

**MESSAGE BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA, PRESIDENT OF THE  
ASANTE PRESBYTERY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT THE 2011 CONFERENCE ON  
.....AT .....**

Monsuro!!

My dear brothers in Christ, it gives me great pleasure to be offered the opportunity once again to address the Conference of our cherished Fellowship. You will agree with me that, it has been by the grace of the almighty God that we have once again gathered here to take stock of our activities for the past one year. The year under review saw a lot of ups and downs but we have prevailed by the mighty right hand of God who has been our refuge and our fortress thus far. Let us all, therefore, join hands in praising Him for His goodness and mercy endures forever.

Since this occasion marks our annual meetings at such a forum, I would not be wrong if I say to you all, *afehyiapa* in this action year. I would want to say a special welcome to all those who are joining us for the first time; especially, our newly-elected members and all those joining us for the first time from the newly created Districts in the Presbytery. Let us also remember with the hope of resurrection in our Lord Jesus Christ, our beloved brothers who were called into eternity in the course of the year. With your indulgence, please let us observe a minute's silence in remembrance of our brothers; may their souls rest in the peace of our Lord. Let us continue to bear their families in our prayers always.

As has been our practice, we meet annually to deliberate on our activities over the past one year and this affords us the opportunity to take a critical review of our activities to see our areas of success, build upon them and make good, our not too good areas. We do this by reviewing the annual reports and activities of the various Districts, constructively criticise in a brotherly manner and offer commendation where it is due and this year's Conference will not be a departure from this trend.

My brothers in Christ, we are organising this Conference under the theme "***Empowered by the Holy Spirit: the Men's Encounter***" (Acts 1:8) and the great rhetorical questions we need to

ask ourselves are: as men, have we encountered the Holy Spirit? If so, have we been empowered or we are dormant? What has been our experience after the encounter? In the Bible, there are ample examples of a transformation in the lives of several people who had an encounter with or were empowered by the Holy Spirit. People such as Zechariah, Elizabeth, John and Peter responded with great boldness when filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8). Stephen responded by speaking fearlessly of his ability to see the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55). Ezekiel in Ezekiel Chapter 37 after the Holy Spirit empowerment was able to speak life into the great many bones on the floor of the valley. In a like manner, we are all witnesses to the great exploits of the Apostle Paul, who after his transformation became filled with the Holy Spirit and displayed great power and boldness in his evangelism activities.

Christ made it clear that witnessing for him was to be a responsibility of every believer and this was evidenced by his saying to His followers to become “fishers of men” (Mark 1:16 & 17). Jesus again taught His disciples that after He left the earth, the Holy Spirit would take up the task of empowering and directing the believers as they witnessed for Him. In addition, Jesus said in Luke 4:18 that ***“the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour”***. In all this, we can see that we are able to do the will of God if we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and I take advantage of this moment to entreat all men to take a conscious effort to seek the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our Christian journey so we can be more effective.

In a similar manner, if our Fellowship receives the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we will see a transformation of its fortunes. We will see a rise in our numerical strength, will be able to pay our dues and respond positively to all other obligations required of us as Members of the Fellowship. As we review our activities at this Conference, I would like all of us to reflect seriously on our attitudes with regards to the Fellowship. As I usually say, we have gathered here to review our activities but as we do, we need to do it in the spirit of frankness and brotherliness so that we would not unconsciously pass any negative remarks about others.

I end here by urging all members to show more commitment and help revitalise our Fellowship with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. I wish you a very fruitful Conference.

***Monnsuro !!*** and ***afenhyia pa*** to you all.