

Leading with Truth, Hope, and Courage

The starting point for me of leading others with hope, trust and courage, is the consciousness, absolute trust and holy fear of God. In any human enterprise, God is foundational. The LORD himself declared "*...apart from me you can do nothing*"¹ And happily, we have His word written to instruct, to inspire and to invigorate those who believe in him. In it, basis for an enduring hope can be found, from it, unwavering trust can be built and through it, courage can be revitalised. Today, people suffering from the “Israelite syndrome” surround us on every side. In our congregations, across our communities, all over our different countries, there are numerous bleeding hearts – people suffering from one form of terror or the other- the “Goliath”- in their lives. The root cause and size of their terror or problem may be different but their fundamental need is the same. They need God-trusting and courageous leadership to lead them to victory and to rekindle their hope. This David did with his firm trust in God. In all ways, therefore, God matters – in individual, people, and nation’s life. God cannot be dispensed with without chaos resulting. Unfortunately, the danger today is that not just people but governments and their leaders are turning against God and his Church.

Peter Akinola was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church of Nigeria in 1979. Soon after ordination, he moved to the United States to study at the Virginia Theological Seminary, where he graduated with a master’s degree. Upon his return to Nigeria, he served in the Abuja diocese, being consecrated as bishop in 1989. In 1998 he became archbishop in Islam-dominated northern Nigeria, and in 2000 he was elected primate of all Nigeria, the second biggest church in the Anglican Communion. He also served as Archbishop of the Abuja Province and President of the Christian Association of Nigeria. Upon his retirement as Primate of Nigeria in 2010, he launched the Peter Akinola Foundation.

I. Introduction

II. Leading with courage and restoring hope: example of David

III. GOD is foundational

¹ John 15.5

A. The starting point for me of leading others with hope, trust and courage therefore, is the consciousness, absolute trust and holy fear of God.

B. “Israelite Syndrome”

1. Across 65 different nations showed that out of 20 advanced industrial countries, 16 demonstrated a declining rate of monthly church attendance.²
2. As reported by the *Christianity Today Magazine* compared to 50% Americans who claimed that God is very important to their lives; 40% of Irish, 28% of Canadians, 26% of Spaniards, 21% of Australians, and 10% of the French disclaim the Omnipotence of God.
3. Our world is in turmoil.
4. Leadership is the biggest crisis of our modern world.

IV. Challenges and emergence of trustworthy and courageous Church fathers

V. Christian leaders in the political arena

^{2 2} Inglehart, Ronald, and Wayne E. Baker (2000). Modernization, Cultural Change, and the Persistence of Traditional Values (<http://my.fit.edu/~gabrenya/cultural/readings/Inglehart-Baker-2000.pdf>), *American Sociological Review*, 65, p. 19-51.

VI. The threatening Goliaths of our time

A. Unbridled secularism

B. Obsessive materialism

C. Resurgent Islam

VII. Truth and courage explained

A. Trust identifies the character of leadership.

B. Courage is what is required to turn the wheel of the world to the side of good and virtuous right.

1. Global Future Anglican Conference (GAFCON)

VIII. A wake up call

A. "impossible" vs. "HIMPOSSIBLE"

B. Now is the time for action.

Additional Resources:

John Haggai, Lead on, W. Publishing, 1988

Christianity Today Magazine

William Wilberforce, Bridge-Logos, 2007