



A Projection Into 200 Years Ahead

# Church Shift

The Next Church Era

NIYI MAKINDE



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*The Next Church Era (A Projection Into 200 Years)*

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*To Ayo Farayola, a true son in the faith and fellow worker in the ministry. Your unwavering loyalty, commitment to service and submission to authority is consistent. You are not critical or hypocritical like some who easily speak against leadership. You are different!*



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# Preface

Globally, we are in a time where the church needs to prepare for the change that is coming. This is a time for preparation for the change that will take place. The fact is that every time and season comes with its change and only those who prepare for the change long before it happens would be relevant when it happens. Certain dynamics and mechanisms are responsible for the changes that take place within every succeeding generation.

The content of this book is not a prophecy but an insight into what is ahead. As I envisioned the change that is ahead, I perceived this to be prophetic too. The focus of this book is to share with you a projection into two hundred years from now. One thing is certain – and that is the paradigm shift that will take place in the church soon.

As we enter the new decades and church age, there will be a paradigm shift in approaches, methods, styles and structures of churches and ministries. There will be a total change in how things are done what is done is retained. The shift I envision shows that there will be migration into other planets and when this takes place, what will be the cutting-edge move for the church?

It is a reality in imagination that people will migrate to other planets soon. As people begin to travel to other planets to hold services there, the internet will be used to link different planets together. By then, those on Earth will be able to live stream

from Mars while those on Pluto will be able to join services on earth through live stream. Gospel crusades will be held on other planets.

Beyond the migration to other planets, it is essential that the church moves from the current church age into another age. In the next age, technology will be a weapon of dominance and relevance. By that time, technology will get Google into the brain. The question is that when technology gets Google into the brain, what will be the definition of faith? How will you explain the need for the guidance of the Holy Spirit when Google – Google Maps, Google Search, etc can be fixed in the human brain?

We need to quickly project into the years ahead. The church is moving into a season where people will not just be technologically oriented but technologically motivated. How will we value prayers when we preach to a Google-brain sitting in your church? What will be the definition of the gift of the word of knowledge and prophecy when the computer machine sitting in your congregation knows you more than yourself? What will become our theological approach when the demons polluting systems and structures are installed on computers? These and many more questions should be answered as we prepare for the next church age.

I have written this book not to demonstrate superiority of insight but to share my ponderings and perspectives so the church can be prepared for what is ahead. This book is relevant to all believers and church leaders, and inform their minds about what is ahead.

## Acknowledgement

All honor to God for access into what is ahead.

Thanks to Alexander Nnamaka (Andersax) for taking time to edit this book. I value you! The indefatigable Kenny Otesile designed the coverpage of this book. You know I love you. Thanks!

My love for all members, leaders and pastors of Rebirth remains constant. I cherish you!

## The Next Move

**S**cientists and space researchers have already started visiting other planets. While some billionaires pump lots of money into charity to help and feed the poor, clothe the naked and provide social amenities, some other billionaires on the extreme end are pumping money into space travel to finance and sponsor people interested in visiting other planets. If their research work is successful, they will get information about accommodation, transportation and so on.

When this happens, people will begin to move from here to there to go develop other planets. As time goes on, modern and easy mode of travel to other planets will be created. Afterward, equipment, resources and many gadgets will be moved from the earth to other planets. Eventually, many who have the opportunity to leave the earth will want to move to other planets. This brings to pass that you don't have to die to leave the earth, you can relocate to other planets and die there.

These events will move churches and ministries into the next move. It will suddenly dawn on churches and ministries that people are in other planets. Obviously, they will begin to seek

how to evangelize over there. Many churches and ministries will be consumed with the fact that nobody should perish. By then, the perspective of all the world that Jesus said we should go into in the book of Mark, which we currently see as sectors and systems, will change. It will now become planets. You will then see all the worlds that Jesus talked about as planets. The assumption then will be that the earth is one world and each of the other planets represent a world. And since people now reside in other planets, we have people in other worlds. The people that will be in other planets will have their families, give birth to new babies and have more people coming from the earth to where they are, and so on.

Evidently, pastors and church leaders will begin to take the risk of visiting other planets to evangelize there. At first, they may not want to go but when one pastor breaks through the space and goes there to hold services for say two weeks there, then returns to the earth to share his experience in other planets, definitely, many other pastors will be thrilled to visit other planets and have their services there. Mission work will now shift from focusing on cities, countries and continents to planets. We will then begin to hear about the mission department to Mars, the missionaries to Pluto and so on. As pastors begin to break through and return with cheerful experiences of conversion and salvation of men in other planets, they will bring the reports that people are in other planets, that they give birth, marry and live happily over there. They will eventually end with the word “and people are perishing over there and we must rescue them to pursue the salvation of their souls.” This will lead churches and ministries to begin to gather money and resources to send missionaries to other planets. Ministries and churches will then have their branches there with consistent services holding there.

Another major advancement in the next move will be on the internet. The internet will not just be for Earth alone but for other planets too. Live chatting will be from planets to planets. Those in Mars will be able to chat with those on Earth. Telecommunication will advance greatly. Just as telecommunication advanced that we can now communicate from one continent to the other, we will have such advancement in the next move. Those in Pluto will be able reach those in Jupiter. Media stations will advance greatly. Television and radio will reach the other planets. So, there will be live broadcast of events from here to there and there to here. Just as pastors will want to reach other planets, so also, journalists, interviewers will also be stationed in other planets. By then, livestream of services will be done. You will be able to live stream a service from Jupiter. Eventually, you will begin to see a pastor preaching from two planets or more weekly or monthly.

## The Fact Is That Other Planets Exist

I have had the privilege to listen to some refined scientists and researchers and also read certain constructive articles geared towards convincing listeners and readers that other planets do not exist. From a logical standpoint, we may assume and conclude that the theories of planetary existence is a lie. We may tend to conclude that those reports about other planets and those that have gone there were fabricated to prove the unreal and unseen. But it is essential for us to know for certain that what God created is vast and multifaceted. I believe that other planets exist.

From a scriptural standpoint, the question is that does the Bible say anything concerning other planets? Obviously, you

cannot see where the word “planet” written in scripture. Let me ask you a question, Paul the Apostle talked about the third heaven in the Bible but didn’t talk about the second heaven. My question then is that do we have the first and second heavens? I have listened to many preachers and read books on this, and I have discovered that many agree that there is the first and second heavens. Many have attempted to explain it. That’s it! Let me tell you this about the scripture, all scripture is written by the inspiration of God, but you must know that inspiration need languages for expression. The fact is that inspiration for writing God’s word found expression through the vocabularies of the Bible writers. Some of the Bible writers were farmers, fishermen, prophets, etc. When they were not scientists and researchers, how do you expect them to coin certain words such as “planet?”

I hope you know that in the days of Moses, Solomon, Hezekiah and so on, there was nothing like electricity, airplane, automobile, and so on. You will never see the words “electricity,” “airplane,” “automobile,” in the Bible. Yes, all these are man made, but it is essential to know that God is the Source of the knowledge and resources used for the creation of all. The law of gravity and aerodynamics had been in existence for long, but it wasn’t discovered in the days of the old saints in the scriptures. It was discovered at a later time. All the resources and equipment used for creation had been in existence since the earth was made, but it took years for man to discover all. The law of electricity had been in existence for long, but it was discovered early; it was discovered after hundreds and thousands of years. So, why could they not use electricity in the days of Abraham, Moses, Solomon, etc? It was simply because the laws were not discovered, the knowledge wasn’t in existence and the resources were not yet

known. But today, the rest is history.

You must not see other planets as some imaginary or coined elements. They exist.

## Don't Say It Can't Happen

Many don't know that whatever the mind of man can conceive, it can achieve. Whatever humans cannot achieve is what has not been engrafted and implanted into their minds. Whatever can be imagined and visualized can be achieved. God Himself knew this and that was why He scattered those who were trying to construct the tower of Babel to reach the heavens.

The creature called man is empowered from creation with that potent ability to make things happen. Whatever hasn't come to his mind is not in his power to make happen. But whatever he can visualize and imagine, he can definitely make happen.

Let me share some things some people visualized and imagined, which were castigated as mere imaginations that could not come into existence, but today, though it took time, they exist. In some cases, a generation started the creation while the succeeding generation continued and completed them.

### *The Airplane*

The creation and existence of that flight object known as the airplane is still a creative element that defies all the impossibility in the human mind. Some people imagined and believed it. But the people who couldn't have a glimpse of the internal flow of images of this flight element were the ones who doubted it. Those who could see what was ahead never doubted its existence, only those whose inner eyes were blinded and blurred to it

doubted it.

The knowledge of the law of gravity has spread round the world, and has been established firmly in the belief system of every man. The assumption is that there is nothing that jumps or goes up that will not come down. But one day, a young man was under a tree and suddenly saw a bird fly across the tree in the sky. Then he asked, "Does the bird come down when it goes up?" Since the answer was "No," definitely, the law of gravity was not applicable to all.

Orville and Wilbur Wright popularly known as the Wright brothers were the pioneers of the skies. They defied the odd (gravity) and discovered new laws and principles of aerodynamics. The Wright brothers built the plane that soared high into the sky. Early in their teenage years, they told their father who was a church reverend that they thought it was possible for an object to fly in the sky. Their father objected and said, "that would be the work of the devil." As I meditated on the works of the Wright brothers, I remembered the folklore that I was told in my early age of how witches and wizards in Africa used to attend meetings at night. Their mode of transportation wasn't by legs but as birds. The African witches had been able to develop a spiritual mode of transportation that made them transform themselves into birds at night. That can be very funny! It takes creativity for witches to think of transforming themselves into birds to fly. That means that even the esoteric needs creativity.

