The study revealed that all the sampled churches had the eighteen gifts present to a certain extent in their churches. It was also found out that big churches maximized the gifts available to them more than smaller churches and so had greater impacts on their immediate community. Lastly the Chi-Square (X^2) analysis carried out to test the hypotheses of the study revealed that there was a significant relationship between the use of spiritual gifts and the growth of these sampled churches.

It is however suggested that a research on the impact of spiritual gifts on numerical growth of the church be conducted. This should focus on the distinction between biological growth and increment by conversion.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 The essay has examined the roles of spiritual gifts in the growth of the church. Three churches were used as the samples for big size, medium size and small size churches. The essay is a research oriented one which discovered that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not extinct from the church with the disappearance of the Apostles. All the churches submitted that all the eighteen gifts are present to certain extent in their churches.

Big size churches that utilize the gifts of the spirit along with their potentials usually have great impact on their community. This as well imply high level of spiritual growth.

Chi-square (X^2) analysis for churches XYZ between their gifts and impact on the community showed that there was a significant relationship between the use of spiritual gifts and church growth.

5.2 Conclusion

The presence and adequate utilization of all spiritual gifts within local churches gives rise to high rate of church growth. These gifts are necessary for edification and outreach activities of the church.

5.3 Recommendation

It was observed that some respondents rate interpretation of tongues very

low, this suggests that they probably lack understanding of how and what the gift is all about. It is therefore recommended that a research on the practicality, and effective use of the gift within the church be embarked upon by other researchers.

Another research is needed on numerical growth of the church. This should put in focus the distinction between biological growth increment by conversion and response to gospel call within the growing up and young people within the church.

It also worth noting that the roles of a pastor and the cooperation of general church leadership could have significant impact on the utilization of the gifts of the Spirit and enablement of the churches to reach out to the unsaved and the unchurched.

It is as well recommended that questionnaires for a similar research could contain questions that will recruit the respondents to respond freely in their own expressions to fill their impulse on the use of the gifts in the churches.