

CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST,

International Headquarters, Makoko, Lagos, Nigeria.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE REV. PROPHET PASTOR FOUNDER SBJ OSHOFFA

April 1974

I hereby tell you today some of the outstanding rules and tenets which I have not thus far corrected and which was the reason why the Lord gave me the grace to live additional twenty years in life to streamline the rules and tenets according to how they were originally descended. I thank God who has spared my life to be amongst you today.

When I was sick unto death and the Angels of God appeared to me and told me that there was work left for me to carry out in the Celestial Church of Christ and when they said further that twenty more years had been added to my life on earth including this on-going year, I did not know that I was such large scale corrections that they foresaw. The angels had foreseen that people would attempt to change over the tenets of the Church if I so died.

I am very happy that He healed and quicken me today to start on the aforesaid corrections. Celestial Church, when it was descended, came with its rules. You all will also testify that our ways of worship are different; so also the way we pray. Everything we do, measure for measure differ from those of other churches. If you also consider it, you will see that all the rules are different, and this is not according to human wisdom; you all know that I am a carpenter by profession from my youth and it is not that I had gone somewhere to acquire some particular knowledge to learn these things there.

But the spirit of the Almighty God is with me. May it not depart from me (Amen). When the church came to the Republic of Benin (then Republic of Dahomey), the Spirit of God descended so much that satan began to plant weed in it one way or the other. This began through one of the leaders in the Republic whose name I will not mention here. He tried hard to turn everything over without my consent. But I thank God today to note that regarding these elders who I am talking about, their judgement rests in the hands of the Lord.

It is the evil weed which they sowed which I am now preparing to destroy presently. And the Lord will destroy such weed totally (Amen). When the church came to Republic of Benin where I was born in Port-Novo, the hierarchy of Roman Catholic Church called the Botoeis waged intense war against me so much that they drove many people away from following me. At that time, this my lieutenant Senior Evangelist Agbaosi, himself saw many of the afflictions as he had joined the church three months after the church came to the Republic of Benin. The persecutions of the European Reverend father Botoeis was so much that cannot be fully recounted.

Never-the-less, the Lord God of Celestial Church of Christ prevailed and put them to shame. It is due to the persecutions that I fled the Republic to Itofin. When I arrived at Itofin, I started to do the work of the Lord with some peace of mind. It was from this place that news of the great wonders which the Lord was performing through my hand reached Nigeria. I was the people of Igbaji who brought the news to Nigeria.

When the people of Lagos saw how prayer was performing wonders among the people at Itofin, they (Lagos people), sent word for me to come. I turned down their first and second invitations but when they invited me the third time, the spirit told me to prepare and follow them to Lagos. It was at Makoko here where we settled. The City of Lagos received me with great hospitality. All the rules that I had no peace of mind to set out in the Republic of Benin I was then able to sort out and establish one by one more easily in Lagos than in Itofin itself.

Supreme Evangelist A.A. Bada, was with me then and also a woman who was called Mama Ore Ofe, (Grace's Mother). My relations in the Republic of Benin who had colluded with father Botoeis to antagonise me then began to hear news of how the work of the Lord was progressing in Nigeria. Then they started to say, could we also say that the people of Lagos are ignorant people, if we say that the people of Itofin have no understanding.

One of my lieutenants whose name I will not mention here again began an act of calumny against the Lord's people of Lagos but Supreme Evang A.A. Bada, asserted then that a Prophet is without honour in his own land; and that what you see presently, if you do not hold tight to it, the city of Lagos was prepared to snatch it completely away from you. When I then took the Church members from both Lagos and Itofin to the Republic of Benin and saw the multitude following me how great it was they were perplexed.

Then they started to repent; and were then saying that whatever the Lord doeth no person could destroy it. The church then began to grow in the Republic of Benin and from there it did spread to Cotonou. There in Cotonou I had a leader for whom I had great affection. I started to elevate him and made him the leading elder, but then he started to apply his human wisdom to change the rules. He also thought that he was wiser than I was, but over time he accepted that it was not me who gave myself this work to do.

I did not bother him. One year he did not come to the Annual Beach pilgrimage and I sent message to ask him why we did not see him. He sent word back that he did not want to come, without any explanation. But that in the following year he would come to the sea-side with his own people who follow him, and that then I would know who of us two had the greater population of followers. I kept silent. I just exercised patience as I did not see anything to struggle for with anyone. The person I am talking about has passed on now, but it is through such activity that strange tenets grew rapidly in Cotonou. And it was some of the tenets that are unwholesome which grew in Cotonou at that time that I am now trying to destroy totally. I have been discussing with my lieutenant Evangelist Godwin Abiasi, that there are some matters regarding the tents which must

be stamped out in Cotonon so that the tenets of the Church could become uniform worldwide.

Women in biological cycle:

When a woman is in her menstrual cycle in the Celestial Church of Christ whether she is in that state for three or five days, it is after the seventh day that she is able to approach holy place. She shall remain for seven days outside of the Church because holy is God. We must have a clean body and a pure heart for the holy spirit to abound.

