

International Journal of Culture and Religious Studies

(IJCRS) A Comparative Study of Paul's Ministry and some of the
Pentecostal Pastors in Ika Land



A Comparative Study of Paul's Ministry and some of the Pentecostal Pastors in Ika Land

 **Okobia Faith Nkem Ph.D.**

Lecturer in the Department of Religion and Human Relations

University of Delta, Agbor, Delta State, Nigeria

<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-3167-7389>

Accepted: 7th June, 2024, Received in Revised Form: 20th July, 2024, Published: 6th Aug, 2024

Abstract

This study examined a comparative study of Paul's ministry and some of the Pentecostal pastors in Ika Land. Paul who was persecuting the believers was converted on his way to Damascus by Jesus Christ himself, and became a preacher of the gospel and many souls were converted through him. 12 churches were established in the gentile towns and 13 Epistles were written to churches and individuals within the period of 15 years. Paul made Christianity to become a universal religion, as he made the gospel spread like wild fire. Some of the pastors did exploit for God through evangelism Church planting and children ministry, but non did as much as Paul. This study used historical and comparative methods and primary and secondary sources such as interview, books, journals and Bible were used. Paul worked very hard as an individual spreading the gospel in Asian Province, Greece and Europe. Individual pastors did not work up to Paul but collectively they worked more than him, because there are some areas they are working which he did not work.

Keywords: *Ministry, Pentecostal, Christianity*

Introduction

The call of God is a divine call that brings one into the ministry to walk with God and work for God. For one to do well in the ministry, one needs the grace of God because there comes a time when nothing else but the grace of God only keeps him going. That is why there is need for pastors to follow Holy Spirit leading to avoid mistake and for them to succeed in the ministry. The ministerial call is a call to follow Master Jesus and heed to Holy Spirit direction as Paul did to avoid frustration and confusion.

Paul was a great apostle who had a great insight into the teaching of Jesus. He taught about justification by faith, that is the declaration of an individual blameless through faith in Jesus Christ as one confesses his or her sins and ask for forgiveness. The person grows from salvation to sanctification which has to do with being set apart and holy unto God. Other Pentecostal pastors preach on salvation, holiness, sanctification and deliverance while some preach heresy and practice syncretic religion.

Conceptual Frame Work

The man Paul

The name Saul was of Jewish background while the name Paul was of Roman Hellenistic background and both names mean asked from God. Jones (2018) states that Paul was born in Tarsus the capital of Cilicia. His parents were Pharisees and he was from the tribe of Benjamin. Paul spoke Greek language as he lived with his parents in Tarsus one of the Greek cities. He schooled in Jerusalem under pharisaic rebbi called Gamaliel. Paul was a Pharisee (Acts 23:6) Paul was a tent maker and a weaver in Tarsus which gave him economic independence.

Pastor

A pastor is someone called by God to preach the word of God to people. He is someone with Spiritual authority over a group of people. He is a minister or priest in a church. Greenson (2018) states that a pastor is a servant of God who preaches the word of God to people (Acts 6:4, Romans 15:16). A Pastor shepherds and oversees the flocks and gives himself continually to prayer and the ministry of the word (Acts 6:4, 20:17 and Hebrews 13:17).

Pentecostalism

Pentecostalism is a renewals' religious movement within Christianity that places special emphasis on the direct personal experience of God through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). The term Pentecostalism is derived from Pentecost, a Greek word for the Jewish feast of weeks, which for Christians commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus Christ as described in the book of (Acts 2:1-4).

Pentecostal

Denver (2019) avails that the Pentecostal denominations are aligned with Evangelism in that they emphasize the reliability of the Bible and the need for the transformation of an individual's life with faith in Jesus. They believed that the Bible has final authority in matters of faith and doctrine. The Pentecostals believe that salvation is a gift receive by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as one confesses his sins ask for forgiveness and accept Jesus as His Lord and Saviour. They believe in Holy Ghost baptism with the evidence of speaking in tongues. They also believe in Trinity (God the father, son and the Holy Ghost).

Hornby (2010) defines Pentecostal as a Christian religious movement that emphasizes the Holy Spirit. It is also referred to a member of a Pentecostal church.

