

Seven(7) Christian FAQs

Vol. 1

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Hello and Welcome!



Grace and peace be multiplied to you.

I am Victor Ojo, a child of God and servant of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ called to shine forth the wisdom and power of God, through teaching, evangelism, and discipleship.

I write these words with all humility and prayerfulness trusting God to by His Spirit in us empower us to understand and apply these biblical truths in our daily lives without fail.

I pray that these words will bless you and transform your life as you read through.

Enjoy!

QUESTION ONE

Why do Christians read the bible?

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 3:14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The word bible is derived from the Greek word 'ta biblia', which means 'the books'. The Bible contains many subbooks whose aggregation depends on certain historical points in time. Initially, the Hebrews, descendants of Abraham, used the first Bible. Moses is believed to have written the Torah, which consists of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The Jews use another version of the Bible, which includes the books that form the Old Testament texts of the Protestant Bible (Genesis to Malachi). In 2 Timothy 3:15, Paul refers to this Bible as the Holy Scriptures. Following Jesus' resurrection, Jewish

converts, including the Apostles, initiated the practice of Christianity through His death, burial, and resurrection. The first generation of the church was led by Apostle Peter, with their headquarters located in Jerusalem.

However, God's plan was to spread the gospel of His salvation to the whole world, not just the Israelites; hence, the spreading of the gospel by major apostles and other Jewish Christians like Peter, Paul, and Barnabas was inevitable. Christianity began to spread among people of both Abrahamic and non-Abrahamic origins. The Roman Empire colonized Israel and most of the world during this period of spread. Now, these leaders were required to write letters containing Christian doctrines and precepts to their scattered disciples across the continent. Around this time, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote the four gospels of Jesus' earth-walk. This period also saw the writing of the epistles. People manually rewrote these writings during this period, as they lacked modern-day technology.

The spread of the gospel led to the rise of the Roman Catholic Church, a global church that practiced Christianity without adhering to Jewish traditional practices such as circumcision, ablutions, and pentecost. This age of Christianity compiled the Bible to include the Old Testament text and some extra books, making a total of 73 books. Some errors existed in the Catholic Church's doctrine, particularly in its rejection of the concept of justification by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, leading them to introduce additional practices as conditions for justification. Over time, a new sect of Christians opposed this doctrine and split off to form the Protestants, who firmly believe in justification by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. This revolution led to the revision of the previous 73-book Catholic Bible, establishing the 66-book Bible that remains in use today.

I must say that we are blessed to be alive at such a time as this, when we have today's Bible as a book containing 66 sub-books written by several authors over the span of more than a thousand years. The history of the Bible shows us the heart of God, as He has continued to seek to reconcile us to himself and provide us with a book that should guide us in growing in our relationship with Him. Based on historical facts, I firmly believe that the Devil has persistently thwarted the establishment of this Bible, aware of its potential to liberate many from his captivity. However, we are grateful to our Father God for persistently thwarting the devil's schemes.

The Apostle Paul informs us that God inspired all of these writings, especially the documentation. A tribe, tracing their lineage or progeny back to Abraham, the father of faith, gave us these writings. We see how God began to redeem man from the plague of worshiping multiple idols in his search for the true God, when He called Abraham out of his idolatrous background and into His presence. The devil used this plague of idolatry to deceive God's beloved humans, leading them away from Him. We need to document the revelation of the true God and preserve it for future generations to counter this growing deception.

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 3:14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

According to the scripture above, it is the documented revelation that makes a man wise to salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. So this scripture reveals to us the central theme of the Bible: salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. This is what sets Christianity apart from other monotheistic religions (religions that believe in one God). Because one of the tactics of the devil is to make a fake duplicate of God's truth in order to deceive humanity. God's intention for the separation of Abraham from his polytheistic (serving of multiple idols) background did not stop at making him serve one God, but to make him a channel through whom the seed (Jesus Christ) that will bring salvation to humanity should come. In essence, Jesus' redemptive works are the central theme in God's heart, which he was communicating through the inspiration of Bible writers. See what Jesus said about the scriptures.

