



Willie Ucheya

CONFORMITY

UNDERSTANDING THE DEVIL'S
END-TIME STRATEGY.

FEBRUARY, 2017.

CONFORMITY

The Devil's End-Time Strategy.

Willie Ucheya

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First published in 2017.

ISBN: 978-978-958-973-9

Published by:

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DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to HIM who at this end-time is raising up His special army for the purpose of His divine will on the earth.

It is further dedicated to God's true saints who have made covenant with Him by sacrifice. Men and women who have and are ready to sacrifice everything for the vision of the Lord in this time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I will like to appreciate my Lord and master Yeshua, who gave inspiration by His Spirit and Grace to carry out the divine instruction to bring this message to the church.

I want to also appreciate my covenant brethren who stood by me in prayers and encouragement to bring forth this work. Some of you have taken time to read the manuscript and make contributions.

The Lord bless you.

I like to specially appreciate my “help meet”, my God’s special mould for a pains-taking proof reading of this work. Her usual moral and spiritual support came in very handy in this work. Her insistent counsels helped to make the expression of the burden of the book as simple as possible. Ady, thank you very much. Thanks to all my prayer partners, my boys and girls. Anesis Livingsprings, thank you for being there always to print and publish this book. The Lord bless you all.

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INTRODUCTION.

This write up is a response to consistent call by brethren in different gatherings within and outside the country where this burden from the Lord has been shared.

It has been presented to capture the atmosphere in which the message was shared. It is hoped that this presentation will bless as many as will read it, especially those that have not had the privilege of listening to it live.

While in a wonderful praise and worship session in a meeting, two weeks before a mission trip to Sierra Leone, the Lord spoke clearly to me and said, "Conformity is the devil's strategic weapon in this end-time." Then I heard the Lord say, tell my people to be aware of this strategy of the enemy with the view to check mate him. A lot of Christians have been overtaken by this just as the entire world is engulfed by this satanic doctrine. This doctrine is fast leading into One World Religion and One World Government.

Paul has ahead of time warned the church to desist from conformity to the present and emerging world system. We must break loose from the world's mind set through the effectual operation of the Holy Spirit in our life as we surrender to Him. *"Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]."* -Rom.12:2. AMP.

The nations of the world through the instrumentality of their leaders in various organizations e.g., the UN agencies, are politically, economically and religiously pushing this doctrine down the throat of the entire people of the world to reject God and His established counsel. The truth is that all of these is a gang up against the Lord and His anointed. But our God sitting upon His everlasting throne is laughing at the foolishness and folly of man, because His wrath is coming greatly upon the earth. *"The kings of the earth take their places; the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and His Anointed One (the Messiah, the Christ). They say, Let us break Their bands [of restraint] asunder and cast Their cords [of control] from us.*

He Who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision [and in supreme contempt He mocks them]. He speaks to them in His deep anger and troubles (terrifies and confounds) them in His displeasure and fury," -Psa.2:2-5. AMP.

Everything going on in the world now is working towards the destruction of man and his civilization. Man will use his own inventions, manipulated by God to destroy himself. The super powers are gearing up for a great show down. The great kingdoms of this world shall come crashing in fulfilment of the revelations of Daniel chapter 2. Pay attention to verse 45.

There shall be no hiding place. As it was in the days of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah, so shall it be in this time. Only those who run into Jesus the true ark, who are conformed to the image of the Son of God, shall be saved. This is the time to act as there is time no more. The Lord bless you as you heed to the call of the hour. Shalom!

PREAMBLE.

I want to believe that we responded to a call by God to gather here this weekend because we want God to touch us. I want to believe that we realised some shortcomings; things that were lacking in various areas when we tried to check ourselves in the scale of God; and we found ourselves wanting. And it's better for us to weigh ourselves and judge ourselves so we won't be judged; and we responded to the call of God. So God will visit us. And He began visiting us since yesterday. I believe anyone who has come here does not want to go back the same. Or is there anyone who wants to go back the same way he came? Therefore say, 'I will not go back the same. Touch me by Your hand. I'm not going to go back the way I came, Oh Jesus!'

I don't wana go

The same way I came

Touch me by Your hand, Jesus.

I don't wana go

The same way I came

Touch me by Your hand, Jesus.

Amen!! That should be our prayer, our longing and heart desire; and when God sees the longing of our heart He will do far more than we desire or ask for.

There is a lot the Lord will be dealing with us about today. And we are conscious of the fact that we came here for a prayer conference so there will not be too much of talking and preaching and sharing. Brethren who are coming up on the podium here will only come to present burdens that we will take

to the Lord in prayers. We just trust God to see how far we can go. The burden the Lord gave to me which I want to share with us is so that we can pray and bless God. My brother was sharing earlier today and he laid some foundations so we do not have to spend too much time going over those same things again.

About two months ago, the Lord spoke to me, in the midst of worship and praise, what I considered to be the burning issue in the heart of the Lord that the people of God should take very seriously in order to understand the strategy of the enemy at this time, so we can outwit him. This will prevent us from falling to his plans and the siege and the snares he has laid. There is so much to be done and there is no time to fool around. There is so much God has appointed unto us with little time to do it, and we must come to terms with that. We can therefore tell the enemy 'I don't have time; so you get behind me. I have got so much to do. There's no time to play around with you and certainly no time to dance round with you! I've got work to do.' Amen!!

The Bible says in 2Tim.2 verse 4 that a soldier who is worthy of his calling does not entangle himself with the affairs of civilians. In war times, a soldier should be much focused, knowing what warfare is all about; knowing that he has to be very careful and be very, very absorbed in the things he is doing so he can win the battle. War time is not the time to play around and entangle yourself with civilian activities. Paul was speaking that to remind us that we are soldiers of God; soldiers of the Cross. We need not begin to play around with things that will distract us. In other words, this is the time to avoid all distractions and set our face like the flint. This is the time to set our hands to the plough with no time to look back.

The Lord spoke to me and He said that **conformity** is the devil's end-time strategy which he is using to deceive the people of God and to bring the world under his control, under his rule. That is his strategy and he is succeeding. Unfortunately, the people of God do not understand, and have fallen victim of the same. And the Lord is asking that we should declare it and make it plain so that we will understand this strategy of the enemy and free ourselves from his clutches, so we can come into the place that God has called us. We have been talking of the manifestation or the revelation of the sons of God. This is the time. And note this: Satan has an idea that something is about to happen. He has an idea that something is in the offing; but he does not know exactly what is going to happen.

He does not have the knowledge to know exactly what is coming even if he has some idea that something momentous is about to take place from the things he hears. Whatever that thing is, he wants to stop it. That has been his way all through the ages. He heard that the Saviour of the world was born. Now, he didn't have full knowledge; he didn't have full information; he therefore had to bring up a plan how he can stop this Saviour from coming forth because he knew His emergence would nail him. What did he do? He set out to kill the children of about the age he was told, hoping to kill the Saviour in the general dragnet. However, because he was so foolish and he did not know he was foolish, for God is always ahead of him; Jesus was saved and He accomplished the purpose for which He was sent to the earth. You know sometimes Christians tend to erroneously believe that the devil is omnipresent and omniscient. That is a big lie. He is not. Only God is.

So even now he knows that something is about to happen. Everybody in the world knows that something is about to come forth; that is where we are heading, we are heading to something. And the devil knows it is not going to be to his advantage. He knows if these people arise then that would bring him and all his plans to an end. So he wants to try everything to truncate it, hinder it or delay it. We, the people of God who ought to be wise, we have to rise up and place him where he truly belongs, and that place is underneath our feet.

