

*Apostle Michael Orokpo*



**DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH**  
**PART. 2**  
*(DNA of the Church)*

*Transcribed and Published by [Livingsermons.com](http://Livingsermons.com)*

# Doctrine Of The Church Part. 2

*(DNA of the Church)*

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**By Apostle Michael Orokpo**

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**Author: Apostle Michael Orokpo**

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All inquiries and permissions:

[info.livingsermons@gmail.com](mailto:info.livingsermons@gmail.com)

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# Foreword

*This volume presents a compelling unveiling of the living nature, structure, and divine intent of the Church. At its core, it is not merely an assembly of teachings, but a clear exposition of the Church as a Spirit-breathed organism—anchored in truth, sustained by fellowship, powered by prayer, and driven by the mandate of Christ.*

*Across these pages, the reader is guided into a deeper understanding of what defines a living Church. The message is unmistakable: the Church is not accidental, nor is it a social arrangement of convenience. It is revelation-built, Christ-centred, and Holy Ghost governed. Its essence is not in activity alone, but in divine order—doctrine that shapes conviction, fellowship that builds family, breaking of bread that affirms unity, prayer that sustains power, and mission that extends the authority of Christ to the ends of the earth.*

*One of the strongest emphases in this work is the restoration of balance between membership and discipleship. It calls the believer beyond passive association into active formation—where learning becomes following, following becomes doing, and doing matures into multiplication. In this, the Church is revealed not as a destination, but as a training ground for transformation and spiritual reproduction.*

*The reader will also encounter a strong rebuke of isolation from spiritual family and a vivid presentation of the Church as God’s design for care, accountability, and strength. In an age where individualism often weakens spiritual commitment, this message re-establishes the necessity of covenant community and shared responsibility within the household of faith.*

*Furthermore, the call to missions is not presented as an optional assignment for a few, but as the natural outflow of every disciplined believer. The Church is shown to be a sending body—raising men and women who carry the life of Christ into their environments until obedience to Him becomes the visible culture of their lives.*

*This book therefore stands as both instruction and invitation: instruction into the divine pattern of the Church, and invitation into deeper participation in its life and purpose. It challenges the reader to examine not only their place within the Church, but also their contribution to its mandate in the earth.*

*May these truths not remain as information on a page, but become formation in the heart—until the life of Christ is fully expressed in His people.*

**— Wisdom Epsi**  
**Chief Editor, [LivingSermons.com](http://LivingSermons.com)**

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## ***Publisher's Note***

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube at the [\*\*Apostle Michael Orokpo Official Channel\*\*](#)

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Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

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— ***Livingsermons.com***

***A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship***

# ***Main Message***

*Begins Here*



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## *Introduction*

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Let me quickly advance to what we want to look at today.

If I want to do the whole recap, it will take too long because I took time to show you the origin of the church. I took time to explain to you the name and the nature of the church.

How many of you remember the origin of the church?

Can we wave? Why are the hands few?

This is not preaching; this is Bible study. We have to take it precept upon precept, line upon line. How many of you remember the origin of the church?

Oh my Father!

Okay, let me do the recap, because the goal of teaching is for you to know. If you do not know, we will teach again.

A pastor was brought to a new church. He preached a sermon and everybody shouted, excited. He came back the next week and preached the same sermon. The people were wondering, *Is this the only thing you know in the Bible?* But out of respect, they held their peace.

The next Sunday, he preached the same sermon again. This time they began murmuring.

When he returned the fourth Sunday and began the same sermon, they asked, "What is going on?"

The pastor said, *What I am teaching, I am not seeing it. When I start seeing it, I will move to the next one.*

The goal is not to say many things. The goal is for you to become.

Glory to Jesus.

Some of you like hearing new things, especially when they sound deep. When you are hearing them, you nod your head, start praying in tongues, and before you cross the door, you forget everything.

Somebody told me, “Why is it that when you go out, you preach fireful messages, but when you come back, you teach?”

I said yes. Because out there, since I do not have time to disciple them, I release fire. But here, I have to teach the Word so they can grow.

You want to hear deep spiritual things? You will hear them, stand up, and react as though something entered you. But the next day, the same thing being addressed, you will still be doing it.

