

*Dr. David Ogbueli*



Living Sermons

# **CHURCH GROWTH SPECIAL, PART 1**

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# Church Growth Special, Part 1

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*Publisher: [LivingSermons.com](http://LivingSermons.com)*

*Watch Live Sermon [Here](#)*



**Title: Church Growth Special, Part 1**

**Author: Dr. David Ogbueli**

**Publisher: Livingsermons.com**

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# Foreword

*Church growth is not merely a numerical ambition—it is a Kingdom burden. It is the visible proof that the life of God is advancing in a territory, that souls are being rescued from darkness, and that the labour of Christ on the Cross is finding its reward in men and women yielded to Him.*

*In this timely and fiery teaching, **Dr David Ogbueli** confronts one of the greatest silent killers of ministry: **stagnation**.*

*With apostolic clarity and prophetic urgency, he lays bare the truth that growth is not optional in the Kingdom. Fruitfulness is Heaven's expectation. Increase is God's nature. Multiplication is His design.*

*This book is not merely a sermon transcript—it is a wake-up call.*

*Within these pages, you will discover powerful truths on:*

- *Why stagnation dishonours God.*
- *The connection between worship and supernatural multiplication.*
- *The role of prevailing prayer in breaking territorial resistance.*
- *The spiritual laws behind soul-winning and church expansion.*
- *Strategic leadership principles for sustainable growth.*

*What makes this message particularly weighty is its balance between spiritual depth and practical application. Dr Ogbueli does not only reveal the spiritual warfare behind church growth; he also provides actionable systems for pastors, leaders, and fellowship heads to engage immediate multiplication.*

*This book will challenge your comfort zones. It will expose complacency. It will stir fresh hunger for results. And above all, it will realign your heart with God's passion for souls.*

*At LivingSermons.com, our commitment remains to preserve and amplify the voices of God's servants so that Kingdom truths can travel farther than the pulpit. It is our joy to bring this message into your hands in this refined format, believing that its impact will provoke growth, revival, and enlargement in your ministry, fellowship, and spiritual life.*

*As you read, may the fire for fruitfulness burn afresh within you. May every veil over your territory be torn. May every force of stagnation be broken. And may your labour in the Kingdom yield much fruit—to the glory of the Father.*

***For herein is the Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.***

***— Wisdom Epsi***

***Chief Editor, 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 [Pastor David Ogbuehi Official Channel](#)**

Livingsermons.com does not claim ownership of this message. All spiritual credit and ministerial authority belong to the preacher through whom the Word was delivered. Our role is that of stewards and editors—serving the Body of Christ by preserving and distributing life-giving messages in accessible digital formats.

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Our standard is reverence for the Word of God.

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

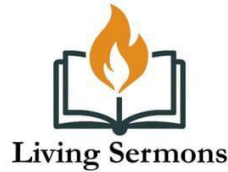
It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— ***Livingsermons.com***

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

# ***Main Message***

*Begins Here*



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## *Introduction*

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*"In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince."*

— Proverbs 14:28 (KJV)

If your church is not growing, you are disgracing Jesus.

Stagnation disgraces a king.

Stagnation disgraces God.

God has zero tolerance for unfruitfulness.

You are not going to start growing as long as you can tolerate empty seats. Growth starts with the pastors. Growth starts with the leaders. If it is a cell group, it starts with the empty cells.

As long as nothing much is happening and you are comfortable with it, growth will remain far from you. You must develop hatred and zero tolerance for stagnation.

Jesus died for the masses. He died for the whole world—all eight billion of them. There is no reason for Him not to have the reward of His suffering.

## *What Glorifies the Father*

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*"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."*

— John 15:8 (KJV)

Those who make excuses for stagnation will never conquer. Those who find ways to justify failure will remain in it. If there is one service and there is just one empty seat, that service should trigger concern. The leaders must stay behind and solve it. It must not repeat.

How is God glorified? By much fruit.

One of the surest marks of discipleship is fruitfulness. God has zero tolerance for barrenness. Everywhere in Scripture, His verdict remains the same:

Cut that tree down.

Cut that branch off.

*"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away..."*

— John 15:2 (KJV)

If a leader remains unfruitful, remove him from that office and put someone there who will yield fruit unto God.

I want to repeat that.

If a leader remains stagnant, redeploy him. Nothing is as frustrating as someone blocking the road and not moving, preventing others who need to move.

God says He will cut the branch off. He has zero tolerance for it. But the branch that bears fruit, He prunes so it can bear more fruit. Develop zero tolerance for stagnation. Stop justifying failure. Failure to grow will frustrate you until you decide to do something about it.