If the mind is holy but the flesh is unclean everything is unclean. If the flesh/body is clean but the mind is allowed to wallow in sin, the body that is smeared with mind shall soil the garment of glory which is put on. Equally if a person shall bathe and be clean but then proceeds to put on an unclean garment you will see that the unclean garment does bring ill repute to the person's body which is otherwise clean. The body must be clean, the mind must be pure; to this end must there be vessels which are holy.

Regarding a woman who is in her menstrual cycle in the Celestial Church of Christ, it is after seven days that she shall be sanctified. Further to the issue of menstruation, when a woman is in her menstrual cycle, the rule is that she comes to the entrance of the Church after seven days for sanctification. The reason is that women who are barren like Anna could make a covenant with the Lord saying "God, you see that I am in my menstrual cycle, save me let not this menstruation be in vain. After sanctification, answer my prayer as you heard the prayer of Anna" That is the purpose of coming to the front of the Church. Also in making a covenant, those who are fertile could request that their future offspring be children from the throne, not children who would be source of sorrow for the parents. That is not to say that entire congregation had to be there during the sanctification. The leader, the person being sanctified in the presence of the Lord are those involved. This tenet must be uniform worldwide wherever Celestial Church of Christ is established. I will issue further directives soon which shall make this type of tenet mandatory.

Whoever contravenes such injunction shall be seen as that person who wishes to confuse the rules and tenets for me.

Sanctification of newcomers:

Regarding the newcomers who have made up their minds to become members of the Church, they shall be sanctified in front of the Church. In doing so the following song shall be sang:-

Jesus is calling you on o come
O sinner come
Jesus will offer prayers for you
O sinner come;

Jesus will not let you be shamed)
O sinner come;) 2ce

Your load is heavy o come
O sinner come
Jesus will remove the load from you
O sinner come;

Today you should give your mind to him)
O sinner come)2ce
(Amen)

Thereafter the elder who is carrying out the sanctification shall pray for the newcomer. After the prayer, the newcomer shall proceed to have a bath with the water. The materials which the newcomer must have during the prayer of sanctification are one candle, and water in a bucket, but if he/she so desires, sponge and soap may be included to have a thorough bath. This is not Baptism.

Hymns in the Celestial Church of Christ:

Regarding hymns, we must not sing the hymns of other denominations in our own Church. Those hymns which we have been given from the Holy Spirit are the hymns which we must be using.

All the hymns which Moses sang which we have been given are those we must sing. And there are yet many more hymns which the Spirit shall bring for us. Once we sing these spiritual hymns, the spirit will descend and our prayers shall be answered.

Constant fasting and reading of Psalms:

Celestial Church of Christ does not involve Psalms. Celestial Church also does not involve constant fasting. The fast appointed for the Church is to wall barefoot when we put on our sutana (white garment). There is no other fast appointed for members of the Church except for some six or seven days when we must fast during the passion week of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Seaside or Beach:

Regarding going to seaside or beach to wash, I am forbidding this forth with as this is not a part of the tenets of the Celestial Church of Christ. Let no one add to the tenets as laid down and let no one take anything away from it. To ask and to receive is the grace given to Celestial Church of Christ, and it is this grace that members of the Church must use continually as it was given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Regarding going to the seaside or beach for victory jobs, I forbid this totally. It must never be allowed to happen for any such message to be given and be the basis for anyone else to do such a job.

Mercy land:

The Celestial Church of Christ is blessed with the Mercy land. With this I am replacing seaside/beach jobs. All jobs that might have been done at the seaside or beach, let all such be done in the mercy land. Let us not see any of you who would follow his/her own wish in this matter.

Who-ever is caught disobeying this rule shall be due for certain punishment. Such a person may be demoted in rank, or he/she may be on suspension for a while. Therefore let all the leaders in the Church be

very careful. I wish to re-emphasise resently that the Church is very careful. There is no more favouritism according to the message that I have been sent. And I am prepared to carry out the assignment as I have been sent.

Elders Prayers:

Regarding the matter of praying for others inside the Church, the elder leading the prayer shall face the church entrance with his back to the altar, while those being prayed for shall face the Altar. Regarding going to the hills or rock surfaces to pray, this is not in accordance with the tenets of Celestial Church of Christ, and I have not laid it down, so let not this sort of practice be seen with anyone in the Church.

Use of palm fronds:

Regarding the use of palm fronds for victory work and to flog people for whom victory prayers are being said. This is not in accordance with the tenets. I have not so laid it down for any body or any parish to use palm fronds in this way. Pray in the church for the sick, for victory, and as you pray, you will observe that the Holy Spirit is descending, and prayers are being answered. Use your loins and alter cloths for spiritual jobs, those things which the tenet allows regarding palm leaves/palm fronds are as follows:- If we have a victory job which requires seven elders to do and there are fewer than seven we could make signs of cross out of palm leaves according to the number of elders required who may not be available, whether three or four. Equally if we wish to do a spiritual job involving seven candles, and we are short of the number of candles required, we could use palm leaves to make signs of the cross to make up the number of the missing candles to complete the requirement of the job.

Songs during Prayers:

Regarding songs, the number of songs directed must be sang. For example seven hymns which are being reduced, must not be reduced; this is not according to the tenets and it must not happen again. May the Lord forgive you who do such. We must not take anything away from the tenets.