Somebody once told me, “When you are teaching, I do not write. I just open my spirit and let it enter.”

Oh my God.

## *The Origin of the Church*

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We said the church is God's idea. It is not man's idea. It was God Himself who originated the church. You find that in **Matthew 16:16–18**.

Jesus asked His disciples, *Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*

They answered:

- Some say Thou art Elias.
- Some say Jeremiah.
- Some say John the Baptist.

They were all wrong. Then Jesus asked, *But whom say ye that I am?*

And Peter answered:

*“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* (Matthew 16:16)

Jesus replied:

*“Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”* (Matthew 16:17)

Then He said:

*“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)*

The church was birthed from the Father through the revelation of Jesus. So the origin of the church is the Father. The church came from God, and it came through the revelation of Jesus. That is why we say the foundation of the church is the revelation of Christ. Anywhere you see something called church that is not built on Christ, it is not church.

## ***The Foundation of the Church***

Church is not built on prayer. Church is not built on miracles. As powerful as prayer is, they were praying before Jesus came. As powerful as fasting is, they were fasting before Jesus came. They were working miracles before Jesus came.

But He did not build His church on any of those things. The church is built on one thing alone—the revelation of Jesus Christ. *“Upon this rock I will build my church...”*

This is why everything we do must be rooted in Christ.

Our prayer must flow from the revelation of Christ.

Our fasting must flow from the revelation of Christ.

Our giving must flow from the revelation of Christ.

Anything done outside the bearing of Christ has become something else.

## ***The Spiritual Nature of the Church***

Jesus said:

*“Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee...”*

This means beyond strategy and excellence, the Holy Ghost must remain the life force of the church. If it becomes about scholarly intelligence or strategic thinking alone, it is no longer church. Those things have their place, but if the power of the Holy Ghost is absent, then it is not church.

The church is spiritual by nature.

## ***The Church and the Gates of Hell***

Jesus said:

*“The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

That means the true church must confront Satan.

If demons cannot be cast out...

If sicknesses cannot be healed...

If sin cannot be dealt with...

If the activity of the devil still thrives unchecked...

Then it is not church.

If it is church:

You enter with addiction, it dies.

You enter with sickness, you are healed.

You enter with demons, they are cast out.

Because the gates of hell do not prevail against the church.

No system, no policy, no nation can stop it.

Its origin is the Father.

Its foundation is Christ.

Its operation is spiritual.

And the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

# *The Meaning of the Church*

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The word *church* comes from two roots:

**Ekklesia** — meaning *called out*.

**Kyriakon** — meaning *belonging to the Lord*.

So the church means:

**Called-out people who belong to Jesus.**

We are not just called out.

We are called out and we belong to Christ.

If you say you are part of the church, you are saying your life is no longer your own.

Your time belongs to Jesus. Your money belongs to Jesus. Your body belongs to Jesus.  
Church is not about denomination. Denominations are simply different programmes  
God is running in different parts of the church.

The church is beyond denomination.

# *The Church as a Living Organism*

We defined the church first as a living organism. The church is not dead. The church is alive. The church is a being. That is why **1 Corinthians 12:27** says:

*“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”*

When you deal with the church, you are dealing with a living body. Jesus is the Head. We are the body. That means the church is alive. And there are four expressions of this living reality:

## **1. The Body of Christ**

### **Ephesians 1:22–23**

*“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body...”*

This means the church is alive.

That is why when you enter church, the life of God should touch you.

The anointing should touch you.

The light of God should touch you.

Sometimes you come depressed, but after service, you feel charged.

Why?

Because you interacted with a living being.

## **2. The Bride of Christ**

This speaks of love relationship.

Church is not transaction.

When it becomes transactional, corruption has entered.

Yes, if you serve God, He blesses you.

But blessing must never be the motivation.

If blessing stops and service stops, then it was never relationship.

It was transaction.

The church is the Bride of Christ because there is love, loyalty, and covenant commitment.

### **Ephesians 5:25**

*“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”*

That is church.

Relationship.

Commitment.

Love.

Not transaction.