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

John 5:40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Jesus here was talking to a set of people who were practicing a monotheistic Jewish religion to understand that the holy Jewish Bible (Genesis to Malachi) was not written to bring us into religion but to reveal Christ Jesus, in whom we will receive eternal life. What is eternal life?

John 17:3 And this is eternal life: [it means] to know (to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with, and understand) You, the only true and real God, and [likewise] to know Him, Jesus [as the] Christ (the Anointed One, the Messiah), Whom You have sent.

Many monotheistic religions stop at the first part of JUST KNOWING GOD AS THE ONLY TRUE GOD. I hope you do not fall into this category.

I hope that you have graduated to the point of knowing Jesus as your savior and Lord, for this is the only way to become God's child and have a deep, intimate relationship with Him. God's ultimate desire is to have an intimate relationship with you, to talk to you daily, and to hear you talk to him. What a beautiful Father He is!

So the Protestant Bible stands out because it contains all that you need to know to become wise to salvation, which is in Christ Jesus. This bible is organized such that the gospels are the fulfillment of God's ultimate intention from the foundations of the world to save humanity and give us eternal life, as they capture the events of Christ's death and resurrection as prophesied in the Old Testament texts.

The epistles then give us clear explanations of the spiritual implications of the fulfillment of those prophecies. The Bible is complete!

We first read the Bible to gain wisdom and understand salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Therefore, eternal life is having an intimate relationship with God by fellowshiping with Him. Eternal life does not start in heaven, Eternal life is us now! Now, how does the Bible help us gain wisdom about the salvation that is in Christ Jesus?

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We can safely interpret the term "all scriptures" to refer to the current 66-book Bible. After you have become wise to salvation in the context of

being saved and born again, you still need the Bible to grow so that your mind will now be better informed about your new spiritual identity. Your mind had learned about the old man's sinful manner of life but now needs to be renewed. You need to unlearn the old life and learn the new life, and this knowledge is not a mental accent. It is revelation by the word of God.

This is why we pray when we read the Bible, so that the Holy Spirit can give us revelation from the scripture. The Holy Spirit uses the scripture as evidence to strengthen our conviction. The Holy Spirit uses the Scripture to correct us when we err. The Holy Spirit uses scripture to instruct and nurture us in righteousness.

Now that we are saved, we have the Spirit in us who brings us into the knowledge of the truth as we read the scripture. He does this either through doctrine (from the Greek word 'didaskalia' meaning 'teaching'), which usually takes the form of;

1. Reproof comes from the Greek word 'elegkos' which means evidence, as used in Hebrews 11:1. So, the Bible is a tool God uses to strengthen our conviction about the truth of the salvation we have in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the 'evidence' of things not seen.

2. Correction - from the Greek word 'epanorthosis' meaning to be straightened up again. It is to align us to God's will in our conduct.

3. Instruction - from the Greek word 'paideia' meaning tutelage, training, education, and disciplinary correction in essence it means to nurture in

righteousness.

The end goal is that we are perfect or complete and thoroughly furnished unto good works. Therefore the bible contains transformative power!

Can you take one minute to pray that the Holy Spirit will impart to your mind the understanding of scripture that you may be wise unto salvation. In Jesus name we have prayed amen!

QUESTION TWO

Why do Christians go to church?

The basic meaning of the Greek word used for church; “ekklēsia” is assembly or gathering. In ordinary Greek it most often refers to the citizens of a city gathering to decide political issues, much like the house of assembly or congress or senators of a country. But in the bible it is used to refer to a gathering of Christians. It literally means “the called-out ones”. The first mention of the word was by Jesus in Matthew 16:18.

Matthew 16:15 He said to them, But whom say you that I am?

Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16:17 And Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood has not revealed it to you, but my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also to you, That you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus was figuratively using house construction to describe the church. The word Peter is the Greek word “petros” which means piece of rock while the word “this rock” in vs 18 means rock. The rock upon which Jesus will build the church is not Peter but the revelation of Him as the Christ (Anointed or Messiah) the son of the living God as mentioned earlier by Peter in vs 16.

1 Peter 2:5 You also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:6 Why also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believes on him shall not be confounded.