Can you imagine a businessman with no customers and no sales?

Can you imagine the Kingdom of God with no growth?

## ***The Ninety-Day Mandate***

What I have come here to do is to set a time limit. After that, there will be pruning. Even here in our own system, we will do pruning. This is July to September—three months.

Everybody must double his fellowship. Everybody must double their church. Some of you will triple it. Some will do even more than that.

If you learn what I am about to show you tonight, it will work in six weeks for some people. For others, four weeks.

We are giving you ninety days.

If you want to glorify God, give Him results. Give Him fruits.

# *The Power of Thanksgiving and Worship*

*"And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few..."*

— Jeremiah 30:19 (KJV)

God Himself wants you to grow.

If God wants you to grow, then He cannot be the one stopping you. One of the keys to growth is thanksgiving. Your praise and worship matter.

If you have dead praise and worship sessions, revive them. Get people who truly know how to worship God. If you create an atmosphere of joy, excitement, and positivity inside the church, it becomes magnetic.

Do not have dull services anymore.

The Bible says:

*"Out of them shall proceed thanksgiving..."*

And what follows?

*"And I will multiply them."*

Fix your praise and worship, and you will fix church growth.

God says:

*"I will multiply them, and they shall not be few. I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small."*

# ***Worship: Source of Daily Growth***

*"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

— Acts 2:47 (KJV)

Do you want daily growth?

Fix your worship. Fix your praise. Get somebody anointed. Get people who can play. There is infrastructure for worship. If you do not have it, fix it. What does a keyboard cost?

Buy one.

When you fix worship, favour comes. The anointing begins to move. And one of the major manifestations of the anointing is favour. Your people will like you because you are an anointed pastor, an anointed preacher. When you minister to the needs of people under the anointing, you will not lack.

## ***The Multiplication Factor***

There is only one part of service that is primarily for God: worship. When we preach, we are helping people. When we pray, we are meeting needs. Counselling and ministry are for people.

But worship—that is for God.

A wise pastor never plays with worship. Because the moment worship rises, God enters the equation. And once the anointing enters, multiplication begins. There is what is called the multiplication factor.

The X-factor is the anointing. If the anointing is absent, all you will have is addition. Growth by addition is slow. That is what human ability can accomplish. But once the anointing enters, exponential power is activated.

That changes everything.

## *The Sacrifice of Praise*

*"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."*

— Hebrews 13:15 (KJV)

Fix your worship. But even while you are working on it, tell the people to stand and thank God. Lift up your hands.

Bless Him.

Remember His goodness. Remember His kindness. If a pastor is not a worshipper, his people will not be worshippers. A pastor must be a worshipper. A pastor must be like David.

## *Offer Yourself First*

This is a very important principle. In Genesis chapter 4, Cain and Abel both offered sacrifices. But the Bible says:

*"And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering."*

— Genesis 4:4 (KJV)

Notice the order.

God accepted Abel first before accepting his offering. God must accept the person before He accepts what the person brings. If your person is rejected, your offering is rejected. That means if worship is happening and nothing is breaking, stop the song.

Tell everybody first to offer themselves. It is a life not on the altar that blocks worship. It blocks intercession. It blocks prayer.

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God..."*

— Romans 12:1 (KJV)

Your life must be on the altar. Holiness matters. Defilement can stop spiritual breakthrough. But the blood of Jesus makes us acceptable. It is the blood that gives us access into the Holy Place. It is the blood that makes us acceptable.

Glory be to the name of Jesus.

## ***Upreach Before Outreach***

When we learn the secret of anointed ministries, we understand this: Upreach is the secret of effective outreach.

Many people live in outreach and dry up.

They focus on winning souls but forget the secret place. They forget ministry unto the Lord. And the anointing dries up.

Ministry to the Lord is the secret of ministering effectively to the world. Upreach before outreach. Upreach before in-reach.

Minister to the Lord first. Then power will follow. And when you minister to people, power will be present.

## *The Second Major Key: Prevailing Prayers*

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Jesus asked His disciples:

*"Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"* — Matthew 16:13 (KJV)

Peter answered:

*"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."* — Matthew 16:16 (KJV)

Jesus said:

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

The moment you decide to build God's church, you enter conflict with the gates of hell. There are forces responsible for stagnation. There are forces that do not want the church to grow. Growth glorifies God. And somebody hates that.

That is why the second key to church growth is prevailing prayer. You must move obstacles out of the way. You must confront and defeat the gates of hell. The powers ruling over territories.

The forces controlling men and women.

