\*SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS A NECESSITY. \*

Mathew 10:16.

Our Lord Jesus Christ says" \*Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be wise as serpent and harmless as doves".\*

In the course of doing the work of God; someone queried :whose messages are you preaching and have you taken permission from the Pastor ?

I reasoned; does that mean believers are not permitted to "speak up", when things go wrong or share an opinion, beliefs or deliver messages of warning from God to the people even when it offends the "very elect"?

Far from it!

In responding, the Holy Spirit intervened just as Jesus Christ had promised He will do in such circumstances. Luke 12:11-12.

My answer was: "I am sharing the messages as directed by the Owner of the work and He did not tell me I needed permission"

(apart from the assurances He gave us in Acts 1:8.)

However, like the Berean Christians(Acts 17:11); I decided to validate the question from the word of God to erase any iota of doubt.

Assuredly, my bible further reaffirms, the notion that we(believers) are all sent out in one capacity or the other (some to the church and others to the world ). Ephesians 4:11.

Our assignment is strictly to spread the true Gospel of Christ and prepare the world for the \*second coming of my Lord Jesus Christ; which is inevitable.\*

Consequently, we should be courageous in our approach; with full commitment to the faith that we profess, exhibiting boldness and spiritual maturity

The greatest challenge face by a believer today is how to share the Word or message of God in an environment where such message negates the prevailing practice and tradition.

The word of God is clear on such scenario: "You shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it"

Deu. 4:2.

Partial obedience is not permitted in the work of God.

The story of the two prophets recorded in 1Kings:13 is very crucial here.

The young prophet(man of God) exhibited spiritual maturity until he allowed the old prophet to compromise the word of God.

Although believers are not supposed to be repugnant in our approach; but necessity is placed on us to preach the true Gospel even in the face of persecution and strict opposition.

Obviously, we now live in the age of public relations and “heresy solidarity"; where people form unanimity ignorantly on issues pertaining to the Church and get disgruntled when they hear teachings that are not "fashionable" in churches now

Then, it becomes imperative for a true believer to manifest the spiritual maturity our Lord Jesus Christ expects of us .Mathew 10.

Similarly, believers are not expected to be lukeworm in the Christendom.

Revelation 3:16 " So because you are lukewarm- neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth".

In 1 Peter 2:2. The bible says " Like new born babes, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may \*grow up\* in your salvation.

Spiritual maturity is about intensifying our relationship with Jesus Christ.

How much time do you spend before God in prayer and in studying His word?

Spiritual maturity is about having a good attitude and reacting appropriately in respect to things that bother on Christianity and life in general.

Apostle Paul puts it" when I was a child; I spoke like a child, I understood like a child and I thought like a child; but when I became a man I put away childish things.

1 Cor :13:11.

Spiritual maturity is really not about age; neither is it connected to owning a degree from the bible college or getting title and position in the Church.

Spiritual maturity is about having revelational knowledge of the word of God; doing and living same.

The Church of God these days is gradually being exposed to spiritual blindness; where leaders of Church (Pastors, Deacons and Deaconess) are unconsciously treading on dangerous ground.

They exhibit wilful ignorance of the word of God: out of complacency and pride of life.

Such compromised leaders struggle when they hear clear scriptural expositions.

This is because they are myopic and they have shallow knowledge of the word of God.

That's why Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:14-15 urge leaders of Church to grow up (spiritual maturity) in all things.

Our God is interested in people who have good understanding of the Word and who live the Word. James 1: 22-25.

God spoke to me:"Son of man I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel,(Church of God) therefore

hear the word from my mouth and give them warning from me".Ezekiel 3.17

However, in doing so my Lord Jesus Christ warns: "be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves". Mathew 10:16.

In conclusion, spiritual maturity in the church requires all believers especially the "spiritual elites" to continually grow up in the things of God and stop being leaders in titles and positions alone; but functioning in the capacity of their calling!

" \*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the Churches" Rev 2:29.\*

Shalom.

Signed, Bro Cole