The Wright brothers didn't give in to the response of their father. They were determined to create something that could fly in the sky. They believed that if they could see it, they could do it. To travel out of any country today, you can either go by sea or air. It is needed to know that what the world enjoys and advances today was the creativity of some people. When the

Wright brothers foresaw the possibility of travelers to move by air, their contemporaries and men who lived in their generation didn't see it.

### *The Peak Of Mount Everest*

In 1924, Gorge Leigh Mallory, a British school master and socialite determined he would ascend the "as yet unconquered peak of Mount Everest." When a reporter asked why he intended to climb the formidable mountain, he replied "because it is there." On June 8, the thirty-eight year old father of three children was last sighted treading up the mountain with his companion Andrew Irvine. Nobody could say whether they got there or not. Mallory made the move because he believed that it was possible for man to climb the mountain. He went but didn't return.

75 years later, in 1999, an American climbing team discovered Mallory's perfectly preserved body on the slope of the mountain. Mallory had sacrificed his life in an attempt to accomplish an unnecessary goal. Both Mallory and the team that climbed the mountain saw the possibility because it came into their hearts. Whatever comes into the mind of humans is a possibility that is bound to happen.

### **Believe It! It Is Possible!**

People are moving to other planets soon. Whether it will happen or not is not the discussion but when it will happen. The fact is that it might take time, but it will happen. I am of the opinion that we may not experience this in the next two hundred years but I believe it will definitely happen. So the church needs to be

prepared for what is ahead or else, our influence, impact and reach will be limited to Earth.

God always reveals the future to generations past before it happens. I see that God is revealing this ahead to us so we can begin to prepare for the next move and the coming change. The reason the church needs to be prepared is because, if we can penetrate early when the migration begins to take place, we would be able to have dominant effect over there.

God will never do anything on earth until He reveals it to His prophets. God revealed this to me to share it to the world to prepare for the next move. I am not sharing this with those concerned and preoccupied with this current generation. I am talking to those who want their impact to reach the next generations and dispensation. The reason many denominations lost relevance was because they did not have insight into what was ahead and as such, they could not prepare for it. Only the churches and pastors who see the future ahead are known in the future.

## Questionable Facts About the Next Move

There are certain questions that we must provide answer to. Meanwhile, it is needful to conclude that one man cannot provide answers to all the questions. Individuals have to come up with various answers from their points of view. It is also essential to reason that whatever answer is provided by an individual reader is not a fact but an opinion. Until the migration to other planets takes place and communities are formed there, the fact cannot be known. You can predict that people will live in other planets but you cannot predict how they will live there.

**Here are the Questionable Facts about the Next Move**

1. Is the language going to be monolingual, bilingual or multilingual?
2. Will the communities be formed into empires, kingdoms and countries?
3. Will there be tribes, ethnic groups like we have on earth?
4. Who will possess the world power over there? Will they have just one nation?
5. What about the system of education there? Are they going to replicate the education system on Earth there?
6. What will be the basis for religious existence over there?
7. Which currency will be used as a medium of exchange over there?

## My Definition of a Global Man

The fact is that another man's definition of a word may be different from yours. Regardless of whatever your definition is, it must be relevant to your context. I once heard a man said his definition of a millionaire is not someone with millions of money but the person with millions of people. To him, the person who has millions of people is richer than the person with millions of money. It took a long time before I understood the context of his words. When I got it, I came to the conclusion that it was true. God's true riches is given to the man who has many people on his side. Whenever God wants to make anyone rich in the world, what He does is to give such the heart of people.

Just like the man who defined a millionaire in a unique way, I also have a unique definition of a global man. I remember how God revealed to me that I am global and will spread round the world. At another time, I remember how God told me that our church – Rebirth Global and every member of the church are

global. I was able to capture the picture to certain limits until more illumination came. And when that happened, I had to redefine who a global man was to me.

The assumption is that anyone, anything or anywhere that is global is known throughout the world. In other words, such is known in many countries and continents. If your influence hasn't yet gone beyond your continent, you are not yet global. You could have the promise of the global world, but not yet have the reality of it. My definition of a global man is one who can reach all the earth and beyond Earth to other planets.

The globe is an object shaped like a ball with a map of the world on its surface. That round object often found on wallpapers that has the names of continents and countries on it is the globe. Here is the limitation that needs to be adjusted - the globe is more than you see. We are getting to a time that there will be an expanded form of what we have now. Images and names of other planets will be included on the list. When this occurrence takes place, the reach of people will be to cover all the earth and other planets as well. Therefore, anyone that can reach the planets of the universe will be the global man. The new definition of a global church will be a church that is found in all the continents of the earth and found in other planets of the universe as well.

## Church Shift Ahead

The change ahead will occur in a drastic way. It will come in a form that many on the trend and radar will not envisage and may not be able to cope with. The purpose of insight into the church shift ahead is to empower church leaders to be prepared for the change that is coming. Whether we like it or not, it will happen. Below are the following questions that should be answered.

1. Are you ready to send missionaries to other planets when the migration begins?
2. Are you ready to go yourself?
3. Are you ready to have branches and parties there?
4. Will you not preach against it?

## The New Teaching Approach That Will Emerge: Emphasis on All the Worlds

*“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” Hebrew 11:3*

*“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15*

The book of Mark 16:15, as preached by many in the evangelical circle, depicts that the “all the world” Jesus mentioned are communities, cities, countries and continents. For long, we believed this until some apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers began to speak from the new insight revealed to them that all the world that Jesus referred to doesn't just mean cities and countries, but sectors and mountains of influence. And for the past five to seven decades, the emphasis has been on sectors and mountains of influences.

But today, we begin to see the next shift that is coming. And when this shift comes, Jesus' statement will be illuminated with a new insight. The emphasis construct will shift from sectors, mountains of influences to planets. Then, we will begin to hear preachers and teachers declare that all believers should go into the world. And the emphasis will be that other planets are included.

While many exponents of mountains of influence may want

to argue that Jesus didn't mean other planets, the proponents of the new emphasis to reach other planets will make it clear to others and all that the worlds were framed by the word of the Lord. The greek word for the worlds there is *aion* which is totally different from *kosmos*. The wonderful insight that will be brought is that the *kosmos* is part of the *aion*. In other words, the world we dwell now is part of the worlds that God framed. The ideology will then be, what stops human from going to other worlds (planets) since they were framed by God?

Get the projection –

### **Go into all the World**

- It was formerly preached and taught as go into all communities, cities, countries and continents and preach the gospel there. This suggests we must hold crusades, plant churches, do mass evangelism, etc.
- This text is now preached and taught as infiltrating and penetrating all sectors and mountain of influence. This suggests people must use their degrees, skills, positions, influence, riches to advance the message of the gospel. The focus is that Christ must be displayed by you in your field, career or profession.
- The next move will cause a shift in the application of this text. The preachers and teachers of the future will use their words and insight to redirect the focus of believers from this passage to concentrate on reaching other planets with the gospel. By then, go into all the world will mean go into all the planets. That time is approaching. The generation unborn will become the preachers and believers by that time.

## Will Devils Be in Other Planets?

*“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out devils...”* Mark 16:17.

The central shift now is that will there be devils in other planets too? If yes, it means they must be cast out. It is evident that technology will advance but with that, no technology can cast out demons. Obviously, the responsibility and signs of casting out demons will be extended to other planets too.

A refined mind may ask, what is the assurance that demons will be in other planets? The simple answer is that demons will be in other planets as long as humans are there. It cannot be to that extent that there won't be anyone in other planets that will not be under the influence of a demonic spirit. The only possibility that can bring about that is if everyone there in the other planets are believers. In other words, if other planets are now considered as Christian planets, then, we can say demons may not be there.

The case now is that with every advancement in the human mind and world comes advancement in the modus operandi of those demonic elements. The demon Christians will have to deal with in other planets is simply intelligence. There will be lots of demonic activities hidden behind intelligence display. The method of deliverance then will not be all the binding and beating, falling and rising style of deliverance; it will be a high intelligent integration of knowledge into the thinking pattern of people. Over there, it will be whoever can use scripture to influence scientific minds that will be able to deliver men. The physical binding will have to be done in the prayer room and in privacy while the functional deliverance is done in a systematic way.

In the time I envisioned, public prayer may be considered weird to their society but those who will understand and engage the power of private prayer will prevail and command high level of influence. In the days of Daniel, prayer was banned, yet Daniel prayed. When the migration to other planets takes place, policies may be set by the world power there that religions should be limited to the earth and nothing called religion should be brought to other planets. This will call for war by believers as they need to get into their privacy for prayers to combat the demonic forces influencing the mind of the leaders there.

Get ready for as devils are cast out on earth, they shall be cast out in other planets.

## How Do We Explain the Authority of Jesus in the Next Move?

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” Matthew 28:18*

As I write this book, I can hear the voice of the Spirit saying to me, “this question is one of the reasons I prompted you to write this book.” Definitely, this book is preparing the heart of believers for the anti that will be introduced into our theology. The preachers and teachers in the next move need to be highly intelligent and sound in scripture to be able to deal with the theological confrontations of the future.

