

Community's resurrection and nation transformation

God's Message

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

Great things are not done from a sudden heart's movement; they are done from a line of small things that are combined together as one.

Men are created by God according to His image and likeness *Imago Dei* (Genesis 1:26), but when men fell into sin, God's image is ruined, relationship between God and human beings is broken and because of this, men's life orientation is not centered to God, men do not depend on God anymore. Instead, they look for honor and glory for themselves.

Men have been sold under the power of sin (Romans 7:14, Romans 3:9), so they have the tendency to commit sin and evil things.

But transformation happens when God gave His only begotten Son Jesus Christ as the Nobel Transformator, sent Him to the world to save the entire world. When the restoration of God's image takes place, relationship between God and men is restored, and men receive forgiveness from sin and salvation or the eternal life.

A nation's transformation happens when God's people want to leave their old ways of living, seek God's face, call on Him to ask for forgiveness (Psalm 85:7,9). We expect transformation to happen in the education sector, technology, social, economy and culture. But these things will not happen if we still depend on our own intellectual that only gives birth to materialistic society and secular humanity and finally lead us to failure and destruction. Men do not depend on God's guidance and God's will. *But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him.* (Jeremiah 17:7). A nation's transformation is caused by a transformation which is solution oriented to the problems of sin, the transformation that happens because of the Gospel of Christ, when we are willing to abandon our old and broken man and become a new man. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

God exists because there is a calling from the Gospel of Christ to come out from the darkness to His marvelous light (ecclesia). This Gospel has a powerful power to save (Romans 1:16). Churches will exist if they want to become the instrument for life and nation's renewal. (Matthew 16:18, 1 Peter 2:9). Lately, there are so many problems happen in the midst of Indonesia: economic crisis, social and politic, corruption, natural disaster; even terrorist attack happens everywhere. This multidimensional crisis will become worse if the nation doesn't realize these problems and have the willingness to fix the problems and call on the Lord.

God's church is the proper place which has to act as the agent of nation's transformation. Even though Christians are only minority society, as the children of the nation, we should have responsibility toward a nation's welfare and prosperity. The renewal and transformation during the history of the church happened through the minority group who rose up. (Genesis 12:1-3, Acts 2:1)

Church's revival can happen because of 3 main factors:

1. The church has to realize that transformation happens not because of men's wisdom, cleverness, or men's efforts, but it's all because of God's grace or gifts. (Ephesians 2:8,9)
2. The church has to realize its sin and calling, repent and ask for God's mercy for Indonesia. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
3. The church has to reveal its unity as the body of Christ in a continuous transformation. (Matthew 18:18-20, John 17:21-23)

Since the Apostles' time in the time of God's mercy, there have been continuous God's visitations in Church's awakening. Jonathan Edwards, the renowned theologian in the Church's awakening, saw the awakening as the awakening's waves that become stronger and stronger until the end of history. (When Jesus comes back)

How is our response as God's people in the term of tougher challenges (religious, materialism, corruption, hedonism, etc) and also the stronger Holy Spirit's grace which comes before His second coming? Until now, are we in the path of church renewal movement, "ecclesia reformata semper reformanda" (Renewed church is a church which is continuously in the process of renewal / reformation)?

The Essence

A nation's transformation happens when God's people reflect upon themselves, realize their sins and trespasses, call on the Lord to ask for His forgiveness and mercy. When these things are done, God will restore the nation.

Reflection

When do we want to turn back to the Lord? Let's introspect ourselves, what steps that we have taken to make a nation's transformation happen?

Commitment

I want to sacrifice [myself] for the transformation towards the nation's prosperity and welfare.

Taken from Transformation Journey

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