# *The Danger of Transactional Christianity*

Many people are not praying—they are buying things.

Morning, afternoon, and evening.

Everything is:

“Pray so this will happen.”

“Give so this will happen.”

“Sow so this will happen.”

Those things may happen, but they are not the motivation.

Imagine your wife cooks for you and immediately says, “I need a Gucci bag.”

She washes your clothes and says, “I need a car.”

She fetches water for you to bathe and says, “I need a dress.”

Are you a wife or a concubine?

If you are a wife, there is covenant.

There is relationship.

That is how God relates with us.

This is why we must reorient ourselves. Because when you meet Jesus, if everything you did was transaction, you will be small.

There was no commitment.

Only exchange.

And that is not church.

### **3. The Temple of the Spirit**

The church is alive because it is the temple of the Spirit.

God lives in the church.

And God does not live in dead systems.

*“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”*

— 1 Corinthians 3:16

The living God dwells in the church.

That makes the church alive.

### **4. The Household of God**

The church is called the household of God.

It is a family.

#### **Ephesians 2:19**

In a family, there are brothers and sisters.

There is life.

There is activity.

We pray together.

We worship together.

We fast together.

We win souls together.

There is spirit interaction.

There is spirit connection.

This is why, whether as an individual or as a gathering, we are called church.

You as an individual are church.

And when we gather under God's authority, we are church.

Glory to God.

## ***The Church as an Institution***

The church is not just a living organism. It is also an institution. This means God brings order, governance, doctrine, ordinances, and structure. And He expects compliance.

In every family, there is order.

There is structure.

The father is the head.

The child cannot rise and start giving directives.

There are ordinances.

There are responsibilities.

That is how the church works.

There is an institutional dimension to church.

This is part of understanding the nature of the church. We have looked at its origin. Now we are examining its dimensions of operation and expression.

## **1 Timothy 3:15**

*“That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*

There is a way to behave in the church.

There is order.

There is structure.

There is doctrine.

And there is truth.

## ***The Church as an Institution of Order***

In **2 Thessalonians 3:6**, Paul said:

*“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.”*

He said, *“In the name of Jesus, I command.”*

This is where you understand that the church is an institution.

There is structure.

There is discipline.

There is order.

If a man is living in disorder—an alcoholic, immoral, rebellious—and love has been shown repeatedly, a point comes when discipline must follow.

A point comes when we say: *If you want to go to hell, go alone. Do not escort anybody there.*

If you want to wreck your family, wreck it alone. Do not wreck other people's lives.

And then such a person expects to be made a deacon?

No, sir.

You must be blameless.

Paul said, *withdraw*.

If someone is put in charge of a department or a branch and is living in immorality, we do not show love by overlooking it.

We show love by withdrawing him and disciplining him.

And if he refuses correction, the church can command others to withdraw from him because he has become a wolf in sheep's clothing.

The church is an institution.

It is the ground and pillar of truth.

There is order.

There are structures.

There are ordinances.

You cannot do whatever you like.

If everybody does what they want, the church cannot impact the world.

It cannot happen.

Glory to God.

## *The Purpose of Discipline*

Again in **2 Thessalonians 3:14**, Paul said:

*“And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”*

Let him be ashamed.

That shame can become the instrument that brings him back to repentance. If you pamper him, he may continue on the path to destruction. Some of you are still spiritual babies. People violate the structure of the church and the ordinances of God, and when you are told to avoid them, you say:

*“Are we not supposed to be brothers and sisters?”*

There is authority in the church.

There is order.

If you are under authority, you follow the structure. Otherwise, everything becomes chaotic, and God cannot work with chaos.

## *The Church as a Universal Body*

The church is also a universal body.

This is what we call the **Catholic Church**—not the Roman Catholic Church.

The Roman Catholic Church is only one part of the universal body.

The Catholic Church speaks of the universality of the body of Christ.

In **Acts 9:4–5**, when Paul persecuted believers, Jesus appeared and said:

*“Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”*

He was speaking of the universal body.

Whatever denomination a believer belongs to does not change the fact that we are one body.

Denominations are simply different expressions of grace and emphasis for building God’s people.

But we are one body.