Jesus told His disciples after His resurrection that He has been given all authority in heaven and on earth. The approach of Matthew’s writings has limited the authority of Jesus to two different geographies. The question then is that how do we explain that the authority of Jesus extends to other planets and covers the universe when it is clearly written that He Himself

said His authority was in heaven and on earth? The heaven is singular just as the earth too. If He had said, “all authority has been given Me in heavens and on earth,” that would have meant that other planets can be included in the heavens. But since it is just “heaven” that was written, how do you explain that He has authority in Mars, Jupiter, Pluto and so on. The writing of Matthew suggests that Jesus’ authority doesn’t extend to other geographies.

To fully explain the expanse and extent of Jesus’ authority, you will need to open their insight into Paul’s statement when he said “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth and of those under the earth.” Phil 2:10. Paul brought new light which Matthew didn’t include. To Paul, Jesus’ authority extends to the world under the earth, a location Matthew didn’t capture as acknowledging Jesus’ authority.

It is needful to know that scientific evolution subsequently came after the Bible was written. In the days of Paul, other planets had not been discovered. If the knowledge was in existence, it (probably) would have been written in the scripture. Regardless of any advancement that comes through science or technology, we must hold on to our belief that the authority of Jesus transcends times, spaces, and the universe. Anywhere and anything that is created is under His authority. It beholds on preachers and teachers to look into the scriptures to search out the limitless influence and authority of Jesus.

## Will Spirits Be Visible in Other Planets?

The atmosphere on earth here demands that whatever must be physical here must have flesh; that's why angels cannot be seen physically because they do not have the legal body that qualifies them to be visible on earth. The assumption then is that the atmosphere here is different from the atmosphere over there and since that is the case, will spirits be visible over there?

What happens when it is said that you don't need vision to see an angel over there? What will be the theology that accepts or rejects that. When it is proven scientifically that you can see what remains invisible on earth visible in other planets, how do you tell people not to fall for the deception?

## The Future Reality

**W**e are moving into an age referred to as “In Romance with other facial intelligence.” While we are in church services or conferences enjoying fellowship with one another, there are techno-philanthropists who are not restricted by government regulations, who are testing the lift of creative imaginations. Their central question is how they can get Google into the human brain. How can we manipulate an human gene such that with a foetus we can create a human giant?

The focus of these individuals is on biological manipulation, how for instance they can change the eye colour of a child from green to brown. They are specialists in fixing the abilities you want to see in your children. They can remove the deformities you have seen in your family generation from your children. They can do things with manipulation that will ensure that your child will not suffer from what your family line has suffered from.

While we are still discussing gender, class, race, sexual orientation, if we don't solve this crucial conversation, very soon,

the next set of marriage counselling requests would blow your mind. When somebody comes to you that he or she is planning for marriage, then you are further told that the partner is being manufactured, how will you respond and decide in such situation?

The change of the future is not far-fetched. The creative geniuses are creating things that will lead the church to redefine its theology and doctrine in the future. We are moving to that time that scriptures will be used to back scientific inventions.

Below are facts that must be put in mind.

### *1. The Underground Work of Techno-Philanthropists*

These technology moguls are really pumping money into lots of research to come up with the migration agenda. They are also working on installing Google in the human brain. The picture we will have then will be the head, eyes, nose, mouth, ears in flesh but the brain will be a computer. By then, we will have beings as human who will not be able to think but play out actions as programmed. Normal conversations in the future will be between normal humans and computerized humans. How would you converse with the structure of a human before you with a computer brain? You will hear what the computer says to you, but there are some jargon you can say that the human computer before you won't be able to say. As a pastor, how would you counsel a computer human that comes to you for counseling. Let's assume the owner was busy at work and urgently needs your counsel on a matter, it is in the power of the owner to send the human robot or computer human to you to ask your counsel on a matter. As a pastor, when the human robot appears before you and asks you the question its owner sent it to ask, how will

you respond? You then find yourself talking to a human that cannot think or reason like you.

Scripture says let brotherly love continues; how would you show love to someone who doesn't even think but can talk, and is designed in a way that it can express dissatisfaction with how you treat it? How would you look nice to the human and still look real at the same time? If the church doesn't advance in theology, she may only reach a few percentage other than those addicted to the church.

## *2. Romantic Love with Facial Intelligence*

We are moving to that era that husbands and wives will be produced in scientific laboratories. Humans will decide to marry machines made through biological manipulation, humanoids. Obviously, there will be romantic love between human beings and humanoids. The husband may be the human while the wife is the humanoid.

The description of the humanoid is a personality with all the physical attributes and qualities of the real gender but has a computer brain. For example, a female humanoid will have the physical features that makes up the female gender. The female humanoid will have breasts, a vagina, womb, etc. in a real sense, you won't be able to distinguish a humanoid from a human when you sight it from afar. The male humanoid man will have the physique of a man with a penis with which it can impregnate a woman. Obviously, we are moving to that era that computers will begin to have sexual intercourse with humans. A female humanoid will be able to receive sperm from a man and get impregnated; a computer will carry a foetus in its womb.

The humanoid is a facial intelligence that has skills, complex-

ion, etc. The humanoid will have the capacity to do many things. It will be able to perform a surgery on its partner when he or she is sick, right in the bedroom. The humanoid will be programmed to cease functioning from the day of its partner's death. You may say it is far-fetched, but they are working on it.

### *3. Work on Home Robots*

Across many countries, many moguls and billionaires have been able to buy manufactured robots. These robots are designed to carry out various responsibilities. There are robots that carry out security and protective tasks. These robots follow their owners everywhere they go to protect them. Robots are highly intelligent and programmed to function on the specifics.

Home robots will be created to be intelligent beings that will not go out with their owners, but will stay at home to carry out specific duties in the house. Home robots will be able to cook for you, sweep your house, do your laundry, repair faulty electrical appliances.

We need to get prepared as a global church, for new kinds of ministers will emerge. In ministry, many ministers will use home robots to prepare sermon notes, do Bible study, counsel visitors when one is at home or absent, etc. The question is what happens when unofficial intelligence outgrows us or gets on with us?

Beyond the home tasks that home robots will be designed for, they will also be programmed go on errands by the control of the owner. If someone fixes an appointment with his or her pastor but couldn't make it, they can then send their robot to their pastor to fill in the schedule appointment. Human beings will be compelled to have meetings with robots representing

humans.

We are moving to that time that many liberal believers will send their robots to church to listen to the sermons of their pastors and draft notes, give offerings and tithes, attend group meetings, etc. What becomes the drive for pastors when you have to preach with anointings to robotic machines behind the pews?

#### *4. Manufacture of Designer Babies*

The techno-philanthropists are power driven. They want to manipulate genes that will empower some babies to have some special abilities because they want them to take over some sectors and corporations. So each of these babies will be empowered biologically with economic and political willpower, and the ability to take charge of sectors. These babies will have a different kind of brain and will be able to exert greater influence over normal humans.

What then becomes the yardstick for the children church or department? How will children teachers be able to teach designer babies basic biblical doctrine when they have been programmed to think illogically and behave in certain ways? The church of the future has a lot to do. The church must find a compelling theological message from the scripture that will be able to convince believers not to go for designer babies. When parents or couples see the high intelligence displayed by these designer babies, they may be tempted to go for them. In the when schemes and strategies for intelligence in babies can be alternated for through designer babies, what will be the convincing insight that God gives wisdom? How will you make believers not to regard praying for wisdom as a waste of time?

## The Congregation of the Church of the Future

In years ahead, the church is going to have a mixture that comprises of three categories. These three categories will have human flesh and body with either normal human mind or inbuilt capacity. They are:

### 1. *Human Beings*

These are normal beings like you and me. They have the human mind and can think logically. They are individuals whose biological framework has not been interrupted and intercepted. We will have as members of congregations human being who love God with their spirit, soul and body. They will be greatly influenced by the word and the Holy Spirit. They will be able to have fellowship with the Holy Spirit to know the mind of God for every seasons.

### 2. *Humanoids*

These created beings will be part of the congregation of the church of the future. They will attend services with their lovers or come by the effect of their owners. They will give offerings and tithes. They will want to join the church workforce like the choir, ushers, protocols, etc. Don't be surprised if these humanoids decide to attend a Bible School and other ministerial trainings. What then happens when these humanoids become qualified to be church leaders? It would amaze you to see that these humanoids will be able to teach on the subject of the Holy Spirit. In essential fact, they will be great teachers in the church. How will believers cope when they have humanoids as ministers

or pastors?

### 3. *Designer Babies*

Both human beings and humanoids will have babies. What then happens when the designer babies are members of the church. They will come to church with their parents. How do we teach them to love God and humanity?

#### Will the Humanoids and Designer Babies Have the Human Spirit?

The essential fact is that the humanoid may not have the human spirit but the designer babies will definitely have the human spirit. The humanoids will be made in factories, and will be programmed to carry out specific tasks with their lovers. They cease existing the same day their lover dies. The humanoids will be facial intelligence that are controlled not by breath but by the computer. This is an entity that simply has Google in the brain. Obviously, because this is not given birth to, it will definitely be devoid of the human spirit.