1 Peter 2:7 To you therefore which believe he is precious: but to them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

1 Peter 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;

1 Peter 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

From Apostle Peter's explanation, It is evident that the church is a gathering of people who believe that Jesus died for their sins and was buried and rose again the third day. Hence, we are a people called out from the grave of sin, death and darkness into His marvelous light to show forth His praises. We are the stones that make up the church's edifice! But beyond an edifice we are a brethren - a people born out of the same womb.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

So we are part of the family of God and we have the DNA of Jesus in our spirit. So to go to church is to go to a family gathering. Notice I said family not social gathering. It is important to know that church is not primarily a social gathering because it is a supernatural gathering where supernatural activities happen. One foremost reason why we go to church is so that we can grow spiritually. The local church is God's wisdom for preserving and growing us in our relationship with him. The church is a family community. There is the global church, which consists of all Christians both in heaven and on earth and then there is the local church which consists of the physical gathering that you attend weekly. Your local church is part of the global church and it is important that you identify and are committed to a local church.

Ephesians 4:8 Why he said, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 That we from now on be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body to the edifying of itself in love.

We must understand that God is orderly and it is in His wisdom that He came into this world as a man to die for our sins and reconcile us back to himself. Beyond reconciling us to himself He desires that we grow more intimately in our walk with him and this will happen by continuous transformation as a result of encountering.

Him through his word and through other believers lest we become conformed to this world. This continuous transformation is what is called edification in Eph. 4:12.

Edification in this context means,

1. The perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry meaning the local church matures you towards the fulfillment of God's purpose for your life which is His assignment for you.

2. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, that is we all come to the intimate knowledge of the Son of God, and be transformed by that knowledge to a perfect man, which is to be purely consisting of the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. That is that we become like Jesus in words, thoughts, and actions.

3. That we from now on be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. Meaning that your doctrinal convictions are solidified in the local church and this shields you from being lured into heresies and devoured by the Devil.

4. To recognise your role in the church and function in that role faithfully. Whether it is to teach, evangelise, intercede in prayers, be hospitable, organise the church activities, plant churches, raise disciples etc.

I also want to say that being identified to a local church will do you more good than harm because if you become isolated from your spiritual tribe or family you might end up being vulnerable to the devil's attack.

QUESTION THREE

Why do Christians fast?

First, we must understand the power of understanding purpose. When the purpose of a thing or practice is unknown, we are bound to abuse the use of such a practice. Meanwhile, when the purpose of a thing is understood, we are bound to maximize its use. This concept applies to fasting. When we understand the purpose of fasting, we will be able to do it correctly and with the right motives and ultimately get the best result out of it.

So, what does it mean to fast? According to Daniel 10:3, it primarily means to abstain from eating food for a certain period of time. By extension, fasting means to starve your body of cravings for food and sometimes sleep, or other fun stuff like movies and social media, just to wait on the Lord in supplication and worship, like Daniel mentioned in Daniel 10:2.

Daniel 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.

Daniel 10:2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.

Daniel 10:3 I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

I find this scripture very powerful because there is so much to draw from it. First, it is the fact that Daniel's fast was inspired by a vision of a prophecy that was to come to pass but was being delayed. He didn't just fast because it's a spiritual activity to do. His fast was inspired by a desire to get a result, especially the manifestation of the promise given to him by revelation.

But before we start talking about the right reasons for fasting, let us explore the wrong reasons for fasting. The first wrong reason for fasting is to gain people's appraisal.

Matthew 6:16 *“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

Matthew 6:17 *But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,*

Matthew 6:18 *so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

God will reward your fasting openly when you do not do it for show-offs. The open reward of your fasting will be the open manifestation of your purpose of waiting upon the Lord. We can see this truth in the life of Jesus when he went to the wilderness to fast for 40 days and 40 nights. Now, this doesn't mean that people shouldn't know that you're fasting at all, lest it hinder the reward for your fast. Sometimes people will have to know (for instance, your lover) that you are fasting, but Jesus is speaking more about having the right motives when we are fasting.

