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**THE CONCEPT OF DELIVERANCE AND ITS EFFECT ON  
THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF WEST AFRICA IN  
THE LAGOS' DISTRICT (ECWA LDCC)**

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## CONCLUSION

The concept of deliverance as a ministry of the church to those under sinful and demonic bondage is not new and not denied even by those who seem to be opposing it like the evangelicals. It is not the idea that is a controversy but the classification in the sense of seeing it as a separated gift on its own. It was not listed

among the gifts of the Bible in the book of Romans, Corinthians and Ephesians. It is better classified as one of the manifestations of the gift of miracle. There are people who are gifted with the supernatural power in accordance to the will of the Holy Spirit to administer freedom to such people through miraculous work. Despite the differences in the individual, it is a contemporary and relevant issue. Spiritually, many people are under the bondage of sin because Jesus Christ has not become their Savior and Lord. Their deliverance comes only through the salvation message where they accept Jesus Christ and totally submit everything to Him. This would prevent them from going to hell.

There are people who are operating under demonic forces they made covenant with the occult world. They need freedom from such captivity so that they will have new covenant with Jesus Christ rather than the devil through occultism. Such people need prayers and holiness in obedience to attain and maintain the height. The ministration under the Divine guidance will break their yokes of demonic possession, oppression and influence or affliction.

On the issue of its continuity today, it may be difficult to make a direct reference to a portion of the bible passage to either support or disprove it, but experiences based on the faith in Christ Jesus (biblical test for genuine spirit – 1 Jn.4.1-3) shows its reality. Such experiences make it difficult to bluntly deny its progressive implication. Only those who deny the supernatural to some extent would likely deny it as well.

Since the Bible teaches the concept of deliverance (examples seen through the ministry of Jesus Christ and the apostles) and people experience it; it should be taken as a matter of importance. In view of the fact that many people have the biblical conception, the effect is felt in many local churches and many people practice it; the

DCC leaders should recognize it as a ministry of the church. Seeing that the practice is biblically founded and it is not anti gospel of Christ Jesus; those who have the grace should be encouraged. They need not to fear about the extremism. What should be done should be caring and preventing the continuous church migration because of their denial of the true experience which the members have. It should not be generally taken as occult-practice because some people are using occult-power. The art of exorcism through occultism is a fulfillment of false prophets and teachers Jesus Christ spoke about when His coming is nearer, Mt.24. The false ministers should not be a threat but a challenge for more biblical studies.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Deliverance as one of the teachings of the Bible, an issue of controversy and confusion in the LDCC, and a factor for personal spiritual and church growth in the local churches; the researcher has the following recommendations to the DCC leaders and others who can be agents of good within the district.

#### **Doctrinal Acceptance**

Although deliverance can be abused in practice and misconception of word, it falls within the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is scholarly accepted as one of the divisions of the miracle gift. The denomination as a whole believes in the supernatural. People's experience is difficult to deny though it must be carefully managed. All of the respondents in this research are ECWA members within the district and only the fearful ones would deny the practice in the presence of the leaders. Based on the above facts, the DCC leaders should adopt it as an accepted practice and guide it because of the abuses that may follow it. This implies that the

ones gifted will freely practice it without fear and leaving the church for another place (church migration) will be avoided.

### **A Binding Policy**

According to Rev. M. D. Adeboye of ECWA Agege who was once the DCC chairman, deliverance is a ministry that has been “seriously bastardized especially among the Pentecostal churches,” therefore, the abuse should not be compromised with the biblical teaching. As a burning issue that affects the whole community of faith in the district the leaders should come out with a policy binding on all the districts. The policy would reflect the belief, the approaches to doing it and possibly some measure to determine who is expected to do it (suggestions and preparation needed). Nevertheless, such a policy should be Bible based and engender a harmonious operation throughout the district so that it will discourage excesses and confusion. Other DCC(s) will also benefit from it so that the whole denomination will be positively affected. The doctrinal policy can be based on the following: How the teaching affects the spiritual and human nature of Jesus Christ, 1 Jn. 5.1-3; the claim of the lordship of Jesus Christ over the powers and principalities, Col.2.15; contribution to fulfilling Christ’s purpose (evangelism, edification of the believers and church planting); reflection of humility and faith as an example from Jesus Christ and how it affect the unity of the body of Jesus Christ (His heart desire before He left – Jn.17.21).

### **A Dialogue Forum**

This is an avenue for dialogue where each one can share his/her own view of deliverance. The DCC leaders should create more forums for interactions, sharing of experiences, discussions and questions on the subject. When each one’s view is understood; corrections, adjustment or modification and clarification become easier to

make than what is on ground at present. What is presently happening is direct and indirect condemnation with the use of pulpit power.

### **Series Of Seminars**

The DCC leaders should organize programs where deliverance will be discussed and a better understanding will be achieved. The programs can be in the form of seminars, workshops, lectures and Bible study and exposition where questions and answers could be allowed. Such an organized program will take care of so many controversies on deliverance. It is important that the leaders and the one who does the speaking should be open-minded to learning. Programs of this nature will enlighten the members and they will know what the Bible says about the issue in question. It will also serve to broaden their understanding on spiritual gift so that no gift would be rated as more dynamic than the other.

### **Encouragement And Support From The Leaders**

The leaders should encourage those who have the grace and they also should support the leaders. DCC officers will encourage them by identifying their ability as given them by the Holy Spirit and guide their methodology instead of attacking them publicly with words of ridicule. The support can also be seen in their words of strengthening through corrections in love and words of comfort whenever there is any way they are negatively affected.

### **Creating Time For Biblical Study**

The researcher wishes to recommend to the ministers (pastors) within the district that they should take up the challenge to make thorough search on any controversial doctrinal issues like this before speaking authoritatively on it. This will guide against common saying like "Our pastor said" or "That is our tradition" which the members would not be able to biblically defend. The thorough biblical research