Father we bless You for Your faithfulness and Your determination to bring forth Your people according to Your plan and Your purpose. We thank You because when You utter a word, that word must come to pass; for Your promises are yea and amen. No man, no spirit, and no authority anywhere has what it takes to stop You or to cause Your word not to come to pass. You have said You will build Your church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. You said You are raising a body, a body of people upon the earth that will wrap up the program You arranged for this earth; that at a time like this, Your people shall arise. Lord we thank You because You have put everything in place and You will cause everything to come into place to make this thing take place that Your purpose which is everlasting will come to pass. We give all honour and glory to You O Lord God. Lord grant us Your mind O Lord God this hour. Lord, by pass every short coming and every weakness of mind. Let Your divinity override my humanity that Your divine plan might come forth for Your people O Lord God. Let grace abound. Let there be understanding by the outworking of Your Spirit

that works in us. Let Your Name alone be glorified and we shall come forth in the nature You have ordained that we come forth. We pray in Yeshua's mighty Name! Amen.

Now I said earlier that the Lord began to speak to me about conformity; the Lord said that was the devil's end-time strategy to rule the whole world and he is manifesting it in diverse ways. And the people of God do not understand; or they are ignorant of this working. Yet, the enemy seems to be gaining ground. But it is important that we have understanding. Paul says I do not want you to be ignorant. We should not be ignorant of the things the Lord is doing and also of what the enemy is doing. We should also take cognisance of what the Lord expects from us, and what the Lord desires from us. In that way, we can check and see whether we are doing what we ought to be doing. If you do not know what you ought to be doing, it is difficult for you to be able to assess yourself whether you are doing the right thing. You might assume you are doing the will of the Father while what you are doing is far, far away from the will of the Father. This is the time for precision. This is the time to know exactly what the Lord has called us into and to begin to work towards it.

So the Lord said conformity is the devil's end-time strategy to hold the people of God in bondage and to take hold of the entire world.



Chapter One



WHAT IS CONFORMITY?

Simply, conformity means a certain influence involving one adhering to certain values, and working in the light of those values or standards and corresponding to those values in all that he or she does. There are some values that are being set up and then when you now walk in the light of those values, when you try to adhere to those values and yield to them, then you can be said to be conforming to those values or standards. The Lord says conformity is what the devil is using; and it is working very, very seriously and effectively in the world today.

Our concern here is just ourselves and the church; not necessarily the world even though we are part of the world. We are in the world but not of the world; but the things happening around us affect us. But when we know who we are and what the Lord has invested in us, what we have in us, then what happens around us should not be able to influence what we do or how we walk with the Lord. And this change or these standards or this set-up, or conforming to it is motivated by some kind of influence which could be physical, spiritual or social. Some of those influences could be real; and some could be just imagined! You know, at times you could assume certain

things; that this is the way to go. This is what everybody is doing, so that must be the norm; that must be the right thing; that must be the 'in thing.' Then you begin to walk in it, you begin to imbibe those things.

At other times though, there could be real pressures that come upon you from the enemy or from the world around you. It could be through friends, your family members or your colleagues. They make you to conform to their standards, their way of doing things. The Lord is saying that is what the enemy is using and he is succeeding in the world, and even in the church. His people are being overtaken unawares in the same things.

So conformity simply means that you correspond in your thoughts and in your appearance. Your level of conformity will show in both your words and appearance; the way we carry ourselves; the way we dress; the way we walk; the way we respond to things. These are some of the ways it manifests. You will be acting according to certain 'acceptable' standards. You know there are standards that are said to be acceptable. Many Christians are either ignorant of the manipulations of the enemy in these areas; or they fail to admit they are being made to accept those standards as acceptable standards. With God however, those standards are not acceptable. And we need to differentiate between the standards set by the world and the enemy, and the standards set by the Lord. This involves honouring observances, complying with certain observances.

In the church out there and within us here, there are certain practices, certain observances that we are involved in; and we think they are acceptable before God. The truth however is that

they are very far away from the will of God. Over time, we have been carrying on with it and there seems to be no check or change. We seem not to hear any contrary thing about those values, those norms, those ways, those observances; and we have come to assume and conclude that they are of the Lord.

These are the things the Lord will have to deliver us from and we distance ourselves completely from. The thing is **'turn ye unto Me with all your heart.'** For you to have to turn to God, it means we had turned away from Him! If you are here with me I cannot ask you to turn to me. If I however say turn to me, it can only mean that you had turned away from me. There is something else arresting your attention, or somewhere else you are going to. That means we must have strayed away somehow for the Lord to say we should turn back to Him. Peradventure He will have mercy upon us and come and visit us.

So we need to accept that somehow or the other we have strayed away from God. All ye like sheep are gone astray, every man to his own ways. (Isa.53:6) In the time of the judges the Bible says there was no king in Israel and every man was doing what 'seemeth' right in his own sight. (Jdgs.17:6) This is precisely the same situation we have found ourselves in right now in the world. Everything is in a state of relativity. You cannot tell me that something I say is black, is actually white. I have a right to what I believe or what I think or feel and you can't do anything about it. If you try to stop me, then you are infringing on my fundamental human right!

If I have something that is black and I tell you that as far as I am concern, this is white. You say no, it is black. I say no, it is white!

For you, it may be black. But for me it is white. You have no right to tell me that what I take to be white is in fact black. That is where the world has come to. And Christians must get away from that kind of thing, that kind of situation. We cannot be carried along in this way. My brother mentioned in the morning when he was ministering in prayer certain things that are fundamentally pertinent to this theme. He talked about the instruments used: political authority and the religious authority. These are what the enemy uses to bring forth his plans and his purposes to bear upon the world.

This principle of conformity the enemy is using finds expression in religious and political powers. The kings of the earth are gathering together and they are joining with the devil to come against God and His people to change the standard and to say 'God is wrong. In fact, there is even no God! So who is that God to say that I should not do it this way? This is the way it ought to be done. This is the way that is acceptable'. They use the political will that they have; and they use the religious power that is with them to perpetuate those things. And the point is that they use some Christians, men who ought to have understanding of God; who have demonstrated some level of understanding of working by the Spirit of the living God. These are men who should know they are being used as instrument to ratify this evil thing as though it is right before God.

For instance, God says marriage is a union between a man and a woman; a man and a woman come together to form the basis of a home. That is the ordinance of God. That is what God has instituted. (Gen.2:24; Eph.5:31) But the kings of the world just rise up and say No, marriage is not just between a man and a

woman. Marriage is between any two things that come together! Any man and a man can come together and marry. Any woman and another woman that come together is marriage. Any man and animal that come together is marriage. This is what they are saying and teaching. They are perverting the Scriptures. They are trying to say that is *your* God. *Your* God has no right to impose this on *us*.

Some Christians are saying 'it doesn't really matter! See, this gay thing ... well, let us just allow it. That is how God made them! Please let us accept them. Let us accommodate them the way they are.' Accommodation in this regard is conformity! Another word for that is compromise. Some great preachers, TV evangelists and teachers, when you confront them with the truth: '*what do you think about the gay movement?*' They do not want to lose their congregation. In an attempt to safeguard the position they occupy, they will begin to beat about the bush and will not want to say anything wrong against being gay. Can you beat that!

Nobody is standing up to speak for the Lord God Almighty. But God is raising a voice at this time in the world to speak for Him. It was interesting to note the other day that the British Prime Minister came out boldly to declare that Britain is a Christian country that was in support of Christians who were being persecuted all around. He didn't mince words anymore. That was the first time anybody would do that; the first time Mr Cameron could speak that way. That was a refreshing difference; somebody that walked the walk without his knowing. The only other person who dared to speak in the same vein was the Prime Minister of Australia.

