



AUGUST MESSAGE:

NEW BEGINNING IN TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

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Occupy till I come Lk. 19.13

He has made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth. Rev. 5.10.

We entered the second half of the year on a high note with so many extraordinary testimonies of the Lord's faithfulness and His mandate for us to go for excellence. We discovered that excellence helps us to maximise our purpose on earth. As we commit to excellence the Lord also perfects all that concerns us because He loves to see us become more like Him.

In this eighth month therefore, we enter into a season of new beginnings as we take responsibility for the state of our families, cities and nations. Making heaven is our priority but we must also be aware of two concerns it raises. .

First, it could lead to escapism as we expect others to tackle the challenges of our present world and turn round to complain when they do it the way they know best with their own anti-god programs and attitudes. In fact, while we were younger, I remember having some colleagues at the university that pulled out of school because they thought that the Lord would come soon. Why bother to study? This was some 50 years ago.

This leads us to the second big problem or concern: a faulty understanding of the Lord's teaching on the Kingdom of God (KoG). He taught us to pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Mt. 6.9-10. He also taught that the kingdom of God does not come by observation. This is because the KoG is first and foremost borne inside of us as we receive Christ and as we allow His (Holy) Spirit to help transform our lives and relationships in our families, churches, workspaces, cities and nations. Lk. 17.21. He then encouraged us to reject the temptation to use our privileged position and resources to pursue our own personal agendas but rather His own (God's) kingdom agenda of loving the Lord and His creatures. When we do this, He promised that all the things that the people of the world seek for would be added to us. Mt. 6.33.

The Lord gave us His authority and great gifts to rule with Him in

the secular and spiritual realms as kings and priests in this world. 1 Pet. 2.9; Rev. 5.10. This realization helped the countries influenced by Judeo-Christian values and led to the transformation of these societies fundamentally. Their political, legal, economic and social institutions were changed over time as well analysed even by secular observers. As they depart from these fundamental social norms in recent times, decline sets in at all points and a few close observers have begun to seek for older, conservative values of family, faith and nation.

In the new Testament, detailed instructions and parables are given to affirm the great authority that the Lord gave to His followers not only over nations generally but also over those seven social pillars at the cross. Our authority and gifts are to be used to occupy these social pillars until He returns to take His own away (Mt. 28. 18-20, Lk. 19.13. Rev. 5.12). The church took these to heart and applied them in her history of great evangelical expansion around the world. For some strange reasons, these truths were abandoned and it is clear that in these last days the Lord wants it to be a part of the restoration of the knowledge of His word and glory before He returns (Hab.2.14).

In essence, the Lord expects us to take responsibility for our lives, families, cities and nations. He told us to shine as lights and as salt that arrests societal decay around us (Mt. 5. 13-16). We should not await for another crisis like the recent 2024 Paris Olympic opening ceremony to realize that even entertainment can be an avenue to glorify the Lord as in all other spheres of life. Also, we are expected to do all we can to ensure that all those The Lord placed in our lives in the places where we live or work or worship are our responsibilities.

Welcome to the month of new beginning in taking responsibility.

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