The spirits of unbelief.

The spirits of blindness.

*"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not..."*

— 2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV)

These people would be saved, but forces keep them blinded.

You must confront it.

This is one of the principal secrets of growth. There is no church growth without prevailing prayer. And there is no sustained growth without prevailing prayer. If you slow down, the enemy will return. Prayer breaks chains. Prayer breaks territorial resistance. Prayer opens cities. Prayer removes blindness. And prayer advances the Kingdom.

## ***Breaking the Veil Over Territories***

Some of you gave your lives to Christ this year. Some, two years ago. Some, five years ago. But what were you doing all those years in the kingdom of darkness?

What if you had died then?

It would have been hell. Do you think you just woke up one day and decided to follow Jesus?

No.

Something opened. Something broke. The veil was lifted.

*"And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations."*

— Isaiah 25:7 (KJV)

Do you see that?

There is a veil over nations. Not just individuals, Communities, Cities, Territories. The Bible calls it a covering cast. That is why some nations are harder to reach than others.

Some territories are more resistant to the Gospel. But prayer and intercession break that covering. They destroy that veil.

Any territory where you plant a fellowship or church, you must mobilise prayer. You must start it as a leader. Then gather others to join you. When that veil breaks, things begin to happen. A movement starts.

People begin to respond. And you begin to wonder why growth is suddenly happening so fast.

## ***Binding the Strongman***

*"Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man?"*

— Matthew 12:29 (KJV)

People are not as free as they appear. Someone owns them. Just as God calls His people His sheep, there are others under another shepherd. But Jesus has already paid for their redemption. Your assignment is to rescue them.

You are on a rescue mission. And you have the authority of Heaven to bind the forces of darkness and release the captives. Many believers only direct prayer toward God. But there is another dimension of prayer—exercising authority over the enemy. There is a place where you ask God to pour out His Spirit to convict, to draw men.

But there is also a place where you confront Satan. Break his power over the community. Break his power over your territory. Break his power over your environment. Break his power over the people. Then command them to respond to the Gospel. That is spiritual warfare. And it is essential for growth.

# ***First Things First***

The Bible says:

*"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."*

— 1 Timothy 2:1 (KJV)

Notice that phrase: **First of all.**

Prayer comes first. Not after evangelism. Before evangelism. Before outreach. Before soul winning. Intercession prepares the ground. Intercession softens hearts. Intercession dismantles resistance. God desires all men to be saved.

*"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."*

— 1 Timothy 2:4 (KJV)

God does not want anyone to perish. Not one.

So if men are not coming, something is resisting them. And Scripture tells us what that is.

*"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not..."*

— 2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV)

That blindness must be broken.

# *The World Under the Power of the Wicked One*

*"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."*

— 1 John 5:19 (KJV)

The whole world lies under the power of the wicked one. When you see people living in sin, unbelief, rebellion, do not assume they are simply making choices.

There is spiritual influence. There is control. There is bondage. And if you want to rescue them, you must confront what is holding them. That is what Moses did. He confronted Pharaoh. He stood with divine authority and declared: **Let my people go.**

And Pharaoh had to release them by force. That is how spiritual authority works. Not negotiation. Authority. Force.

## *Deliverance in Prayer*

What you see in deliverance ministry is the same principle. The devil does not let go willingly. He resists. But authority prevails. That same authority is exercised in prayer.

You break Satan's hold over people. Then the Holy Spirit comes to convict them. Their eyes open. Their hearts soften. And suddenly they become ready for the Gospel.

This is why intercession ripens the harvest. Prayer makes people hungry for God. Something lifts off their eyes. Something shifts in their spirit.

Then when you speak to them, your labour is not wasted.

Until then, many will resist.

# ***Understanding Their Condition***

*"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air..."*

— Ephesians 2:2 (KJV)

That was once your condition too. Before Christ, you were under the control of the prince of the power of the air. The same is true for the people you are trying to reach.

There is a spirit at work in them. That is why you must bind the strongman. To release the man. Moses delivered three million people because he confronted the power behind their bondage.

That is what every pastor must do. That is what every believer must do.

# ***Strategic Leadership for Church Growth***

Since we have declared ninety days for multiplication, there must be structure.

Every Tuesday, gather your leaders.

Not just to pray.

- To plan.
- To strategise.
- To get feedback.
- Ask questions.
- Receive reports.
- Set weekly goals.
- Review progress.

Growth must be measurable. There must be accountability. And those meetings must also be prayer meetings for enlargement. If you want extra emphasis, use Friday evenings. In the cells, departments, and units, create prayer sessions.