Hebrews 12:22–23 says:

*“But ye are come unto mount Sion... to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven...”*

There is a general assembly.

In **Ephesians 3:15**, Paul calls it:

*“The whole family in heaven and earth.”*

This is why you must be careful not to speak carelessly against other expressions of the body of Christ.

If you fight another part of the body, you are fighting yourself.

Yes, there may be errors.

And when God gives us light, we correct them.

But we do not undermine others to prove we are right.

Because we all see in part and prophesy in part.

Glory to God.

# *The Headship of the Church*

This is the nature of the church.

And then there is the headship of the church.

Its leadership is threefold.

## **1. The Head**

The first and highest authority is the Head. And Jesus is the Head.

### **Colossians 1:18**

*“And he is the head of the body, the church...”*

Jesus is the absolute authority of the church. Everything begins and ends with Him.

## **2. The Overseers**

Jesus, the Head, has called certain individuals into offices to oversee the operations of different parts of the church across territories.

### **Ephesians 4:11**

*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.”*

These offices exist:

- For the perfecting of the saints
- For the work of ministry
- For the edifying of the body of Christ

Jesus distributes these offices across the earth to administer His purpose in different jurisdictions.

This is why the church is one body but has different expressions.

Jesus still calls men.

Jesus still sends men.

Jesus still establishes different expressions of His church.

## **The Things Most Surely Believed**

How do you know whether an expression is truly church?

There are foundational truths.

The Bible calls them *the things most surely believed*.

These are non-negotiables:

- There is one God manifest in three Persons.
- Jesus is the Son of God.
- He was born of a virgin.
- He lived a sinless life.
- He died for our sins.
- He rose again the third day.
- He ascended into heaven.
- He sent the Holy Ghost.
- Through Him we received eternal life and righteousness.

These truths are the lines that hold us together.

Any assembly standing on these truths is part of the body.

## *The Work of Overseers*

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In **Acts 20:28**, Paul said:

*“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers...”*

So the universal body has different flocks. Jesus is the Head. The Holy Ghost appoints overseers over flocks.

This is one flock. And for administration and order, overseers raise subordinate leadership.

In **Titus 1:5**, Paul told Titus:

*“Set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city...”*

That is church order. As grace expands, leadership expands. Subordinate leaders are raised to help translate the vision and agenda of God.

# ***Submission and Spiritual Covering***

Hebrews 13:17 says:

*“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls...”*

This is spiritual business.

Every soul must be accounted for.

This is why it is dangerous to exist without spiritual authority over your life.

If Jesus has not called you as an overseer, then the Holy Ghost must have led you to a flock.

You must belong somewhere.

Every soul must be covered.

## ***How Overseers Watch Over Souls***

### **Through Prophetic Instruction**

A pastor overseeing 500 people may not know everyone personally.

That is not the primary way oversight works.

Oversight works through prophetic instruction.

When God gives an instruction and you obey it, you come under covering.

That is how oversight functions.

The Holy Ghost may say:

*Fast for forty days.*

If you ignore it, you step outside that covering.

This is why some people ask:

*“How can this happen to me in this church where power is present?”*

The question is:

Are you under authority?

## **Through Doctrine**

Doctrine preserves you.

Truth preserves you.

When truth is taught and you believe it, it becomes your system of preservation.

If the church says:

Win souls.

Pray.

Submit to Christ.

And you reject it—

you expose yourself.

Those who reject doctrine become tossed to and fro.

## **Through Prophetic Decrees**

When declarations are made, many think it is just a way to end service.

No.

It is a system of covering.

When you believe and receive those declarations, you enter into that grace.

Things that affect others may not affect you because you are under prophetic covering.

Glory to God.

## ***Finding Your Place in the Structure***

This is the leadership authority of the church:

- Jesus is the Head.
- He appoints overseers.
- Overseers raise subordinate leadership.
- The flock submits under that authority.

You cannot be the Head.

Find where you belong.

If you are a flock, connect to your authority.

If you are subordinate leadership, connect to your overseer.

Do not violate structure.

Because structure is how grace flows.

# *Calling Before Competence*

Many people think leadership is based on competence.