Statement of the Problem

Many scholars have written about Paul but none has compared and contrast the ministry of Paul and those of the Pentecostal Pastors in Ika land, which this study is focusing on. This study attempts the comparison of both ministries in order to determine their differences and similarities. Furthermore, many pastors do not follow the footsteps of Jesus as Paul followed his footstep which is making them to commit blunder and make shipwreck of the gospel. Hence this study which is comparing Paul's ministry and those of some pastors in Ika land so that they will know where they are lagging behind, for them to adjust and do the needful.

Methodology

The method used for this study is both historical and comparative. This method enables the writer to trace the genesis of Pentecostalism and Paul's ministry, so as to compare and contrast the ministry of Paul and those of the Pentecostal pastors in Ika land. This study shall also use primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include interviews to elicit information from the respondents. The secondary sources include textbooks journals and the Holy Bible.

A Pastor

A local church is shepherd by a pastor (Acts 14:23, 1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9). A pastor is called by God and ordained in a church to lead, teach, care for and protect the members of his church. He nurtures them with the word of God for them to grow spiritually.

The characteristic of a pastor according to Tufu (2018) are as follows.

1. He must have a good character
2. He must be highly talented
3. Husband of one wife (1 Tim 3:2).
4. He must have faith in God and know the word of God very well.
5. He must be a matured Christian, not a new convert.
6. He must exhibit Christian character always
7. He must not have character flaws that will drag the name of God to the mud

8. He must be a faithful husband to his wife not sexually loosed.
9. He must have self-control.
10. He must be respectable and respectful
11. He must be discipline and humble
12. He must be a man of wisdom
13. He must have the fear of God and govern his household and his church with the word of God and prayer
14. He must have great potential and be innovative.
15. He must be a man of integrity.
16. He must avoid pride, love of money and jealousy.

The similarities between Paul's ministry and those of some of the Pentecostal pastors in Ika land are as follows:

i. Evangelist Strategies

Bregle (2019) avails that Paul and Pentecostal preachers preach the gospel to the people. They take evangelism as their supreme task by holding crusades, revival, two by two witnessing and planting churches in order to rescue the lost souls through conversion which transform them from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. They are mouthpiece of God who guide their members on the part of righteousness. Paul's desire to reach all people with the gospel took him from the confines of the Jews to the Asian world, Greece and Europe. He had the great commission at the back of his mind. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Paul did all that was within his power to fulfill the great commission. Paul said in Acts 20:20-21; You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house, I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul converted many souls and preached the gospel to the world powers of his day. Many important Roman officers like the Proconsul Sergius Paulus (Acts 13:6-12) and the jailer, the prison warder at Philippi (Acts 16:16-34) were saved. Paul's missionary activities made Christianity to become a universal religion, but for Paul Christianity probably would have become a sect in Judaism. Salvation was not for the Jews alone but for the gentiles also. Gentiles regained freedom from the bondage of Mosaic Law. Membership of the church was opened to everyone who repents and believe in Jesus Christ to be divine son of God.

Likewise, the Pentecostal preachers in Ika land, they carried out the great commission with passion with the motto "evangelism is our supreme task", "save the perishing", "preach the word in season and out of season" and "catch them young" for those in children evangelism. They embark on Holy Spirit empowered evangelism that will change Ika land and the world forever. S.Okoh, the Chairman of Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, Ika South Chapter (in a personal communication 30 March, 2023) said that their mission is to produce a total man free from sin and heavenly

mindful by reaching the people of Ika through aggressive evangelism, intercessory prayer, free bible, Christian books, tracks and passion for rural evangelism in order to reach the unreached.

They go for outreaches and crusades and hand over the converts won, to different Pentecostal churches there, but if there is no Pentecostal church there, they establish one. When they go out for street evangelism, they always help people they want to preach to if he or she is in need. They emphasize much on the great commission in Mark 16: 15, soul winning in Proverbs 11:30b "He that wins souls is wise" and Revelation 22:12 "Behold I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done". So they quote all these bible verses to encourage their members to join them in evangelism and soul winning.

E. Mgbejume (in a personal communication 29 March, 2023) noted that the Pentecostal pastor in Ika land always embark on Holy Spirit empowered evangelism. They conduct gospel campaigns and crusades throughout Ika land with up to 16,000 people attending a single service with signs and wonders following. The preaching of! the gospel with as many as 45,000 people making a positive decision for Christ in just 3 days of meeting They go to the Obi's palace (Dein Keagborekwuzi 1) of Agbor once in a month to preach the gospel and hold all night prayers there for God to convert him, sanitize and destroy the works of Satan in Ika land The Queen mother, that is the mother of the Obi (king) is now a Christian. The Obi of Ute Solomon Aghaulor is now a Christian and the Delta State Governor Dr Ifeanyi Okowa is now a Christian through the activities of the Ika Pentecostal preachers, they hold all night prayer in Dr Okowa's house twice a month for God's protection, upliftment and prosperity of himself, family, the people of Ika and Delta State as a whole.

