

When God wants to move into the earth, He starts with you...

Who will lead us, and where are we going?

Soon it will be time for elections again in South Africa, and millions of people will go to the polling stations to put their trust and future into the hands of a man or a woman, whom they believe, has the ability to change their circumstances and give them a better future.

In a country such as South Africa, there is such a variety of political parties and candidates we can choose from, all painting some kind of a picture of improved conditions and upliftment, should they be voted into power. Normally these candidates increase their activities and visibility tremendously in the months and weeks ahead of the actual date set aside for the elections to take place, only to disappear for the next couple of years. Have you ever thought of the significance of using an “X” or a cross to indicate your choice of candidate, on the ballot paper?

Whenever an elected candidate is sworn in to his or her public office, the phrase “so help me God”, is introduced, meaning that the candidate acknowledges his or her dependency on the intervention of God to enable them to perform their public duties.

All those who voted for the candidate, have done it by applying the mark of the cross next to the name of their choice. Jesus Christ told His disciples and all of His future followers the following:

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.” (Matthew 16:24)

I do not know if we have ever viewed the process of voting, in the light of actually laying down our lives to the visions, promises and ideologies of those, next to whom we make the mark of the cross on the ballot paper! In the process, we surrender ourselves, and place our future into the hands of those we appoint. Whatever they carry in their hearts, will become our future, as we have entrusted them to lead us, to the place where, what they painted to us as a picture, becomes a reality.

Unfortunately, most of these visions, remain only such, it simply never materialises. As Christians, we therefore have a tremendous responsibility when it comes to elections, as the cross you make, also becomes the pathway you will have to follow...Christ said so!

In reading through the Word of God, and studying the history of past revivals, one thing stands out; God always selects a person or a group of people through which He intends to touch the earth and the current generation. This is true throughout the Old Testament and even confirmed by Jesus Christ in the new, when He said:

“You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you.” (John 15:16)

At another occasion, He informed His followers of the fact that, although many are called, only few are eventually chosen, to show them the intensity and seriousness of being His representatives here on earth. Only those who are completely surrendered and submitted to Him and His commission will move on to sharing in His glorious plan for humankind. Perhaps we should take this criteria to heart, and eliminate those candidates from our ballot papers who offered themselves to us to serve our needs previously, and proved to be doing quite the opposite!

Do you believe that God wants to do something spectacular and extra ordinary for the earth, during your lifetime? Are you also convinced that we can and must play an important part in the destiny of our generation and those who will come after us?

If your answer is yes, then this article is for you! Let us allow Him to give us a different perspective on why we have been placed on earth, at the specific location, and during this exact time of our existence. See yourself as one of His candidates, placed on His ballot paper to be selected to serve in some kind of a public office, representing Him and His Government on the earth. Your election for the vision He has for the earth and the nations, also takes place by the mark of a cross. By adhering to the words of Jesus Christ, we deny our own plans, ambitions, desires and lifestyles, and pick up His plans, ambitions, desires and lifestyle. In fact, everything about our pre-existence, before we met Him at Calvary, completely disappears in Him as we die to self, and are resurrected in the newness, and image and likeness of Him! Suddenly there appear, on the horizon, candidates that can do all things, through Christ Jesus. Representatives who can truly change the destiny of cities and nations! Their manifesto is concrete, trustworthy and immune against failure! Jesus did say, *“The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away” (Emphasis added).*

Through the writings of the Prophet Isaiah, God told us how potent and accurate His Word is: *“so shall My Word be which goes out of My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall certainly do what I sent it to do.”(Emphasis added)*

The Apostle Paul reminded the Church at Corinth in his second letter to them, of the reliability of God’s promises: *“For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God by us.” (Emphasis added)* To the Churches at Galatia he gave the assurance that once you have received Christ as your

Saviour, and made Him Lord over all, *“you have been crucified with Christ, and you live; yet no longer you, but Christ lives in you. And that life you now live in the flesh, you live by faith toward the Son of God, who loved you and gave Himself on your behalf.”* (Para phrased by author)

What does this all mean to us in the 21st century? It means that as a born-again believer, who surrendered their everything to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, we now stand in the earth as an accurate representation of Him. Whatever we say and do has its origin in Christ, who was, is, and is to come. He is the beginning and the end and in Him we live, and move and have our being. Whatever we declare from this position, in Christ, will come to pass, and will have an everlasting effect on our surroundings to the benefit of those around us. Can you imagine having such Government representatives, taking care of our affairs! Just think for a moment what the earth will be like if this is was to be possible! If the Apostle Paul was still around, I can already hear him say this to the church of Jesus Christ:

“Therefore he says, “Awake, sleeping ones! And arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” (Ephesians 5:14)

The Prophet Isaiah also uttered the very same invitation when he said:

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of Jehovah has risen on you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples; but Jehovah shall rise on you, and His glory shall be seen on you. And the nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.” (Isaiah 60:1 – 3)

I believe God’s Word is very clear on the mandate we have as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, irrespective of the challenges we are faced with. If we look at the meaning of the word, “follow” in the dictionary, one of the descriptions really stands out for me, *“to come next after something else”*.

