
THE AMBIVALENCE OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY IN PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Prophets are powerful religious leaders with messages from God who exercise tremendous influence over the lives of people because they clarify mysteries in some situations and around people's lives and denounce the evil practices going on in the society. This study adopted historical methods and employed the use of primary and secondary sources such as observation, testimonies of people, textbooks and journals. Nigeria is leading in evangelism and preaching the word of God around the world. Unfortunately, the rise of false prophets in Nigeria is a source of concern to rational minds. Some years ago, church titles like prophet, pastor, evangelist, apostle, bishop and reverend were reserved for real servants of God who fear the Lord and shun evil. Unlike now, where some people who are not saved, have no fear of God and no integrity, open up churches and prayer houses, calling themselves prophets and twisting scriptures with the mind to extort money from their members and clients. Those who fall prey to the manipulation of these false prophets are the desperate miracle seekers who are either looking for the fruit of the womb or financial breakthroughs who are prepared to pay the required price to get what they want. The false prophets often ask them to sow seeds with huge amounts of money as pre-requisites for divine intervention. The work reveals that lack of the fear of God and moral decadence in the society led to the rise of false prophets. Pentecostal leaders should educate the general populace on the evil practices of the false prophets, so that they will not fall victim to their schemes.

Keywords: Ambivalence, Prophetic Ministry and Pentecostal Churches.

Introduction

Prophets occupy important positions in the scripture and in this present dispensation as they have the understanding of the times and the knowledge of what God is about to do. A prophet is God's spokesman on earth among his people. He occupies a very important place in the heart of God and leads people to God through his operation and conduct. He participates in God's plans and performances among men. The bible says that through a prophet the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt

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and preserved. Where there is no prophet the people will live in sin and anarchy. Therefore the prophet determines the life style of his people as Elijah and Elisha determined what happened in their time. Therefore the prophet is active in every age and every dealing of God with man on earth. The prophets in the Old Testament were powerful religious, social and political leaders with messages from God who exercised tremendous influence on the lives of their people by dictating the times, predicting, the future of the nation, denouncing the evil practices of individuals and nation and kings listened to them and trembled at their sight. There is need for fearless prophet that will denounce the evil practices going on in this nation and turn back the mind of the people to God.

The false prophets are not like that because they turn the people's mind away from God, exploit and manipulate them for their selfish interest. The growing menace of false prophets in our nation is a source of concern to rational minds, because of some false prophets who lay claim to the possession of prophetic gift and having solutions to every physical and spiritual problem, who have nothing to offer. The scripture warns that false prophets will arise and deceive many in the last days. Some of these false prophets go to the seers, diviners or medicine men where they wash their eyes and tongue to get in touch with the spirit world, in order to communicate with strange spirits that are not from God and acquire evil power of prophecy talk and believe. Sometimes these charmers and manipulators lead some of their clients into error that results in physical death, as they alter the deity of Christ and redefine the trinity by preaching another gospel. They are false prophets and false teachers who secretly introduce destructive heresies, denying the sovereign Lord who created them and bringing destruction on themselves and many followed their shameful ways by denying the truth. (2Peter 2:1-2).

Definition of Terms

An attempt is made to define the key words that form the title of this paper "The ambivalence of prophetic ministry in Pentecostal churches in Nigeria.

Ambivalence: the word ambivalence has been variously defined by different scholars. Della (2003) defines ambivalence as a state of having simultaneous, conflicting feelings towards a person or thing. Ambivalence is the experience of having thought or motions of both positive and native feeling of hate and love toward someone as having or showing good or bad feeling about somebody or something. The word ambivalence within this paper means the positive and negative impacts of prophetic ministry on the members of Pentecostal church and the general populace in Nigeria.