They print gospel tracts which they distribute as they preach the gospel on the streets, in the market squares and in the vehicles. They preach in the early hours of the day which is called morning cry. They import bible from overseas and give it freely to new converts to encourage them. They give scholarship to intelligent students in the society in order to win them and their parents to Christ. They also care for the widows and orphans to win them back to Christ and rescue the abandoned babies from the streets.

ii. Church Planting and Organizational Pattern

Adebayo (2020) states that Paul adopted the strategy of preaching in major cities, from these centres, the gospel spread to the surrounding villages and country side. Paul also adopted the pattern of preaching first in the Jewish synagogue, if there was anyone where he went, because that was where he could get a large number of people such as the Jews and the Gentiles to preach to. He had a burden for the lost souls and wanted everybody to hear the gospel and come to repentance. Paul guided the members of the twelve churches he established in his three missionary journeys in setting their organization, electing officers, choosing and training workers, after leaving a new church, he would continue to counsel them by correspondence, return visits (Acts 18 23). Sending personal representatives to the churches and by receiving personal representatives

from the churches. He trained people like Timothy, Titus and some elders to take care of the churches he had established (Acts 20:27-28).

Paul said I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God, Keep watch over yourselves and all the flocks of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, be shepherd of the church of God which He bought with His own blood Paul harnessed all available resources to bring Timothy up in the Lord as a minister. Later, Timothy became the minister at Ephesus. In (II Timothy 4:20), Paul told Timothy to "Preach the word, be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction". Timothy was also charged with the responsibility of dealing with false teachers, supervising the election of officers and elders, and overseeing the worship.

The Pentecostal preachers in Ika land establish churches in different places in Ika land, send their pastors to Bible Schools, before giving them any church. They hold workers and pastors meetings once a month, they also hold church business or family meetings where the General Overseer and the branch pastors tell them how their churches are progressing and the problem confronting their churches, The members also tell the General Overseer the problems confronting them. They make sure that their church grows spiritually and numerically through follow up visitation, teaching of the word of God, prayer and counseling.

Paul established twelve churches in his three missionary journeys, while some Pentecostal pastors in Ika land have established many churches ranging from five to twenty churches in the land. For instance, Rev. Mgbejume Emmanuel of Ministry of Reconciliation Evangelical Explosion established twenty churches in Ika land. Rev. Okocha established 5 churches in Ika land. Rev. Emmanuel Alika established 8 churches in Ika land. They visit the churches established regularly to know how they are faring.

iii. Church Leadership to Sustain the Church Established

Norrish (2019) posits that Paul and the Pentecostal pastors in Ika land are people of 'drive' who get things done by not doing everything themselves, but through the involvement and assistance of others. They are never lacking in zeal but kept their" spiritual favour serving the Lord (Romans 12: 11). They work with a clear goal of achievement. They convey to others a vision and work with them to see it realized. They are committed to responsibilities. They have confidence, trust and loyalty from their members. They are disciplined, firm and fair. They are transparent, honest, loving and caring. These qualities made their churches to be well established and stand the test of time.

iv. Worship Life

Barcley (2020) states that Paul and the Pentecostal preachers in Ika land worship God a lot. Paul prayed a lot. His prayer and praises at midnight made the prison doors to open and everyone's bands were loosed (Acts 16 16, 25-26). He also asked the Thessalonians Christians to pray continually. (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The Pentecostal preachers pray very well. They fast on daily

basis either from morning to 12noon or from dawn to 6pm for a week or a month. Some even do dry fasting for three or seven days depending on the situation. Praise is one of the features of Pentecostalism because the Pentecostals sing praises to God very well, which involve all the worshippers making the service more meaningful to them and tune their hearts to God before the sermon. They hold all night and deliverance prayers in order to set the captives free.