Does this mean that we are to be arriving on the scene in the same manner as the one who is leading our coming? Definitely, yes! Jesus confirmed this when He told His followers that they will do the same works, and even greater works than He, because He will be leaving the scene! He will be with His Father in Heaven, and we will be left with an earth that desperately needs a touch from Him. Those who put their trust in Him will burst onto the scene, with the potential to change cities and nations! Are you aware of the fact that you are on God’s election list? Are you aware that He is behind your campaign? Do you realize how enormous your mandate is? Many are called in this generation, called to assignments so astronomically large, entire governments on the earth will be required in the natural, to achieve its goals. Once you come to Christ, you are placed on that list of elected ones, but only very, few make it to the position of being elected to operate in the true capacity of the Office of Christ, Ruler of the Nations! For centuries, we have preached the gospel and have led many to salvation through the message of the cross, but I believe we are entering the most exciting time in the history of humankind, as He will begin to speed up the process of bringing everything under the Headship of His Son Jesus Christ. For this to come to pass,

there has to be an increase of His power on earth, there has to be an outbreak of signs and wonders and there has to be a visible, tangible manifestation of His glory in His temple, His Body, the Church.

It always starts on any given day, at the backside of the desert...

The plan and its initiator

So many of us are under the impression that when God wants to do something to change conditions on the earth, He needs to call a meeting, spend days, weeks or even months to come up with a suitable solution. Not so, for the Word gives us the assurance that God established His method of salvation even before the earth's foundations were laid! This means that God has already worked out the terms and conditions of the plan, and when the time arrives for its implementation, He just needs to bring the plan and the instruments of His choice, together in partnership!

God has no new schemes or plans that He needs to dream up as the world becomes more evil. The fact that the state of humanity deteriorates as time goes by, also has no effect on God's plans, as He already determined our value long before we were created! This is why we are all equal in His sight, irrespective of the existence of sin in our lives. He loves or hates a liar equally as much as a murderer, to them they are both of similar value to Him and therefore the price of redemption remains the same in both cases, the shedding of the blood of His one and only Son! You can now understand why Christianity is the only religion in which man has no right to alter God's original conditions for salvation!

Not only did God establish the required plan to influence the earth and its inhabitants, in His wisdom and pre-knowledge, He even determined pre-appointed times for us to be born as each one of us are perfectly suited for the time and surroundings into which we are born. Look at the following scripture, as it sheds more light on this:

“And He has made all nations of men of one blood to dwell on all the face of the earth, ordaining fore-appointed seasons and boundaries of their dwelling, to seek the Lord, if perhaps they might feel after Him and find Him, though indeed He is not far from each one of us.

For in Him we live and move and have our being, as also certain of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring.” (Acts 17:26 – 28)

First of all, it says we all originate from one blood, and out of this comes all the nations of the world. This immediately brings us on level ground, irrespective of what we may look like! Then we are instructed to dwell on “*all the face of the earth*”, which reverts back to the Book of Genesis and the mandate God gave Adam and Eve. We are clearly told that God has determined where these

nations will dwell and during which seasons, and notice what I believe is a very important key in this passage of scripture:

“to seek the Lord, if perhaps they might feel after Him and find Him, though indeed He is not far from each one of us.”

God, in His wisdom, strategically placed each one of us somewhere on the globe, so that we can become the light of the area, lighting the way to Him, for those who are still in darkness! What an awesome privilege but also responsibility He has placed upon us! Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 5:14:

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

We need to understand our role as Born-again believers! We become the illuminated, directional signboards in a desert place, leading the lost to the water of Life. We are the ambassadors of Christ in a world of hostility. The more we accept our high calling, and allow His Spirit to transform us, the brighter we will shine, until we are no longer just a small signboard, but the light we will radiate, will be equivalent to a strong city on a hill! This will increase the chances of the lost in our area, to also discover the joy of everlasting life through Jesus Christ. As a young Christian, I used to pray that God must move me out of my unpleasant, difficult surroundings and circumstances to a better, much more suitable place, until He showed me my true worth! I began to realize that He created with the ability to change my surroundings in such a way that I become a testimony to those who are stuck in a similar place. What is the purpose if God continuously moves us to places where we are free from all the pressure, but the place where I come from, remains untouched? I began to understand that God placed each one of us very specifically on the earth, for Him to use us to bring every inch of it, under the ruler ship of His Son. That is exactly what He told the Prophet Habakkuk to pen down:

*“For the **earth** shall be filled with the knowledge of the **glory** of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14)*

This is our mandate, allowing God to use us as His vessels to gradually reshape the entire earth. Since I discovered this, I allow God to shape me, through my circumstances, until I become victorious and then I allow Him to use me to reach others around me!