It is not.

It is based on calling. Competence is learned. Calling is given. Some people may preach better than the person leading them. But that does not make them the authority.

Authority is not a product of talent. It is a product of divine ordination. If God has called you to sit, sit. If God has called you to lead, lead. Do not move ahead of God.

Because when God calls you, He supplies the grace, the resources, the doors, and the provisions. Where there is genuine calling, there is divine backing. And where there is divine backing, there is rest.

This is Jesus at work.

And in all these things, there are miracles.

There are signs.

There are wonders.

And it keeps increasing by the day—from rest. Find your place in the church. You are either a flock, a subordinate leader, or an overseer. But find your place and do not force yourself into another. The Holy Ghost is the One who shuffles us.

If He has not shuffled you into the office of an overseer, wait. He may shuffle you into subordinate ministry. He may shuffle you into the flock. Be happy wherever He puts you. He is the One marking your script. It is where He places you that determines your performance.

And enjoy it.

Glory to God.

## *The DNA of the Church*

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We have used the whole of today for recap, and I am happy about it because last week was a bit electrifying, so many of you did not remember much.

What I will do now is this: any day I speak on high voltage, I will ask questions. If you do not understand, I will come down and inject it by force so that you will know.

Glory to God.

Now, having explained all of that, let me touch one more thing today:

### **The DNA of the Church.**

These are the things that truly characterise the essence and operation of the church.

When you find a living church, it has a DNA.

What defines it?

What characterises its operation?

In **Acts 2:42**, the Bible says:

*“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

And in **Matthew 28:19–20**, Jesus said:

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”*

*“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”*

This is where you see the chromosomes of the church.

This is the DNA.

The DNA of the church is fivefold:

1. Doctrine
2. Fellowship
3. Breaking of Bread
4. Prayer
5. Missions

If you find a living church representing Jesus, these five things are non-negotiable.

## **1. Doctrine — The Church is Word-Centred**

When we say doctrine, we mean the church is Word-centred. When you come to church, you must hear the Word of God until your convictions are formed.

Doctrine means teaching. Belief systems are crystallised into teachings so that convictions and ideologies are formed.

These convictions define who you are and who you become.

The church must be built on sound doctrine.

Without doctrine, identity is impossible.

## **2. Fellowship — The Church is Community-Driven**

When we say fellowship, we mean the church is community-driven. Church is not an institution where you simply come, focus on the man of God, and leave.

No.

The church is a household.

The church is family.

You understand this better when you travel outside your country. For many people abroad, their first place of refuge is church.

Why?

Because church is community.

- Church is security.
- Church is family.
- Church is support.

In the wilderness, Israel camped by tribes, by families, and by generations. Everyone knew where everyone belonged. That was why for forty years in the wilderness, not one child was missing.

That is community.

That is fellowship.

If someone disappears from choir and nobody checks on them, something is wrong.

We do not understand fellowship.

Many people leave church bitter because fellowship failed. A man once lost his wife.

Nobody reached out.

And somebody said:

*“It is not a testimony. It may discourage the faith of others.”*

What?

When they bring money for missions, we celebrate them. When they build church, we celebrate them. But when they lose their wife, we stay silent?

That is not church. That man left and never returned. Because fellowship failed. If someone in a unit loses a loved one, there should be a system of support. If someone is in school and struggling, there should be systems. If someone has a business idea and lacks capital, there should be support.

This is fellowship.

Not transaction.

Not applause.

Family.

The person sitting beside you should know:

*If something happens to me, I will not be stranded.*

That is church.

Some people receive miracles elsewhere, get filled with the Holy Ghost elsewhere, and still return to their Orthodox churches.

Why?

Fellowship.

If somebody dies in their house, people stay with them until burial.

Food is brought.

Support is given.

Transport is arranged.

They are not left alone.

That is fellowship.

Meanwhile, many Pentecostal assemblies only know revival, revival, revival—but do not know fellowship.

And fellowship is DNA.

If all we have is tongues and no love, something is wrong.

The early church had fellowship.

They went from house to house.

They broke bread together.

They shared life together.

That is church.

This is why we encourage you to join a unit.