Now, under the dispensation of grace, we don't fast to get authority over the devil or to get power to work miracles and heal the sick! But instead, we fast to put into activation or manifestation, the spiritual realities that we now have in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

Galatians 3:2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Galatians 3:4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

Galatians 3:5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—

To win God's approval, the Galatians were engaging in law-inspired Jewish practices. They began to think they could gain God's approval by their works, and Paul taught us that even the person who manifests the gifts of the Spirit and works miracles among them does it by hearing of faith. This is so important because people bring this mindset into fasting. They fast to try to get God to do something to get God to move, and Paul is saying to us here that such a mindset is not correct. It is by faith that we can please God, and it is by faith that we can walk in the supernatural. However, we need to have certain consecrations, like prayer and fasting, to subject our body and mind to the rulership of the spirit. Hence, fasting is more of a tool through which we can be transformed into the very image of our identity in Christ.

Now let us consider a very popular story in the Bible. As recorded in Matthew 17, There was a man whose son was demonically oppressed, and when He brought the son to Jesus Disciples, they couldn't heal him. So the matter got to Jesus, and He was able to finally heal the child, but His disciples came to him to ask why they couldn't heal the boy, and this was what Jesus had to say.

Matthew 17:19 *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said,
“Why could we not cast it out?”*

Matthew 17:20 *So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

Matthew 17:21 *However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”*

Now what Jesus was referring to in verse 21 was their unbelief. This is the kind of unbelief where you know God's word and believe it, but at the same time have doubt in your mind. In such a condition, your mind is not in agreement with your spirit because your mind is being influenced by the delay and negative situation that you are seeing physically. Jesus had taught the disciples faith and the potency of God's power. They had seen results previously, but this particular situation just didn't work, which caused their minds to start warring against the conviction of their spirit. This is the kind of unbelief mentioned in the book of James.

James 1:5 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

James 1:6 *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.*

James 1:7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

James 1:8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Now you must understand that, as a human, you're your spirit, soul, and body. Your spirit is the breath of life. Your body is the physical container that interacts with this earthly realm. Your soul is your personality, which is a product of the merging of your spirit and body. Your soul is who you are as far as your manner of reasoning and emotions are concerned. Now, when we were born again, it was our spirit man that primarily experienced regeneration! For in your spirit is where God's Spirit dwells. But the complete salvation of your body and soul will manifest on the resurrection morning when Jesus returns to take us home—what some call the rapture.

Until the rapture, there remains a continuous battle between the desire of your spirit man, which is Godly, full of faith, full of the power of God, etc., and your body, which is earthly, limited to the five senses, which triggers fear and doubt. All these battles happen in your soul or mind, where you process information and make decisions. I will take time to explain this concept in detail some other time, but what has this got to do with fasting? Fasting is training your body to submit to your spirit and training your spirit to rule over your body. When your body is tired and weak due to a lack of food, it is not able to fight against your spirit, and the fruits and nature of our spirit can dominate your soul!

Now, if, for instance, you mix color with water, the result you get is dye. Imagine that your body is the color and your spirit is the water. The more water you have and the less color you have, the less concentrated the dye will be, until all we see is water. That water that we end up seeing is your soul, reflecting your spiritual nature

So James talked about the plague of being double-minded, meaning that having both the spirit and body influence your soul will result in instability and will eventually weaken your faith. So fasting helps you put your body under subjection.

Did you notice that, if you read further down, Daniel saw a vision but others didn't see the same vision? It was a vision of the communication of his spirit with an angel. Others around him did not see it but were covered in trembling, for they knew something was happening.

Fasting changes us! Not God! Fasting strengthens the spirit and weakens the body, thereby strengthening our faith and love. However, it is not fasting alone that gets the job done. It is fasting and prayer! We must focus on spiritual activities more when we fast so that our bodies will begin to accommodate God's leading and direction.

You can't be fasting and watching movies or watching comedy skits on social media. That is a hunger strike. To get the most out of your fast, you must pray. That henceforth you will pray and fast with understanding so that you can reap the abundance reward of your spiritual labors.

Jude 1:20

***But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Spirit,***

I would like to draw the curtain here, but I'd like you to pray in tongues. I want you to pray for the next minute, and if you can't still pray, focus on receiving strength from your spirit over your flesh. That henceforth you will pray and fast with understanding so that you can reap the abundance reward of your spiritual labors. In Jesus name, we have prayed. Amen

QUESTION FOUR

Who ends up in heaven or hell?