Prophetic: Hornby (2006) defines prophetic as correctly stating or showing what will happen in future. According to Della (2009) a prophet is a person sent by God to teach the people and give them messages from God. A prophet is a person who claims to know what will happen in the future. Adesanyan (2011) states that a prophet is God's oracle, God's spokesman and a mouth piece of the almighty God. A prophet foretells and speaks about the future. He hears directly from the Lord and speak the

mind of God to people. According to Nman (2016), a prophet is a man that sees and obtains knowledge of spiritual realities not available to others. He receives vital messages from God and conveys it to those concerned.

Pentecostalism: Syan (2007) Posits that Pentecostalism is a renewal movement within Christianity that places special emphasis on a direct personal experience of God through salvation and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The term “Pentecostal” is derived from “Pentecost”, the Greek name for the Jewish feast of weeks. For Christians, this event commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus Christ, as described in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-4). Pentecostalism adheres to the inerrancy of scripture and the necessity of accepting Christ as Personal Lord and Savior.

Church: Church is a group of Christians gathered for religious purposes. Njoku (2008) states that the church is the people of God, that is the whole body of Christian Believers, both the priest and the laity. Some people understand the Church to be a physical structure where people assemble to worship God but Church is more about people than the building.

Definition of a Call

The call of God is a divine invitation or summons from God to be or do something different. The call of God is a divine appointment or assignment given to men and women by God to serve Him in His earthly Kingdom.

Types of Calling

There are two (2) major types of call or calling:

- i. **General or Universal Call:** This is the general call for an assignment or a call to all believers to evangelize to the nations or to preach the gospel to the unsaved. (Matt 28:19-20).
- ii. **Specific Call:** This occurs when an individual is called to carry out a specific assignment for God as it is in the case of Moses, Abraham, Prophets, Priests, Kings and Paul.

Carleton (2006) states that it is generally believed among Christians that only a divine call can bring a person into the ministry because there shall come a time when nothing else but divine grace would keep the person in the ministry. God calls people in different ways such as:

1. **Through the direct voice of God.** (John 10:27)
 - Moses (Ex 3:1-22) was called to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptian bondage.
 - Samuel was called at the age of nine years to be a prophet. (1 Samuel 3:1-4).
- Abraham was called to be the father of all nations. (Genesis 12:1-9)
- Saul, later known as Paul was called to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. (Acts 9:1-19)

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- Jonah was called to preach salvation messages to the Ninevites for them to repent.
- Peter was called to become fishers of men. (Luke 5:1-11)
- 2. According to Tutu (2011), one can be called through anointed men of God.
- Elisha was called Prophet by Prophet Elijah who succeeded Elijah and carried the double portion of Elijah's anointing. (1 Kings 19:21)
- Timothy was called by Paul to preach the gospel in season and out of season and to succeed Paul. (2 Timothy 4:2)
- 3. Through dreams or visions. (Job 33:14-16)
- 4. Through talent: One can go into the ministry as a result of his/her talent. Also the people in the church can encourage one to accept a divine responsibility in the church as a result of one's talent.

Tutu (2011) posits that, besides these ways of being called or receiving the call, one should not seek to receive his/her calling according to patterns used before. This is because each man is a distinct creation of God and has a right to be called by the Lord in a way which is distinctively his/hers. When God calls a person, certain things will happen to that life i.e. an experience or an encounter with memorable events. Something definite that is extraordinary will happen to make one recognize it unmistakably and make it never to be a forgotten event e.g. Moses, Paul, Isaiah. He will have a conviction in his spirit that God wants to use him and that God will give him Spiritual Power to back him up. (Luke 9:1)

The Five-Fold Ministry

The Pentecostals believe in the five fold ministry. This stems from the account in (Ephesians 4:11-12) where God gave different gifts to people in the church for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ. According to Hamon (2011), the fivefold ministers as revealed in (Eph 4:11). Are Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. They are not gifts of the Holy Spirit per se, but an extension of Christ's headship ministry to the church. Their primary ministry and function is to teach, train, activate, prepare believers for the work of God and to edify the Christians or body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). Idowu (2008), states that there are five main offices in the spiritual government in the order of seniority. They are: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. Robert (2001) asserts that the Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastors and Teachers operate under the Apostolic and Prophetic spirit of the Holy Spirit. Also, at any time, any one or more of these offices of the ministry can manifest the spirit of the Apostle or Prophet. Therefore, the Apostolic and Prophetic covering is over all the five offices.