It is time for us to stand for what we know and believe to be true as our brother was saying here in the morning and be ready to put our necks on the stake for it. But you cannot do that unless you separate yourself first of all from the contamination of the conformity that has swept through the church. Let us read the Scriptures and say a few things because it is important. That is how we should go. There is so much that we need to know but we can't say everything.

Romans 12:1-3, Paul is here speaking to the Romans and I believe the Lord by the Spirit of God is saying these things to us. He says,

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

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

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

I like us to read verses 1 and 2 in the Amplified version.

1 I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice,

holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

He started by saying we should present our bodies as living sacrifice. That is the call of the hour; dedication. The Lord is calling for a time of high level of dedication and consecration. He says dedicate your body as a living sacrifice.



Chapter Two



A LIVING SACRIFICE.

This is a sacrifice that is made to God because your body now belongs to God, it does not belong to you anymore! So the sense in which Paul is speaking here is that you have given your body as a living sacrifice unto God and not unto any idol. Now, it is easy to understand this from how some animals, though they are alive and roaming about, but they are dedicated, given or sacrificed to some idols or deity. As a child I visited the village and saw what I later understood to be a shrine. I saw some fowls and goats. They roamed around the shrine and began to multiply. It is known that they belong to that idol and no one may touch or do anything to such animals. If they happen to stray towards your domain, you just gently 'shoo' them out and take them back to that shrine because they belong to a deity; they are dedicated and sacrificed to the idol. Only the priest in charge of the shrine has a right to decide what happens to the animals. No other person, including the animals themselves.

So in the same vein when we present our bodies as living sacrifice unto God; it means that though we are alive so to say, we are moving about; we have not been slain. Animals are slain as sacrifices. (Of course the Bible tells us in Hebrews that the blood of slain animals – bulls, goats and rams – haven't got the

power to cleanse or save from sin.) So in the Old Testament they used to sacrifice animals. It was a shadow of the reality God unveiled later in Christ Jesus. They killed them to atone for their sins. But Christ has been made a sacrifice for us; we are therefore called to dedicate, to sacrifice our lives unto Him. Now, we don't need to be killed to be sacrificed. We only need to dedicate ourselves, or sell ourselves to God. And when you do that, you no longer belong to yourself. Your life belongs to Him. Henceforth, he determines what happens to your life. You no more have a say in the matter. You become as it were a zombie to God. When He says stand, you don't question why you should stand even though it does not make sense to stand. When He says sit, you sit whether it makes sense or not.

If you are working, and you have prepared to go to work and He says to you, don't go to work today; you don't question God and say well, I will be sacked. If the word of God came to you clearly and you know He has spoken to you, then it behoves you to respond appropriately because you are not your own. If you have something, and God says take that thing and give it to so-and-so person, you don't question God. You belong to God so everything about you belongs to Him. You have no say in your life anymore. Only what He says matters and stands. That is what it means to present ourselves as living sacrifice unto God, wholly. That is what whole burnt offering is all about. We make ourselves whole burnt offering to God and no part is held back. Everything is laid on the altar and the flame consumes it! The smoke goes to God and He smells it. It belongs to Him. You don't say you belong to God and you keep some aspect of you away from Him. You don't say, 'No Lord, You do not have access to this area. Do not request this. I will not submit it. I will have to think

of a way before I can allow You access to this area'. No, everything belongs to God. He has all the say. You have none! That is where God is bringing us to. That is why He says gather unto to me my saints who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice; yes, by sacrifice. (Psa.50:5) That is one word Christians do not like to hear these days. Before, it used to be a common word; but now, nobody wants to make any sacrifice. However, God is saying, it is the time to sacrifice.

So he says when you do that and consecrate yourself unto God, then and only then you might be able to understand and to figure out what is God's perfect will for your life. Until you have done that, you will not be able. That is what it is saying. He says so you will be able to figure out, to understand, to know, to find out what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God in every aspect, any and everything you are doing, anything you are thinking about, any business or career; whatever it is you are doing, you must find out what is the will of God. And that cannot happen except you present yourself as a living sacrifice; when your mind has been renewed by the word of God.

So he says, *Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind.* The transformation comes by the renewing of your mind.

Do Not Be Conformed.

He says be not conformed. Instead of conforming to the world, to this ideal, this standard that the world is setting for us; do not

conform to this system of the world or the system of men; let not your ways, your thoughts, your words or deeds be fashioned or adapted to the world system which truly is superficial. It is not real. It is only in Christ you find reality. But this is not humanly practicable. But there is only one way you can avoid being conformed to the world system; it is to allow yourself to be transformed.

Be Transformed By The Renewing Of Your Mind.

When you are transformed you are different, you are changed. Everything about you is changed. The transformation that is required here can only be engineered or brought about by a process described by Paul as **Renewal**. The renewing of your mind. The mind is within the soul and the entire reasoning comes from here. Right from the time of fall, the mind became corrupted. You can imagine what has been programmed into the mind through the decades of indoctrination and brain washing by the devil's instrumentation. This has been ongoing and today it is made even worse by the technological no how; the media. The electronic and the print media and the almighty internet. How can you possibly uncode and deprogram what has been consistently enshrined into the mind from birth. It can only be something beyond the world. Something extraordinary. Something not just supernatural but Divine. And the renewal of your mind is by the word of God. This is because the battle is between the word and the world. It is the devil and the world versus the Word of God. John tells us that the Word was with God. And the Word is God. The Word became flesh and dwelled amongst us. This is a sign. The same way the Word became flesh and accomplished the will and purpose of God

upon the earth, the same way the written Word must get into us and become flesh, which is one with us. The Logos dwells in us so richly that the Rhema actively works in us the will and purpose of God. This Word is a super solvent, a super detergent that has the ability to erase completely. Just like a computer hard drive or disc that has been filled with information that is corrupted, the only way to salvage it is to reformat that disc. The Word of God reformats our mind and then replaces the corrupted and twisted information with the truth. This is what the Word does and with the mind now renewed, our mind-set, our thought pattern and mode of perception changes from what it used to be. With this frame of mind we can now discern, make out, understand and appreciate what is God's good, acceptable and perfect will. This mind is a now brand new by the birthing of the Spirit. The former was carnal and Paul tells us that the carnal mind can never appreciate the things of the Spirit. Glory to God forevermore!



Chapter Three



TRANSFORMATION INTO THE IMAGE OF THE SON.

But see something now. In Romans 8:29, Paul tells us what we need to be conformed to. *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be **conformed** to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*

All we are required to do, all what the vision God is about, is that we should be conformed to the image of Christ. So we should not be conformed to the world because we are made to conform to Christ. It then means that there is no middle ground. You must be conforming to something. Now, what is the world? We are told in 1 John what the world is all about. The world is all about the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye and the pride of life. Everything that is happening in the world you can put them in one of these three areas. And those are the devil's areas of operation. That is all that is in the world.

He says in 1 John 2:15 *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* You cannot love the Father and love the world at the same time. It is not possible. It is like what we said a moment ago. There is no middle ground; with one leg in God while the other leg is in the world. When they call for the world, they find you; when they call for Christians, they find you! The

truth is that you deceive yourself. If they find you in the world, forget it when it comes to kingdom matters. You may be there, physically present; but you are not there. It is like the song we sang about those who are of Him. If you are not of Him, you can stay in the midst of those who are His and it means nothing to you.