The designer babies on the other hands will have the human spirit because they will be given birth to. The reason they are designers is because they are injected with gene mixtures that will make them think and behave differently from normal humans. Breath will be in them but their brains will be suspended as they will be empowered to hyper-think and infiltrate with domino gene. Their genes will make them to be highly manipulative as they grow and be power driven. They will always come up with various theories, laws and ideologies that are not yet known to normal humans. In essence, these are not discovered

by them but coined and formulated by them. The purpose of the gene mixtures is not to suspend their human spirit but to suspend their normal human mind. They will be empowered mentally during gestation to react, reject and rebel against every idea, beliefs and suggestions that will control them. They will be designed to control others and not be controlled by any. What then becomes the hope of the preacher to convince these designer babies to believe in Jesus and His doctrine? How would you preach and teach in church to species manufactured to control you? Since they won't succumb to the control of any, it means that the children teachers have to be highly sound and intelligent to respond to questions from these entities. They will be highly argumentative and will eventually consider what is written in scripture as stories.

### What about Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Obviously, the humanoid cannot be baptized with the Holy Spirit but the designer babies can. As long as there is breath in them and they are born, they can be baptized in the Holy Spirit. But, how do you baptized when there is no faith, since the heart that is meant to believe has been effected with a gene that doesn't believe anyone's opinion. How do you convince such hearts?

Well, I believe all things are possible to him that believes. My belief is that when that time comes, the Holy Spirit will teach the church leaders of the future what to do to get the designer babies baptized in the Holy Spirit. I believe that by the power of the Spirit, the genes in the babies can be suppressed and weakened. God does miracles. The anointing of God can make the genes nonfunctional for some time and the hearts of the designer babies will be saturated with faith. That time comes

that God's power will prevail over human intelligence.

## Understanding the Past Global Church Eras

**A**s a student of church history, I have heard and read about several eras that came into the body of Christ. In many of those historical contexts, the concentration was often on either a country or continent. Thanks to all who have researched and have been able to come up with historical facts. However, we need to go beyond the study of church eras per country or continent. For me, I have read different books that explains the moves of God in Nigeria from 1930. Beyond what I read, I have heard many teachers and scholars many of whom are now fathers in faith who told stories of different eras of God's moves in Nigeria. Without exaggeration, I can tell you a lot about the move of God in Africa. For more than two years, I read and studied how the church got into many African countries. I can tell you exponent and proponent eras in some countries in Africa. I still trust God to give the time and chance to write on Africa and Nigeria. There is a lot to tell Nigerian and African church leaders and the next generation.

The focus of this chapter is to make known to you what

happened in the past globally. I had to go beyond studying about Nigeria and Africa to learn about the global scope. It will interest you to know that what happened in each era globally really affected the turn of things in Nigeria and Africa. Everything that happened in Nigeria and Africa were basic expressions of what happened in each era globally. Each of the expression of past eras that took place globally actually took place in Africa too. It is a myopic mind that is not current with events globally that will think that eras in their country only happened in their country. I used to think that the great things that happened in Nigeria happened only in Nigeria until I learned that they started from some other parts of the world, and only spread to Nigeria.

Let's do an overview of the church globally from seventy years ago. Let us find out how preaching, programming, worship, devotion, giving and so on look like. This is on the church. The central focus of this is how the church was. It does not refer to revivals or the moves of God. This is about how the church shifted and transitioned globally. If you know about church history very well, you would need to find out preachers and churches that came into existence in each church era. If you are able to identify them, you would be able to see the influence of this era in their set-ups and messages. We must be very careful not to belittle any era or abuse any. The reason for this aspect is to open your eyes to where the church is coming from and to later see where the church is going. It will take the understanding of history to create a unique future. Those who understand the past church eras will be able to know how to combine everything together into one for the church of the future. The truth is that the influence of a church will be limited if she is not able to combine all that has happened in the past together. It will be a great mistake on your side as a church leader to neglect or

underrate any of these church eras. All of them are relevant. Each of these eras came to add up measures and strength to the church globally. Neglecting any of these is neglecting an aspect of strength that God has supplied to the church.

## The Age or Era of Preaching, Particularly on Social Responsibility and Civil Rights

This era took place from the '50s to '60s. The central focus of this era was to unveil to believers clear insights on their social responsibilities and their civil rights. The church in this era focused on integrating the role of individuals with theology. The attempt of the church leaders in this era was to show believers that they should not be earthly irrelevant. They must contribute something to the society. The emphasis was that we must show love to others through giving.

Churches do charity today. It was during this era that charity was restored back to the church. The early church in the book of Acts was known for generosity, but this surfaced again in the church during this era. The attempt of the preachers was not just to show believers what God and Christ has done but to show them what they should do. The approach was not an attempt to show what has been done but what should be done. Prior to this time, it was observed that believers were irresponsible to taking social responsibility, and rarely contributed to the lives of others. So, in order for the Spirit of God to stir up the heart of believers to take responsibility and be committed, the message was often released.

The major Scriptural passage of this era was “love your neighbor as yourself.” This era emphasized love as the basis for everything believers should do. You must love your enemies,

your city, country and unbelievers. The proof that you love your city is that you give to support her. Today, we have churches that give to the government or its divisions such as the police force, medical sector, schools, etc. Churches renovate government schools, equip government hospitals with modern facilities and so on. All of these began in the era of preaching. This era emphasized the importance of the word more than prayers. All that was declared and affirmed was to do the word.

Today, many of the orthodox churches across the globe still bask in the reality and culture of this era. They emphasize doing the word more than prayers, and the part of the word they emphasize is love. You will hear preachers of such churches say “love is everything.” This period was a giving season. The preaching inspired in the hearts of many believers the act of giving; giving to the poor, the needy and unbelievers.

More so, this era was the time the church began to speak to the government to address matters pertaining to leadership and governance. The preachers and teachers of this time extracted leadership principles that can be applied in governing the nation from the scripture. The preachers of this time were like activists and advocates demanding that justice be executed and mercy be shown. The main weapon of their confrontation was the Bible. The impact of this era did not spread to some parts of the world early though, especially some African countries. It was later the impact of this era spread to African churches, after the African preachers listened to the messages and teachings of the pioneers of this era.

Across continents in the twenty first century, we have churches that speak against the government. They are bold and courageous to address the lapses of the executive and legislature without fear and bias. These churches can do that today because

the age of preaching started it. The church wasn't addressing governmental issues before this age began. The church wasn't speaking to governments but only to believers within the four corners of the church. Actually, I believe that this is also the work of the Holy Spirit. Whatever stream we see in the church is the work of the Holy Spirit. God has to stir up the spirits of some people to address and confront the Herod of their time like John the Baptist did. They have to confront the Ahab of their time like Elijah did. In some parts of the world, you could see pastors leading protests against the government of their countries. Such pastors were influences of this era. God deliberately raised people like these individuals who would be bold to confront what others shied away from. These pastors could not be intimidated. They declared the mind of God. In America, Martin Luther King Jr, the leader of the civil rights movement functioned in this era. A man I know in Nigeria that functions in this capacity is Pastor Tunde Bakare. He is a voice that speaks against the mess of the government of his nation.

Many streams we have today were not strong in existence during the era of preaching. Praying in tongues, charismatic gifts, baptism of the Spirit, demonstration of faith and so on were not predominant.

This era preached and taught believers to infiltrate sectors. They preached and showed from scriptures that God wanted believers to be in power. The exponent of the Kingdom message emerged from this era. They sought to ensure the Kingdom of God was structured among men. The late Myles Munroe was a product of this era. They encouraged believers to contest for political offices and be in power to represent God. The preachers here advanced the kingship dimension of believers.

## The Age or Era of Discipleship

This took place between 1960 and 1965. They emphasized spirituality as a total lifestyle. They started small groups teachings. They taught as a lifestyle life-cycle evangelism and what it means to be and live as a follower of Jesus. They taught commitment to the institution called the church.

Let me clarify this aspect. Bear in mind that I am discussing about the church not about the move of the spirit or revival. During these years, discipleship was a dominant work in the church while the charismatic was a move of God spreading among some group of people. Here is the insight - when the charismatic move of God was breezing everywhere, moving from campuses to ministries, discipleship was firmly rooted and was gaining height in the churches globally. Although the charismatic movement, which is seen as a revival move or move of the spirit, started with some Catholic ministers, it is needful for you to understand that they could not spread this to churches since they would definitely be rejected.

Do you notice that many (not all) in the discipleship stream do not believe in the charismatic? Many of those who even believe in *glossolalia* (speaking in tongues) even place a limit on it. Some of them will not speak in tongues until the Spirit moves them. And those in the charismatic move also dissociate from what those in the discipleship streams are doing. The reason for this disconnection between the two is because they both came in the same era; the only difference was that discipleship gained access to the heart of those who are church leaders while the charismatic move caught the attention of believers who were hungry for something new. Few believers embraced the charismatic move while the church leaders embraced dis-

discipleship. A student of the history of the move of God will notice that proponents and major influences in the charismatic move were not church leaders but ministry pioneers. Major voices in the charismatic move were ministry founders many of whose ministries were attached to their names. You can see the division - the church was flowing with discipleship while various individual ministries went for the charismatic move. The likes of T.L Osborn, Lester Sumrall, Oral Roberts, John Osteen, even Kenneth Hagin were in the charismatic move. It was later Kenneth Hagin started the Faith Movement.