So someone can account for you.

If you go through trials, someone should know. If you are absent for two weeks, somebody should check on you. Not because they want to fill chairs. But because they love you. Because you are family. If you are grieving, they stand with you.

If you are in a spiritual battle, someone can pray and receive insight for you.

That is fellowship.

Both physical and spiritual.

Glory to God.

### **3. Breaking of Bread — The Church is Spirit-Powered**

The church breaks bread together. This speaks of oneness in the Spirit. In **1 Corinthians 10:16–17**, Paul taught that when we partake of one bread, we affirm our participation in Christ. And because we eat from one bread, we are one body.

This means our unity has gone beyond the natural. It has become spiritual. In **Acts 2:1**, they were together in one accord. By **Acts 2:46**, they had moved from one accord to singleness of heart. Breaking bread is proof of spiritual oneness.

It affirms:

- Our oneness with Christ
- Our oneness with one another

This relationship is deeper than natural affection. It is deeper than biological family. Biological fellowship is blood-connected. Church fellowship is spirit-connected. And communion is the proof of it.

## **4. Prayer — The Church is Prayer-Sustained**

The church is a praying church.

Acts 2:42 already showed us.

The early church prayed.

When they had problems, they prayed.

When they gathered, they prayed.

Prayer was their life.

If we struggle with prayer, something has gone wrong with our DNA.

We have started mutating.

### **Acts 6:4**

*“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”*

### **Acts 12:5**

When Peter was imprisoned:

*“Prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.”*

The church cannot survive without prayer.

# *The Necessity of Prayer*

Three years ago, one of our sisters was kidnapped while travelling.

She was in her first trimester.

We explored natural options.

But every move made worsened the situation.

So we backed off.

Then we began chain prayer.

I said prayer will not stop until they are released.

Thirty minutes into prayer, I saw a vision.

I saw them testifying in church on Sunday.

I stopped the prayer and told them:

*“They will testify on Sunday. Intensify the prayers.”*

And on Sunday, they were testifying.

Prayer brought them out.

If the church does not pray, the devil will take over. From rebellion to sudden death, to failures, to disasters. Prayer is how we mobilise our arsenals.

We must pray.

And we must pray correctly.

That is church.

## **5. Missions — The Church is Mission-Oriented**

The church is given to missions.

Mission is deeper than evangelism.

Evangelism focuses on getting people saved.

Its goal is faith unto salvation.

And we must evangelise.

From Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.

But mission goes beyond salvation.

Mission is discipleship.

Mission teaches obedience to the ways of Jesus.

Mission trains yieldedness to the Holy Ghost.

Mission matures believers.

Mission transforms believers into Christ.

Evangelism brings them in.

Mission builds them.

Mission changes their ideology.

Mission shapes them until Christ is formed in them.

So mission is a combination of evangelism and discipleship.

The church is a church of missions.

Any church lukewarm about soul-winning and unserious about discipleship is gradually becoming a social gathering.

We must train every believer to become a missionary.

You can do mission in your workplace.

You can do mission in your environment.

You can do cross-cultural mission.

But one way or another, every believer must become part of mission.

Because the proof that you have been discipled is that you can be sent.

Those who trained us had a slogan: **Win. Build. Send.**

The essence and operation of a living church is not accidental; it is encoded with divine DNA. When the church is truly alive, there are non-negotiable characteristics that define its existence and expression.

The first is doctrine. The church is Word-centred. It is built on teaching, where belief systems are consistently shaped until conviction becomes identity. Without doctrine, the church loses its foundation.

The second is fellowship. The church is not a distant institution; it is a living community. It is a household of believers, where no one is isolated and no one is forgotten. In the early church, people did not merely attend meetings—they belonged to one another. Needs were met, burdens were shared, and lives were intertwined.

The third is breaking of bread. This speaks of spiritual oneness. It is more than a ritual; it is a declaration that believers are one body in Christ. The communion expresses unity that transcends natural relationships. It is a spiritual bond that holds the church together.

The fourth is prayer. The church is sustained by prayer. From the early church in Acts, prayer was not an activity—it was a culture. They prayed in fellowship, they prayed in crisis, and they prayed in growth. Whenever prayer weakens, the church begins to lose its spiritual strength.