So what the devil tries to do is to cause us to conform to the image of the beast and that is final end point. God's purposes and plans on the other hand is to bring us to the end point where we are conformed to the image of His Son; *“until we come to the stature of the fullness of Christ;..”* to become just like Him, one with Him. What God has been trying to do which is what the vision is all about, is to make us to become like Christ, to reproduce His Son in a people.

Jesus is the first among many brethren. He is the first. So many, many sons will be led to glory. That is the vision of God for His people. That is what son-ship is all about. The vision is not just that we don't have pastors and all that. The vision is that we become like Christ, become sons. There is a vast difference between becoming children of God and matured sons of God. The Bible says in John 1:12 that *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”* These sons are *teknon* in Greek, a word depicting immature children. This is the child that is mentioned in Galatians 4:1, *“Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.”* He cannot manage the Father's estate until he becomes matured enough. The Bible on the other hand talks about the manifestation of the sons of God. The word 'sons' as used in this

passage is derived from the Greek word *huios*, the matured sons of God.

When we become born again, God tries to move us from *teknon* to *huios*. He is moving us through the maturing activities of the word and the Holy Ghost to the estate of matured sons who are able to take authority and bear rule. They can administer the affairs of the Father's estate. That is what God is doing. That is what the vision is all about. That is also symbolised in the Tabernacle by the movement from the Outer Court through all the pieces of furniture to the Holiest of all. That is what the plan is all about. That is what the Feast of Tabernacle is teaching us. That is what the feasts are teaching us, from Passover through Pentecost to Tabernacles. At Passover we are born again by the Spirit, having accepted the sacrifice of the blood of Jesus for the remission of our sins. Then at Pentecost we receive the Holy Spirit who begins the process of working into us the nature of Christ whom we accepted at Passover. This process of renewing our mind that brings about the transformation into the image of Christ, culminating at tabernacle when He is fully formed in us as we would have conformed into His image and likeness. Hallelujah! If we understand this, then we know that there is something definite, something special that God has ordained for His people.

So we need to be careful to ask the question, Who am I conforming to? Whose image am I setting before my eyes? Anything you are doing that is not helping you or contributing to forming the image of Christ in you but is rather contributing no matter in what small measure to forming the image of the beast (the world system) then you need to check it. There are some

other forums where they will tell you that it is okay, that it doesn't matter. That is the word Christians must do away with, "*it doesn't matter.*" Go and check it: wherever and whenever they tell you it doesn't matter, it does really matter. That is what the devil spoke to Eve. He said it doesn't really matter. You can eat the fruit after all. She said, "God said we could eat from all the trees except this one." Satan said, "It doesn't matter. Don't mind God. You can eat to your heart's content. God knows that when you eat it you will become just like Him." (Gen.3:1-6)

The Bible says that Eve saw; the lust of the eyes. She saw and realised that it was good for food; the lust of the flesh. And that it would make one to be wise; the pride of life. Those are the departments of the enemy. There is no other way; those three areas, check it. The temptations and trials are in those areas. Check the temptations of Christ in Matt.4. You can trace them to these three areas. But we need to be wise at this time. The enemy is coming in diverse ways and shapes to bring us to the same point. He has no new strategies. He just has variants of the same. But as we stay in the Spirit of the Lord, He will take us across and he cannot get us.

So that is why the Lord is calling us to order, because the standard has fallen in the Church. We have imbibed the standard of the world. God is saying that it is time, as He said in Isaiah 62:10 it is time to declare and raise the standard for the people; taking out all the stones and all the rubbles from the way. Declare; set the standard for the people. We cannot blame the people out there because a lot of people do not know what the standards of God are. The onus therefore lies with those who have the word to declare the true standard of God to the people. And that is what we should be doing.

There are so many things that we do that we think don't really matter, that we think are okay. Those things we have put in place to help serve God but are no longer serving the purpose of God but leading us away from the vision. This is the time to do away with all of them like our brother was saying earlier in the morning. It comes in diverse ways: in our living standard, in fashion, education, religion; all these areas. There are ways Christians never would have dressed in the last twenty years. Twenty years is too far away. Let us say in the last ten years; there are certain ways Christians would not dress. I am not preaching dressing but there are certain things I want you to note because gradually we are just following. Who sets the standards in fashion? Where do you think it comes from? Vogue, what is in vogue?

I see a lot of young folks who are supposed to be leading us to bless the name of the Lord, who ought to understand what God is saying these days, but who sadly, are sagging their trousers and are moving around with their undies showing at the back as though that is the right thing and that is the way to go! That is what is in vogue. Who says so? The world sets the standard for the church when the church should set the standard for the world. We should set the standard for people. When it comes to dressing, everything, we ought to set the standard. We set the standard in integrity; in everything we are doing. When we are in the place of work, we should stand out. We cannot be robed in to any kind of fraud. We are talking about ourselves here, not the people out there in the denominations. We are talking about the Come-outers so to say; in 'this Move', this our 'Way'; whatever you want to call it.

Some of us offer bribes to get contracts and jobs because that is the societal norms. This is because we have come to believe that if you don't give something you cannot get anything. If you don't give a tip they won't answer you on time. We want to make it fast, and real fast just like the world is doing. Everybody is pursuing something. Let me get the money and 'make it'! And of course some of the preaching that comes to us via the media is actually inspired by the devil; we believe it and run with it. Examples are teachings like *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich, 2 Cor 8:9*. But this does not mean that we now have to pursue riches by all means and at all cost. We equate wealth with godliness. We want riches so we can show God's blessing upon our life. 'Let me show them that I am a true child of God by my wealth!'

There are people who are doing those things. I don't know whether that is in the Scriptures. Jesus said the worth of a man does not consist in the abundance of the goods that he possesses. The world says the worth of a man consists of his goods and the size of the bank account he has. How much he has in the bank and the number of exotic cars and houses are what make a man. That is the world standard. And we are following, some times without knowing who is leading us. Before we know it, we are robed in to the thing; we get sucked into the rat race. We join in the pursuit of these things. I am not saying we should be lazy; no, no, no! But then, we cannot run the way they run. We cannot do things the way they do it.

Whatever we do as way of ministry or service in church should be a worship unto God. We should not join in singing all manner

of songs and dances; all manner of dances in the name of worship unto God. There are some songs we should not be singing here. They can do, sing and dance all manner of things. To them it is all praise to God. They dance Makosa, break-dance, belly dance and other lewd dances! And sometimes we carry these into our midst without knowing. Yes, I am saying in our midst, particularly during our weddings. The dances we dance during our weddings are causes for concern to me, and God is not pleased by it. Let me say the truth now! We can praise, sing and dance but we don't have to do it the way they do. Sometimes our marriage receptions have nothing different from unbelievers' wedding. I am not even talking of those Christians' wedding in other churches. There must be something that will mark us different from the rest of the world. We cannot be preaching one thing but then we do a different thing.

All these speak of conformity. There is something in vogue in the world now. There is something I learnt recently. They call it pre-marriage shoots. Someone said it doesn't really matter. I said it does matter! They said we are old school. The things we do when we were having our honeymoon, these days they finish it before they even get married. Yet they insist "Nothing happened"; nothing happens!' But what are you presenting to people? Sometimes brethren have to explain and play down what is happening. In one wedding I attended, a brother had to be explaining and saying, don't mind what they are doing; don't mind these photographs you are seeing; they are not real o. don't be deceived. But if they are Christians then why were they carrying on as though they were coming from honeymoon and not coming to be married?

We might say it is nothing. But that is what we are showing off. What is inside should show forth outside. People should see something different in our lives. Ten years ago such things would never happen. We should be more serious-minded now about what God is doing than dancing and imitating what the other people are doing.