God originally created the earth for humans to dwell. The earth was designed to be man's eternal abode since man was created spirit, soul and body. Man was also destined to subdue and have dominion over the earth.

Psalms 8:4 What is man, that you are mindful of him? and the son of man, that you visit him?

Psalms 8:5 For you have made him a little lower than the angels, and have crowned him with glory and honor.

Psalms 8:6 You made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet:

Psalms 8:7 All sheep and oxen, yes, and the beasts of the field;

Psalms 8:8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

However the fall of man in Genesis 3 led to man's spiritual death which was primarily eternal separation from God. The end product of this death is that man's body is corrupted and cannot live in this corrupted earth forever. The fall of Adam led to the corruption of creation. Therefore since man is spirit, soul and body, where will the spirit and soul live when the body expires? This is where the concept of sheol, hades, heaven, and hell comes. God had originally created hell for fallen angels,

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also to them on the left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Hell is the permanent destination for the devil, fallen angels but the devil succeeded at the fall of Adam to draw man into the same destiny. So the sinful man was already condemned to perish. See what Jesus said

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:18 He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.to perish in Hell but God needed to provide redeem man out of such destiny. Look at what Jesus said;

Jesus let us understand that people are already condemned to perish and the way out of that condemnation is to believe in Him. When people die today they have two possible destinations, heaven or hades. According to the parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31, it can be understood that before the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, there were 2 post death destinations for 2 categories of people, Abraham's bosom or paradise (as mentioned by Jesus to the thief beside Him on the cross in Lk. 24:43) for those who had faith in God or futuristically believed in the coming Messiah which is Jesus and hades a place of intense suffering for those who didn't believe in the coming messiah.

However, today after the death burial, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ to God's right hand in heaven anyone who dies without believing in Jesus will have their spirit and soul spend their post-death time in hades while those who believe in Jesus (including those who

were in Abraham's bosom) will have their soul and spirit be with the Lord Jesus in heaven according to 2Corinthians 5:1-10.

After the second coming of Jesus, all men will have to experience the second judgement. The second judgment for sinners who do not believe in the death burial and resurrection of Jesus will be the second death where all sinners including the devil and his fallen angels will be cast into the lake of fire where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Matthew 13:49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

Matthew 13:50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Meanwhile, those who repent of their sins and believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus are destined for an abode in the new earth where there is absolutely no suffering.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with

them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:5 And he that sat on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said to me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

If you're yet to receive Jesus into your heart the lake of fire is your eternal destiny but you can change that to a blissful eternity with Jesus by repenting of your sins today and receiving Jesus as your Lord and savior. It is only by faith in Christ Jesus that you can escape eternal condemnation and suffering. Unbelievers will be given a chance to prove their worthiness by their works before the great white throne but the bible says they will all end up in the lake of fire because by good works alone shall no man be saved!

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And whoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

So my question to you today is are you born again? Have you received Jesus as your Lord and savior. Because it doesn't matter who you are either as a celebrity or politician the bible says all people both great and small will stand before God before the great white throne and only those whose names are not found in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

If you are willing to receive Jesus into your life by believing that he dies for your sins, was buried and resurrected so your name can be written in the book of life and not be cast in the lake of fire say these prayers with me: Lord Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice on the cross for me, I believe that you are my saviour who died for me and rose again the third day for my justification. I confess you as my Lord and Savior Jesus, amen.

However, if you have received Jesus as your Lord and saviour there remains another judgement as it is not just enough to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and saviour. This judgement for us Christians will be where we get our works tested by fire and given rewards depending on if our works survive the fire like gold or get consumed in the fire like wood.

1 Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1 Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he has built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Therefore, all Christians have a responsibility to let their lives count for the Lord because our works will be judged and God will give reward to us if our work stands the test of fire. This is why you must know God's purpose for your life and fulfill it. God's will is that you save more souls and make disciples of all nations.

In conclusion, may I encourage you to have a sober reflection as touching the fate of your eternal destination. If you are saved, what about the eternity of your friends and family? What are you doing to ensure more people escape the doom of hell? Are you actively winning souls? Are you actively interceding for the spread of the gospel and for souls won for the Lord?