The fifth is missions. The church is mission-driven. This goes beyond evangelism. Evangelism brings people into salvation, but missions produce disciples. It is the process of teaching obedience, shaping character, and forming Christlikeness in believers until transformation is complete.

## **Evangelism and Discipleship**

Evangelism brings men to faith, but discipleship brings men into maturity. The church is not complete until believers are trained to obey Christ and reflect His nature.

A disciple is not a passive believer. A disciple is one who learns, follows, does, and multiplies.

First, a disciple is a learner. He is constantly being taught, shaped, and instructed in the ways of God. The learning never stops.

Second, a disciple is a follower. He does not only hear instruction; he walks in it. He mirrors what he receives.

Third, a disciple is a doer. He replicates what he has been taught. The life of Christ becomes visible through his actions.

Fourth, a disciple is a multiplier. He produces others who can do what he does. Discipleship is incomplete until it reproduces itself.

## **The Mandate of Replication**

The assignment of the church is not merely to gather members but to raise disciples who can reproduce Christ's life in others. When believers are properly trained, they become carriers of the same grace, the same obedience, and the same impact.

Jesus commanded His disciples to go, teach, and reproduce what they had received. The goal is continuity—generation after generation of believers walking in the same truth and power.

A church is healthy when what is taught can be transferred, and what is received can be demonstrated.

## **Stretching into Spiritual Capacity**

There are dimensions in God that are only accessed through spiritual discipline, stretching, and consistency. As believers grow, hidden capacities begin to emerge—discernment sharpens, sensitivity increases, and spiritual authority becomes evident.

The church is a training ground where believers are stretched beyond comfort into maturity. Through teaching, prayer, fasting, and instruction, believers are formed into vessels that carry divine expression.

The church is not an optional structure; it is a divine blessing. It is the system God uses to teach, shape, correct, and activate His people.

Within the church, believers encounter instruction, activation, correction, and covering. Gifts are stirred, grace is activated, and destinies are aligned.

No believer is designed to walk alone. The church provides the environment where spiritual growth is nurtured and destiny is preserved.

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## ***Closing Exhortation***

*Find your place in the house of God. Whether as a believer under instruction, a servant in training, or a leader entrusted with responsibility—remain rooted in your assigned position.*

*There is no disadvantage in being planted where God has placed you. In His order, every role is significant, and every assignment is purposeful.*

*Remain faithful. Grow steadily. And fulfil your divine assignment within the body of Christ.*

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## *About the Speaker*

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Apostle Michael Orokpo is a Nigerian apostolic teacher and revivalist widely known for his depth in the Word of God and his strong emphasis on spiritual formation, priesthood, and kingdom influence. He serves as the lead minister of **Encounter Jesus Ministries International**, a ministry committed to raising believers who encounter Christ genuinely and live out the reality of His kingdom in everyday life.

Through conferences, leadership gatherings, and intensive teaching meetings across Africa and beyond, Apostle Orokpo has consistently called the Church to move beyond superficial Christianity into deeper consecration, spiritual intelligence, and transformational leadership. His teachings frequently emphasise the believer's authority in Christ, the responsibility of spiritual gatekeeping, and the need for men and women who can stand as watchmen over territories, systems, and nations according to the purposes of God.



## *About Living Sermons*

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**Living Sermons** is a Spirit-led publishing platform dedicated to transforming timeless messages of God’s servants into books that can reach and impact lives across the world.

Our mission is simple: to preserve the wisdom, revelation, and anointing carried in the preached Word and make it accessible in formats that can be studied, shared, and revisited for generations. By turning sermons into high-quality Christian books and eBooks, we extend the life and influence of each message far beyond the pulpit.

At Living Sermons, we believe that the preached Word is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). Every sermon carries truth that can instruct, comfort, rebuke, inspire, and transform. Our role is to faithfully capture these words, polish them for clarity and readability, and present them in a way that maintains the preacher’s unique voice and anointing.

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**Living Sermons—*the preached Word in lasting form.***



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## *Join Our Team*

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