Conformity! The enemy is encroaching in and we are looking the other way. These days, you find a few people amongst us looking back with nostalgia about the ancient paths. Some people are now saying, 'In those good old days, oh! But well, the anointing is also here; ... well, these things they are doing, well, well! Until you call it the real name you might not be making any progress in the right direction. Gay is the way to fool people. When you call it sodomy, when you call it the name the Bible calls it, then you are getting nearer the mark. That is when you will know that it is sinful against God.

I would have said I am sorry I am digressing in that direction, but brethren we need to be careful. The Lord is saying we need to turn back to Him. We should return. We should leave those things aside. They are not going to help us. There are so many things in which we need to correct ourselves individually, as families and as a people. What are the standards we are setting or operating upon? We say we are the people who are towing the standards of God. In our fellowships what do we do? We are busy reintroducing the things we left in the systems. In some fellowships, we are reintroducing those things gradually. And people are saying it doesn't matter! Does it really not matter? It doesn't matter until we bring back everything! May the Lord have mercy upon us.

Call a spade a spade. If it is a rake call it a rake. Sin is ultimately sin, no matter how you beautify the name. Here we should call sin, sin. The Lord says we should not be conformed to this world. If we are blessing God, let us bless God in the beauty of holiness, from the inner man that is formed after the image of Christ. When we dance, we should dance unto the Lord, and not the way the world dances. We will not praise the way they praise because there is someone motivating us – the Spirit of the Lord. Some of them are motivated by other spirits. That is why it is stated in Romans that as many as are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. You can be led by another spirit. So let us be careful.

Somebody should not come into our midst and say 'we are not seeing any difference after all. The way you sing is the way we sing. The way you preach is the way we preach. The way you dress is the way we dress! So why do you say you are special?' We can no longer answer that charge by saying well we don't have a pastor. That is nothing! Some of us don't have a pastor but we have pastors. We should know what the vision is, not all those empty statements that do not make any sense. They say, you use drums the same way we use drums. That is why the way we play our drums should be different from the way they play theirs if you have the drums. The way you play the guitar should be different from the way they play the guitar. Now, this is not a question of not playing it professionally or very well. You may play it very well, but it is that the playing incites different emotions from what they elicit outside there. You play with the consciousness of the presence of the Lord.



Chapter Four



FACTORS LEADING TO CONFORMITY TO THE WORLD.

There are a lot of things that motivate us or are responsible for making us to conform to this world and the ways of the world. I will mention three of them to us. They are as follows:

- 1) Fear and ignorance
- 2) Lack of understanding of God and His ways
- 3) Pressures from the world and from Satan.

These are the three things that can push us and work against us and cause us to fall into compromise and conformity with the world. They are very strong issues. We will consider each of them and conclude the subject on that note so we can have time to pray since the essence of the exhortation is to whip up a burden for us to pray.

Fear & Ignorance.

Now we come to the issue of **fear**. It is a very strong factor in compromising or conforming to the world systems. Here it could be fear of rejection or fear of being despised by friends, family or colleagues and all that. This fear could be in response to intimidation coming from people around you, from your colleagues or relations. It could be intimidation from the enemy. We know that fear is the devil's number one policeman; the

devil's sheriff. When the devil wants to get you, he first sends fear. When he arrests you with fear, he can make you do anything. That is probably why our brother talked about fear this morning. That is one spirit that must not be found in our midst and in our lives. We must keep fear away. This is because when you are frightened or if fear grips you, you can do some of the most stupid things in the world.

Many times fear of either intimidation, of being despised, or of the unknown, is basically a result of lack of proper knowledge of God. Who He is and of who we are and what we have in God.

Take for example the story in 1 Samuel 11. We know the story of Nahash king of the Ammonites who came and threatened the people of God. He said he was coming against them. He had a reputation for striking terror in the heart of people because he had dealt very harshly with people around. He now came against the people of Gilead. Let us read the first two verses of 1 Sam 11. It is a popular story that has something very important to teach us in relation to fear.

“Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabesh-gilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

2 And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.”

So Nahash came up against the people of Jabesh-gilead. They were so frightened by the threat of Nahash that they were all too willing to compromise. They said just spare us and we will serve you. How can you want to serve Nahash? Now, look at it.

The meaning of Nahash is *serpent*. Jabesh-gilead means *the heap of testimony*. You can therefore say that the serpent came up against the heap of testimony. The Bible tells us in John 10:10 that the devil (the thief) comes only for one purpose: to steal, to kill and to destroy everything about you, your faith in God, your testimony. That is why Nahash the serpent now rose against the heap of testimony, against Jabesh-gilead. And they were so consumed with fear that they were ready to bear terrible reproach rather than face Nahash.

Of course that is what happens with many people. The enemy comes against you and out of fear you opt to compromise and serve the devil. That is when the devil now dictates the terms of compromise. He tells you what to do. Many people go to the devil. He offers them something. Then he comes in and takes everything they have. Nahash says I will make a covenant with you on only one condition; that I will pluck out the right eye of every male in your land to serve as a reproach. When your right eye is plucked out, you are rendered useless. Spiritually you are deprived of spiritual insight. Your vision is taken away. Of course, all those men of war can no longer go out to fight war if their right eye is plucked out. They are disqualified from going out to war by the Law in Israel. They cannot fight Nahash anymore. If you do not have your two eyes or if your nose is broken, you cannot approach to offer the Lord's offering. They are useless for the rest of their lives.

On another level, your vision is taken. You cannot see. You will only perish. You can't know what God is saying anymore. You lose the vision of God when your right eye is taken. Your testimony is taken away. For many of us, our vision is about to be taken away from us. We have lost the vision of God. Some of us

individuals and even whole fellowships have lost the vision of God. We begin to interpret the vision in diverse ways. Some of the things we are following are far from the vision. There are different faces and facets of the vision now. But there is only one vision God has given us. We need to check back again to know what vision you are following; what is the vision of God for His people in these last days?

However, we thank God that the people of Jabesh-gilead realised and advised themselves. They said, wait a minute. We will do some consultation and we will get back to you. That was the saving grace. Wisdom came to them and they went back and had to seek for help from the rest of their brethren. Saul rose with his people and they came to their rescue. And you know the rest of the story. That means when the devil comes at you to frighten you and threaten you and you are about to compromise, please hold back. Do not! When your own strength and resources have failed you, look for brethren; call brethren; WhatsApp brethren; send messages; make calls. Say, I need help. Don't stand by yourself when you cannot do it alone. You don't need to compromise with the enemy. Don't do it the way they do it. 'In this my business they say I must do this and do that'. Ask somebody. The brethren will stand with you in prayer and whosoever is standing against your business or your money can be taken away so you can give testimony. That is a real testimony.

Sometimes the testimonies we give are fake testimonies. 'God visited me and I made so many millions!' But you do not tell the brethren the process you went through to get the millions. In the testimony therefore there are some things missing. You do not supply those things. But when it is plain and you know it is

God and God alone, it will be obvious. When you share it, it is so straight. It moves freely and smoothly. There will be no interjection or hidden manipulation. Everything is stated and you give God all the glory. You know what I am talking about. Don't you?

What I am saying in effect is that we need to deal with fear. Fear, the Bible says, is a torment. We must know that fear can do us nothing but evil when we are standing with God. We have seen an example of what fear could do.

You know what fear did to the children of Israel when Moses sent spies to spy out the land God had promised them. God had promised them the land and the twelve spies went there. Look at Numbers 13. We can't read the whole story. You can do that on your own. You already know the story. But let's read from verse 26.

