

# ALL CHRISTIAN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

## THE CHANGING OF THE GUARDS

“The initiation and management of change is the ultimate test of leadership.

**Why a Change?** - When talking about the changing of the guards, four fundamental questions come to mind.

**Who is changing the guards?** God can sovereignly orchestrate transition among His people. It's not the result of some conference mandate or denominational decree. It's not the innovation of some particular group of men and women. The restructuring of traditional church order, the changing of evangelistic and ministerial methodology and the raising up of visionary, progressive leaders in the Body of Christ results from God refashioning His Church for 21<sup>st</sup> century evangelism and ministry. God changes things in the Church and the world without anyone's permission. Almighty God is both omnipotent and omniscient. Therefore, those who seek to oppose this great awakening must be careful lest they be found fighting against the will of God.

**What will replace the old guards?** Let's look at the difference in leadership that existed among the 12 tribes of Israel during their 40 years of wandering through the wilderness. All 12 spies saw the same thing as they travelled throughout Canaan, but Caleb and Joshua came back with a different report. Why? These two leaders viewed life from a different perspective. Unlike the others, Caleb and Joshua were not overwhelmed by the challenges that lay before them. They were confident God would help them overcome even what appeared to be insurmountable circumstances. They were more convinced of the promise of God to their forefathers than they were dismayed by the difficulties before them.

**This is precisely the type of leadership God is raising up in this hour.** These men and women of courage have the audacity to believe God even in the midst of a frightened or a seemingly impossible situation. These leaders are convinced that “with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26) and were able to follow God's plan.

**What distinguishes these guards from previous ones?** Their courage will be tempered with character; their determination will be disciplined by wisdom; their victories will be achieved by faithfully following the original God-inspired vision; and their God-given promises will be governed by God-ordained purpose.

**These men and women are not seeking the commission of God for personal motives;** Instead, they seek it that may be better able to convert this community and culture to Christ. These men and women are not motivated by greed. They understand that the grace of God is given to further His kingdom and not their own personal agendas. These are the kind of men and women that God is calling to the forefront of this great move of God. These leaders don't care who gets the credit, they are committed to completing the work.

When will God change the guards? God is doing it right now. The spiritually astute among us know that the transitions in our national government (Nigeria), widespread natural disaster and tragedies, and the instability in religious denominations indicate that God is changing things drastically. The changing of the guards is upon us. We must submit and enthusiastically embrace what the God of all creation is doing.

**Where is this awakening taking place?** This great and mighty move of God is taking place all over the world, especially in Third World nations. Africa and the Caribbean nations are set ablaze with revival and evangelistic fires. Out of these nations God is raising up mighty men and women of God whose tongues are set afire with the truth of God's Word. Their minds have been sharpened with sound, biblical, missions-oriented theology; their hearts purified with godly character; and their spirits filled with the power of God's Holy Spirit prepared to work wherever they are located.

**Why do we need to change the guards?** Change becomes necessary when a methodology is no longer effective. The American Heritage Dictionary defines obsolete as "outmoded in design, style or construction... increasingly vestigial or disappearing in each succeeding generation."

**We need assertive and transparent leaders** with pure motives and godly ambition to take us to the next level of transforming this society and culture with the gospel. Many although not all, the leaders who presently govern the affairs of churches and ministries are any longer effective in transforming this present generation. Many attempt to pour new wine into old wine skins, and it just won't work. Many Christians may call themselves leaders, but they are nothing more than managers who feebly maintain the status quo. Like the Pharisees and scribes who held unto their traditions, they lack the power and wisdom to win the people of this nation who are without God-given purpose and vision. As I travel in this nation and meet with Pastors and Ministers, I am amazed at the number of Christian leaders who are utterly out of touch with the purpose of which God has brought them to this nation (Italy). There is clearly a kingdom mandate for the changing of the guards particularly at this moment and even in this ministry. "Not all change is improvement, but without change there can be no improvement."