

Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom. 12. 2.

Occupy till I come. Lk. 19.13.

n this month of double grace, we must discern that our world has entered a dangerous time. Largescale apostasy of individuals, nations and even Christian denominations that once espoused the ways of Christ and sought to evangelise the world with the Lord's good news now carry a fundamentally different message that honors the decimation of babies in the womb and gender confusion and mutilation. In the meantime, we inch closer to a third global or World War in which there might be few survivors from a nuclear catastrophe--either via the ongoing Middle East or the Ukraine Russia wars.

The Lord reminds us that only when His people's minds are transformed by accepting the fact that He has called and equipped us with great gifts to influence and impact our world on His behalf can we expect the healing of our communities, cities and nations. As we accept our responsibilities for His presence, peace, and prosperity where He located us we would experience the righteousness and great celebrations that His kingdom brings. All of us that have opened our spirits to receive His Spirit are not to conform to a world that calls evil good and good evil but open our minds for transformation so we can help transform others in our communities. (2 Chr.7. 14, Rom. 14.17)

Fortunately, we have examples in Bible and current history to see how this played out. Whereas of the two first sons of the first man, Adam, it was the younger Abel that understood the importance of sacrificial living and giving whereas his elder brother, Cain, was preoccupied with himself to the point of envying and killing his own brother. (Gen. 4:6-7, Heb.11.4) Again, David who did not qualify to be in Israel's army was the one whose faith, disciplined and sacrificial life-style defeated the giant Goliath that terrorized his nation.

The Lord Jesus similarly exemplified this sacrifical and service principles by His own life. Furthermore, He raised a group of followers who became exactly like Himself even though they were very ordinary people initially. They transformed our world everywhere they went. (Acts 4.13, 11.26, 17.3). HIs last word to us His disciples is to occupy until He returns.

We also see this in the life of many other triailblazers even in the secular world since their time. For instance the Wright brothers who invented the first human flying machine were ordinary boys which did not even have high school certificate Similarly, most of those who invented the electronic devices used by practically everyone on our planet today had limited education or funds yet their passion enabled them to overcome all kinds of difficulties. It follows that anyone of us can make a difference in our contemporary world if we pay attention to the following three points.

First, refuse to conform to those things the Lord detests and focus on those things the Lord commends for those who would be transformational leaders. Rather seek God's power through His Holy Spirit to enable you to overcome the flesh, the world, and subtle satanic agents such as iniquities, infirmities, evil friends and associations. We must understand that the kingdom of God we are to build and sustain in this world in our place/area of calling involves serious spiritual battles that can only be won by the violent. (Mt. 11.12, Acts 1. 5-8, 2 Cor. 10.4-5). This involves substitution of altars--(Judges 6. 25-26).

Second, focus on your calling as defined by the opportunities and giftings the Lord gave you to pursue your vision with passion. Be your very best: commit to a continuing search with diligence for excellence in all you do.

Finally, in whatever place you are located in life, seek to *serve*, *sacrifice and submit* to the Lord's instructions and the leaders He gives you. This was the Lord Jesus' lifestyle. (Lk. 22. 22-27). Commit to being your brother's keeper and lifter. Your brother is anyone who is your neighbour who can be blessed by your life.

Be ready to work and pray to make this your month of TRANSFORMATION and CELEBRATION. Be assured that the Lord is committed to your celebrating in this new month as you and I do our own part.

Dele Olowu October 1, 2024