

Where are the Pastors who led us to Christ in the 80s?

These pastors taught us about contentment, and they also modeled it. Our services were never under the pressure of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd services. If anyone lacked, all lacked. Our pastors were not celebrities. When we entered the church, we settled down to be taught. We had a whole hour of Sunday school, another hour of a believer foundation class, another extra 30 minutes of question-and-answer time on the topics we just finished at the believer's class, one hour of intercession, about 45 minutes to one hour of intense worship and praise, and another one hour of the main word or sermon session. You will leave the church fully loaded with breadth and depth. The power of God moved.



Dr. Ayo Akerele

The presence of God was tangible. Consequently, righteousness reigned in the nation, to a large extent. We were not perfect, but we had some degree of fear of God in our hearts. When we fell into sin, we would weep and cry to God for repentance. We considered being disciplined for an offense a privilege. We loved God and feared him.

Our pastors never focused their ministries on money. They never competed on who or who doesn't have the largest auditorium. They never competed on who owned the largest fleet of cars or jets. It was all about heaven. They contended with their 100, 200, 300, or 1000 members.

Our pastors never courted corrupt politicians, nor were they associated with burying things under their church buildings. If a pastor dares to cross the boundaries of sexual decency, the consequences were severe. He would be disciplined, suspended, and made to face the full scale of restoration. And they even considered it an act of mercy and love. Our pastors modeled Christ to the minutest details.

Even though there were excesses, those excesses now pale behind the reality of today's church. Believers were respected and revered. Who would you employ in your organization but a believer? Why? They would not cheat, lie or steal. Every corrupt person avoided a believer like plague. Why? They will spoil business for you. Our marriages were not perfect, but our men and our women feared God. Even when we had problems in our marriages, we bowed and submitted to the word of God when corrected. It was a golden generation of Christians who feared God.

Where have things gone wrong? We are now battling with a monster of occultism, mammon, watered-down messages, and in many cases, total errors, failing marriages, corrupt youths, and wasteful ministers. We have now produced a generation of very weak and carnal Christians who for the most part are even worse than unbelievers.

Divorce rates have shot up among Christians. Adultery is being drunk like water by many of our pastors, while many are going into occultism for church growth at alarming rates. Our church altars are full of thousands of people rushing out to accept Jesus--the Jesus many of them will not listen to or

emulate. So, we are battling with a multi-dimensional crisis. No one knows Jesus and still loves sin. In counseling sessions, you sometimes wonder what kind of Jesus some of the couples that come for counseling have accepted.

Why? They are full of bitterness, unforgiveness, and many terrible vices. Yet, they claim to be deacons and deaconesses in many of our churches. The gospel they claimed to have received has not transformed their hearts at all.

We need to wake up and go back to God. If what you are seeing today is a glorious church in your eyes, then you have been deceived. We all need to repent and rise from the ashes of corruption, and our lackadaisical attitude toward decency, honesty, integrity, love, and righteousness--the critical pillars of the Christian faith.

We can hold ten services in our churches but let these ten services produce Christ-like Christians who will not disgrace Christ at home and in their places of work.

Let's bring sense back to our churches and our ministries. Let's stop honoring false teachings and corrupt leaders. Rather, let's start praying for them to repent and come back to God.

Ultimately, when the church becomes stronger in values, the nation will become stronger in values. The buck stops at the table of the light of the world--the church of Christ. Let us light the world again

Let revival break out