

THE IMPACT OF THE DELIVERANCE MINISTRY IN EFFECTIVE
CHURCH GROWTH: A CASE STUDY OF NEWLIFE BAPTIST
CHURCH, PORT HARCOURT

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ABSTRACT

This work: "The Impact of The Deliverance Ministry in Effective Church Growth: A Case Study of New Life Baptist Church, Port Harcourt" is written to emphasize the importance of the ministry of deliverance to the church. There is the need to carry out this ministry the way Jesus did in His earthly ministry, which he passed on to the Church. It is a bid to sensitize every minister of the gospel to embrace this ministry. From this study it is proven that deliverance is one of the tasks of the church. Since Satan and his agents are constantly holding people captives, it is the church that will deliver them out of his hands. This will also bring growth in the church. Deliverance ministry is one of the activities of the church that enhances church growth.

To present these ideas, this work has five chapters the first is an introduction to what the thesis is all about including definition of some terms. The second deals with review of literature about the ministry of deliverance in one way or the other, and it also covers the method used in carrying out this research, while the third deals with Old and New Testament perspectives of deliverance, it also considers biblical perspective in church growth. The fourth is a brief history, growth, and deliverance ministry of New Life Baptist Church, Port Harcourt. The chapter also contains analysis of the data collected, its tabulation, findings and discussion of it. The last gives the Summary and Conclusion of the whole work as well as some recommendations to foster the deliverance ministry in churches for effective growth.

5.2 Conclusion

One of the recently needed tasks of the church today is to minister deliverance to people in and out side the church community, that is, to deliver them from satanic attacks and holds. From the findings of this study one can conclude that church members are looking up to their pastors to pray prayers for their deliverance and for those outside the church, because this can bring about spiritual, numerical, and physical growth in the lives of members as well as the church as a whole.

One of the reasons why church members still go to other places like, native doctors, prayer houses, and charms for help is because their needs are not met in the church. The church should be a place of refuge and deliverance, for it to experience rapid growth in every area. Nihinlola, observed that every church ought to be a Mount Zion (Obediah 17), by which people get deliverance from the evils in the world. People can experience the deliverance on Mount Zion through a spiritual and dynamic worship experience. The church should provide an atmosphere for true worship of God that will give spiritual energy to confront principalities and powers and cast out demons (48). The church should also provide an atmosphere for deliverance through the teaching of the word of God, counseling, prayer and fasting programmes. The task of deliverance is not to be neglected or handled trivially.

From the writer's personal observation as well as from the findings of this study as tabulated and discussed earlier, the pastor of a local church has a great role to play in the deliverance ministry of the church. If the minister does not have interest or is not knowledgeable in this area, the church will be kept in the dark, and attacked by the devil. The pastor must be concerned that the church members and others are delivered from Satan's power because; in these last days Satan is all out to destroy the church and God's people.

The pastor can do this not only by prayer, but also by teaching to them to live in the Spirit, which can bring freedom through Jesus Christ so that they can possess their possessions so as to have full restoration, provisions, blessings, and prosperity (Nihinlola 48), which leads to their spiritual and physical growth. If the members grow then the church will grow. Deliverance ministry has impact in enhancing church growth. For church growth strategies to be effective, we must be ready to wage war against the host of darkness, and set lives free from their bondages (Matt. 12:29).

5.3 Recommendations

As the essay is concluded, the researcher hereby wishes to make some recommendations to pastors and church leaders in Baptist and other churches, so that they can organise deliverance ministry.

- **Ministers should** embrace the ministry of deliverance with an open mind. **The abuses** of deliverance practices in some quarters should **not discourage** Baptist ministers from operating this ministry.

- **Since the Bible** is the basis for deliverance ministry of the church, **ministers should** study the way Jesus, the early church, and **apostles like Paul** carried out this ministry.

- **Ministers who** have been engaging in this ministry should do it not **for selfish or monitory gains**, but to the glory of God, and for the **blessings of people**.

- **There is a need** for ministers to understand the dynamics of **deliverance not only** from the biblical viewpoint, but also by reading **books on deliverance** by persons who are experienced in this ministry.

- **Those who already** have knowledge and experience about **deliverance should** write books on this ministry, to share with others.

- **The church should** see it as one of her tasks to deliver people from every form of satanic holds, because the society today needs to be delivered from the activities of darkness.

- **The minister of a local church** should always pray for freedom from sin, sickness, pain, distress, depression, guilts, debts, demonization,

etc., for people so that they can always prosper both in their souls and bodies, so that they can serve God well.

- Ministers should always depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, trust and pray to God for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit's power on the congregation. This is because the Holy Spirit provides the atmosphere for effective deliverance and growth.
- In addition to the above, the ministers should, from time to time, organize teachings, counseling, prayer and fasting programmes on deliverance. However, the ministry of deliverance should not be an independent programme, but should be part of the daily ministries of the church.
- Church members should be involved in deliverance ministration, because it can be carried out by every Christian (Mark 16:17).
- The church should be a Mount Zion where people can come and receive deliverance for their soul and bodies.

The importance of deliverance ministry in a local church cannot be over-emphasized. Jesus' ministry was full of deliverance (1John 3:8). His preaching and teachings are accompanied by deliverance, which the people saw as miracles, signs and wonders; which made them to believe. Jesus has also given us (the church) this ministry so that more people will believe and the kingdom of God enlarged. Ministers should live in holiness and walk in the Spirit so that God can use them to set the captives free, so

that **church members** can also emulate. For effective growth to be recorded in our **contemporary** time as it was in the early church, the ministry of **deliverance is necessary**.