

On Church growth - The primary strength is the presentation of the Word of God

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Very Especially to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace, and to all the leaders.

I am asked to say a few words about my experience as a pastor in order to encourage pastors and leaders to move forward in church growth. So, I'm bringing about 50 years of empirical experience to this arena. When we deal with preaching or deal with church growth, the primary strength is the presentation of the Word of God, because faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17).

And it is in preaching, which is the art and science of spoken communication, of divine truth with the appeal to persuade. So, because it's an art, you make your presentation according to how God has used your personality, your charisma, your hospitality, and your love for people because there is no real growth if those ingredients aren't there.

And God uses that in order to make you endearing and warm to the people to whom you're going to present the work. So, the art aspect of your presentation is you. The science aspect is the structure and principle that goes with dealing with the Word of God. And God has to call you and gift you with to preach. The callings and gifts of God are not without connection. That in order for you to maintain your giftedness, you have to have character.

So, there is no disconnect between what you say and what you do. Your character and your giftedness must come together. I think one of the greatest examples of character relationship with giftedness is Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. So elegant, so wonderful, so hospitable, and yet so gifted in her presentations. But her presentation would lose its strength if her character was not on par. So, she doesn't lack in giftedness, and she doesn't lack in character.

I think that's very important for us to understand that after we have made this presentation, and people are attracted to your giftedness and your reputation based on your giftedness, but they don't know your character.

And when they find your character as they associate with you, then your character should be on par with your giftedness and presentation. And that's how churches grow.

So, in your love for God, in your zeal for the people, we should live so that we are not replaceable. And that's what builds churches. Now, here's what I've learned from my own experience. If you don't have people who are haters, or people who don't like you. If you don't have any of those, then you're not that gifted.

The more gifted you are, and the more blessed you are, as a person of God, as a presenter of His Word, is the more you become a target to people who just cannot stand the fact that God uses you in the way that He does. And so, I have to tell you very explicitly and very definitely, that you cannot allow external forces to hinder your presentation. Now you have to do something with this information. The information must meet needs. And if needs are not met in our plenary presentation, then what's going to happen is, people will be attracted to our delivery, they will find that we have no content; so, you can have a beautiful presentation, dress immaculately, speak articulately, but if you don't have anything to say, that can't change people's lives.

Those are just a few things that I wanted to share with you.

So, my words to you as I'm about to close is hold on to the things that God has given you. Understand that your calling and election is sure. Understand that trials and tribulations will rise but stay faithful to the Word of God and its presentation and you will water, you will sow, you will water and God will give the increase.

Be blessed.