Before choir rehearsals—pray for souls. Before departmental meetings—pray for souls. Every unit must multiply. Every group must double.

Even the choir.

Create two choirs.

Create three.

Raise leaders.

Rotate ministries.

Expansion must become culture.

## ***Vision and Goal Setting***

Prayer is key but vision and goals are also critical.

How many are you now?

Five hundred?

Move to one thousand.

Or one thousand five hundred.

Double.

Triple.

If your cell has seven people, grow to fourteen.

Or twenty-one.

If you have fourteen, grow to twenty-eight.

Split into two cells.

Raise another leader.

If your fellowship is three hundred, make it six hundred. Or even nine hundred in the next ninety days. Without goals, productivity cannot be measured. Without goals, potential remains locked. Nothing causes stagnation like lack of goal-setting. Cast the vision before your people.

Repeat it.

Project it.

Pray it.

Declare it.

Stretch your hands and pray it into reality.

Even if for just two minutes.

Make the vision real.

## ***The Principle of Concentrated Forces***

When an aircraft wants to take off, all its forces are concentrated. That is not the time for distractions. Everything focuses on take-off. Because it is dealing with gravity.

Stagnation is like gravity. It pulls you down. If you want to break it, disconnect from unnecessary activities. Anything not adding value to growth—remove it. Too many activities can kill momentum.

Get rid of them.

When the plane reaches cruising altitude, things stabilise. But take-off requires full concentration. The sound of the engine during take-off is different from cruising. That is how ministry growth works.

- Concentrate your resources.
- Concentrate your people.
- Concentrate your finances.
- Concentrate your prayers.
- Focus everything on the goal.

Do not set a goal and then scatter your strength with distractions. For the next ninety days, narrow your activities.

- Focus.
- Be precise.
- Be intentional.

## *Eliminate Waste*

Many church activities are unnecessary. When you are in service, be precise. No unnecessary delays. No wasted time. When the service ends, close it.

Do not waste people's time.

Do not waste God's time.

A goalless man is easy to spot. He lingers without direction. The pulpit is not a place for empty stories. The pulpit is a place to pull people out of pits.

Decongest your activities. Remove distractions.

If it is not helping to reach more people, remove it. If it is not helping to consolidate those already reached, remove it. Any programme that does not add value to the goal can wait. You have eternity to run programmes. But now, focus on growth.

## *Praying the Vision into Reality*

Once you cast the vision, get everybody praying. Prayer helps people catch vision quickly. When they pray the vision, they internalise it. They begin to carry it. They begin to birth it. And as they pray, it starts taking shape in reality.

That is how vision becomes manifestation. That is how growth is birthed.



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## *About the Speaker*

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*Pastor David Ogbueli is a respected Christian leader, teacher, and visionary whose ministry has impacted countless lives through sound biblical teaching, leadership development, discipleship, and humanitarian service.*

*He serves as the President of **Dominion City Church Global**, a dynamic ministry committed to raising Kingdom-minded believers who influence society through godly character, spiritual maturity, and transformational leadership. Through his teaching ministry, Pastor Ogbueli has consistently emphasised practical Christianity, Kingdom values, discipleship, family life, leadership excellence, and national transformation.*

*Beyond the pulpit, he is also the President of the **Golden Heart Foundation**, a humanitarian organisation dedicated to improving lives through charitable interventions, community development initiatives, education, healthcare support, and compassionate outreach to vulnerable populations.*

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## *About Living Sermons*

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### ***Our Vision***

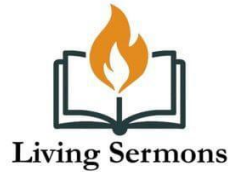
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### ***Our Mission***

*At [LivingSermons.com](http://LivingSermons.com), our mission is to take the living voice of God spoken through His servants and transform it into accessible PDF resources, making salvation-centred truth available to the ends of the earth. We believe that the spoken Word carries divine power, and by preserving these messages in written form, we help extend their reach beyond pulpits, borders, and generations.*

### ***Why We Exist***

*Many life-changing sermons are preached and forgotten with time. We exist to preserve these divine utterances, making them available for study, meditation, discipleship, and spiritual growth. Through this work, we are committed to ensuring that no revelational truth is lost, but that every inspired message can continue to speak, heal, transform, and bring men into the knowledge of Christ.*



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## Join Our Team

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*Let us preserve God's spoken Word together and take the Gospel further.*

*LivingSermons is raising Kingdom-minded volunteers across the world to help transform live sermons into lasting digital resources. If you have the burden to serve and the skill to contribute, there is a place for you.*

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