QUESTION FIVE

How do I retain my spirituality in a toxic environment?

First you need to be real with yourself and understand what you really mean by toxic and the degree to which it is toxic. Are you being physically assaulted? If yes you need to get out of that environment if you can! don't wait till they kill you. Are you being sexually molested? If yes, seek help. report the issue to someone who can help you. Jesus says to be wise as a dove and wise as a serpent in our relationships with people.

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.

Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves

However, if it is a matter of the people in that environment being a sinful influence to you, there are a few things that you can do. The first advice I will give you is to leave that environment if you can or try to find a healthy environment that you can be a part of from time to time. Most times it is the people around you that determine if the environment is toxic or healthy. So one thing you can do is create a healthy environment for yourself. You can plug in your headset and listen to an audio podcast or music while you focus on your work if it's an office. You can join the fellowship and form friendships with serious minded colleagues if it's a school. Try as much not to spend too much time interacting with a toxic environment. Don't make the mistake of assuming you can influence them when you truly can't. So keep a distance from them as much as you can. Also, if the toxic environment is your home, develop a culture of prayer. Praying can bring the hand of God to supernaturally intervene in the situation.

destiny, you determine if you will fulfill your destiny or not against all odds. That you had an humble background doesn't automatically disqualify you from fulfilling your glorious destiny.

Daniel 1vs15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.

The miracle that happened was that Daniel came out ten times better than the others who gave in to the influence of the negative environment. There was a time in 2020 when a friend tried to introduce me into cyber crime. I almost yielded because I really needed money to boost my business but because I fed my mind with the word of God I was able to say no. And just less than 3 years from then I am enjoying a prosperous life as a result of God's blessing that adds no sorrow.

So I want to encourage you that that toxic environment is only a temporary phase of your life. It is too temporary for you to let it get in the way of your destiny fulfillment.

Overall, you need to focus on fanning up your spiritual fervency. It is in such a situation where the scripture; “pray without ceasing is applicable”. You need to deliberately build your spiritual strength in prayer. A typical example of such is Daniel who had a fervent and consistent prayer life in Babylon which helped his conviction to be so strong that he became a major influence in a toxic environment rather than being influenced.

Dan 1vs8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

One thing you can learn from Daniel here is that he stayed in control of what he fed his body. In the context of our discussion, you can stay in control of what you feed your mind even in a toxic environment. You can choose to not feed on what others are feeding on.

Daniel 1:11-13: So Daniel said to [d]the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants."

Daniel knew that feeding on the right diet will produce a healthy resultant effect on his body. Likewise if you feed your mind with healthy information you will be able to overcome the influence that comes with a toxic environment. This is why your background does not determine your

QUESTION SIX

How do I stop masturbating?

When people ask questions like this, it is usually good to start by addressing the issue from its root. For an unbeliever, it is a sinful nature problem.

Romans 7:20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.(NKJV)

In Romans 7, the apostle Paul was talking about how the law, which is a set of instructions telling us what not to do, cannot help us attain purity from sin. Every human on earth has a conscience, which is one of the ways our spirit communicates with our soul. It's either a hardened conscience (which happens over time when they keep ignoring it) or a weak conscience. Conscience is the inherent ability to differentiate between what is good and bad. That in itself is a law guiding every human being on earth today.

Romans 2:14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

Romans 2:15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)(NKJV)

So every human has the capacity to tell what is sinful and what isn't; they just may not be strong enough to say no to their sinful desires, which lures them away from God's will. However, the sinful nature

problem is resolved in the redemptive works of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

Romans 8:4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The redemptive work of Jesus fulfilled the demand of sin, so we no longer have to fulfill the law to gain acceptance with God, but by believing in Jesus and confessing Him as our lord and savior, we are indeed saved. Also, the redemptive works of Jesus, that is, His death, burial, and resurrection, qualify us to experience the new birth. In this context, the death of Jesus signifies the death of the old sinful nature, and His resurrection signifies the beginning of the new nature.