Let us briefly look at how God applied the above, in the life of Moses. We read in Exodus chapter two and verse 24, that God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, when the Israelites began to groan about their circumstances. You see, God already told Abraham 400 years earlier what would happen to Israel, that they would be slaves in Egypt, and that He would deliver them at His appointed time. With Moses being born, the appointed time was nearing its fulfilment. God already made provision for the deliverance of His people, long before they were born! Therefore, did God also make provision for

our salvation, before the foundation of the earth, as we read in the scriptures that the Lamb was slain before the foundation of the earth!

One thing we need to understand very clearly is that the plan is already in place, every detail of it, worked out to perfection. All the resources needed for it to succeed have been allocated, and are waiting to be released. The plan has an appointed time to be implemented on the earth, known as Kairos time.

Are you the one He will choose to ignite His next move in the earth? Am I perhaps the exact answer for the problems of my generation? Do I have the right qualities to be used by Him for a time such as this? You had better believe that you are all of the above and even more! The Word of God says we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.

The Greek term for “workmanship” is “poiēma”, and it means to be a distinctive product or made from a specific fabric or material. The word “poem” is also derived from this, indicating that our entire existence was written in and through Christ long before the earth was founded. We are the manifestation of the written songs of beauty, love and power on the earth! Our successes, conquests, victories and accomplishments have already been penned down with divine precision and as we continue to walk in submission and obedience to Him, His Spirit directs us along these awesome paths of abundant life! In His wisdom, He already determined the destiny of individuals, cities and nations, and all we need to do, is covenant with Him and see how He works out the salvation of everything we touch. Our function is to be accurately positioned in Him so that we can step out in tune with the sound of heaven. We march along the pathway of life, submerged in His glory, clothed in His righteousness, and carried on the wings of unstoppable faith. The assignment has been tried and tested centuries ago, and perfected by Christ, all He expects from us, is to grow into it, grasp it, take it up, and become the vessel of transportation. You are that vessel....

A bold, but true statement...

Since a very young age, I found it very difficult to submit my life under authority. At first, I did not understand this, and thought of myself as perhaps a bit rebellious. As I grew older, I began to understand why this was the case.

I realised that I had an enormous hunger and passion for righteousness. I had a desire to see justice being done under all conditions and at any cost.

This caused me to look at other people, especially those older than me, through very critical eyes, as I wanted to inspect their lives to see how much righteousness they have to offer me. I wanted to be sure they will lead me closer to my destiny and not further astray...

Imperfect people required for perfect assignments!

Each time I study the Word of God, it completely amazes me to discover God's method in dealing with people, situations and seasons. Whatever we consider a suitable way to handle something or deal with someone turns out to be quite the opposite to the way God would take care of it! No wonder the prophet Isaiah was inspired by the Spirit of the Lord to write:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55: 8 – 9)

Throughout humankind's existence God's way in dealing with the earth always caused man to reconsider his understanding of who God really is and how Supremely Superior He is in comparison to anything and everything else.

*Strangely enough, God would forever work His way into the lives of those who tried running their affairs their way and messing up so badly, that their resume reads like something out of a book entitled: **"Next time you fall, please stay down"**. Alternatively, even worse: **"Why losers hang out with you – you make them look successful"***

You must realise one very important thing, the earth is pretty messed up as it is, and there are probably not many perfect people around any more. I would say that the last perfect person I can recall knowing was someone I met when I was a very little boy. The strange thing is, the older I got, the less perfect people I encountered. The more wisdom I obtained, the fewer encounters I had with perfect people! Even those who used to be perfect when I was very small gradually became more and more flawed as I watched them with my newfound knowledge and understanding of life and its demands to stay on the right track. As I grew older, I realised that there are no perfect people, as my perspective of right and wrong began to develop. At the age of 5, when I went to school for the very first time, not even my first teacher could pass the test of "being perfect", causing my parents endless sleepless nights as they tried to convince me that I needed to go to school, irrespective of my point of view of the competency of the teacher. Something suddenly stirred inside me, not wanting me to be subject to someone whom I felt was not suitable to mentor me! My entire being rose up against the thought that I had to submit myself to another human being who will most probably contaminate me with her flaws, mistakes and failures! Each time my parents dropped me off at