Discipleship was introduced into the church to empower the spirituality of believers. The focus is to make believers live like Jesus. The proponents of this era went beyond preaching to training. Just like Jesus trained the disciples for three years, they developed a training model that could grow the believers. Often, believers graduated from one class to the other. It was this approach that replaced Sunday school in some churches. Discipleship is a relational thing. Then, you must relate with someone who would be known as your discipler while you were the disciple. The discipler was someone with whom you related to guide you to live like Christ. Before you made major decisions in your life, you must seek the counsel of your discipler and whatever he or she said was final. The approach even says that you are not meant to be a discipler if you do not have a discipler you are accountable to. The influence of this era developed because it seemed to balance the character of the believers. Whatever Jesus will not do, you must not do.

The influence of this era did not directly spread into the churches in Nigeria. It came through some ministries. Some ministries started discipleship, and gradually, church leaders became excited with it, and it was simply adopted into the church

systems. Weekly meetings were devoted to discipleship in few churches in Nigeria. Eventually, discipleship became the major message of some ministers and the vision of some ministries. The fact is that discipleship is also a work of the Holy Spirit. Whatever stream we see in the church must not be criticized. The fact we need to know is that what is needed here may not be needed there. There are churches where discipleship is not embraced and the believers there are doing well. And there are churches that if discipleship isn't taught there, the people would not grow and advance in God. Whatever stream we see in the church is for the growth of the believers.

For me, I was indoctrinated into discipleship in the past. For about five years I did discipleship. I even had a discipler whom I submitted to. And truth be told, my discipler related with me with the sincerity of heart; I love that man so much. The approach of relationship brought into discipleship makes you have the opportunity to confide in someone and seek for the counsel of such. I don't know about other people, but the discipler I submitted to was ever ready and available to attend to any of us that came around him, and that is a leadership quality of Jesus. I held my discipler in high esteem. The reason I stopped discipleship was because God called me into apostleship. The work of God is progressive. Paul never underwent any discipleship but was trained on the mount of Arabia for three years. The Lord took me into His inner chamber to teach and train me for years so as to prepare me for what was ahead. In the training the Lord gave me, I learned about spiritual warfare, apostleship, revolution cycles, kingdom and governance, the prophetic, church growth, move of the Spirit, and other spiritual vitalities and essentials all of which are not part of the model for discipleship. I believe that the essence of discipleship should

be to train those that would be sent out later. The disciples of yesterday are the apostles of today. Discipleship is good but it must mature believers into their calling.

In the twenty first century, there are thriving churches that still do discipleship. They have been able to develop models and systems to train believers and equip them. They do discipleship to teach believers basic doctrine and the lifestyle required of them to live. Any church that runs discipleship programs today is an influence of this era. They may not know anything about this era but as long as they run discipleship, they have been influenced. Some may ask what my view about discipleship is? My response is that if you have the opportunity to do it, do it, for believers must be trained.

## The Age or Era of Living the Blessed Life

This was between 1975 to 1980. This was the age of prosperity. It was in this age you looked into the scripture for its enhancement for your life. It had the spirit of generosity not just in money or financial matters, but in terms of talent and time. Three factors known with this era are:

1. The good life
2. The spirit of generosity
3. Church management

In this era, the pastor must buy a car, build a house and enjoy life. You didn't brag about membership but about the acres of land you bought, miracle money that God provided for, the private jet you bought and so on. Pastors in this era competed with the marketplace by employing people to work. Employment was

based on skills and delivery. The central message of the pastor was that God wants the believers to enjoy life. They declared that believers must be rich and influential; they must be billionaires and moguls of their time. The church in this era was money driven, power driven and influence driven. You may disagree with me but the fact is that the pastors in this era really helped the thought patterns of the believers.

Having taken time to study the Nigerian Church history, I see that pastors in the older generation who are rich and highly influential on the radar are products of this era. If you check very well, it was during this era that some of them started their spiritual journey. Many of them got devoted to God in '75 – '78. Some of them got visions for ministry in '78, '79 and '80. The fact is that the influence of this era took away the ignorance that believers have to suffer on earth to make heaven. Thank God for the preachers of this era. If not for them, believers would see no reason to be rich; we would not be able to win many rich people into the kingdom because they would assume that to be a Christian meant to be poor.

Yes, God wants us to be blessed. It was this age that emphasized the blessing of God. Major exponents of the prosperity message emerged in this era. The message of seed sowing came in this era. Mighty revelations into the power of giving was unveiled by the Spirit of God to preachers of this era. The assumption that they preached giving in order to get money from the people is wrong. They preached giving because it was revealed to them that giving had the power to grant access to divine provision. You don't move believers to give by learning how to preach giving. You move their hearts because the revelation of giving is revealed to you.

In the previous eras to this era, pastors and believers were

poor. Some believers were rich and they were seen as sinners. The previous era saw money as evil, and rich believers as sinners. To them, only sinners will be rich in this world. You cannot seek to please God and run after riches. Money was seen as the things of the world. Thank God for the era of the blessed life. It was this era that broke the chain of poverty in the church, and believers understood the power of working and giving.

This era focused on church growth. And for the church to grow mega, management skills has to be introduced. It was here that all the management skills we have in church now was introduced. They church hired accountants, personal assistants to pastors, etc. Pastors and ministers were hired to assist the pastor in executing some tasks. Many of those in this era rejected discipleship. There is a major church in Nigeria that discarded everything called discipleship. The discipleship training was replaced with faith teachings. The members of that church are living the blessed life. You cannot be a member of that church and think poverty; the spirit of the blessed life would come on you. The members of that church may not be sound spiritually or scripturally, but they are very sound in matters of faith and prosperity. The keys to living the blessed life as preached by the preachers of this era is faith and prosperity.

Globally, churches today are preaching that believers should prosper because they are products of this era. The influence of this era is seen in many churches globally. Actually, the books written by the likes of Oral Roberts, Kenneth Hagin, Mike Murdock, Kenneth Copeland, David Oyedepo were the triggers for the understanding of the blessed life. These great men, by the revelation of the Spirit, have been able to show believers that God wants them blessed. I hate anyone that criticizes or castigates any of these preachers. If they knew the quality of

light they brought, and how God used them to deliver the church from the bondage of poverty that held believers down in the previous eras, they would not speak against them. Yes, I know there could be excesses and extremes but the fact is that they really opened the eyes of believers to the blessings of God.

## The Age or Era of Experience

This was between 1980 and 1995. This was the era that worshipped. The engagement of scriptures was to create an experience with the Spirit. Worship and prayers were for encounters which were signs that validates spirituality.

During this era, teachings on many different subjects from scriptures were taught. This period could be referred to as the age of abundance of revelation. Authors wrote books on different titles and subjects to impart knowledge, insight and faith to the readers. Many conferences and conventions were organized annually to fellowship with and impart the believers. Churches were inviting preachers and teachers of interdenominational and non-denominational ministries who were aglow and on the radar to bless their members. It was known that churches didn't have local ministers who were so vibrant during this period, but local church pastors were informed about the move of the spirit and different revelations God was releasing to the body of Christ. Church pastors invited the likes of Benny Hinn, Oral Roberts, Reinhard Bonnke, T. L. Osborn, Kenneth Copeland and so on.

The Faith Movement pioneered by Kenneth Hagin came into fullness of manifestation during this period. Although, Hagin never pastored a church, many church pastors were always attending his conferences and camp meetings. Many of the great

pastors and church leaders in Nigeria today used to attend his camp meetings. The likes of Pastor E. A. Adeboye, Bishop David Oyedepo, Rev. Tunde Joda, Rev. Emiko Amotsuka and so on were among the few that attended from Nigeria. The teachings these great men got from Kenneth Hagin then became the bedrock for their foundation of faith. Kenneth Hagin wrote on different subjects and taught on many topics which would later become the foundation to the faith of many. You could hear about the signs and wonders that broke out from his camp meetings.

During this time, the Nigerian giant Archbishop Benson Idahosa was also on the radar. He pastored a church but also went round the world with the apostolic-evangelistic grace. Churches invited him to speak at their conferences and programmes as a major speaker. The miraculous was not only preached but experienced. He was a crowd-puller but much more, he made the people to experience the power of the gospel.

Can churches experience church growth? During this time, David Youngii Choo was propagating the church growth movement from Seoul, Korea. The church growth movement had been active before this time but became known during this era. The focus was that every church could experience church growth. Just as pastors and church leaders from all over the world traveled to America to attend Kenneth Hagin's camp meeting, pastors and church leaders also traveled to South Korea to learn about church growth. I heard Pastor E. A. Adeboye say when he traveled to Kenneth Hagin's camp meetings and saw the crowd and the miraculous, he prayed to God that He should do the same thing He was doing at the camp meetings with him, that the crowd should gather and the miraculous should begin to happen. Then, at another time, he visited Youngii Choo's church in Korea, and he was marveled at the crowd there. He said, David

Youngii Choo announced after the service to everyone that those inside the auditorium should not bother to come to church next Sunday but attend their home cells so that the crowd outside could have space inside the following Sunday. He said he was amazed to hear that for the first time, a pastor begged members to not come to church. He said in Nigeria where he came from, people were begged to go to church. So he said when he was in the plane returning to Nigeria, he said, "God, thank you for what you are doing at Kenneth Hagin's camp meeting but much more, I want you to begin to do what you do at Youngii Choo's church with me now."

In the age of experience, you can see how pastors desired the experiences of others. They prayed the results of others into their lives. They believed that whatever God was doing over there, He could do over here.

