



2018 PRAYER AND FASTING CRUSADE

Message of 19th November 2018



THEODORE ANDOSEH

Koume – 2018

Halleluiah!

- *Ten, ten, hen, people stand up and thank the Lord, from the heart, yes do it.*

Personal thanksgivings help us establish fellowship. As the numbers are growing, learn the discipline of thanking God for your life, it helps us to know you.

Every assembly where numbers are growing, testimonies and personal thanksgivings become priority, because if not, we shall have large numbers and anonymity. Let the thanksgiving become personal.

Please, if you came in today, come and introduce yourself for us please.

- *Just five people, thank the Lord for all the wonderful brethren who God has sent us to share with us.*

CHURCH MATURATION

I want to finish church maturation

How do we mature churches? How do we transform young churches into maturity?

We've already look at speaking the truth in love

That truth and love in the church mature the church.

When there is truth in the church and love, the church grows. If the church tried to have love without truth, it will be superficial. If the church has a lot of truth, rebukes; a lot of frankness, but little love, it will be a terrible church to belong to. I read a statement in Nigeria: what is it that all of us need but that none of us wants? Truth of course. So, if you think that speaking the truth is something that everybody wants, then you are mistaken; truth and love, they build. If you are a person who is very frank, very honest towards your wife, towards your children, but you don't show the love you have for them, regardless the fact that you have it, but if you don't show that love and you are frank, you are strict, you will destroy your family.

In Watchman Nee's book "Assembling together", he says, leaders who speak the truth but who are not indulgent produce liars; people lying to you because they want you to accept them. He says, parents who are strict and who are not indulgent will produce children who steal and lie. Why? Because you are not the kind of parents the child can be himself with. That is why he advises that for every criticism, you should give four encouragements, for every rebuke, there should be four congratulations; if not, you are not a builder.

Those who speak the truth enough ought to also have a large emotional spectrum and abundant emotions to serve as a shock absorber. You may ruin your children believing that you are building them, rebuking them, raising them.

Truth and love. In Africa, we have a tendency to speak the truth to our children and beat the devil out of them, but we don't provide the motivation on which that truth can

be formative. The power of truth to hurt the person and correct the person come from the love the person has for you. If you don't give the person love for you, all the truth you tell him will not help him and change him. For those who love you, a little frown, it will pain them more than a little stroke. But for others, make your face like this, everybody know that you are like that, you are Hitler, we know that you are a Jew, you are wicked, for you to smile, someone has to pay a visa. Truth and love.

- *I would like three people to pray that we will learn it in the church, because many did not have it in their families.*

When you want to speak the truth, you have to ask yourself, what do I want to achieve, to insult this person or to change this person? What exactly do you want to accomplish? Because some time, when we say we are speaking the truth, we are actually just angry we are manifesting lack of self-control. We are actually manifesting our irritability, it is not the other person you are thinking of, you are reliving yourself like a boiling civil war, that is all that you are doing, and that is what many of us call speaking the truth, we are creating an environment of frustration. Many people are incapable of quietly correcting and firmly correcting something wrong in the person they love deeply, they lack the courage to face the truth when they are in good relationship with someone. Many people can only speak the truth when they are angry, annoyed, they don't have the firmness to sit down with your wife when things are good and tell her: this is wrong, without changing the good relation and the good atmosphere. In order to put on the so called speaking the truth, someone must get angry, that is why it does nothing, the other person hears more your anger than your truth, so, he is not hearing what you are saying he is hearing our anger. Later one you will say: I have said this thing over and over, but you have never said it, the person only heard your anger, she heard your anger the first time, the second time, you never say something, you were simply angry. If you create a situation where all you said, the other person will hear only your anger, you have not spoken, you have simply manifested the emptiness and Christ less in your heart. When I start getting very irritable with people, I go on retreat, because that is how my own emptiness starts manifesting. When embracing people begin to bore me and I am wishing that this person coming in front of me should just pass, I go on retreat because my reservoir of love is empty. Your heart is empty, you are not in control, you have lost inner mastery of your life and ministry, things have grown bigger than you. When such things happen, you have to learn to read yourself. I hope you know how to read yourself. You should identify yourself, so that you know when you are not speaking the truth, you are just empty. When you start being tempted by sins you have delivered long ago, you are empty, if you neglect it, you will get to a point where you don't even sense it and you are finished, coming back will be almost impossible. If you lack truth, coming back may be impossible; truth and love, make sure that when you claim to be speaking the truth, that the other person is not only hearing your anger, make sure he is hearing what you are saying.

Halleluiah!