v. They face persecution and trails

Caird (2019) avails that Paul and the Pentecostal preachers face persecution and trials such as opposition from unbelievers, false brethren and satanic agents. Paul was frequently in prison, he was flogged and exposed to death again and again, He received 39 lashes from the Jews for five times. He was beaten with rods for three consecutive times. He was stoned once. He was shipwrecked for three times. He spent a "night" and a day in the open sea. He was in danger from rivers, bandits, his countrymen, Gentles and false brethren, He often went without food, clothes and sleep, (II Corinthians 11 :23-27). Likewise, the Pentecostal preachers in Ika land. Some suffered rejection, from family members and banishment from their home towns. They suffered hunger, nakedness and poverty. Some even lost their lives, wives or children in the course of their ministry as a result of witch craft attack from their family members or from the members of their churches.

vi. Doctrine Development Writing of Books and Teaching the Flocks.

Paul's most important contribution to Christianity according to Jones (2018), the theology of justification by faith, the concept that humans are saved from sin by believing in Jesus. Jewish tradition focused on ritual observations and living according to Jewish law. Paul created a theological framework for understanding that Jesus' death and resurrection triggered a fundamental change in humanity's relationship with God, a relationship in which faith, rather than behaviour, was the central element. Paul wrote 13 letters or epistles to churches and individuals over a period of 15 years. Paul wrote a manual of church order in his Epistles. His excellent ways of solving problems and counseling speak for themselves as one reads his letters. His epistles also provide valuable source materials for Christians of all ages. Paul preached every sermon that would be helpful to his audience and converts. "He taught them publicly and from house to house. He declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our lord Jesus" (Acts 20:20-21). While the Pentecostal pastor develop the doctrine of their churches according to their area of call. Holiness and deliverance preachers like Rev, Sabu Okocha of Bethel Deliverance Ministry, developed the doctrine of his church on salvation, holiness and deliverance. His watch word is always "Without holiness, no one shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:4), and "upon Mountain Zion shall be deliverance and holiness and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions" (Obadiah 17). The church planters and great evangelist like Rev. Mgbejume Emmanuel, developed the doctrine of his church on salvation, evangelism and soul winning. He always emphasize on the great commission in Mark 16: 15 "Jesus said to them go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation", His favourite salvation message is John 3: 16 "For God so love the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but

have eternal life". He also quotes Proverbs 11:30b "... and he who wins souls is wise" to encourage his congregation to go out for evangelism and win souls for the kingdom of God. The prosperity preacher like Rev. Okoh Samuel always emphasizes on prosperity in his church by quoting Philippians 4: 19 "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus and Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it". He also emphasizes on prayers and praises because God inhabits in the praises of His people and through praises and prayer. God will be moved to bless his people. The Pentecostal preachers wrote many books on prayers, praising God, faith, holiness, marriage, prosperity, deliverance, discipline, hell, heaven and the second coming of Jesus Christ. They teach their members the word of God, through Sunday school, evening services such as bible study and prayer meetings. They also preach to them through sermon on Sundays. They make sure they expose their members to the biblical truth.

vi. **They pray for people**

Campbell (2019) avails that they pray` for their church members' wellbeing. They counsel people, care for them spiritually and physically. They also care for the needy such as the poor, orphans and the widows. They make sure all is well with their members by visiting and asking probing questions to know how they are faring.

The Differences Between Paul's Ministry and the Ministries of some of the Pentecostal Pastors in Ika land

Nevertheless, it is important to examine the differences that exist between Paul's ministry and those of the Pentecostal preachers in Ika land.

i. **Sources of Income/Commercialization of their Ministries**

The biblical sources of income to the church are from offering and tithes Malachi 3; 10, God commanded his people to bring their tithe into the store house so that there may be food in His house. "Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the flood gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it". So, when you pay your tithe God will bless you and devour the devourer for your sake. In Leviticus 22:18-22 and Leviticus 23:15-18, there are many types of offerings, freewill offering, wave offering, first fruit offering, offering to fulfill one's vow and thanksgiving offering. The church realizes money through these offerings and a tithe which is offered and paid by the people out of their own volition during the time of Paul. Paul even worked with his own hands. He was a tent maker because he was not ready to be a burden to anybody. In Acts 20:33-35 Paul said "I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions"