The Prophetic Call: Hester (2005) states that prophet is called by God to declare the message which he receives from God. This call comes in various forms: in some instances it comes by audible voice, by a vision accompanied by a spoken words of invitation and command as with prophet Isaiah (Isa. 6:1-13). In each case these men

are convinced that God has selected them to give his message to the people of their time. They proclaimed their messages by saying “thus says the Lord”.

Types of Prophets

Olukoya (2010) states that there are two types of prophecy

1. Prophecy from God
2. False prophecy from the devil or flesh

1. True prophet: According to Olukoya (2010) a true prophet is a spiritual leader with the gift of prophecy who receives message from God and delivers it to the people concerned. According to Hester (2005), a prophet is a man with true message from God. He is a seer and a man of vision who has the knowledge of spiritual realities not available to others. He is a speaker that declares the message he receives from God to those it is meant for. According to Olukoya (2010) a prophet has the gift of discernment with the supernatural power of God to detect the source of the spirit in operation. To know the purpose and plan of the enemy and their forces, the ability to know if the prophetic utterances of another is from God or Satan and the ability to know what a situation or a person is all about.

Nmah (2016) states that prophets frequently appeared in the role of social and political reformers, stirring preachers of righteousness and religious revivalists in addition to being predictors of judgment or blessing as the occasion demanded. The prophet’s message was ever “religious and spiritual, announcing the will of God to people and calling for complete obedience to God” furthermore, the scripture presents prophetic prediction as a manifestation of God’s power glorifying his person, exalting his redemptive work in Christ and setting forth the divine character of his revealed and written word which is the scripture.

2. False Prophet: Olukoya (2010) posits that a false prophet is the one who falsely claims the gift of prophecy, divine healing, divine inspiration or one who uses the gift of God for evil ends. He is a wolf in sheep clothing, godless and speak vision from his mind. He is the one who uses charm or mind control methods to manipulate his victims or clients in order for them to depend on him totally for spiritual direction in all aspects of their lives and make merchandise use of them. He does horrible things, commit adultery; live in lies, and strengthen the hands of evildoers that none of them repent from their wickedness (Jeremiah 23:14). Some of the false prophets were called by God but as a result of sin, not able to maintain the prophetic ethics or not working in their area of call, because this is the era of prophetic boom where prophets attract crowds as a result of miracle seekers. They deviate from the original plan of God for their lives and sold their souls to the devil.

Prophecy: Adesanya (2011) asserts that prophecy is the gift of the Holy Spirit; prophecy is proclaiming God’s truth and mind with spoken words. Prophecy is looking into the supernatural to encourage, edify and to comfort with inspired words. Prophecy is the spirit given capacity to proclaim the truth of God. Teachers may teach one or two things about God but prophecy reveal the heart of God to the people. Prophetic words

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have different strength, different impact, and different accomplishments in the lives of people and when one understands the realm of the spirit very well, when a prophet is prophesying, he will discover that the hand of God will come upon those present through the prophetic words. Prophecy is the power of the Holy Spirit to reveal, certain things in someone's life. Prophecy is the truth that is spoken, though it may look very dangerous because the word of God is like a two-edged sword that cuts in both ways. When one prophesies sometimes, some people think the words are deliberately directed to them, because it touches where they don't like. According to Adesanya (2010), a prophetic word accomplishes the purpose with which it was sent forth. It waters the heart and brings forth fruits. It opens heaven and brings down blessing. It is a creative word that brings something out of nothing. It brings divine healing, deliverance and causes dry land to be fertile.