school, I found a splendid way to free myself from the grasp of the teacher and like a thoroughbred racehorse and the instinct of a racing pigeon, worked my way swiftly back home! Not only was the exercise good for my health but it also taught me to become an excellent negotiator. First thing in the morning, the negotiations would start between the two parties, me on the one side, debating the reasons why I should skip school and enter straight into a career, while my precious, patient parents on the other side, would rally for a good education in a public school! After our morning “negotiations exercise”, in which not much I came up with, scored any points, the second phase would begin: “the drive to school while I exercised my vocal cords”. This phase also did not work in my favour, so I would then always opt for the third phase, “Exercising my legs back home”, as I would, as soon as the opportunity arose, excuse myself for the rest of the day from the program, and ran home as fast as I could! I cannot remember how long this continued, but gradually I was forced by the systems of this world, to allow myself to be subdued to second best. Note I do not say submit, but subdue, as submission is a voluntary act we do willingly. I realised I had to go through the systems of life to get to the opportunities of life. Throughout these years, I continuously searched for the highest form of truth, righteousness, and justice to bring my life under its covering...

As I grew in wisdom, I also began to understand that we are all imperfect, looking for the perfect place and opportunity to make a permanent contribution towards life on earth. I learned to walk alongside those, appointed to equip me, I learned to respect them for their sincerity in what they endeavoured to achieve in me. Today I am grateful for them; I salute them and pray that I can sow something of value back into their lives. I understand they were placed on my path as stepping stones for me to reach higher and higher in search of truth and through this I have come to the conclusion that even I am nothing but a stepping stone for others to reach higher than I will ever be able to, in this life.

Now for an even bolder statement...

There is this deep conviction in my heart, to free people from the oppression of mentors and leaders who are selfish and gather for themselves followers to feed off them. I am constantly looking at those in leadership to see how much of God are displayed in and through them, their actions and their lives. Do I hear God speak through them when they speak, or do I hear their own alter ego being echoed from the emptiness of their inner chambers?

I want to put this in clear writing, for all to read and perhaps adopt it as your own motto in your journey into your God given future:

“I am no longer to follow anyone in whom I do not recognise the risen Christ. I am no longer allowing those who do not speak on behalf of God, to direct my footsteps and guide my future. If a leader wants my support, he must put all he has of God, in him, on display so that I can make a proper decision. A leader is someone who has a better plan for my future, he has a clearer vision of my destiny, he has more authority than me in the spirit realm, he shows true signs of a servant and is prepared to give up his own life, ambitions, dreams and visions to get me to where I have been called to by God. He does not expect the best seat in the house as my respect for him has already reserved such a place.

I want to follow someone with greater love for Christ than I have; I want to follow someone with more of Christ in him, than I have, as this will lead me closer to Him than ever before...

If I want to be such a leader, the above and even more must be my goal in life. I must be willing to die to self so that Christ can increase in me. I can only be such a leader if I have more of Christ in me to offer those who are still looking, searching, yearning...

Each time I am expected to cast my vote, I automatically search for more of Christ in those who stand to become our leaders of tomorrow. Perhaps I am the only one doing so, and perhaps my expectancy is too high, but believe me, since I have submitted myself to the King of Kings and the Lord of all lords, I find it impossible to be led by anything less...

Come on children of God, let us submit to Him, draw near to Him and be led by a Leader worthy of all our honour, praise and adoration.

As we do this, He will bring us to positions of true leadership who will lead this and the coming generations away from manmade oppressive, empty, selfish leadership styles. We will soon discover that we do not need those in political positions, as He will be the only One leading us on and on...”

Conclusion

My dear brother, sister, I know God wants to move into the earth and change the destinies of nations, are you the one He will come to? Am I the one He will take note of when His eyes starts to search for a vessel? You may think you do not possess, the right qualities, but thankfully, He knows best, as he made us, then released us into the earth for a time such as this!

Hear Him now through this short document, and do something so simple, yet so profound and with so much potential by praying this very short prayer:

“Here I am Lord Jesus, imperfect in myself, but perfect in Christ. Here I am, ready to be set free from all ungodly alignments, submissions and unholy alliances. I thank you for Your blood, which now sets me free from all ignorant and wrong choices I made! I submit to You and whomever You choose to be my mentor and guide. I submit to You to shape me until I have more of You in me to offer to those who still need to discover You as the one and only true God.

In Jesus Name I pray, Amen”