Some of the Pentecostal Pastors realize money from these offerings, tithe, launching, donation, levy, seed faith and many other means of generating fund by extortion. They lay emphasis on tithe and offering by saying God loves a cheerful giver (II Cor 9:7), David said I will not give to God something that will not cost me anything, give your Isaac. That is, one has to give valuable offering, as

such they always say empty your purse or pocket and God will fill it with money for you. As you give, you will be made rich in every way so you can be generous on every occasion. (2 Corinthians 9: 11), When they are doing launching, they will announce what people are giving so that out of shame people will give more than they purpose in their mind to give which will not be blessed by God because as far as God is concerned, it is only what you purpose to give in your heart that is received. They print tithing card to know how much each member is giving and those that give more are given big posts in the churches such as Deacon, Deaconess or Elder in order to tie them down in their churches. Even if their members are not up to one hundred people, they will not bother to work with their hands to earn a living, instead they will be extorting money from them through foul means. For instance a widow owing somebody the sum of fifty thousand Naira (N50,000) and her creditor was troubling her, so she managed to gather N20,000 and went to her pastor to tell him what she was passing through, her pastor asked her to bring the twenty thousand naira and put it in the offering box that he is going to pray so that her creditor will write off the debt, but after much waiting and her creditor did not , write off the debt, but continued to disturbed her to pay the money. Then she started crying and narrated her ordeal to her creditor and the passersby. Some sell fake miracle handkerchiefs and miracle anointing oil in order to make money from the ignorant members of their churches and some members of the society who come to patronize them. As a result of the commercialization of churches, some people that are finding it difficult to feed, will just rent an uncompleted building and establish a church there before you know it he will be riding on his own car and living in affluence at the expense of his poor members. Despite all these, some pastors are very honest in generating fund and handling church money.

ii. **Personal moral life as example to their flocks.** According to Jones (2018) everyone who has read Paul's letters, knows that Paul had a high standard of moral for himself and for all other Christians. He believed that God wants his children to strive to attain such standard. Again and again, he offered lists of vices that Christians should avoid and virtues they should embrace. Paul did not claim to have reached perfection. He told the Philippians that the aim of his life was to gain Christ and be found of him (Philippians 3:8). In Philippians 3:12-14, Paul said not that I have already obtained all this or have been made perfect but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it, but one thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Paul urged the Corinthian Christians to imitate him as he imitated Christ (I Corinthians 4: 16), Paul felt obligated to set an example of Christian living so Paul preached and practiced righteous living. Some of the Pentecostal preachers in Ika land do not live holy lives, They Practice illicit sexual relationships such as fornication and adultery with members of the church and with those outside the church. David's sin with Bathsheba have been repeated countless times in our generation with devastating effects. They are not disciplined as such they cannot inculcate discipline into the lives of their members. They forgot the scripture which says there should be no disjunction between the character and life of a man who is called to Proclaim God's word and the content of the message he proclaims (1 Timothy

4:16) says "Watch your life and doctrine closely, persevere in them because if you do, you will save yourself and your hearers" Jesus condemned the Pharisees and Scribes for not practicing what they preached. They were condemned for carrying on a professional ministry in which a great disparity existed between word and deed. Matthew 23:23 says, the teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses seat, so you must obey them and do everything they tell you, but do not do what they do for they do not practice what Preach. So, Paul lived by what he preached but some Pentecostal pastors do not live by what they preach because they preach holiness and live in sin. Paul inculcated discipline into believers. Most of the Pentecostal preachers are not disciplined as such they cannot inculcate discipline into their members. They handle the word of God with levity as if it is the word of man. They take that which is holy for granted even as they live unholy lives.

iii. Fulfillment of their ministries/calling. According to Garvie (2018) Paul tried by all means to fulfill his ministry while some of the pastors make shipwreck of their ministry, as a result of the worldly pleasures. Okwuolise (2021) posited that Paul's faithfulness can hardly be expressed by words. Armstrong (2020) stated that Paul was a weak and sick looking young man, many scholars described his physical illness in several ways, for no one knows exactly what his sickness was. Paul had enough reasons to give why he should not fulfill his ministry, but that was not his case rather, he declared, "woe is me if I preach not the gospel". I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live but Jesus lives in me and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20), If there was any man who had had hard times from torture, imprisonment and criticism from all sides, it was Paul yet he persisted in faith and said, For this gospel I was appointed a preacher, an apostle and a teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed for I know who I have believed and I am sure that he is able to guard what have been entrusted to him for that day (II Timothy 1:11-12). No wonder he declared, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge will give to me on that day and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing (II Timothy 4:7-8).