The False Prophecy

Adesanya (2011) avails that the false prophecy is from the devil and comes from the pit of hell. They are as follows:

1. Speaking from one's own mind
2. Taking undue advantages to dupe the rich and the ignorant
3. Speaking because one knows the story of that person
4. It is looking for a clue in order to speak the right thing
5. It is speaking so that one can get what to eat
6. It is a guess-work and manipulation
7. It is speaking to promote one self and attract crowd to themselves
8. It is hiding the truth and saying what people want to hear
9. It is speaking from the flesh
10. It is using sorcery or divining spirits to know what is happening to somebody in order to extort money from him or her
11. It is adding your word to the prophecy God has given to you in order to get some recognition
12. It is telling lies that causes confusion between husband and wife, parents and children and scattering churches and families.

The Characteristics of a True Prophet

The characteristics of a true prophet according to Herster (2005) are thus:

1. He speaks courageously, boldly and uncompromisingly.
2. He is a man of the spirit, who spends time studying the scripture praising, fasting and communing with God often in a quiet and lonely place.
3. He is a fearless rugged individual who would attract attention. He does not follow a prescribed order.
4. He is a denouncer of evil practices of individuals and the nation
5. He predicts the future of the nation
6. He loves and fears the Lord

7. He receives from the Lord directly without calculation
8. He is spiritually sensitive.
9. He is raw in the approaches to life
10. He lives holy and fasted life
11. He is God centred man that always put God first in whatever he does (Matt. 6:33).
12. He is power driven and Holy Ghosts inspired man
13. He is committed to God and his work
14. He is straight forward man who does not tell lies and shuns crookedness
15. He possesses great faith
16. He hates sin with perfect hatred and not sexually loosed.
17. He uses the bible as the final authority for all both spiritual and physical.

The Characteristics of the False Prophet

According to Adrian (2018), the characteristics of the false prophet are as follows:

1. He does not have the fear of God
2. He gives message that may sound good but filled with error and not from God
3. He makes merchandise of the gospel by selling handkerchief, water, olive oil, his photograph and charging before praying for people
4. He lives in sin and compromise
5. He commit adultery, rape and manipulate his victims
6. He encourage the evil doers to continue in sin by teaching them the wrong thing through his actions
7. He dupes people with charms because he is covetous
8. He uses charms and evil spirits acquired from medium and medicine men to see vision for people without solution.
9. His prophecy contradict the word of God
10. His prophecy does not exalt and glorify Christ
11. He is prayer less and does not fast.
12. He compound people's problems by prophesying doors always to people for him to export money from them.

The Functions of Prophecy from God

The prophecy from God is inspired by Holy Ghost and they are thus:
According to Adesanya (2010)

1. It is inspired by the holy spirit
2. It contains grace and salvation
3. It edifies, exhorts and comforts
4. It reveals the mysteries of God
5. It produces a change in behaviour
6. It releases blessings

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7. It counters satanic agenda and disgrace the devil
8. It causes sinners to repent and fear God
9. It brings liberation healing and deliverance
10. It clarifies issues and brings out standing testimonies

The Factors That Gave Rise to False Prophets

The scripture warns that in the last days many false prophets will arise and deceive many. The factors that gave rise to false prophets are thus:

1. **The quest for the power to perform miracles:** Biblical truth is not enough for the false prophets. As a result they are always looking for power for vision and revelations whether genuine or fake, because they do not have the fear of God or care about integrity and not ready to pay the prize of a true prophet who is always studying the word of God, praying, fasting, keeping quiet and living a holy life (Nmah, 2016) states that the clamour for miracles sign and wonders and the quest for the power of their manifestations, the biting economic conditions and the miracle seekers who want a problem free life and want their problems to be solved overnight gave rise to the false prophets in some Pentecostal churches in Nigeria.

