



The Burden of the Fast : Expansions.

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2016 – PRAYER AND FASTING CRUSADE
CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL - KOUME / BERTOUA

Alleluia!

We are praying that God will give us explosions, expansions and extensions in our ministry so that we can accomplish the goal, so that we can rapidly get to the one million by end of next year.

We are praying in accordance with what God has done in the past.

God has done it before, God has given explosions, God has granted expansions, God has produced extensions. What the Lord did before, he can do again, because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, the same today and He will be the same for ever. Jesus does not develop, because he is already perfect. What is perfect does not develop.

One of the things that brought great expansions to the work in Jerusalem was holiness. Holiness in the church. High standards. Very high and lofty standards. That is one of the things that brought expansion to the church in Jerusalem.

Acts 5:10-16

10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. 13 No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. 14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. 15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

NIV

In the church in Jerusalem, there was a brother called Barnabas, he loved God. He gave a very big offering to God and the apostles were very encouraged, because it helped them as leaders to handle many of the pressures. The apostles were so touched that they gave him a new name, his new name was Barnabas, his old name was Joseph. One of the brother in the church was jealous, he also wanted the favour of the leaders, he wanted the leaders to love him the way they loved Barnabas, so he told himself, "our leaders love when somebody give a big offering", so he and his wife, they went and sold their land to come and do what Barnabas did, so that the leaders will treat them the way they treated Barnabas. But while they were cooking all this, there is nothing wrong in imitating what others have done that is good, but there was a problem with them, they did not really want to imitate Barnabas' heart, they did not want to encourage the apostles, they wanted attention, it was their way to become important. But he and his wife discussed that they must be wife, that they should follow God with their eyes opened, after all Barnabas does not have a wife, Barnabas does not have children. So, the wife told the husband: let's keep insurance for our children, they planned it and they came and lied. They wanted to imitate Barnabas but they did not have Barnabas's love for Jesus, Barnabas commitment to the apostles, but they wanted Barnaba's blessings and honour. So, they brought the offering and they

brought a testimony like Barnabas. "we have sold our land so that we may give it to the church, then the Holy Spirit told Peter, that this brother is lying. Peter asked the brother: Is this all the money? You want to give everything to God? He said: yes. Peter asked him: what is wrong? You think God is dead? You think it is only us that you want to impress, you think the Holy Spirit has died? What happened to you? If you decided to give us only half and said so, what is wrong with it? Who told you that you must imitate Barnabas, another man? Why don't you just give what you wanted to give, without lying, without pretending, is it not your own? Is the money not your own? Have you ever taught you that the church wants to have all you have? Why do you want to lie to the Holy Spirit? Therefore, you will not even be alive to eat all that you have, then he failed down and die. After three hours, the wife came, she left the children behind. When she entered, Peter told her; Mrs Saphira come, your husband just gave us a big gift, is that all? She said yes, that is all. Peter told her: Why do you agreed with your husband to die? She died. And everybody in the church, when they saw the judgement of God, they knew that God is real, so the fear of God came down on the church. People began to know that God is real and that God is holy. And that God cannot stand lies and religion, what is religion? Trying to impress your leaders by zeal when your whole heart is not there.

There was the fear of God on every member of the church. There was the fear of God on every member of the church and then, the news began so spread all over Bertoua. People began to say: you go to that church, you lie just a little, you just die. And because of that holiness, and because of the holiness, people did not join their church, those who became part of the church believed. Holiness closes the door to false believing. The fear of God is an invisible wall, in such a way that people don't come into the church because of blessings, because they are afraid, they have the fear of God They only enter the church is they have truly believe. Holiness opens the doors of the church to those who have truly believed. The fear of God closes the door to the publicity that attracts people, to blessing's seekers, to those who want to come to church for what God can do to them, without wanting to change; to those who want God while they love the world. Holiness frighten those who are to really born again and they don't join the church, but holiness brings many people to believe. Even though many people did not want to join them, the Bible says, nevertheless many people believed and their number exploded.