Ephesians 2:1

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, Ephesians 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Ephesians 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive

**together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in
the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (NKJV)**

The new birth confirms our salvation from the sinful nature. So the final solution to sin is the salvation that we receive in Christ Jesus. However, now that you're a Christian, there needs to be some work done for you to live the reality of who you have become in your inner man. You need to renew your mind to be transformed; to be transformed means to grow up into the full features of your nature. It's like when a caterpillar grows into a beautiful butterfly with wings; it is a growth process during which you're recommended to keep feeding on the word of God, which continually reaffirms to you your identity in Christ. How then does this apply to breaking free from masturbation?

**Romans 6:1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can
show us more and more kindness and forgiveness?**

**Romans 6:2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we
continue to live in it?**

**Romans 6:3 Or have you forgotten that when we became Christians
and were baptized to become one with Christ Jesus, we died with
him?**

**Romans 6:4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And
just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the
Father, now we also may live new lives.**

**Romans 6:5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will
also be raised as he was.**

**Romans 6:6 Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin
might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.**

**Romans 6:7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the
power of sin. (NLT)**

The book of Romans is so powerful that I always recommend it to those struggling with sin. You need to meditate on such words until your mind is fully purged of the garbage with which it was filled before you came to the Lord. Go back and read the above scripture again. Did you notice how it says you died to sin when Christ died to sin? The implication of this is that you now have the capacity to say no to sin. It doesn't mean you will not be presented with the opportunity to sin. It simply means you now have the capacity to say no to your lustful desires. You can actually say no to sin and yes to God. You can actually replace sinful actions with spiritual activities like Bible study, prayer, and evangelism. See what the scripture says.

Romans 6:9 We are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

Romans 6:10 He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God.

Romans 6:11 So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires.

Romans 6:13 Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.

Romans 6:14 Sin is no longer your master, for you are no longer subject to the law, which enslaves you to sin. Instead, you are free by God's grace. (NLT)

You need to know that you can! With the new spirit you received on the inside of you, you can now live above sin. You may be thinking, Oh, I know these things; I have read them before. But you need to understand

that the renewal of the mind is a process, like when you wash a stained cloth, you have to use the right tool to wash it, and you have to keep washing it because you will keep using it, which also means you have to be careful of how you use it. While you're renewing your mind with God's word, you need to keep track of the kinds of contents that appeal to your mind. They can be sexually arousing comedy skits or movies on social media or TV, sexually arousing conversations from friends around you, or even sexually stimulating beverages and food. You have to stay clear of such and retrain your mind to desire more edifying habits like preaching the gospel, reading school, career, or Christian books, and engaging in spiritual activities with other church members.

The above instructions are a general biblical approach to overcoming sinful habits. The length of time this process will take depends on you and not God; it depends on how ready you are to yield your body as an instrument of righteousness by first controlling what you feed your mind. You need to control what you feed your thoughts and what you think about to be able to control the actions that you produce. Also, I would typically encourage you to be accountable to someone on this journey. You can reach out to your discipler, pastor, or me at victor.ojo@charisfolks.org for further counseling and guidance.

So next time the opportunity to masturbate comes, break out of the lustful thoughts by saying to yourself "I am dead to sin and alive to God; I cannot commit this sin". Then move away from your closet to the public if it is possible in that instant. If not, get up and pray. Replace that lustful action with a spiritual one. So don't pray and fast to break free from sin because you are already dead to sin if you are a believer; rather, pray and fast while meditating on scriptural truths that affirm your deliverance from sin to get your mind renewed and eventually be transformed.

May God grant you wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ so that you will become deeply acquainted with your new creation identity and that your experiences will align accordingly. Amen.

QUESTION SIX

Why is kissing during courtship/dating bad?