2. **Pentecostal concept of evil spirit:** Achunike (2004) states that the Pentecostals concept of evil spirit has given rise to false prophets because those facing challenges of life consult them to know the evil spirit responsible for their problems and to help them to solve their problems and deliver them from the evil spirit. Forgotten what bible says that man born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble (Job 14:1), and God said in his word that no temptation that is bigger than a man will come to him and whenever any temptation comes his way God will give him a way of escape if he patiently wait for Him to solve that problem as he prays for the problem to be solved.

3. **General state of the economy:** In this nation, there is inflation due to the already battered economy; people seize every available opportunity to make both ends meet. People believe that without money they cannot make it. Therefore some people who want to make money through fraudulent means, went to diviners, seers and medicine men to wash their eyes and their tongue in other to see the problems of people and whatever they tell them they will believe so that they can extort, money from them Nmah (2016).

4. **Unemployment and poverty:** According to Nwosu (2009), poverty and unemployment gave rise to false prophets in Nigeria. He stressed that a nation that has few wealthy ones and the larger majority wallowing in abject poverty and degradation created room for ill-feeling and criminal act. Therefore the wide gulf between the haves and the have not and the promotion of materialism in the nation encouraged the rise of

false prophets who deceive, extort, money from people and do all kinds of havoc on their clients as a result of lack of moral, bankruptcy and fear of God.

5. **Wrong attitude of some Christians in handling their problems:** When some Christians are facing some challenges of life, they will be off balance and as a result, they go to men of God like the way they consult the diviners or seers in the African traditional religion, they will ask the man of God what did you see? Who is after my life? Please I want this problem to be solved now I will pay any amount so long this problem is solved as if the man of God is God that solves problems, because they are not deep rooted in the word of God, impatient and the wrong believe that Christianity is free from suffering and problem where as Christianity gives one strength to overcome problems of life as Isaiah 43: verse 2 says “when you pass through the waters I will be with you and when you pass through the rivers they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire you will not be burned: the flames will not set you ablaze”. The man of God who does not have the fear of God will capitalize on their ignorance and impatient and do all kinds of things to them such as raping, paying for prayer, buying of anointing oil of two or four hundred naira for ten thousand naira N10,000, purchase of anointed water, salt or handkerchief at exorbitant prices. Harries (2000) posits that the church is expanding numerically without real qualitative expansion because in terms of life crises and strong temptation, most Christians can hardly withstand it and they cannot exercise faith for solution to their problems which gave rise to false prophets.

6. **Our belief system of finding spiritual answers to problems:** Owusu (2017) posits that our believe system of finding spiritual answers to life challenges has contributed to the rise of false prophets. The prosperity preaching and the desire of our generation to fast track prosperity make us vulnerable and make many people susceptible to the manipulations of mind control practitioners. When life becomes challenging and we face problems relating to finances, families, relationships, sicknesses, unemployment and deaths, we must understand that these are natural happenings. One cannot imagine life without problems. Indeed, the problems of life have to teach us to have a deeper understanding of the reasons for existence. Those who want to be on this earth without these useful ingredients would always fall prey to the mind control tricksters.

Deliverance Cases of Some True Prophets in Nigeria

Prophet occupies important position in Nigerian because they appear in the circumstances of spiritual, physical and social problems. The anointing of God upon the true prophets helps them to solve people’s problems and deliver them from bondages and oppressions as Isaiah 10 verse 27 says “And it shall come to pass on that day that his burden shall be taken away from off your shoulder and his yoke from off your neck and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing”. Therefore,

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prophets deliver the oppressed, raised the dead like Elijah and Elisha and break the yoke of sickness, poverty and barrenness. They convert souls and turn people's hearts back to God. They rebuke sin even if the president or kings commit it.