“And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and

the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. “

These were choice men hand-picked from among the people. They went to the land and saw that everything God promised them was true. They saw the land flowing with milk and honey. They even brought the fruit of the land with two macho men slugging a single cluster of grapes on their shoulders! This was evidence to show that indeed, what God said was true. They gave this testimony but now spoilt it by saying “we saw the Anakim there”. The giants, we saw them there and we were in our eyes like grasshopper; so we are not able to go and take the land.

They had forgotten it was not them that were going to take the land. They had forgotten the God who made the promise. They said to us we were like grasshoppers before them. Fear gripped them because they did not understand God. They did not know God enough to believe Him in the face of difficulty. So God has become a God of grasshoppers! For this, God was grieved with

them; and God said well, those people will not enter. These were the ones Hebrews was referring to when it said, *“But with whom was he grieved forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”* Heb 3:17-19.

So they did not enter. Of all the adults that left Egypt, only two people made it to the Promised Land, Caleb and Joshua. Why, the Bible says for they had a different spirit, Numbers 14:24.

God wants us to have a different spirit, the Spirit of the living God. This is the Spirit that understands God and knows that God is all and all and can do all things; that with Him nothing shall be impossible. We will come to understand that the Scripture is real. The Bible says nothing shall be impossible to him that believes. To him that believes, all things are possible. Things that are impossible with men are possible with God. We must know that these are not just words and phrases. They are the realities of our God. The Bible said all things; it doesn't matter what it is. We must stand firm with God; God will not disappoint us. So there is no need to compromise in the face of difficulties and threats by the enemy. More strength will come. Yes, things will get harder and harder, and more stressful; but we must be able to stand with the word of God that can never change.

The war is the war between the word of God and the world. We must choose the word of God and stand by the word of God and not fall to the world. Remember, you must be conforming to one thing or the other. There is no middle ground. We are either

conforming to the image of the beast or to the image of the Son of God.

So we see that Caleb and Joshua said we are sure that we are able. With the Lord on our side we are able. On the other hand, the other people wanted to go back to Egypt. They were convinced they were not able to take the land. The devil tells you 'who tells you that you are the kind that can do this? Do you think the word of God is meant for you? It is not meant for you!' You cannot just back out. The word of God says I can do – how many things? – All things! And all things means all things; not by my strength but through Christ who strengthens me. When you are weak, remember the Bible says I can do all things through Christ who *strengthens* me, and He will begin to strengthen you. The Bible says if the Spirit of He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in you, He shall quicken, He shall revitalise your life; He shall shake up your mortal bodies. He shall make you strong. When you feel weak and the devil says you can't do it that is the time to say I can do all things through Christ. That is the understanding of the word we should cultivate. We should know who we are in Christ Jesus, not just by singing and dancing but by the reality of knowing that He who is inside of us is greater than he who is in the world. It is the Lord Jesus Christ that is in you. He is all in all.

So fear gripped them. Fear can make us do so many things. We must not allow fear in our lives at any point in time. If fear is coming and you feel you do not have enough within you to combat it, go to the Scriptures that will strengthen you and take the fear away. This is because under the influence of fear, you cannot do anything reasonable for God.

In 1Kings 19, we see the experience of the great prophet Elijah in this matter of fear. Elijah repaired the alter of God; he put those things together and he called down fire from the throne of God to consume the sacrifice and lick up the water. He laid hands on four hundred and fifty Baal prophets and slew them all. He stood for God and established that Jehovah is the only God to be worshipped. But shortly after that, little Jezebel, a woman just sent a word; she didn't even have to come by herself physically. She sent a word to the man of God and the man of God fled. He began to speak out of fear, all manner of things that should not have proceeded out of his mouth in the first place. He said I am not better than my fathers. This is the man who just vanquished four hundred and fifty Baal prophets just a day earlier, called down fire from heaven and said Jehovah is God!

My goodness! Fear can make a man do some terrible things. We must not let fear hold us in such grip as to make us misbehave and lose what God had ordained for us.

In Matthew 26 do you see how fear stripped Peter naked? And that is Great Peter. Fear gripped him when he saw what was done to his Master. He felt if his Master could be subjected to this kind of treatment then what chance did he stand? So when they came and said he was one of them, he didn't wait to think before denying Jesus flat, 'no, no, no I don't know Him. I have not even seen this Man before in my life!' And the small girl insisted, 'I know you. You are one of His disciples.' Peter said 'no don't say that. I swear I have never seen the Man before.' Peter was swearing by the gods and doing all kinds of things to exonerate himself from imagined danger!

That is the depth fear can drive a man and that is why we must not succumb to fear. We must take away fear from our lives. We must be strong. The Bible says in the book of Daniel chapter 11 verse 32 that they who know their God shall be strong and do exploits. Heaven might be tumbling down. So many things might be happening at the same time around you; but if you do know your God the Bible says you shall be strong and do exploits. Daniel who wrote those lines knew what he was saying. He said those things out of his own experience. If you know God, the knowledge of God will strengthen you, make you strong and propel you to do exploits for God. Now you check out this same Peter in Acts chapter 2 from verse 14. The difference is clear; the power of the Holy Ghost and proper understanding of the Lord he served. Let us therefore strive to know Him. Let us not know Him as God that is somewhere far off. Know Him as Your God. Paul said in Phil.3:10 *“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto his death... When the sufferings are coming, you know that aspect. That is the fellowship of His suffering; and being made conformable unto His death.”* That is when every other thing becomes like dung unto you. Nothing around you has value any longer.

Our brother made a statement in the morning that I don't know how many of you caught it. He said God wants us to begin to loosen ourselves from attachments. And this is not only from bad things. It includes even the good things that we have. We need to be free from attachment to those things so that when God says it is time to move, you can go. You would be free from such anxiety as 'oh, how am I going to do with my XYZ now? I have just invested two million into it! Am I actually hearing from

God in the first place?' We do need to be free. Let us not be held down by all these things.

Lack of Vision and Proper Understanding of God's Will.

Without the vision, you will stray. Hosea 4:6 tells us that “My people perish for lack of knowledge” And in Prov. 29:18 we read that where there is no vision the people perish or are destroyed. If you understand the vision, it will propel you in the direction you should go, whether in your business or your career or your marriage or child up-bringing, in relationships or anything. The vision will speak and direct you. If you do not know or understand the vision, you can do so many things upside down and you would say it doesn't really matter. The vision is what will direct and put the boundaries while we are moving. The Lord has put a lot of boundaries. The Bible says we should know where God has put boundaries. The vision will put the boundaries and if you do not know the vision, you can't see the boundaries. You can overturn the boundaries and go on. The boundaries are the ancient landmarks. We cannot afford to put them away. We must restore the ancient landmarks otherwise we shall stray away without knowing we are straying away.

We must understand the vision. When David went to bring back the ark, the need for understanding the vision was brought into very sharp focus. The story of the ark is an interesting thing that will require a weekend meeting to address properly. What enabled the Philistines to carry away the ark in the first place? That thing that brought it about can happen to us today. We know from 1Sam.4 and 5 how Israel went to war and unusually fled from their enemies the Philistines. Eli and his sons through

their wickedness and perversion of God's precepts grieved God and He gave them over. They took the ark into the house of their god Dagon and the ark of the Lord representing the presence of the Lord dealt with those idols. They moved it from there to another Philistine town, Gath and God caused a pestilence of boils and lice to ravage the people, in one town after another. When they moved it to Ekron the people cried out for fear of what happened to others. After a while they said 'no, no, no; this is more than us. This God of these Israelites; we should do something and return it to them.' They consulted their prophets and diviners and they said look, this is what you will do. Prepare sacrifices; add five golden boils and five golden rats and send this ark back to them otherwise they are going to finish us! They prepared the things and put them all in a cart and shooed it away to Israel.