Vigil Services:

Regarding vigil services of seven days or twenty-one days or even three days, this is contrary to the tenets. I have not laid this down for you. You must desist from such strange practices. Regarding those who carry out unauthorised jobs and ask new members to look steadfastly on them as the Prophet Pastor Founder does during the sermon or during outdoor revival service, this they did of their own authority; the spirit has not laid it down so. Anyone who does this does so to his own curse. Let all take care

Regarding those who ask new comers to look steadfastly on the crucifix during the sermon or revival services, this is not laid down so. Let not such a practice be heard of again. Desist from such practices.

Pray with Love:

Pray with love, the spirit of God will descend, and prayers shall be answered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

the walls with the pots, & cobain ends at once. It is not according to the tenets of the Church.

Water for trees or rocks/ Breaking of eggs on rocks/ crossroads:

Regarding the use of water from the bowels of a tree, or of a rock, or the practice of breaking an egg on the rock or at the crossroads, or the practice of burying a whole plantain tree for victory job, or the kneeling down on a white piece of cloth. All of this are contrary to and not in accordance with the tenets. Let all such practices cease. Celestial Church of Christ has not come to prescribe the offering of sacrifices for anybody. Regarding the breaking of pots after a victory job, this is not a tenet of Celestial Church of Christ as mentioned above.

Let not such things be seen again. Celestial Church of Christ has nothing to do with such self authorised practices. Let all such bizarre practice cease completely. Regarding the practices of having a bath at the crossroads this has nothing to do with the Celestial Church of Christ. have not laid it down for you. So let all such practice cease totally.

Wilderness prayers/ jobs:

Regarding the practice of going into the wilderness or jungle to perform spiritual jobs, this is not a tenet of Celestial Church of Christ. Let this cease forthwith.

Members of the Celestial Church of Christ could fetch water into a pot to have a bath, whether it is water from the mercy land, or from a stream, or sea water, or from the ocean, all these could be used by members according to the tenets that I have laid down. But to break a pot after a bath plainly speaking is fetish; I must not see such in the Celestial Church of Christ. This amounts to deviation or adulteration. Let all such practice cease totally. May the Lord elevate his Church, Amen.

(Sgd) Snr Evang Agbaosi (Dahomey)

(Sgd) Supreme Evangelist (Nigeria)

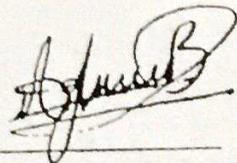
(Sgd) Rev Pastor Founder S.B.J. Oshoffa

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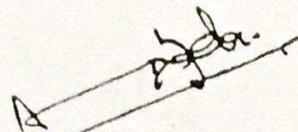
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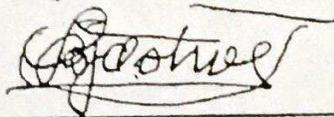
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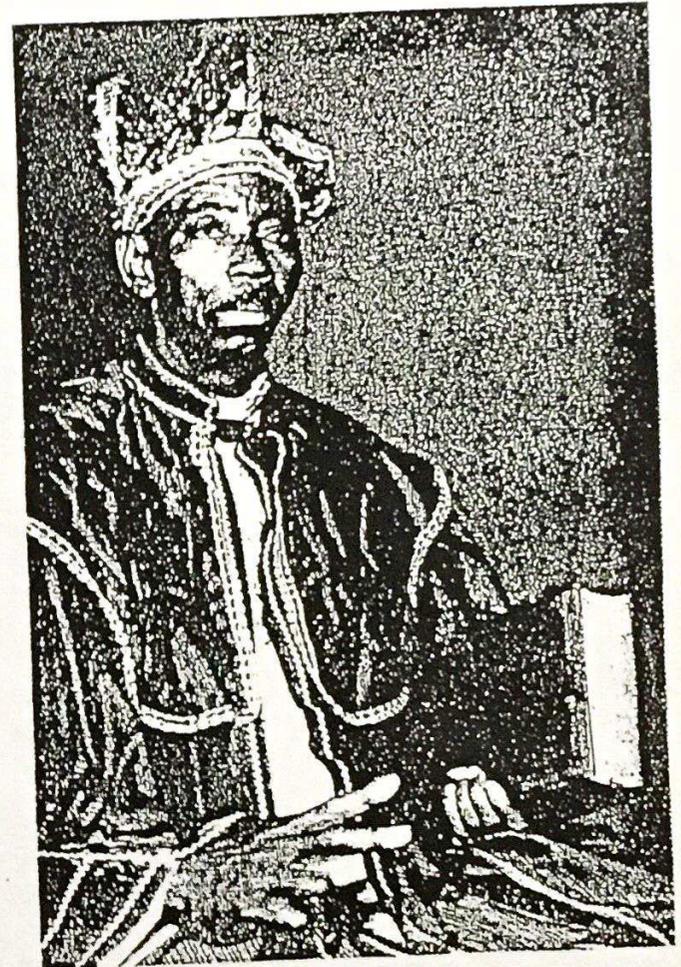
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