

A PASTORAL RESPONSE TO UNBIBLICAL PRAYERS AMONG THE
BAPTIST MEMBERS OF J. C. POOL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, OGBOMOSO

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ABSTRACT

Prayer is indispensable in the life of every Christian .It is an effective weapon of every Christian warfare. It is directed to God who is able to answer all request of man. Christians pray to God through Jesus Christ. It is unfortunate today that some Christians enslaved themselves in prayer because of fear of witches, wizard and evil powers. Lack of sound theological education, worldliness, and selfish interest are making some pastors and church members of J.C. Pool Baptist Association to be involved in unbiblical prayers. Therefore, this study titled; A pastoral Response to Unbiblical Prayers among the Baptist Members of J. C. Pool Baptist Association, Ogbomoso examines prayers in Nigerian Baptist Convention and Pastoral Approach to unbiblical prayers. This study is descriptive in nature and the researcher designed questionnaire to gather the data. The study made use of the one hundred and twenty(120) samples from the twelve selected Baptist churches. The findings were analyzed and the implications should be implemented. On the basis of this it was recommended that the pastors should constantly preach and teach the word of God .The local Baptist Churches should be very careful in inviting other pastors for the church ministrations.

CONCLUSION

The investigation of unbiblical prayer of J.C. Pool Baptist Association revealed that in most cases their attitude to unbiblical prayer were not correct in biblical terms. However, following the analysis of the subject matter in the previous chapters, some solutions were mention in this chapter. The church of God today need

an urgent revival and right attitude of biblical prayer. Prayer can become an effective tool for this revival, churches should play their own roles through the constant preaching, and teaching of God's word. Their responses to the data collected through the questionnaire revealed the willingness of the people to adjust the biblical understanding received from the teachings. It is hoped that provision of bible study to equip the member for spiritual maturity will help members to achieve the laudable objective for each church members.

A part from what I have mentioned above, adequate church mid week service will correct the wrong prayer attitude of the church members. One should remember that the prayer was given to correct the wrong attitude of the Jewish worshipper of Jesus 'day . Therefore, availability of church pastors to the church members' needs will also bring the fullness of blessing from God to church members.

It is therefore certain that if the principles are understood and applied in any prayer situation, there should be positive result.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the information gathered through the questionnaire and available data in this study, it is evident that unbiblical prayer in J.C. Pool Baptist Association is a serious issue that our churches and convention need to face squarely if we are to make progress. It is very sure such recommendation could also be useful to other churches that might be researcher hereby recommended that:

1. The Nigeria Baptist Convention should discourage lay leadership in all Baptist churches

Since the role of a pastor in a church cannot be over emphasized, every church should have a pastor, who could give the needed spiritual leadership. Small church should be assisted by big churches.

2. The convention should have a programme of pastoral assistance for financially weak churches. The Association and conference should do the same. The pastor should make it a point of the duty to feed the flock. The various Bible doctrines, most especially prayer should be taught from time to time in order to keep the member informed of the biblical stand on the issues facing them
Beside the daily quiet time, the pastor should set time apart every every day to commune with God in prayer.
3. A church may be magnanimous enough have a praying ground like the Nigeria Baptist theologically seminary Ogbomosho, for her members. This would take care of those who might want to be in the presence of the lord for some time. It could still encourage the church members to pray on their problems. It could also discourage them from going to the mountain prayers organized by people of doubtful characters and theologies.
4. Praying in Aladura fashion should be discourage in Baptist churches. Even if anybody should bring a wrong doctrine from anywhere, it should not be allowed to germinate.
5. Village pastor should stress the need for family altar to their member many villagers are not taking this serious a family that pray according to the bible stay together.
6. There should be arrangement whereby copies of daily encounter devotional guide, could be distributed free to the villagers.
7. Pastor in the villages should ensure that their members observed individual quiet time daily. In addition private and secrete prayer should be emphasized

for the members. Private prayers should be a means of walking with, and there by becoming his friend.

8. Pastors are advised to make the Bible to be their standard. Pastors should not tell irrelevant stories when preaching but preaching the real word of God. It also required of a pastor to teach the church member the right attitude of biblical prayer. Some church member are ignorant of right attitude of prayer and its objectives, but through teaching they could be made to see the need to pray according to the standard of the Bible.