

CHURCH'S REPENTANCE

God's Message:

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place—unless you repent.

[Revelation 2:5]

People who do nothing in their lives are not fit to judge other people who do little in their lives.

Transformation is always marked with three things: [1] repentance [2] decreased crime rate and [3] increased welfare. If revival only happens in one church denomination, it is not a transformation. It is a transformation, though, if revival happens in one city and the crime rate decreases. The key to transformation is the church's repentance. We have to know that a nation's restoration is God's work. When we unite, a restoration will happen, because that is the time when God comes to restore us. (2 Chronicles 7:14) - God will be there and fight for us. No one is able to restore a nation other than God.

If churches are not united, we can't change a nation. The churches which have understood this concept will respond to this call. It's our duty to enlighten churches which have not understood this concept. We have to enlighten the churches: from one city to other cities, from one church to other churches, so that repentance can happen and the denomination which considers itself as the best denomination will be able to unite with the body of Christ. The most effective tool to unite the churches is prayer. Through prayer, God will lead the churches to forgive and pray for each other – and as a result reconciliation and repentance will happen. So prayer is the tool that binds us. Churches which are united only when they are persecuted - but continue to take their own ways after the churches are built - are churches which have not received the vision about transformation. Churches have to understand why they have to unite because unity will bring transformation. Church's repentance is marked by a paradigm change: that churches are not just the buildings.

There are two points for the unity of the body of Christ for the glory of Christ. **First**, the servants of God are willing to sit together and humble themselves and pray and fast so that God will visit them and make all the leaders and congregation turn from their wicked ways. **Second**, when we pray to seek God's face (the phase when God listens our prayers) and forgive each other, restoration will happen. What does it mean? It means transformation will happen if there are unity, humility and fasting prayer. The reason why transformation does not happen is not because there is a very strong power of darkness that exists in that place; rather, it's because of the disunity of the leaders.

A repentant church will not serve to extend its own kingdom; they serve to extend the Kingdom of God. We are the body of Christ; in the body of Christ there is no thumb whose size is as big as a thigh. When God visits the body of Christ, the body of Christ has to grow. If there is a servant of God who still has the fear that his congregation will join another church, that means he is still working for his own kingdom and not the Kingdom of God. All churches want to grow. They experience the growth by representing God and not by taking other church's congregation. Repentance is not the work of man. It's God's work. If churches unite, God will be there. If God is there, He will restore. It means that transformation will be followed by souls' repentance. It means there will be great harvest. We have to prepare the barns and the harvesters as many as possible. According to John 15:8, Lord Jesus said, *"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit."* Of course when we praise God, Father God will be happy. But we need to understand too, that we can glorify God by bearing much fruit.

Human's program will enable a church to grow, even though it will not be a healthy way. According to data, transformation will happen not because of a program, but because of God's visitation. The years before year

2000 are the era of local church. After year 2000 is the era of the Kingdom of God. We can't have a feeling that our church is the best church. We have to repent from this kind of feeling. These days we are entering the Kingdom of God's era. If we understand this concept, we will see other brothers and sisters from different churches with different perspective. If we are talking about the growth of local church, the measurement is the number of congregation in the church. Sometimes we make a mistake in applying God's will. If we are talking about the growth of perfect Kingdom of God, the measurement is community's transformation, city's transformation and nation's transformation. If churches want to please God and be blessed, we have to enter and stay focused in the transformation inside the era of Kingdom of God. The movement era in God's church nowadays is "super team" where churches can't work alone – God is moving his servants from many denominations to become a solid team who can be used as transformers. Churches will be prepared as transformers who will transform the nations and become a blessing for many nations.

Essence:

If churches are not united, they can't change a nation. Points to take note to achieve the unity of the body for Christ's glory are: first, God's servants want to sit together, humble themselves and fast so that God's visitation will happen and the leaders and congregation will turn away from their wicked ways. Second, we pray to God to seek His face [this is the phase when God listens to our prayers] and then forgive others. Restoration will happen afterwards. In order to make transformation happen, there must be unity, humility and fasting and prayer.

Reflection:

How is our relationship with other churches in the city? Is it good and close? Is there any distrust and jealousy?

Commitment:

To make transformation happens in my nation; I will build a relationship, work and unite with other body of Christ.

*Taken from the book "Transformation Journey"
By Dr. Ir. Niko Njotorahardjo & Iman Santoso Ph.D*