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (NKJV)

In the scripture above, we are told that marriage is honourable among 'all'. What does the writer of Hebrew refer to as 'all'? He is referring to the traits he is listing in the chapter, which are the true demonstration of brotherly love, because in Hebrews 13 vs. 1, he talked about letting brotherly love continue. Brotherly love is from the Greek word 'Philadelphia' which also means fraternal affection or brotherly kindness. It's more like family love, but more specifically, it refers to love between siblings who are of the same womb. Philadelphia combines two words, which are 'philos' (meaning beloved) and 'adelphos' (meaning brothers of the same womb). Now see how the Bible instructs us to express this love:

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

1 Peter 1:23: having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, (NKJV)

We are to love one another with a pure heart! Please note that this word is usually used to address fellow believers. The Bible teaches us to have a deeper love for other Christians compared to unbelievers. It is with this love that we're expected to build marital relationships. This means that

you will choose to date someone who is a believer, and you will love this fellow with a pure heart and vice-versa. Meaning there will be no ulterior motives such as sexual pleasure or seeking financial security attached. If you are in a relationship that's not based on love from a pure heart, you're most likely in the wrong relationship because one or both of you will exploit each other.

It is based on this brotherly love that we are now told that two people who are practicing brotherly love will keep the bed undefiled both before and after marriage. He says God will judge fornicators (those who engage in sexual sins before marriage) and adulterers (those who engage in sexual sins with other people different from their spouse during marriage).

God is not against you dating as long as you're with the right person and practicing courtship correctly and not sinfully. In fact, Jesus Christ came through the virgin Mary while she was in courtship with Joseph. God didn't choose a 'single and searching' virgin but an engaged virgin. Later on, during and after Jesus' conception, we see the wisdom in this selection made by God through the role that Joseph played in preserving the life of the Savior of the world while he was a baby. However, such wouldn't have been possible if Mary and Joseph had not kept the bed undefiled during their courtship. Therefore, there is a possibility of you throwing away the opportunity to fulfill God's purpose for your life if you engage in premarital sex. For instance, Mary may have been disqualified from being the mother of the saviour of the world if she had defiled herself premaritally.

Now we must understand that sin is a process. It doesn't just happen spontaneously. According to the scripture in James 1vs 14-16 we're told

how sin is birthed by the one being lured away and enticed by their own desires.

James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

James 1:15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

James 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.(NKJV)

In other words, sin is first processed subconsciously or consciously in our soul before being given expression in our body. For example, our bodies will sometimes desire sex, especially as youths, but it starts with information we have stored in our minds through what we hear or see, and then it becomes a thought. If such thought is entertained, it gains more ground to find expression in 'not too grievous' actions like masturbating and kissing. Because your mind still sees fornication as just a sexual activity, you forget that kissing is also a sexual activity. Kissing is usually the starting point, and the devil will definitely keep luring you down that dark path if you keep feeding your lustful desires.

You risk giving full expression to your lustful desires when you start kissing in your relationships. It is advisable to just wait; waiting till you're married before kissing and practicing sex is God's will. The fact that premarital sex is trending doesn't make it right. Remember, the Bible says that God will judge fornicators and adulterers? However, the truth is that if you both love each other with a pure heart, you will maintain sexual purity in your relationship and marriage.

May God help you to stay pure for His glory, in Jesus name.

Conclusion

The Godly principles mentioned in this book can only be acted upon by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. You need to be saved or born again to be indwelt by God's spirit lest you become only a reader and not a doer of God's word. What you need to do to be saved is believe that Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and rose up on the third day for your justification. This is the gospel! If you believe, confess these words: "Lord Jesus, I believe that you died for my sins and resurrected the third day for my justification; I repent from my sins and confess you as my Lord; therefore, all my sins have been blotted out, and the Holy Spirit now dwells in my heart. Amen". Congratulations! You are now a child of God and on your way to living an excellent Christian life.

The next step is to grow more intimate in your relationship with God through having a Spirit-filled prayer life. If you are saved and desire to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, I want you to know that the requirements for you to experience this is to first be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, which makes you a child of God, and second, to desire this experience. Now, prayerfully say these words: "Father, I thank you for the redemptive work of Jesus; I thank you for saving me and making me your child; right now, I believe that the Holy Spirit is in and upon me; I am filled with the Holy Spirit; therefore, I can pray to God in tongues, and I will pray to God with tongues now. Amen". Now, go ahead and begin to pray to God in tongues. There you go! Keep praying to God in tongues. Keep praying!

EXERCISE

Write down 5 actions you'll stop doing and 5 actions you'll start doing because of this book.

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List 5 things you learnt after reading this book

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Let's Connect!

Do you have questions or prayer requests?

Send your email to victor.ojo@charisfolks.org

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