The Deliverance Cases of Prophet D.K. Olukoya

i. The deliverance cases of Prophet D.K. Olukoya of Mountain of Fire and Miracles ministries. He allegedly healed many people and broke the yoke of barrenness without charging them a dime. One day a barren woman and her mother came to him for prayers and God opened his eyes to see that the source of the barrenness was her mother who converted her womb to the slippers she was wearing and asked her to pulled off her slippers, as she refused to pull it off he asked two men to raise her up and pull the slippers immediately she started to confess that she converted her daughter's womb to slippers so that she will remain barren for life. He prayed for the woman, anointed the slippers and burnt it. That was how she was delivered from barrenness.

ii. Olukoya (2010) states that a Mother brought her blind daughter to him and asked the woman what have this girl done to you? He gave them a prayer point "owner of evil load carry your load", and asked them to pray it very well in his office and he locked the office and went outside all of a sudden the girl shouted I can see and the mother shouted my eyes and became blind. He opened the office, prayed for the girl and asked them to go.

iii. Olukoya (2010) posits that a mother brought a final year engineering student in one of the universities in Nigeria who suddenly ran mad to him. As he prayed for the girl God opened his eyes to see that her mother's uncle buried something that made the girl mad in his sitting room, he stopped praying and asked the woman to go to her uncle in Lagos and asked him to exhume what he buried in his sitting room so that her daughter Funke who has ran mad will be well. she went and told her uncle what the prophet has said and he asked her who said it, she said prophet D.K. Olukoya, then he said if it is that one I will exhume it so that he will not command the charm to back fire to me and immediately he exhumed the charm from the ground her daughter became sane.

iv. Olukoya (2004) posits that a woman who was having series of miscarriages came with her friend to Pastor Olukoya because of her problem, as they met him God opened his eyes to see that her friend was the brain behind her problem, so he warned her friend to stop her evil act. He prayed for the woman that was having miscarriages and gave her a prayer point "Oh Rock of Ages smash my opposition". When she got home, she prayed the prayer point very well and in her dream the evil cow that always come to hit her baby in the dream whenever she is pregnant came again and before it could get to her a very big rock came in between them and scatter the head of the cow. In the morning people came to tell her that her friend died in her sleep and her head looks as if she had an accident. That was how she got to know that her friend was responsible for her predicament and from then on, she started giving birth to children.

Deliverance Cases of Pastor Paul Enenche of Dunamis Church in Abuja

Pastor Paul Enenche of Dunamis church in Abuja delivered a woman who was barren for twenty years during his healing and deliverance services in March 2018, through prophetic utterance. He walked to her and said I set ablaze every occultic altar working against your child bearing, I watched this one on the Dunamis Television when the woman come with her baby to testify of how the yoke of barrenness was broken. She said as she got home she dreamt where three men came to ask where did you go who delivered you, she told them and they shouted that she has killed them as the life snake that was always appearing in her compound died in that dream, immediately after the encounter, She became pregnant and gave birth to a bouncing baby boy.

Another deliverance that God used Pastor Paul Enenche to perform was a 37 years old lady, a nurse by profession who was bed wetting testified that once she is sleeping a voice will call her name Tina urinate and she will urinate on the bed before waking up. She said she does not pray for marriage because she does not want to embarrass any man and whenever she is on night duty she will wear pampers so that she will not urinate on the hospital bed and disgrace herself. I was an eye witness because I visited Abuja and I was in the church that day in August 2017 when she was testifying how God healed her during one of the healing and deliverance services in 2017. When she was prayed for and commanded every arrow of disgrace in her life to backfire. God empowers his prophets to disgrace, evil powers, cast out demons heal the sick, deliver the oppressed and direct people on how to live godly and fulfilled lives without charging them money. He only knows what God has done for them when they are testifying therefore no consultation fee, no sowing of seed and no buying of olive oil, water or handkerchief because bible said freely have you received free shall you give.

The Cases of False Prophets

A widow who was alleged to be indebted to many creditors came to a false prophet to pray for her so that she will come out from her indebtedness. The false prophet asked her to sow a seed of five thousand naira (₦5,000), buy a bottle of olive oil for four thousand naira and a bottle of water for one thousand naira, amounting to ten thousand naira. The widow went to borrow the money and give it to the false prophet Danis Okorie of Favour and Peace of God assembly Agbor. Who told her that she should be rubbing the olive oil and drinking the water so that her creditors will forget what she is owing. After three weeks her creditors came to arrest her and some summoned her in a shrine called Udele for not paying what she is owing that was how she exposed the false prophet who was mercilessly beating up and was asked to refund the widow's money to her.