The ark came to Beth-shemesh in the field of Joshua and stopped. The Israelites rejoiced that they had returned the ark. But of course, the standard doesn't change. The priests were informed and they came and performed the necessary sacrifices and sanctified Eliezer to take of the ark in the house of Abinadab. When they saw the ark they naturally knew what to do. They offered sacrifices to God; but then what happened? Out of curiosity they peeped into the ark! And how many people died? Fifty thousand and fifty men were slain by God. You don't joke when it comes to God's standards and God's laws. Be very, very careful there. You might think we are living in the time of grace, but we cannot continue in sin that grace may abound. God might surprise so many of us in these times of grace.

Then David of course learnt something. When David wanted to bring the ark finally to Jerusalem, he followed the example of

the Philistines. It was like, 'Oh, this is good. This is the modern way to do things. Carrying the ark on the shoulders of men is old school. See what the uncircumcised philistines did? It's so nice! This is cutting edge technology at work.' And what did they do? They got a new cart and put the ark on it.

They were now going on to Jerusalem rejoicing. Initially, it worked and they assumed it was acceptable to God. That precisely is where the problem is. We are doing so many things the wrong way and God ignores us and we are thinking it is acceptable to God because we seem to be succeeding. And we just carry on. God says No, no more! They got to the threshing floor and the Bible says it was God that caused the thing to stumble as if it wanted to fall. Uzzah now arose and put forth his hand to steady the ark. The arm of flesh will fail a thousand times over. And God slew him straight away to send a message unto them!

David became annoyed, afraid and everything. He had to abandon the ark and put it in Obededon's house. God blessed him and his house greatly and so they realized that the problem wasn't with the ark but with them. However, he went to find out later on. They told him this is the way the ark should be carried. No man should carry the ark except the Levites; and they will carry it by their shoulders. That is returning to the standard, to the word of God and discarding the ways of the Philistines. They got away from that compromise, that conformity and they did it the right way. They said we did not do it after the due order the first time. That is how and why God has called us from our different churches and denominations to come in to God's due order. Now we have come in here and we are perverting due order and doing other things; and we think we are following due

order. May God open our eyes and grant us the humility to submit and learn the due order and go by it otherwise God will make a breach upon us and we continue to stumble. And when we do, who will want to steady the ark when God begins to cause it to stumble?

So it is. God is not playing games and we don't have to try to play games anymore. We need to be very careful what we do. God says it is time to turn back to Him. Let's check ourselves. Check to see whether we are still in the vision; whether we are still in the faith. That is the counsel. Check and double check again. Check your ways. Are they in conformity with the word of God, to the vision God has shown us? What is the vision; what is the due order? Are you carrying on according to due order in your home? When you wrestle with your wife and your children, is that due order? There is due order for the home. Due order is not just how a church is run. It affects everything including the way you run your life; the practical way of life; what you do at your home, in your business; there is due order in everything. It is God's ruler ship over us; creating the enabling environment to be directed by the Spirit.

Three major things can be learnt from this experience in bringing back the ark.

1. Presumption.
2. Breaking away from God's order. And
3. Exhibiting carnality in a spiritual exercise.

Many men anointed to carry the presence of God have gone carnal and God is making a breach on them and some are being slain.

Paul, speaking by the Spirit in Romans 8 says if you live by the Spirit, you should also walk in the Spirit. That means we should administer things and live our lives in the Spirit. If you walk in the flesh you will die; that is the end point. But if you walk by the Spirit, you will live. And we are going to walk by the Spirit, being led by the Spirit of the Lord in everything we do. That is the due order; finding what the mind of God is in everything everyday every time. What you did yesterday to handle a case, you don't assume that today it is going to happen the same way. You need to sit down and find out. That is where we are coming to. You need to find out what God is saying expressly today about the same case you handled yesterday. You should know when it is time to mix saliva and mud to heal blindness and when to just say go you are healed. You have to know. There are no assumptions. That you mix sand yesterday does not mean that the same procedure works today for similar case because what caused yesterday's blindness might not be what caused today's. Hear what the Spirit is saying. He might say just speak the word only.

That is the due order. That is what is meant by being led by the Spirit of the Lord. That is where God is taking us brethren. I think the thing is for us to pray and realise that because of a lot of things we are doing, the devil is having a hold upon us. We need to accept it. We need to realise it and make conscious effort to address it. That is what David did. That is the way. When he realised that he did it the wrong way he went back and regrouped and he did it the right way. It is not just for you to realise that you've gone wrong and you stay there! When you realise you've done wrong, repent from it. Turn away from it and do the right thing. That is the process. It is not enough to realise

you've done wrong: 'O Lord, we've done wrong. We have sinned.' You must realise you've done wrong, yes. Then you must repent from it. It says in Rev 2 that you should know, realise, and understand from where you have fallen and repent and do the first works. There is a place for realising, then turning away from it to doing the right thing. If you leave the wrong thing, you must do the right thing. There is no vacuum.

Brethren, as Individuals, as families, moved by what we call ourselves, we need to individually and collectively seek God to have mercy on us and repent of our ways because we have strayed away from God, away from the vision He has shown us. What God showed us many years ago is not what we are practising now. We have gone far away from it. And God is saying it is time to return. If we return there will be a difference in our attitude, in our ways, in our meeting, in everything! Men shall be frightened when they see us. We must bring back the glory of God in our homes and in our fellowships. We have to follow the right steps that the glory or presence of the Lord might return in our lives and in our midst. Three steps:

1. The Acknowledgement of our sins and trespasses. No defences.
2. Repentance and Forsaking our sins and trespasses. Then
3. Returning to the Right Path.

This is what the priests and the entire Israel did in 1Chr. 15:14. Revelations 2:5 says "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works" If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleans us from all unrighteousness, says 1Jn. 1:9.

Many years ago when we started, the church systems were

afraid of us. When we went to preach they would say 'these men, don't allow them to enter your church. They will scatter your church'. They were afraid of us because the word was coming with boldness, with fearlessness. We went to places; when they said don't come, we went all the same. Out of fear, they would say these Tabernacle people are coming again. There was a time we went to Ghana. When it was noised about that we were in town they said these boys have come again to cause confusion here, to turn here upside down. These were 'big' brothers we had shared the end-time vision earlier.

Now, nobody reckons with us because we have become one with them. Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean not relating with other Christians and sharing fellowship, because we are all members of the same body of Christ. There is only one body. There are sheep of other fold within the house. They are all sheep and one shepherd. We can relate and let them see the light we have seen but we will not compromise the light God has shown us.

We must repent and turn back, locate where God has called us and stay there. Then we can declare the word and it will be effective. In our fellowships, we must do things right. We must repent from head to the toe. Everyone must cry to God. God says turn ye even to Me with all your heart; not with sackcloth, but with all your heart. That is the only time He will have mercy upon us and then He will visit us again. We must do the right thing. When we leave this place, we are leaving as a different set of people who are ready to do the bidding of the Lord. We must make up our minds that we are going to be different, doing things differently. They must not confuse us with other people. They can't come into our midst and feel comfortable as though

we are the same as other places. It must be apparent that we are not the same as other people. Like I heard somebody say the other day, 'It is the same thing. The way they do is the way we do except that they do not have one pastor.' That cannot be. There is something different. We are men and women who want to follow the Lamb where so ever He goes. We allow the Spirit of God to lead us to do the will of the Father. It doesn't matter what it does to our body or to things around us. We must obey the word of the Lord that we may say, not just singing it, if I perish I perish! Of course we know deep down that no man says if I perish I perish ever perishes because God will go ahead of him to honour him because he honours Him.

