

Governing God's Moves

1. When God moves or gives His Gifts to His Church, He places responsibilities upon her shoulder and expects her to carry them faithfully.
 - In the beginning, God gave mankind the ability to reproduce, authority and power to govern the dominion as well as rule over His creation. (Gen. 1:28)
 - Acts 6:1-7 shows that without government, even a great move of God can result in chaos.
 - Teachings of Jesus and apostle Paul show that governing is part of God's plan for His church. He will judge and re-measure our capacity of governing with Him on earth and in the Heaven. (Matt. 25:14-30; Eph. 1:19-23+2:6-7)
 - Jesus is very serious about how we govern the Church that represent His Body and that He is the head over it. (Revelation 2-3)

2. Part of the 'Governing' is to set order for the God-given Gifts.
 - (1Cor. 14:40, 12:28) tell us about operating spiritual Gifts in a proper and orderly manner.
 - This is a special season in which functioning in the flows of the Holy Spirit and utilizing Spiritual Gifts are both new and exciting among Chinese churches in the States. And yet it is also the most distracted and confused phenomena in the growth of churches. There are always excitements for the vivid signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit. Many manifested results of His power through Spiritual Gifts are witnessed. However, because of its young stage as well as the lack of matured leadership who knows how to handle the chaos in the midst of happenings, the total effects of using the Gifts or ministered by the Gifts, have brought more confusion than clarity, more chaos than construction. This is one of the reasons why Chinese churches in the States are so hard to get over the division and quarrels even among 'Charismatic' Christians, let alone being able to actually build strong churches.

Let me speak more clearly about the confusion and chaos before giving constructive suggestions.

- A. There are too many different streams of teachings are dumped into a pool of hungry seekers, follow-up's are not available to help digest the things been taught and resolve the questions, as they (the fuzzy truth and facts) brew long enough, weird things start growing, conflicts of opinions accumulate.

- B. As some people received Spiritual Gifts and tried to exercise them, they do not have the other necessary ingredients to help them grow in character as well as in knowledge of proper and order. For example, a prophetic gift needs accountability for confirmation and protection. Most of the words prophesied are first of all, in part (not a complete aspect of things), secondly sensitive in time (even in the OT Bible, many prophetic words take tens of years to fulfill), thirdly, conditional (obedience, persist through tests, flesh issues dealt with,

etc.), fourthly, words need to be submit under authorities of the person been ministered (a person's will, spouse, young ones' parents, church leaders, etc.) fifthly, proper cover of the Gift operation; mistakes might happen, but with responsibility, willingness to be corrected, proper supervision when operating... can provide much safer and constructive results. Now we're talking about only one Gift yet.

- C. Other ministries involved with Spiritual Gifts requires some similar, and some different operation guide lines. An inner healing, or deliverance ministry requires also accountability as well as proper cover for both the persons who minister and those who receive ministries. Pastoral care and especially follow up relationships are necessities when a person received healing or/ deliverance. On the one hand, people with hurts and special needs require extra care with many attentions, (1Cor. 12:22-23) on the other hand, the reflex of the more complicated situations can cause division, misunderstanding, rejection ... in the Body. So what considered as being compassionate, godly ministries can be 'attacked' and be looked down. As we blame the devil for what his nature will predictably do, we need to really ask God for wisdom, character, spiritual growth with a mature Government that can handle heavier responsibilities God is await to put in our hands. When proper Governmental covering has provided, situations like above can be handled by authorities that can protect the workers, take the heat, and use God's wisdom to turn the tide to becoming constructive.
- D. When a strongly gifted person minister in a non-relational, public settings, the effect of 'intimidation' by the Gift often spread faster and deeper than that of encouragement. Without proper Governmental covering and follow up, several things often happen: I) people admire the person on the stage so much that they esteem themselves as secondary in the Kingdom. They must have not study the Bible enough, pray long enough, having God's favor enough, sacrifice enough, spiritual enough,... to have the same kind of anointing or Gifting. It is true that we all need to be humble and progressively improved. The issue with Chinese Christians is that we're so easy to fall into self - condemnation rather than perceive as positive impact for life. This explains why we can never learned and studied enough to stand up and do according to what we've received while we are still 'small' in measure. (Matt25:24-29) II) There is a myth, if a person is anointed with some Gifts, he must have very close relationship with God, therefore he will have all the wisdom for every area and for any circumstances. The truth is, a Gift is a gift given by God with grace and God gives gifts for His people to use as instruments for special purposes to help special needs. That also means, if we have certain Gift, we have God's grace to use it for a special needy situations. It DOES NOT directly relate to how much wisdom we have or the degree of our comprehension of God's ways. This is why we need to constantly seek God for His wisdom no matter how Gifted we are. This is also the reason why we see so many Gifted people walking in fine lines blindly and falling every so often that surprised the Church and bring negative impact to many. Had we understand the above facts and willing to take the responsibility to walk

together, keep one another accountable, esteem people rightly (Rom. 12:3), it will do much good to the person having Gifts as well as the persons receiving ministries by the Gifts.