There is growth in the church which is because of customers' satisfactions, because human needs are met, but there is growth that comes from God because men have believed, because people have repented of their sins. The growth that comes from customers' satisfaction will change the pastor, he will always do everything to please his people because they are not converted, he is not leading them, they are leading him with their appetites, they are leading him by what they want. Their love of the world is leading him.

Paul warned Timothy and told Timothy: preach, teach, warn, rebuke. When you have people, teach a lot, preach a lot, preach the Word of God, because people don't listen to a leader for long, very soon, their appetite, what they want will close their ears to the message. The apostle Paul told Timothy: if you don't preach a lot their desires will overcome your doctrine and they will stop following you and they will chose new

leaders in accordance to their desires. Every leader has a very short life span to influence people, those who don't preach have lost the church. During the infancy period when God allows people to obey you, if you don't preach, you will lose them. Those who want to serve God, when people obey them, they are not seduced, they teach so that the people can have inside something that can fight their desires. If you don't give them the Word of God inside them, so that when their desire will become militant, when their desires become virulent, if you have not given them enough Word of God, you will see, churches have an adolescent period, just like every child who was very small, there is an adolescent period coming where they will teach you that your authority means nothing. When you have the time, when they are still listening to you, please don't spend the time giving them commands and speaking in their lives, teach them. That is what the apostle Paul told Timothy, teach, a time will come when their desires will be stronger than your doctrine. It is sad that many missionaries believe that if God gives them people, they will always listen to them.

The desires of the human heart are stronger than spiritual authority. So wise teachers like Paul told Timothy, don't count on your authority while you can still teach, teach because a time will come when they will compare you one day to another.

The fear of God closes the door to counterfeit believing.

Let us pray:

- That God will give us the growth that comes from God alone, like judging sin in our churches
- That God will judge sin in CMFI and give us the growth that shows quality, not the addition of unbelievers, not the attraction of unconverted appetites, so that we are always on trial about telling them how God is there for them, God is a super market to have money, to have wives, to have children, to have visas, so that people become part of the church because of the things they think that God can do for them.
- That the Lord will pour out the love of God on CMFI.
If we ensure quality, God will ensure quantity. If we ensure quality, God will ensure quantity. High standards don't produce smallness, holiness does not lower numbers. Holiness is not antipathetic to explosions. Even in education, if a school has very high standards, people go there. Nobody runs away from schools with high standards, people want their children to go there. God sent people to churches that have high standards. You as a good father, you want to send your children to good schools, why would God send his children to churches with low standards? All the publicity, advertisement, all that is plausible without core credibility will not grow, the accumulation that come with lower standards will not last. High standards bring explosions, sustainable growth
- Poor on our ministry the fear of God that will lead to great explosions all over the world.

Only the fear of God can stop people from joining our churches unless they truly believed.

- Let us ensure the quality and God will guarantee the quality.
- Let us offer God something He can multiply and it will be a blessing

That is the challenge ahead of us

The second thing is that when the quality of the church increases, it is a watershed qualification, it produces other things. In this passage, the Bible says that

The ministry of the apostles became extraordinary

In chapter two, the bible has already said that miracles and signs were performed by the apostles. In this chapter, they say they performed many signs and wonders, they did not say miracles. They even say that Peter enter into a new bracket, even his shadow began to heal people.

Both in quality and quantity, if the number of people you are leading, is small, it will even cut the gift you already have to be small, because spiritual gift is like a financial gift. If the budget is not much, while should God give you a big quantity. If you have a hundred people and you have the gift of teaching, God will give you the revelation to feed them, but if they become 10.000, your gift of teaching will change because God just give you the food needed to handle over the people under your leadership. If we don't grow, it not the gift of the ministry of Zach Fomum that will suffer, but your life will suffer of it.

There is a watershed influence that the church brings, it produces distinct ministries. The number of people that you lead and the quality of the people that you lead will change you, better make sure that you succeed.

