

And God blessed them and said unto them, Be fruitful....Gen. 1.28

Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit Jn. 12. 24.

ruitfulness is a blessing and also a commandment of God to every man. Fruitfulness enables us to fulfil our destiny of multiplying, replenishing the earth and having dominion over it. The Lord Jesus also made clear to us that it is the reason He called us to serve as His followers or disciples--to bring all of humans to Himself. His reward is to answer all our prayers. (Jn. 15. 16). The ninth month is the month of gestation for human reproduction although fruitfulness is much more than having babies--includes being fruitful with new ideas, innovations, products, companies, ministries and social goals. This is the heart of the Lord for us all in this new month or season as our new year commences as a global Mission with a mandate for Vision 2032.

Most people would like to be fruitful but they don't know how. There are four major steps to divine fruitfulness as taught by the Lord (Lk 10: 1-9).

The first is a commitment to **PRAYING** for the Lord to open our eyes to see the dimensions and opportunities for fruitfulness --the ripe, open fields that are ready for harvest all around us. These fields need key actors called LABORERS. I am to pray to the Lord to make me one and also help send more such people to His harvest field in which I am located. They intercede, give the best of their time, talents and treasures to see their domains brought to Christ. These laborers are referred to as workers in some denominations. They are people who are ready to do whatever it takes to ensure that essential seeds are planted and watered and harvested at the proper time. They have a strong personal bonding with their Master and know that at the proper time He would reward them (Heb. 6.10; 11.6).

The second step is to be a ready to **PARTNER or MAKE FRIENDS** with people in your communities, work or school with the sole purpose of bringing them to a sound knowledge of who the Lord has been to you. It requires that we get to know these neighbours of ours, enquire over their welfare, pray with them over challenges of life, even before we speak to them of the good news of the Kingdom. Its sad that even we Christians are good at making enemies but the friend of sinners commend us to make friends across all social divides by dying to ourselves. He Himself became our friends in this manner and for this very purpose (Jn 15. 12-13).

Thirdly, we make friends as **PEACE** Ambassadors. Everyone loves peace, especially the type that only God can give: comprehensive or complete peace or wholeness: body, soul and spirit--SHALOM. Peace ambassadors bring God's peace everywhere they go because they themselves already experienced this peace since they got to know the Prince of Peace and died to self-seeking but the enlargement of their king's domain (kingdom). No wonder practically all of the new testament epistles start with Grace and Peace being multiplied to the readers.

Finally, the one who would be fruitful must be ready to **PAY THE PRICE** in living a holy life--a life that is sanctified or totally compliant to God's directives on all points. Its this commitment to holiness that constantly releases more anointing on us. (Heb. 1. 9, 2 Tim. 2. 19-21, Lk. 10.17-22). Such greater anointing helps us to be more impactful soul winners and Holy Spirit-sensitive, discerning and directed persons.

Welcome to the month of Divine Fruitfulness.

**Dele Olowu,** Amsterdam, August 30, 2023