Another experience were the crusades by evangelists. Evangelistic ministries began to call churches to team up with them in organizing crusades in their regions. Massive turnout of crowds and incredible miracles were evident. The souls won were told to attend nearby churches around them and this led to the growth of some churches. Churches experienced growth through the ministry of the evangelists.

The age of experience was unique because it was a combination of many streams happening from different continents of the world. The church growth movement didn't come from America. It came from Korea. I have heard a lot about the Faith Movement that took place in the '80s but heard nothing about the church growth movement. The fact is that churches got their breakthrough from the influence of the church growth movement not the faith movement. The Faith movement brought about incredible spiritual breakthrough with the manifestation

of abundance of revelation. It is needful to learn that the evangelistic move also became massive during this period. It was during this time that Benny Hinn became known to some churches and they invited him.

When preachers and revival historians talk about the Faith movement, they only talk from one perspective. They only talk about what broke out from one part of the world. However, it is needful to know that some other great things happened in other parts of the world. Do you know that when the Faith Movement was spreading everywhere, including in Nigeria, what Benson Idahosa was doing too was spreading to other parts of the world, and were acknowledged there? When people talk about Faith movement, or church growth movement, they often talk about some streams and events that took place within an era. It is essential to go beyond discussing events to discussing the era and age that those events took place in. Faith movement, church growth movement, crusades, etc. all brought about experience globally.

Study every thriving church today, they are flourishing because they have been able to merge all the events or streams in the era of experience together. Churches would teach and apply faith just as they learned from the faith movement and apply church growth principles just as they learned from the church growth movement.

Below are the few things that manifested as experience in the age of experience.

1. Worship
2. The word (*Rhema*) backed up with sound doctrinal teachings
3. Prayers (with emphasis on praying in unknown tongues)

4. Healings and miracles, signs and wonders
5. Large turn out of attendance at conferences and camp meetings
6. Massive church growth (attendance grew through home cells)
7. More than one services every Sunday (some churches have five, six services)
8. Crusades

Thank God for the age of experience because it took us beyond the level of enjoying the blessed life. The experience brought furnished realities in the spirit of believers. They were able to understand and enjoy the fullness of the spirituality enriched and supplied into their spirit.

## The Era and Age of Enterprise

This happened between 1995 and 2010. This was the period in which churches started running major facilities that have tentacles, goes into so many directions, and has the pastor as the CEO. This era led churches to have businesses, companies, malls, hotels, etc.

Actually before this era, some ministers had been investing. The likes of Oral Roberts University was already in existence, some ministers ran corporations and so on. But during this era, church pastors began to catch the vision to be business oriented. Many of the ministers who started businesses before then were not church pioneers or pastors, they had their various itinerant or interdenominational ministries. It was during this era that church leaders began to express the vision to start building schools, run companies, build hospitals, build hotels and malls,

etc.

It must be noted that many of those pastors had gotten the vision before this era. Some already had the vision to dive into businesses in the early '80s but there were no resources for them. But the moment they got resources, they began to invest into their vision. We have many churches running petroleum companies today while some others built universities. The pastors are always the CEO of those companies and Vice chancellors of those universities. Is this wrong? No! You may disagree with me but that is the truth. Thank God for those who did this. They were able to prove that anything was possible. They were able to prove that what the government could do, a church could do.

The proponents of this era were the ones who taught us about the principles of investment in practical terms. Unlike the era of the blessed life, during which the pastor just lived to enjoy life, the pastors in the age of enterprise sacrificed a lot to invest successfully. They were able to build enterprises that would not only bring income but also contribute to humanity.

Few things churches built in this era are the following:

1. Hospitals
2. Hotels
3. Studios
4. Schools (Primary, Secondary, Tertiary)
5. Filling Stations
6. Printing Presses and Publishing Houses
7. Banks
8. Water factories

And so on.

The pastors are visionaries and are highly disciplined. Workers in this institution were mostly members of the church. Members were hired and this served as job creation opportunities to members. The influence of this era can be seen across the church globally today. Churches in the 21st century are not only building places of worship but building businesses too. The belief is that as we preach, we must profit too.

However, it is needful to note that there are churches that do not dive into enterprise. Some believe they are not called into doing all of that, while some argue why the church should not venture into enterprise. The key point by many of this practitioners is that Jesus also did business in his ministry. You remember that Judas Iscariot said “Mary Magdalene should have given the alabaska box so the oil could be sold and the money given to the poor.” Obviously, this suggests that there was a tendency that people gave materials to Jesus’ ministry and it was sold by his disciples to exchange items for money. So, if Jesus permitted buying and selling in his ministry, definitely, a ministry can get into enterprise.

## Understanding the Current Era

**I**n the year 2010, the church entered a new era globally. Predictions from a prophetic and analytical standpoint shows that this era will last for fifteen to twenty years. In other words, by the year 2025, the church will begin to change form and move to enter a new era. A church leader that would be highly effective needs to understand the era we are in now. The reason church leaders criticize some approaches and styles displayed in other churches apart from theirs is because they do not understand the era we are in. It is ignorance of the season that makes criticism to enter the church. The full understanding of this current era would empower you to focus on your task, and gather momentum for advancement. The current church era is known as the age of spiritual pluralism.

### The Age and Era of Spiritual Pluralism

This informs us that who you are preaching and pouring into as a pastor is being preached and poured into by so many voices. The individual church has lost its mystic. Members are not so excited

about next Sunday. They have a wide menu of preaching and can be overdozed from many spiritual deposits every single day that by the time they go to church, the pastor or preacher would either be a validator of something that they want you to go deep into, or be a sign that you don't even understand what is going on. It is so amazing to see that members often have upgraded revelation than their pastors. That could be funny. The reason is because members don't need to attend the services of other churches physically, they can watch services on their phones via the internet. Isn't it funny that a member will listen to another pastor preach against what his pastor preached to him the previous Sunday? Members are now confused by what should convince them. The question then pops up, who is wrong? "My pastor doesn't have fresh revelation!" Some members will never doubt their pastors; whoever preaches against their pastor's messages is wrong.

Some of the questions at Bible Study have nothing to do with what you taught but has to do with proliferation of information. The issue now is that we are victims of our success because we are the ones who wanted to stream and go online, make sermons available on blogs and websites, etc. Since pastors are aware that many pastors out there are throwing many stuff on social media to seduce their members away from them, it now beholds on them as pastors to fight for their membership sustenance. When this becomes the focus, there will be reduction in the zeal to reach the unchurched and unbelievers. The reason for many conferences is to keep the members busy and keep their hearts familiar with the church.

In this current era, pastors' and preachers' messages are centred on clarifying what another pastor said. Here, the ministry is fighting for supremacy. It is now this church and that

church, this pastor and that pastor fighting for supremacy in a person's life. Here, everybody is doing what is right to him. The fact is that pastors no longer focus on the growth and spirituality of believers but how to get the attention of individual believers. The focus of churches and pastors is centered on how to attract members of another church to their church. We now see the effect of seduction of membership. The strategy for assimilation is not targeted towards unbelievers but believers.

The age of pluralism is when one Christian has many pastors and preachers he or she listens to. A believer has access to many programmes, summits, conferences and services. It is a time that even a minister in ministry tends to have many spiritual fathers. It is a time that pastors and leaders have access to multiple relationships and connections. They see some as mentors, fathers, role models, connectors, etc. Only few are loyal here. This time, every pastor and leader is fighting for survival or supremacy.

We are in that era of spiritual pluralism that many and different ministries spring forth from every corner. Online ministries are countless. You don't need a building or space to start a church, your room and phone are all you need. You don't need any member to be present physically, your friends and followers on the social media will listen to you and some will develop interest in you. The basic foundational doctrine are become alien to believers. The basics of faith are not often taught again. Ministers who have not be grounded and processed are now springing forth.

The age of spiritual pluralism is the era during which anybody can do whatever he likes without being challenged or questioned. Preachers on social media can teach anything without being confronted. Many poisons out there for believers to consume.

What is put on social media is often to attack another pastor's perspective or message, or correct errors.

This is that era that people don't want to be grow but desire to show. Everybody wants to show that he knows something. We are now seeing proliferation of revelation. What you know doesn't count to others. The young now sees the old as ignoramus while the old sees the young as inexperienced.

This era has really brought a radical shift to the church because it is filled with comparison. We now compare preachers to find out who has depth of revelation, who is most anointed, most creative, most organized and most excellent. The competitive spirit is loosed in the minds of church leaders. What many are striving to do now is to package their events in ways that participants would feel relax, which is good, but we need to realize that there is more to church work.

## The Quest of Believers Now

1. Believers are hungry for more substance than is offered now.
2. Believers are exposed to different teachings and they are asking which are correct.
3. Believers have access to multiple ministries and they are asking the questions "which ministry will feed me with the stuff I need, and also needs the stuff (insight, skills, gifts, etc) I have?"
4. Believers are asking the question, "how can I relate with this pastor, especially in a mega church?"
5. Believers have lots of questions in their hearts but the current church era doesn't create the space for questions and answers as expected. So, who will answer my questions?

6. Believers are asking the question, where do I belong in this church, especially in a mega church? They don't just want to sit in the pew they want to contribute.

It is needful to know that because we have several expressions in the body of Christ, we now have access to different expressions on the internet. We are in that time when if a believer needs to feed his faith on prosperity, he has a preacher he can listen to. If he needs a message on healing, he has a preacher he can listen to. What then becomes the hope of a pastor when your members know that you don't have revelation or graces in a particular area? Will you be free and not full of rage or attempt to step out of your gift zones?