So, Paul fulfilled his ministry, some of the Pentecostal preachers did not fulfill their ministry because of the cares of this world. Some quit the ministry if they are not paid regularly or if their salary is meager as a result of small congregation they are pastoring because they do not want to work with their hands, suffer or endure hardship. For instance, some pastors quit the ministry because they were posted to the rural areas where there are no rich members that can take care of them very well, because majority of the members are poor.

iv. Paul was called by God but some Pentecostal Pastors are not called.

Paul had a call from God to proclaim the gospel. He began his letter to the Romans "Paul a servant of Jesus Christ called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God (Romans 1: 1, Acts 9:15). He was grateful to be approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4). Jones (2018) noted that Paul and some Pentecostal pastors are called by God for the work of God. People are called by God

to become preachers of the gospel through dreams, visions, revelations, hearing of the gospel message or through direct encounter like that of Paul on his way to Damascus in (Acts 9:1-9). Thus, in order to do God's work, God empowered people through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Some of the Pentecostal pastors are not conscious of heaven because they are not called by God; as such they want to satisfy the desires of their flesh. They are careless in handling church money. They divert God's money to personal use. Clothes donated to the poor and orphans have been taken by those asked to share them. Pastors' salaries have been supplemented from funds raised for evangelism. They do not have accountability system. They lord it over their flocks and view special privileges as their personal rights. Their leadership style is more reflective of a "chief than a shepherd". Rather than empowering followers for service, they lead for their own personal benefits. They stand at great risk because they are answerable to God even if they are not called by God.

Some of the Pentecostal Pastors that are not called are very proud, they do not humble themselves before the Lord as (James 4:10) rightly said. They are self-centered, exhibit ungodly behaviour such as going to acquire satanic power in order for their churches to grow numerically which will lead to their doom, because they claimed to be working for God but not walking with Him. If any of their members offend them, they use the person to preach, they even go as far as cursing their members while preaching e.g. if you fail to obey me, God will destroy you. If you fail to pay your tithe and give your offering, you will die a pauper and the devourer will devour your money, God is not pleased with those that entered the ministry out of frustration because they are not called, they have no fear of God as such commit all sorts of havoc. They do not finish well because God is not with them. They finish with shame, disgrace or disaster, a quick survey of scandals involving some Pentecostal pastors today would indicate that the situation has not improved at all.

v. **Sound Doctrine**

Derek (2020) states that Paul preached sound doctrine always irrespective of his audience while some of the Pentecostal preachers preach heresy and those that preach sound doctrine at times compromise by changing their sermon because an important or rich man in the society who is dubious is around. For instance, a pastor who wanted to preach about "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) will instantly change his topic to the blessing of God because he does not want to offend the rich man who had just come to church.

vi. **Jealously**

Dem (2020) avail that Paul was not jealous of his fellow evangelist who found some other churches. Instead, he helped the churches to grow spiritually and numerically by preaching the word of God to them and warning them against false doctrine or teaching. Out of jealousy, some of the Pentecostal preachers accuse their colleagues of stealing their members from them because their ministry is growing more than theirs; They also castigate other pastors even on the television screen because of jealousy.

vii. Training of a Successor

Okwuolise (2021) avails that Paul trained Timothy to be his successor while, most of the Pentecostal pastors do not train their successor. Instead, they write their will down that whenever they die, their wives or children irrespective of their spiritual maturity will inherit the ministry as if God's call is hereditary. Anderson (2021) posited that leaders who finish well are those who pass the baton to their successors to run the next leg of the race. It is a sad thing to come to the end of leadership and have no successor because one fails to train anyone. Jones (2017) stated that Paul's second letter to Timothy discloses a situation where Paul thought that the end of his life and career was approaching because he was in prison, so he saw the need to hand over his ministerial work to Timothy. (II Timothy 4: 1-8).

viii. Mentor

Dem (2020) states that Paul had no mentor. He depended solely on the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Pentecostal preachers have mentors who they share their failures and successes with and receive godly counsel from them yet they still make mistakes, because some of them do not depend solely on the Holy Spirit leading and the word of God is not dwelling in them richly.

ix. Children Evangelism

Paul did not focus much on children evangelism like some of the Pentecostal Pastor who want to catch the children young by training them to be complete in him (God) (Colossians 2:10). It is aimed at producing a total child, to be cared for physically to be instructed spiritually with the word of God and to be guided socially. They always emphasis on Prov. 22: 6 Train up a child in the way he should go and when he grows up, he will not depart from it. They organize bible clubs, children camp and bible quiz competition. They also send the children teachers to bible schools and seminars in order to be able to handle the children properly.