There are more and more people who manifest emptiness by monitor their bodies like pussy cat: oh, I am fat, I am over weighted. All the preoccupation of about the body

is emptiness. When my wife is empty, she received an anointing to be talkative, when she is normal, she is quiet. Many have lost a healthy mental, they are obsessional with looks, with diet, with sports, with drugs, obsessional with their feelings, it is because you are idle, only idle people spent the time leaking their bodies like pussycat. When men are normal and healthy, they dirty their hands because they are working. Emptiness. I don't want to mention some other manifestations, some men when they are empty, their libido go to 1000 per cent, they start behaving like lions, lions have sex 80-100 times per day, because they are not doing anything with their strength, so they sleep and wake up.

Let's come back to have healthy mended, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of a sound mind. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

But you should know yourself.

Love and truth, they build the church.

We also mentioned that God gives the gifts of men, public ministers, ministers of the Word, to build the church.

Another agent of maturation is Ephesians 4: 13

16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

There are two active verbs:

The unity of the body that comes with relationship as to each person relationship with Jesus and

The unity of the body that come for the fellowship as the brethren relate to each other's.

So the relationship with the Lord constitute the basis of secondly ligament bonds between the parts, ligaments there are relationship, relationships between the parts, relationships between the brethren, a church without ligaments is not a church, it has no cement, it is a garden of stones, it does not have cement, it does not have ligament, ligament link, ligaments link, so ligaments talk of relations between the brethren. So, the cohesion that produce the church comes down to relationship, the relationship with the Lord Jesus of every part, because he is the heard. Any part of the body disconnected from the head really does not exit. Connecting to the heat, ligament between the parts that is what forms a whole, what we call the Body.

To form the body, we must make sure that every member has a personal relationship with Jesus and maintain their relationship with Jesus. Anybody in our midst who is not maintaining his relationship with Jesus, will destruct all of us. Anybody among the HOD and the leaders of the centres who is not walking with God is a problem we cannot for a body of leaders without anybody walking personally with Jesus. If there is anyone among the HOD who is not reading his Bible regularly, who is not praying regularly, those are our problems, they are attacking at our fundamental constitution. We are the

Body of Christ because each part is linked to the head. We are a body of leaders because every leader is linked to the Master. We are a body of ministry because all the ministers are linked to the wealth. Our wealth, Christ is our wealth. If those who are rendering ministry are not linked to Christ, their ideas come from the world, from carnality, they will disrupt. They are not bringing a contribution, they are bringing a different spirit, they are bringing a different mind, because Jesus is not Lord and Master of their mind, they are importing worldly know how. They have not learnt the most back things about ministry.

Did Jethro help Moses?

We cannot form the Body of Christ, we cannot form a body of leaders, we cannot form a body of ministry, without the critical relationship with the Head.

If you are joking with your relationship with Jesus, you are a problem, regardless of your intention. You will cause us harm, because you are a voice for another spirit, a voice for the world in the church, a voice for the devil in the church. If you are not connected to the head, your ideas come from where.

The Body, cohesion, harmony, entity, unity, integrity, and all of that comes from fundamental relationship with Jesus, connected to the head, by ligaments, connected to the other part.

And in that passage, there is a second element, it tells us that unity comes from relationships. Body comes from relationships but he says, the growth of the body, the maturation of the body, the development of the body comes from the input of every part. growth, growth, maturation, edification, increase, development, fulness, increase, come from each member doing its part. each member doing its part.

As we go to follow-up and build young churches, if we want the churches to mature very fast, we must seek the involvement of all, of everyone we must get everyone do something. Many of us are looking for super people, we look for rich members, we look for intelligent members, we look for stable members, so we don't build the Body. We are looking that which add to our CV, rich people whom we don't have to worry when we visit that they may have need, people whom when they come to visit us we may be at peace because they don't come to throw burdens on us, we look for those who understand quickly so that we don't have difficulties to explain, to take care, and so, we don't build the church, because we don't even know how to go about it. We are looking for people who will give us little work: intelligent people, who understand quickly, socially stable people who don't drain us. With that mentality, you cannot mature a church rapidly, because you are functioning under the roman catholic system, of a clergy and laic, where there is a selected priesthood, of an elitist priesthood. In the Old Testament, there was an elitist priesthood, some people had the prerogatives of serving God while the others needed them as intermediaries. But in the New testament, in the church, it is the priesthood of all, all must serve God, all are priests, all children, men, women, illiterate, literates, we must make room for their service. If you know how to draw even the weakest member to bring in his contribution, you will mature the church very rapidly. But if you believe that when people are already believers, they must qualify, receive

your approval, enter the elitist. It must come down to every member. But when you are empty, you want to always stand in front of people, only you can receive a message only you can give a message, who sent you to do a job you cannot? If we want to rapidly mature the church, we must understand the church, from Day 1, everyone who has believed is a priest, he should start serving his priesthood.

That is how churches grow.