## What Led to Spiritual Pluralism?

The guys outside the church actually caused the shift that led to spiritual pluralism. Pastors and leaders permitted the media power to catch their attention. The likes of YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and so on contributed majorly to this pluralism. These tech guys created live-streaming for us and we accepted it. On one side, this is good and very helpful; in a time of pandemic that governments told people to stay at home, imposing curfew, social media really helped churches to reach their members and followers.

The issue now is that these tech guys are pumping money into space travel to other planets. If this is accomplished, they would take the internet to other planets and link it with Earth. Indirectly, they would influence the church to take parishes or branches to other planets. It is obvious that the guys that are not part of the church are creating the shift for the church in

terms of reach while the Holy Spirit is creating the reach to new spiritual height.

The key point is that media is the factor that led to spiritual pluralism. For if there was no media, members would have to be in church physically to know what is really happening there, or would have to buy tapes or CDs to listen to messages.

One thing is certain, the next shift will not come from these tech guys. The pastors who understand this and begin to prepare for what is ahead will be the major influence when the shift takes place. In the next chapter, we want to examine the next church era. I implore you to share this book and insights with your pastor friends and let's prepare for what is ahead of the church for this gospel must be preached to all.

## Understanding the Next Church Era

**T**ransition and transposition are essential factors that are constant every time the church is about to change form globally. As we find ourselves in the current era of spiritual pluralism, it is fundamental that we have a projection of the next church era. The essence of the insight into what is ahead is not for knowledge but for action. Church leaders who desire to be relevant in the next church shift need to be highly prepared so as to be on the radar when the change occurs. The next church era will be the age of ethical mentors.

### The Age and Era of Ethical Mentors and Sound Spiritual Leaders

In the age of spiritual pluralism, everybody can say whatever he or she likes, and as a result, there would be confusion on doctrinal matters, spiritual facts and behavioral approach. Access to different preachers through the internet would bring into the consciousness of believers different ideologies and perspectives. Pluralism will create difficulty for believers in

decision making. Different opposing options and choices that are planted through different preachers and teachers makes it difficult for believers to identify the right choices to make. In a time when you can access over forty preachers who claim they have a word from God for you, on the internet, through your mobile phone and within one hour, what then becomes the yardstick for selection of who to listen to? Definitely, the internet is filled with mixtures. You would have both the right and wrong information come from certain ends at the same time. What becomes the distinguishing factor when the wrong information comes from places devoid of excellence, charisma and brand culture while the right information comes from places filled with ecstasy, excellence and churchy professionalism? Obviously, people would have to seek a better alternative.

Whether we like it or not, people will be back to the church. Their spirit will yearn for the truth and experiences that may not be possible to be supplied through distant relationship. Many believers will want to avoid the confusion that pluralism has brought, and as such, they will begin to avoid many preachers on the internet. We will accept people into our churches asking questions they got from different opinions as a result of pluralism. The focus of members then will be that they need somebody who will tell them what is right doctrinally and spiritually.

In the age of ethical mentors, the approach to reaching out will change. Reaching out to people through social media will no longer be as effective as the reputation of knowledge that you have. Believers will no longer be concerned about the setting and structure, yes, all of that will be needed, but much more, they will need the experience of the pastor. Preaching the scriptures theoretically might appear as a form of illusion to listeners

as many of such would have brought confusion in the age of spiritual pluralism. Believers will want to listen to those that have experienced what they are teaching. They will be highly interested in listening to preachers who will share how they have applied the word of God in certain areas of their lives. Members will be saying in their heart, “Pastor, don’t tell me how to do it, tell me how you did it.” In the next move, believers will no seek for the perfect preachers but the sincere preachers, and any preacher that is sincere enough to share the word in an experiential manner would be considered an ethical mentor.

When pluralism produces anarchy, the result will be for a search of what is right. When everybody is doing whatever is right in their own sight, then what comes back to your church is the question for a search of what is right behavior. In the next move, there will be lots of character issues to deal with. Believers will no longer want to listen to success messages – yes, that may still be listened to by a few majority, but much more, they will want to listen to messages that can influence their character and train their behavioral style. There will be clamour to find out and learn to live how God wants us to.

The generation coming after now will not accept authoritative declarations. They won’t do things because you tell them to do it. What they will accept is the expression of your experience. The shift then will require ministers to be with people, not for them to experience what the ministers do but to experience who the ministers are. Churches will have to create a system of gathering questions from members weekly and the pastors must take time to integrate the answers scripturally into their sermons. Failure to address the questions in the heart of members is operating the style and system of the old era in the new era.

In the era of ethical mentors and sound spiritual leaders, it is

not the knowledge of the pastor that counts but his experience. We will obviously need pastors and preachers whose experiences span across numerous aspects of human endeavors. The hope for preachers who do not have experience in some areas will be that they can gather the experience of others and transfer it to the believers. Members will come to church on Sunday because they know that the pastor will answer the question in their hearts. In this era, some of the things the church has abandoned like Sunday school, hymns, discipleship training, etc will be restored into the church creatively. The church may not call it the names known with all these activities, but they will be rebranded in a way that shows that the activities have been restored.

Social media will not just be used to stream services in the era of ethical mentors, it will be used as the main channel to answer the numerous questions in the hearts of believers. The next era will bring clarity to what is taught and how it is taught. It will seek to ground the believers in the sound theological teachings. Courses done at Bible schools and seminaries will be brought as topics and messages in normal church services. The amazing truth is that the church will have many people that will be very devoted to ministry for many sound people will be raised. The ministers that will be raised in the next era will be those that will mentor other believers in their home fellowships or cells, and their spheres of influences.

## Who Will Cause This Shift?

The age of spiritual pluralism was caused by the guys outside the church - the tech guys, but the age of ethical mentor will be caused by the guys inside the church - the believers. When

people begin to seek clarity to several confusion that has been transferred to them through different ministers and ministries, especially on the internet, there will be a shift. The young people, especially those within the ages of 16 to 28 will be asking several questions yearning for answers and illumination.

In the age of spiritual pluralism, only few ministers go through the process of preparation. Many just want manifestation and as such, they are unable to build the inner content and capacity needed for ministry. When believers begin to read the scripture and discover multiple insights and explanations from different ministers, they will want to find out what the scripture means in exactitude. In the age of spiritual leaders, it will not be the influence of the media again, but the influence of the person behind the pulpit. Therefore, the ministers who have inbuilt content with exactitude are the ones that will flourish when the shift begins. It will no longer be a matter of strong media team and excellent branding. It will be who and where has what I need to feed on.

One thing Pastors need to prepare for now is that the “bless me” mindset that thrived in the age of spiritual pluralism will dwindle and wade away with time. Believers will come to the consciousness that they have been blessed and many will emphasise that what they need is the understanding of God’s word. The blessing they will expect from pastors and preachers will be the transfer of the ministers’ understanding to them. If you can make others understand what you understand, you have blessed them. Don’t be deceived! That time is coming that people will come to understand that they have prayed much but what they need now is understanding. Yes, we cannot outgrow prayers but effective prayers are made with understanding. It is that understanding that people will really look for here and

there.

Over the centuries, the main key to maintaining and sustaining church growth is the word and it will continue to be the word. But we are moving to that age where the believers will not just want the preachers or pastors to teach what they know or prepare to teach, they will want them to answer the questions in their hearts through their messages and preaching.

## In-Person Attendance Will Be Valued

One time, I had a discussion with some church minds and the central focus of the discussion was the question, what becomes the hope for physical gathering in churches when the media finally takes over? It was assumed that a time will come that believers, especially the liberals will be comfortable sitting at home to livestream the services. How then can we keep people coming to church? How can we get their presence to church when media offers the access to all that is done in the church through our phones? It was somehow that the discussion wasn't fruitful as expected because several views were shared and we almost became more confused.

Amazingly, the One that knows more than all men – the Holy Spirit, spoke to me one day and said, “people will be very much interested to be in the church physically in the next move.” I was amazed to hear that. He shared with me a powerful insight that has become a bedrock in my heart for the turnout of events in years ahead. He shared with me that the spirit of every man recognizes atmosphere and are always tuned to it. Man recognizes the atmosphere of the Spirit. So, even though every opportunity suggests that they should stay at home, they would not because their spirits will want to be in that ambience

that carries the Manifest Presence of God. When believers gather, there is power that is generated through that corporate gathering. Regardless of the strength of the media, believers will continue to have the in-person attendance. They will continue to gather in the church for services.

The Holy Spirit further shares with me that He will continue to supply visions and wisdom that will compel believers to attend services. I love the Holy Spirit, He doesn't force people to do things, He will give specific instruction to Pastors and church leaders on what to do to mobilize the physical presence of believers. New visions and practical wisdom will continue to drag the feet of believers to church. There is something pastors and church leaders will do by the leading of the Spirit that will make believers to leave the comfort of their houses to attend the services physically; it could be programs, engagement, delegation, inviting guest preachers, etc.

Another reason believers will continue to attend church physically regardless of the power of media is for the church prayer sessions. Due to the nature of the jobs of many, they see the church as the place where they are motivated to pray intensely to God. Yes, believers can pray in their houses, but many will not want to joke with the prayers at church.

The workings of the Holy Spirit in the heart of believers cannot be belittled. God has a way of ministering to the heart of believers inspiring them to attend services. With the inner workings of the Spirit in a believer, hunger will always be created in their heart never to forsake the gathering of others.