Now let's look at the last factor that can lead to compromise or conformity to the world. This is;

Pressure from Satan/The World.

Pressure is a very important factor to be considered which drives people into conformity. This pressure from Satan/the world manifests in different areas – Economic & Financial Pressure. The enemy puts up an economic hardship and then makes a financial 'escape route' that he offers that you can take up if you compromise your stand in God. In this period of recession economic and financial gains are key weapons of the enemy. In the book of Numbers chapter 22 from verse 1, we see how financial gain lured Bal am into an unholy alliance with Balak. We also remember the case of Esau in Gen.25:28, who gave away his birth right for a temporary relief. Many men of God and indeed Christians are compromising their beliefs for financial gains. Some even sell their soul to the devil through

cultic involvements for the same purpose. Some young ladies sell their body for money. Some Christian business men get into a lot of compromises and even offer bribes to get contracts and then after goes to the church for thanksgiving and testimonies, deceiving the brethren as though it was God who gave them the increase.

This pressure also manifests in social area especially through peer pressure. People, especially the young folks are pressured into compromising their Christian principles and values to want to belong. Their peers make them feel odd and out of order for not doing the wrong things they do. Now the mad man makes the sane person believe he is abnormal for not behaving madly. That is the world for you. Some have fallen into sexual sins just because their peers made them believe that if they don't have a girl friend or boyfriend and have never had sex at their age, that they are abnormal and backward.

Some highly placed Christians, in order to maintain certain social status would compromise in many things while with their peers in the world.

Another area of pressure is that to maintain certain political and/or religious status. Many fine children of God have been messed up by politics and religion also where people are drawn away by filthy lucre, like the sons of Samuel in 1Sam.8. this pressure to be seen as excelling above others have led to an unholy competitions among men of God within their organizations and among the various religious organizations. Many look at their contemporaries and feel they are doing much better, without investigating what they did or are doing to fetch such wealth. In many cases they end up doing all sorts of

untoward things to make it. Many water down the gospel in their teaching just to appeal to their members and maintain a huge congregation to ensure adequate flow of funds, whether those members know God or not and whether they are living right or not. We must not forget that the scripture in 2Cor. 10:12 says that those who compare themselves with themselves are not wise. That means that they are foolish, because if you are not wise you are foolish. Again the world measures success by how educated one is. How wealthy he is – how many posh cars he has; how much landed properties one has and so on. But the Lord said in Luke 12:15 that “the worth of a man does not consist in the abundance of the things which he possesses.” So do not succumb to the world's standard of riches as against God's assessment. So they seek for money by all means to build mansions and cathedrals, acquire cars and jets; a sign that they have arrived. We must run far far away from such. Amen!

This pressure also comes through another way; Adversity. For example sicknesses, death and losses in any area. This kind of situation has driven some Christians into places and things they have no business going near in search of solutions. Many have been driven to occultism and alignment with the spirits of darkness to seek healing and financial breakthrough. This is a great abomination before God.

Amen! Amen!! Now let us briefly look into some of the consequences of conformity to the world. I will just list them as we already talked about them during the cause of our discussion. They are:

1. When you compromise and conform to the world you are conforming to the image of the beast talked about in the book of Revelation, rather than conforming to the image of the son of

God, which is the plan of God for us all.

2. You become enemy of God and His church and lose love for the Father. 1Jn. 2:15 says, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*
3. You will be operating only at the realm of the flesh. The carnal realm which ultimately leads to death. *“ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”-Rom.8:5-8.*
4. You get swallowed up by the world and walk in wickedness and become an abomination to God.
5. The end point of conforming to the world and by implication into the image of the beast, is death, eternal death and in some cases physical death inclusive. Amen!

Let us begin to finish and close as I perceive we need to begin to pray. Let us look at what I have termed 'Antidote To Conformity To The world.'

First; Rom.12:1-2. BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND. This is achieved by consistent study of the word that has the capacity to cleans and erase every contamination of the mind, and prayer.

Secondly; WALK IN THE SPIRIT and you will not succumb to any undue pressure from any one or anywhere. That is Rom. 8:1-8. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For*

the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Thirdly; GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE WILL OF GOD, to build up your faith. We must not remain babes. The word will always lead you to the right decision.

Fourthly and finally; KNOW THE PROMISES OF GOD AT YOUR DISPOSAL. And the weapons of warfare. If you know God and stand by Him, NOTHING can intimidate you. Let us read **Eph.6:10-14.** *”Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*

Rev. 12:7-11. *”And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any*

more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

The devil and the world shall not have dominion over us. It is ordered of the Lord. Amen! Praise God!

The Lord bless you brethren.

INFORMATION.

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Other helpful books by the author include:

- **A New Generation Is Emerging.** (God's Special End-Time Squad.)
- **Divine Order For The Function & Operation Of The Local Assembly.**
- **The Marriage Affair.** (Choice & Courtship God's Way.)
- **Understanding The Marriage Affair.**
- **Understanding The marriage Affair.**(New Enlarged Edition)
- **Conformity;** The devil's end-time strategy.
- **From The Beginning It Was Not So** (Divorce and Remarriage).

Call or write to receive any of the above listed books and other helpful materials.

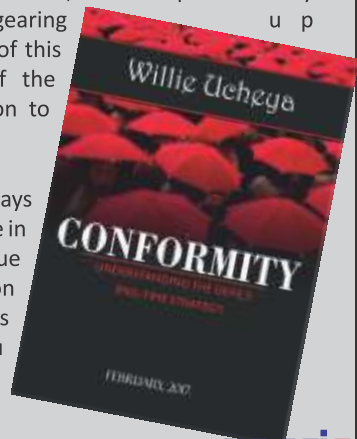
While in a wonderful praise and worship session in a meeting, two weeks before a mission trip to Sierra Leone, the Lord spoke clearly to me and said, "Conformity is the devil's strategic weapon in this end-time." Then I heard the Lord say, tell my people to be aware of this strategy of the enemy with the view to check mate him. A lot of Christians have been overtaken by this just as the entire world is engulfed by this satanic doctrine. This doctrine is fast leading into One World Religion and One World Government.

Paul has ahead of time warned the church to desist from conformity to the present and emerging world system. We must break loose from the world's mind set through the effectual operation of the Holy Spirit in our life as we surrender to Him. *"Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]."* -Rom.12:2. AMP.

The nations of the world through the instrumentality of their leaders in various organizations e.g., the UN agencies, are politically, economically and religiously pushing this doctrine down the throat of the entire people of the world to reject God and His established counsel. The truth is that all of these is a gang up against the Lord and His anointed. But our God sitting upon His everlasting throne is laughing at the foolishness and folly of man, because His wrath is coming greatly upon the earth. -Psa.2:2-5. AMP.

Everything going on in the world now is working towards the destruction of man and his civilization. Man will use his own inventions, manipulated by God to destroy himself. The super powers are gearing up for a great show down. The great kingdoms of this world shall come crashing in fulfillment of the revelations of Daniel chapter 2. Pay attention to verse 45.

There shall be no hiding place. As it was in the days of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah, so shall it be in this time. Only those who run into Jesus the true ark, who are conformed to the image of the Son of God, shall be saved. This is the time to act as there is time no more. The Lord bless you as you heed to the call of the hour. Shalom!



ISBN: 978-978-958-973-9

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