There are many people who left Cameroon to go as missionaries, they had worked hard and they had developed a certain level of ministry. Now on the mission field, they are not working, it is not the organisation that will suffer, your mission field may reduce you so badly that you may steal or commit adultery, it can make you become so useless in your own eyes that you commit adultery. God has no plans in any of his call for failure. God has no alternative plans to handle you if you fail. Don't. Your life depends on it. Your future and your children depend on it. The apostles, their ministry became more and more distinct as the number of people in the church grew, as the sanctification of the church grew; it brought them to distinct ministry.

I am seeing some mental atrophy in many people, because they don't have sufficient challenges to enhance growth and distinction, the habit of years of smallness. They left from the university and they have been functioning on a diminishing half-light, because there was nothing to grow forwards to, because they did not have the responsibilities that kept them awake, they are dying. Many of you are dying because you have nothing for which to live for, you are already dying. All that you need now is basic oxygen to keep you for the rest of your miserable life which are rice, beans, "gari", "bobolos". You have no other burdens apart from what you will eat and how you will send your children to school; you are a dying man; your life is in past tense. You are living in BC (before Christ), you are a fossil, anachronic, you are a dinosaur, you are a regret.

We must grow. Every leader who even love his life must help his people to grow, become big because his future depends on their success. If you have a gift of miracle and you are leading 100 people, how many situations among one hundred people require miracles? That is the number of miracles God will give you. If you are leading ten thousand people, how many situations among those 10.000 people require miracles? That is the potential God will give you. When you are leading 100.000 people, how many situations require miracles, that is your potential for the same gift. If you have 10 people, why do you need a miracle? Carry the person to the hospital, the need of those people can be handled by your salary. You want God to give you a miracle to save your salary? He will not. If you are an old believer of 20 years and you are leading 20 people, why should God give you a revelation? Why do you need a revelation for? You have accumulated enough experience to lead people, why do you need a miracle for? If the needs don't increase, the gifts don't increase. What for? That is why many of you have scaled yourself at the level of the spiritual gifts you have, and I tell you, your gift can never grow better than your love, it will not. When you have trained yourself to avoid people's needs, you will receive spiritual gifts to do what? Spiritual gifts are given to those who care. They need them to meet needs. If I suddenly have 10.000 children, what salary will make me have enough? I need divine provision, I need miracles. Miracles are not fanciful, they are needed. If you have shaped your life to cope with your limitations, you don't need any miracle, Miracles are for those who need them, and the number of people for whom you carry responsibilities.

If we are going to have distinct ministries, we will have to need them by the number of people we carry, by the calibre of people we carry, it is up to you. Even for Peter, even for the apostles, the insipient gift became a distinct gift.

There was the explosion that pushed them to 3000 and then the expansion of continuous addition

And then there was the explosion and 3000 and then here the continuous addition
There is a pattern. The pattern is great abundance in a short time : explosion and then consolidation.

Consolidation is not maintaining the same number.

What is Consolidation? the only way to maintain the grounds you have gained is to keep growing. The only way to keep what you already have is to add. The only way to maintain how far you have gone is to keep moving ahead. Consolidation is not the keeping of what I already have but to add to what I already have. If you want your assembly to keep the 50 you already have, make sure you keep on adding. If you want any believer to abide, command him to win other souls. consolidation is not constancy, consolidation involves adding to what is already there. The only way to keep giving 20% is to get to 25%. If you don't get to 25%, you will not stay at 20%, you will drop.

Dieu n'a pas prévu que tu puisses avoir le temps pour te flatter comme le lézard.

On consolide and ajoutant, c'est dans tous les domaines. La seule manière de maintenir le niveau d'éducation, de technicité que tu as déjà, c'est d'ajouter. On garde ce que on a déjà en ajoutant.

La seule manière de garder les gens qui sont entrés, c'est de les transformer en des gens qui vont amener les autres.

There is always somebody better than you round the corner, less you move on. There will always be someone to do what you never wanted to do, and that person will take your place. What you complained about will be the joy of somebody. There will always be somebody wanting to do what you never wanted to do.

The fast-next year will be October/November. We will start around 1st or 2nd, so that by 10th November we would have finished. If we jump that fast, we shall never come back, there will always be a reason to jump.