- E. Although there is a great need for training, impartation and passing the Spiritual Gifts, for the sake of ministries. It is also true that every person can pray for others, and should develop the skills as daily habit. However, we must realize that God also has special design and calling for each one of us to function in different ways in the Body. (1Cor. 12: 17) Just like every person should evangelize, but not everyone is evangelistic Gifted. Our job is to seek Him and know what He has for us and be faithful with it. Many people go through different trainings because of ‘envy’, ‘self-proof’, ‘competition’ or simply go with the motion. A selfish heart is never content, always seek from outside and esteem what others have is better, whereas a Godly desire is pure and always focus on God, surrender self to Him. God might give the Gifts disregard how imperfect we are (because of His Grace, and because He is big enough and will not be afraid of human failure), but we all have to pay the price of consequence and face Him in the end.
- One of the important functions of apostolic and prophetic government is to spiritually identify the Gift, calling and role of a person, then do their best to encourage, equip, and put in place so both the person and the church can grow healthily.
3. Another important Governmental responsibility is to seek God for His particular directions in the present season and apply them in the timely fashion. Reason why people run for conferences with all different directions and the same time feel dissatisfy with their own local churches is that most churches have not given clear directions and therefore encouragement for areas that need training and equipment. (another example of dis-ordered phenomena) Also, as mentioned before, because of the multiple streams that is going on in the Kingdom of God, people can be distracted and lost in it. A good church government is not to reject and put those opportunities aside, but to use spiritual wisdom as well as discernment to filter, to sort, and to evaluate timing in order to bring the best to the Body. Just like human body needs to regulate diet, exercise, work, learning, ... to reap best benefit, Body of Christ also needs to regulate itself through the command of the head and the leaders that Christ has delegated the responsibility to.
4. Practical suggestions:
- Build close bond among regional leaders. True unity can not be reached by just doing the same activities together, for relationships will be vulnerable if they are built upon ‘doings’ but ‘being’ in which any different opinion can divide the group. If regional leaders come together willing to summit to one another, pray and seek God in one heart, receive and confirm God’s will for the season, committed to love and to help one another, God will definitely reveal Himself and show His way for His own Church.
 - Let true leaders lead. Governmental roles need to emerge from inside of the regional church leaders’ group. Not every church leader is raised to be

apostolic or prophetic, and not every church leader is called to lead a bigger congregation than the one he is overseeing. If church pastors are willing to submit themselves to leaders among them that can lead over them in their region, progressive growth will definitely happen in the region.

- Allow the Governmental leadership of the region use their wisdom, discernment, creativity and resourcefulness to become the helps of the pastors and churches. They will also become gate keepers of the region as well as contact points of a bigger net outside of the region. This include bringing in training, teaching, equipping in the right time; coaching needed church through their trusting relationships, (that means, even when adversity come up from the congregation, the relationship between leaders will still stand strong...) sharing resources etc.
- Hosting regional seminar, draw input from outside about models, methods, practical experiences etc. The regional leaders have to decide what do churches need and target on the specific purposes. Follow up is necessary within the regional churches in order to bring actual effect.
- Establish resource centers for regions. Most of the resources are in the local churches and locked in there. This is why we see so many small churches struggle with their limited resources. With relationship increased, resources can be released from within the church and channel to needed places. There are three major kinds of resources. Material resources include teaching tapes, conference videos, books, internet information exchange, etc.; Financial resources can be done by setting up help funds oversee by a few church leaders, investigate open doors for the help of community needs. Human resources can do two things, number one, churches can help one another with their strength and utilize the people involved. Secondly churches can strategize join efforts to help community needs. Networking with American churches or ethnic churches will really help change the atmosphere of the area and make transforming of society more possible.

Above is only a glance of what we (church leaders) can do to help from receiving God's renewal and Gifts to build together in the Kingdom, with God given governmental responsibilities. We want to see end time churches rise up and take the harvest to the end of the world. He is already moving waves after waves, are we picking up our responsibilities to govern?