## Selection of Preachers on the Internet Will Be Predominant

In the days of spiritual pluralism, believers tend to watch and listen to different preachers. But in the next move, there will be selection of preachers. Nobody will just listen to every preacher that pops up on his or her screen, they will carefully stop following many. Those who built influence through media need to be careful so as not to be relegated when the shift takes place.

We are moving into the season when people will not listen to preachers spontaneously but by selection. Believers will listen to ministers who answer the questions in their heart.

## The Risk for Us

The risk for us is asking the certain questions that are not visible to the eyes and audible to the ears but are in existence. The questions are:

1. What will be the new theological discussions? How are we going to preach healing and prophesy to the robots when they sit behind the pews?
2. How do we do church when everybody in the pluralistic society decides to go with the technological shift?
3. How does a leader or pastor prepare in order to shift into the next move?

The above questions should be answered by the individual readers. I believe strongly that God will lead His people to prepare for what is ahead.

## Back to the Basics (Prayer and the Word)

For the church to be highly effective in the next move, it is essential that pastors and leaders come up with systems and service styles that will reflect the basics of Christianity. There must be deliberate intentions to get back into prayers and the word. In the time and age of spiritual pluralism, teachings of different kind will pollute the air and beckon for attention among many. Personal and intentional study and reading of the scripture will be reduced to the minimal due to access to lots of information on social media. In order to raise an effective family of believers, a pastor must be intentional to emphasize prayer and the ministry of the word as the basics and practice everyone must adapt to.

No believer and church can outgrow prayers. The real power to defeat all satanic-intelligent strategies will come through the word and prayers. To be highly effective in the next move, church leaders must emphasize a personal need for individual desire of God's word and prayers.

## Create Channels to Answer Questions

Spiritual pluralism has brought confusion to the acme and church leaders need to be intentional with answering the questions in the heart of men. In the next move, you cannot be a relevant pastor if you are not intentional with answering the questions in the hearts of men. Yes, believers will be blessed; we will prophesy, impart, flow in the gifts of the Spirit and so on. But much more, we will need to answer questions in the hearts of believers. Teaching must take eminence in the church activities. Not just discussing some theological jargon

but bringing illumination from scriptures to clarify life matters.

A pastor should be able to create a system for gathering questions from the members. Answering questions in the hearts of men connects you more with them and makes you more relational. A better way of connecting with the members in the next church age is answering the questions of their heart. Yes, we will pray, share revelations but much more, we must provide answers to clear away all the junks they have gotten from different preachers in the age of spiritual pluralism.

Any church leader that will be effective must solely depend on God's wisdom to navigate through darkness. As you get into prayers, the Lord will open your understanding to know what to do in order to remain relevant in the next move. But much more, you must be intentional with the study of God's word. May you remain fresh and relevant. Amen!

## Building an Atmosphere for the Supernatural

As we prepare for the next era, another aspect that pastors and church leaders should concentrate on is building a spiritual ambience. You need to build an atmosphere that reflects the presence and essence of the supernatural. It should be well constructed in a way that we don't just explain the supernatural to believers, they can experience it themselves. Creating an experience of the supernatural for believers would make them to be more tuned to the Spirit and to be effective in their daily faith walk.

The supernatural atmosphere here doesn't refer to the place where we gather for worship or service but the people that gather there. The Spirit of God works in the people that gather in the place. So, when we talk about atmosphere, everyone should bear

in mind that we are talking about the people.

Much of what we see today on pulpits are speeches (we can't call such messages) appealing to the cerebral of the people. Church leaders are trying to build the intellect of the people when the main assignment of the church is to build the spirit, soul and body of the believers. Pastors and leaders need to know that the church is not a classroom or lecture theatre; it is a place of fellowship and encounter. Pastors are not lecturers sharing principles and mere knowledge; they are communicators of God's mind to the people. The difference between preachers and lecturers is not principles but power. Anybody can teach principles but not all can communicate power. Yes, principles can be taught but much more we need to get into the power dimensions. If a particular church will be relevant in the next era, she must be able to make the supernatural a common experience for the believers.

## Four Ways to Build a Supernatural Atmosphere in the Church

### *1. Train and Encourage Believers to Listen to God.*

It's disgusting to know that only few believers are enjoying the reality made available in Christ to hear God. It's sad to know that pastors and church leaders don't train the believers to hear God. Only few do! When believers are trained to listen to the voice of God, there will be a supernatural atmosphere. Yes, a believer can hear God through a preacher or pastor but much more, a believer can hear God in his or her heart. Someone once said, the loudest noise in heaven is a silent thought in your heart. Believers need to be trained to know that God speaks to

them through the thoughts of their hearts. Yes, there are many ways God speaks but the the thoughts of the heart become the elementary mode of divine communication. Believers should be encouraged to listen to the voice of God in their everyday life. They should be sensitive to the guidance of the Spirit. Pastors and church leaders must emphasize listening to the Holy Spirit to believers. If as a pastor or church leader, you cannot boldly say that your members are skilled at listening to the Holy Spirit for their lives, then, you cannot be effective in the next era. All church leaders must ensure their members are trained to listen to the Divine!

## *2. Empower, Educate and Encourage Believers to Speak in Unknown Tongues.*

It's not compulsory that a believer should pray in tongues but it is necessary. 1 Cor. 14:39 says “... *and do not forbid to speak with tongues.*” Definitely, any pastor or church that forbids believers from speaking in tongues has disobeyed the scriptures. Believers are empowered to speak with tongues by the Spirit of God Himself. He supplies the utterances. The desire for speaking with tongues should be created in the heart of the believers. Teachings on tongues should be done. A pastor should be able to explain the doctrinal standpoint of scriptures from 1 Cor. 14. Believers should be educated and enlightened. A special teaching session from scriptures on tongues should be done. In all, pastors and church leaders must encourage believers to speak with tongues because as they do, they edify their human spirits.

*3. Impart and Train Men to Flow in the Gifts of the Spirit.*

The gifts of the Spirit is for all not for preachers and ministers alone. All the spiritual gifts are for believers. Special teaching sessions should be done on spiritual gifts. Pastors and church leaders should get materials on this subject to be able to understand this subject accurately.

*4. Train Believers to Release Their Faith for the Supernatural.*

Believers are to cast out demons in Jesus name but they won't know until they are taught or it's revealed to them. Believers should be taught the authority in the name of Jesus. They are to lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. How can they lay hands on the sick when they are not taught? Train them to release their faith not just to receive from the Lord but to also minister to others.



## About the Author

Niyi Makinde is an Apostle and Author, a Leadership Expert and Quotient Coach. His passion is to raise ministers and leaders. He has written many books that are fast spreading across places. His books are always flooded with rich contents and great wisdom. He is highly versatile!

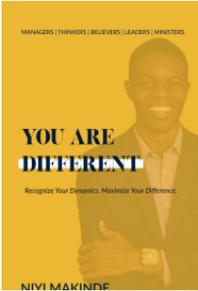
Apostle Niyi is the President of Rebirth Global Church – a network of churches across the globe. Few of the programs known with the church are CONNECT (an annual confluence of men from all walks of life); SupernaturalSHIFT (a monthly gathering of people for supernatural empowerment) and RESOM (the school of ministry where pastors and leaders are empowered for ministry).

Apostle Niyi has been in ministry for more than fifteen years. He is the CEO of Institution Power, a school set to raise leaders in the Business World.

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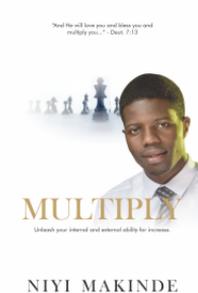
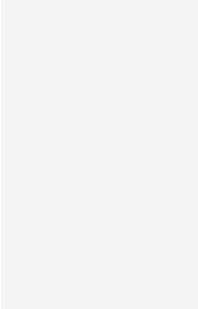
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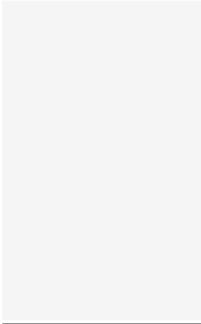
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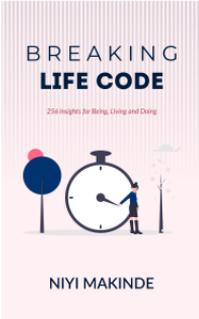
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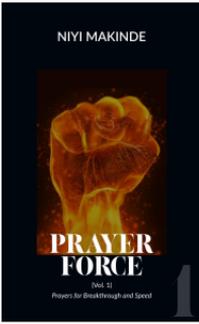
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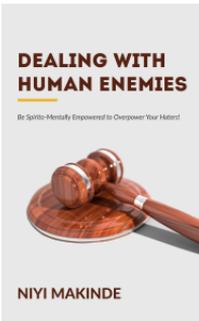
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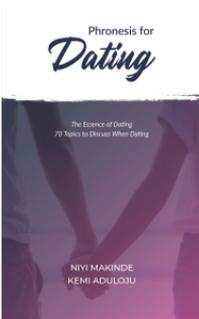
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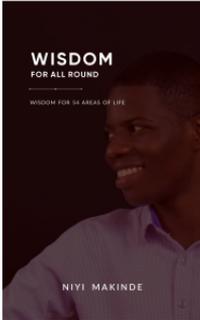
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