RETROSPECTIVE REFLECTION ON DECEPTIVE GOSPEL

Introduction

Man of God: Hallo, is that Mr X?

Mr. X: Hallo Man of God, yes, it is Mr. X.

Man of God: I had a vision of you and I saw you going through some attack. I cannot say what it is but, what I really saw was that you are under a great attack and God has instructed me to pray for you. If you have time, please come over so that we pray.

After 3 or so days……..

Man of God: Mr. X, It seem the devil is really after you that is why a lot of things are not going on well in your life. The Lord showed me a vision again as I was praying for you this morning and I saw a lot of negative forces and attacks on you. You need to be prayed for. When you are free please come over.

Mr. X: Man of God, I will be there in no time.

This goes on and on for months or years for not only Mr. X but many others. In this retrospective reflection post, I will dissect what I call Deceptive Gospel or Gospel through Deception.

I define Deceptive Gospel as the type of gospel that is advanced by those that use distortion, craftiness, disguise, acting with art and cunning in order to arrest the minds of Christians who are do not study the word of God nor interrogate preaching/teachings with the sole purpose of exploiting them spiritually and economically.

I beseech you to interrogate what I have written and meditate on it. I always advise people to be like the church in Berea. As written in the Bible, the Bereans would go back home and go through what they learnt at church to see if what Apostle Paul or any other apostle was teaching was scriptural.

Distortion of the Gospel

2 Corinthians 4:1 – 2 reads;

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

Here Apostle Paul renounces the hidden things of dishonesty which was prevalent then and is much more prevalent now because the Bible says in the last days there shall be many false prophets. Some “men of God” have become masters of hidden things. Instead of exposing the truth, they hide the truth through distortion of the gospel. They use dishonesty, distortion, craftiness and deception to advance what they call the gospel yet at the end of the day they are advancing their own agenda. Instead of pointing people to Jesus Christ they point people to Jesus Christ but via them.

As in my introduction, “men of God” tend to instil fear in the lives of their church members or anyone whom they have noticed that is an easy prey. Remember, the devil is roaming around looking for whom he may devour. Instead of preaching the word of truth which on its own is more than enough to chase evil thoughts, they distort the very same word of God to instil fear. Instead of giving people hope they give people fear. Instead of teaching members how to pray the way Jesus Christ did, “men of God” want to be the embodiment of prayer and their members must run to them, always. The Bible says Jesus gives us freedom but the “men of God” will bring fear instead of freedom.

When a man of God says what I have quoted in my introduction, it means he is lying. Flee from him. He is an agent of darkness. He wants to exploit you economically and spiritually. Visions from God are very clear and never ambiguous. When a man of God leaves you in fear and not freedom, flee from him! He is an agent of darkness. And they are supplied in large “quantities” these days.

Apostle goes on to commend himself for speaking the truth plainly. For it is only the truth that can set people free. Men of God have realised that most Christians do not study (not read because you do not read the word of God, but you study the word of God) the word of God. As such, they become an easy prey as they are not aware of the truth. Christians, there is no better way to know the truth than studying the word of God. When you study the word of God, God speaks to you. Spiritually, you come face to face with God. God misses such moments with us.

When “men of God” have successfully managed to instil fear and make your lives become dependent on them and not Jesus Christ, they now go to stage 2, blind your mind.

Blinding of the Mind

2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 4 reads;

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

For those that are in Christ Jesus, the gospel is not veiled. For those that know the word of God, the gospel is not veiled. For those that interrogate sermons, the gospel is not veiled. But for those that have not given their lives to Jesus Christ in totality, the gospel tends to be veiled. And because the gospel is veiled, they perish because they lack knowledge (Hosea 4:6).

The "men of God" after successfully veiling the gospel to you, they arrest your mind by blinding it. Let me explain by giving an example. This other time I met a relation who goes to a certain ministry. I asked, have you seen the stories going around about the father and founder of your ministry? She responded "Yes and it is true. But I do not care as long as I receive my miracle. What he does privately doesn't concern me". Wow!!!! That is an example of an arrested/blinded mind. They can see that ABCDE is contrary to the word of God but still go on. That is why the Bible says, they have eyes, but they cannot see.

One thing you must know is that the devil knows the power of the Bible. And he knows that once a Christian becomes a friend of the Bible, then he will have no control over that Christian. So, the devil will do whatever it takes for a Christian to be an "enemy" of the Bible. And "men of God" tend to follow suit whereby the never focus Bible Study with their members but miracles. Christians, miracles do not empower you but the word of God does. Remember, the devil also performs miracles!!! As clearly stated in verse 4, the devil does not want Christians to see the light of the gospel as such he diverts our attention to miracles because he knows miracles do not produce light. It is only the word of God that produces light. That is why you find in some churches or ministries, miracles take more time than teachings or Bible Study. Light of the gospel is being deliberately hindered.

You are a Vessel of God

In 2003/4, when I was a 3rd year Civil Engineering student at The Polytechnic, the then University of Malawi, a certain 2nd year student that was asthmatic came to me for prayer. It was so bad that she could spend weeks not going in class. I asked her, "Do you believe that God can heal?" She said yes. I asked again, "do you know that God can use you to heal others?" She said yes. I then said, if God can heal, if God can use you to heal others, why can't he use you to heal yourself? I told her to go and pray for herself for 30 minutes before she slept. The one that escorted her texted me and said *"nadi alongosi naumo munthu walili not even a prayer mbwe mwamuwezga waka"* (really my brother the way this woman is you couldn't even just offer a short prayer but instead you have just sent her back). I did not respond. When I woke up in the morning, I found several messages and missed calls. The lady was healed! And since then to date she has never suffered from asthma again, yet she was getting deadly attacks several times a year!! That was her deliverance. Not through the laying of hands but praying for herself. It only took faith.

If you believe, God can use you. If you have faith, God will do great things through you. All you must do is believe and study the word of God. And if you are consistent in the study of the word and prayer, you will never be taken advantage of by "men of God". They will never exploit you. You will never be blinded. The light of the gospel will always shine on you.

Let me conclude with John 15:7 which reads;

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

You see, mostly people are told, ***ask and it will be given to you***. This is a very big distortion of the gospel that is used to blind/arrest peoples minds. Before asking, there are two conditions that must be fulfilled and these are; a) remain in God by obeying His commands, b) keep His words in your heart so that you must not sin against him, letting His word to be the light in your life. If you do these two, then now you qualify to ask. Any other thing that you receive without fulfilling these two things, are not from God. Any miracle that comes outside these two conditions, is not from God. Any "man of God" that rushes to always pray for you without helping you to uphold righteousness, is not from God. Righteousness comes through remaining in God and studying His word. It is righteousness that anchors and sustains any miracle. Such miracles change your life and others that hear about it or see it happening.

Labourers are few but the harvest is plenty. Let us empower each other so that we increase the number of labourers.

God bless you are you interrogate what I have written and meditate upon it prayerfully. May the Holy Spirit of God help you.

Remember, we plunder hell in order to populate heaven. *Nsungwi ikhale nsungwi, nzimbe ikhale nzimbe* (undiluted gospel).