Owusu (2017) states that false prophets are causing confusion, and suspicion in families, workplace, and many parts of the country. A well educated lady who was allegedly relying on the prophesy of a false prophet, locked up her mother in the room and gave her severe beating to force her to confess that she was a witch. She did this with the support of her sisters who had all developed strong belief in the prophesy of a pastor that their mother was a witch and had been responsible for their marital and personal problems. This person was known to be a kind-hearted person who loved her family and for her to be programmed to the extent of beating up her mother based on the prophecies of a prophet shows the power of his charm and the extent of his manipulation. Vulnerable members of families such as House Helps and relations have been accused of been witches and suffered extreme brutalities based on the prophecies of fake prophets.

The Consequences of False Prophecies in Nigeria

The media is filled with stories of terrible crimes committed by some false prophets in the country. It is either there are involved in fraudulent acts or charged for sexual assaults against their members who came to them for solution to their problems.

According to E. Femi (Personal Communication June 9, 2021), the destructive effects of false prophets on their members and clients are thus:

1. Fake miracles, Faking miracles is now common in many churches, as some people go to church for miracles instead of worshipping God. As the false prophets arrange miracles by paying some body that is not blind to pretend that he is blind so that when he starts to see, it will convince people to believe that he is a miracle worker
2. Taking undue advantage of the clients by the false prophets by raping some of them, and when they are caught they blame the devil for their evil acts.
3. Extortion: Miracle seekers who patronize the false prophets for spiritual assistance always fall prey of extortion and dupes
4. Using diabolical power for miracles: Most false prophets acquire powers through fetish means and use such power to manipulate their clients, perform miracles and healings that will not last because they are not from God.

5. The establishment of fake churches: The churches established by the false prophets are covens, marine alters, shrine and occultic houses where there are continuous deceit and extortion. They are den of thieves, liars and their members accept whatever they tell them as the truth, because they are under the manipulation of the devil.

6. No solution to people's problems: The false prophets do not have solution to their clients problems instead they compound it by extorting money from them, raping, impregnate some of them and causing avoidable death for some who were deceived not to go to hospital for healing that their cases are spiritual. They twist the bible to exploit their members with all kinds of false teaching and commit adultery with women in the name of anointing and deliverance.

Conclusion

The false prophets are wolves in sheep clothing who prophesy lies to people in order to merchandise the gospel; they lure people to stay away from the truth and run their churches like commercial centres. They commit sin at will, love worldly pleasure more than God and lead people into error that make some to die untimely. Therefore, run away from them and run to God for solution to your problems. The scripture has the guideline for Christian belief and practices of the church and any practice or doctrine that contradicts the scripture should be rejected.

Recommendations

1. The masses should be vigilant so that they will not fall prey to the false prophets
2. Believers are warned to test every spirit to know if they are from God. We should not be carried away with miracles and signs.
3. People should know that the world is not a problem free world and should not be off balance when problem comes which make them to be victims of false prophets.
4. Every believer should know the scripture so that they will not be deceived by the fraudsters called prophets.
5. The Pentecostal leaders should educate the masses on the operations of the false prophets so that they will not be ignorant of their devices
6. There is need for ministers of God to remain in their area of call because in Ephesians 4:11-12 Apostle Paul wrote that God gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and some teachers for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ. Therefore everyone cannot be a prophet. There is danger in leaving your place of divine assignment.
7. We should stop running from pillar to post when we have problem. Instead we should fast and pray for that problem to be solved because the people you are going to meet have no solution to problems but God.

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8. Pentecostal leaders should set up a training centre for the training of ministers in order to inculcate discipline, fear of God integrity and Christian ethical values into them to avoid evil practices among them.

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