CONCLUSION

This study showed that the Holy Spirit led Paul to all the places he went to preach and establish churches, while some Pentecostal pastor just establish churches without the Holy Spirit leading. Paul inculcated discipline into the lives of his followers by living by what he preached. Paul lived a sacrificial life because despite his opposition, sickness, persecution, peril and many frustrating circumstances, he continued to preach the gospel. While some Pentecostal preachers do not maintain their integrity, and they quit the ministry because of trials and hardship. Paul worked with his hands, he was a tent maker, he never extorted money from his followers unlike some pastors who extorted money from their members through different means. However, Paul did not cover some grounds in his time for instance, the Pentecostal pastors in Ika land have established many bible schools in Agbor town such as Living Word Bible School, School of Deliverance and Biblical Studies, Children Evangelism Training Centre and End Time Bible College. They have established orphanage homes and widows fellowship centers where they can adequately care for them. They

have built many magnificent edifices for the worship of God. They have also bought many vehicles for evangelism and crusades. Pastors who extort money from their members through different means, though some of them are very careful in the collection and handling of church money. He was not jealous of his successful colleagues in the ministry but some Pentecostal castigate some pastors that are more successful in the ministry than them out of jealousy. Paul trained Timothy as his successor while many Pentecostal pastor do not train up a successor instead, they write a will that their wives or children will succeed them when they die irrespective of their spiritual maturity. Paul fulfilled his ministry that was why he said in (II Timothy 4:7) "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" Paul had no mentor; he depended solely on the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Pentecostal have mentors who give them godly counsel. Paul did not go to bible school for training before he started his ministry but some of the Pentecostal pastor went to bible schools and seminaries before they started their ministry, Paul did not focus much on children evangelism but some of the Pentecostal p, who want to catch the children young for Christ train them with the word of God and guide them physically, socially and spiritually with the word of God and prayer for them to be complete in him (God).

Paul's exemplary life in faithfulness and endurance as described in the bible is a message, for individuals, pastors and churches which would put an end to some heretical beliefs and practices and steer both the church and individuals back to the true way of living the Christian life, The Holy Spirit led and empowered Paul and some of the Pentecostal Pastor to do exploit for God in the area of evangelism, church planting and the fulfillment of their ministries.

This study has also exposed the vices practiced by some Pentecostal pastors and serve as a warning to ignorant Christians and the population from falling victims.

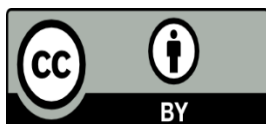
Recommendations

This study is recommending that:

- 1) The Pentecostal pastor should live by what they preach in order to produce good Christians.
- 2) They should depend solely on the Holy Spirit directives as Paul did so that they will not go astray.)
- 3) They should carry their followers or church members along and work for the common good of humanity through selfless service like Paul
- 4) They should emulate all the good qualities of Paul in order for them to fulfill their ministries.
- 5) We human beings should not condemn or conclude about somebody when the person is still alive because no matter how wicked that person may be, God can change him for the better. This was the case with Paul, who persecuted the Christian but become the preacher of the gospel.

REFERENCES

- Adebag, K. (2020), The Ministers Conference. Ibadan: freedom.
- Barday, W. (2020) . The Acts of the Apostles Edinburgh; saint Andrew.
- Bregle, S.L (2019). The Soul Winners Secret. London: Salvation.
- Caird, G.B. (2020) . The Apostolic ASC. England: Duck Work
- Campbell, A.C. (2019). Paul the Mystic_ cambridge : Oxford.
- Dem, C. (2022). Church Leaders challenge. Buruku: Star.
- Denver C. (2019). The problem of Pentecostalism. London: Scroll.
- Derek, P. (2020). A Christian Guide to Leadership of the whole church. New York: Webster.
- Garvie, S.B. (2018) , The studies of Paul and his gospel. London: millstone.
- Jones, I.T. (2018). The pastor and his ministry, Philadelphia: West Minister.
- Norrish, A.E (2019). Christian leadership. New Delhi: senshe.
- Okwuolise, G. A. (2021). Paul's ministry a model for churches. Ibadan: Niyi.
- Tutu, G. (2011). The foundation. Lagos: MFM.



©2023 by the Authors. This Article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)