

*My personal
experiences
In Heaven*



A woman's true Testimony
By Roland S. ACHIRI

INTRODUCTION

A remarkable experience for someone who least expected it. To others, she was dead for four days and then came back to life. But to her, she was having quite a different experience and in a different world. Far from being unconscious or in a strange mental state, Mama Domitile rather recounts with clarity what she saw and the conversations she had with those she encountered with such logic that leaves no place to doubt.

This book answers the question of what happens to the soul of man after death. The place of the righteous as opposed to that of the sinner is clearly highlighted.

Commanded to make the world know the truth immediately she came back to life, she now recounts her story with a sense of awe and urgency. Read it and take the right disposition to equally secure for yourself an eternity in the right place prepared and reserved only for the righteous in Christ.

God speaks. And the astonishing thing is the vessels He sometimes chooses to communicate His word and prove His infinite wisdom. The important thing is that those who receive the given word obey and abide by its demands.

I have read the testimonies of many whom God, through His grace in Jesus Christ has permitted to have a glimpse of His heavenly glory. But the testimony of Mama Domitile is quite extra-ordinary in that it communicates the gospel message in such a literal and straightforward manner and equally deals with many common day to day issues in ordinary life. The amazing thing is the absolute biblical correctness of the conversations that she had with the different personalities encountered.

Mama Domitile of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Former Zaire) had her testimony originally recorded in one of the Zairian languages, and was then translated into English for the purpose of a wider distribution. I pray God will speak to you as you read this astounding truth.

MAMA DOMITILE SPEAKS

God has done great wonders in my life. And I am obliged to share with you all what He has shown me. I would add by saying it will be difficult for me to recount to you all what I saw and heard. However, I will endeavour to present the essential points to the best of my ability. Before entering the depth of this story, permit me to briefly make you know a bit about my life before my death.

I was born into a Catholic family and grew up in the warmth of this church. I contracted my religious marriage in April 1968. My husband and I were very devoted and loved our religion. Everyday, I consecrated a lot of my time in prayers. I witnessed the establishment of many “sects” as we used to call them then. But I never knew there was going to be a time I was going to change from my family’s religious attachment.

One day, as I was sitting on a chair in my house resting, I fell asleep. It was during this time that my story began in the form of a dream. So, as I slept off, I had this remarkable dream. In my dream, I heard someone knock at the door and asked me to open it for he wanted to talk with me.

I ran to open him the door. But as I was approaching the door, he said to me, “Wait, don’t open. You are hurrying to open, but is your house clean enough for me to come in and talk with you?” Then I turned and looked around me. There all around me was sand, dust, all sorts of rubbish and dirty water. Seeing the mess, I answered him, “Yes, my house is truly dirty.” Then he said to me, “I am very clean. I cannot enter into a house that is in such a bad state. So, I have to go back. Meanwhile, I will leave you with a Bible reference to read –

1 Peter 4:6

“For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”

When he left, I woke up from my sleep. Immediately, I looked all around but saw nobody. Surprised, I went out with the hope of finding the person who had been talking with me but saw nobody. I then reflected on the dream for long and was worried because of the unclean state of my house as seen in the dream.

I did not know how to read or write. So I went to one of my neighbours who had the habit of reading the Bible. My intention was to share with him my dream and also ask him to read to me the Bible portion given to me in the dream. Having recounted to him my story, he told me, “The house you saw in your dream is not the one you are living in, but it is your heart. The dirt you saw are your sins.” I said to him, “I am a child of God. I pray everyday and often confess my sins whenever I offend God or my neighbour. Why should this man tell me I have sins in my heart?”

I left him and went to my own house sad. Arriving home, I tried to do my house chores but could not. I went out to continue doing my work. Yet, I was still not at ease. I went back into my room to pray. In my prayers, I began crying and producing words I had never used before. I was saying, “Oh God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, help me. Have pity on my sins.” I stayed long in prayers. It was at this moment that I was filled with the Holy Spirit and through His intermediary, I began to discover many things.

I even realised the difference between the person who had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the one who had not. The person who has not got the Holy Spirit cannot recognise his sins. He is incapable of distinguishing between the good he is supposed to do and the evil he is supposed to avoid. Whereas, the person with the Holy Spirit recognises himself as a sinner every time he falls into sin.

Of course, he does not relent to ask for forgiveness from God with a firm determination of not returning to that very sin. Before I had the Holy Spirit, I thought I was living a sinless and truthful life. But when I received Him, He revealed to me the best procedure to follow in order to receive the forgiveness of God.

God’s forgiveness is not obtained because one often goes to the priest to confess his or her sins every now and then. But true forgiveness is received when one truly regrets of his sins with a firm resolution of not going back to sin again.

As for me, as soon as the Holy Spirit revealed to me my sins, I immediately implored God’s forgiveness for all my sins. And since that day, I have had the peace of mind I had been in search of, for quite a long time. I felt light in my heart and my relationship with God became sincere.

Shortly after this experience, I went one day to the church to pray with others as usual. During prayers, the Holy Spirit revealed the problems of every member of the prayer group to me. At the end of the prayer session, I seized the opportunity to tell everyone his or her problems according to the revelations I had received. All of them with the exception of none doubted my source and went on to say the Holy Spirit existed only in the days of the apostles and that what was in me was not the Holy Spirit but a demon. They also told me that if I needed this demon to be cast out, I had to undergo exorcism.

Next, they asked me to kneel down so that they could pray for me and also apply holy water on me for the purpose of ablutions. The Holy Spirit told me never to accept their proposal. He said, “If you accept, you will return to your old sinful state.” I refused all what they asked me to do and consequently, I was excommunicated and chased out of the church.

I went back home neither worried nor sad, but rather joyful. Getting home, I informed my husband that I had been excommunicated from Catholicism. When he heard this, he did

not hide his anger and went on to say, "We are married in the bosom of the Catholic Church and we ought to remain there together. I am very unhappy about what has happened and I don't have any reason to defend or keep you in my house. The only thing I can tell you is that you must pack your things and go away from here."

I started putting my things in my bag because to me, it was preferable to leave my husband than to abandon the way of God. At the moment I was about leaving my marital home, I took time to pray and confided my situation to the Lord. I was surprised by His response: "You don't have to leave your home. Stay here, for your husband will accept Me also."

I obeyed the Lord's instruction and stayed with my husband. Meanwhile, my relationship with him kept worsening. He began persecuting me a lot. In spite of this suffering, I persistently prayed for his conversion. God answered my prayers and his conversion was realised. What happened next was that he too was chased out of the Catholic Church.

When the doors of the Catholic Church were shut on us, we were welcomed in a Protestant church and we began praying with them. One day, the pastor announced that all young converts had to undergo water baptism. We did not hesitate in letting him know that we had been baptised in the Catholic Church and that it was not normal to be baptised twice. He answered and said, "Our baptism is different from what you have received in the Catholic Church. If you refuse it, you will no longer be a part of our religion." We were again kicked out of a church because according to us, double baptism was sin before God.

While at home, we started praying and saying; "Lord, tell us what we are going to do now. The Catholics have excommunicated us because of our experiences with the Holy Spirit. The Protestants have shut their doors on us because we refused to receive their baptism. Lord, what are we going to do now?"

As we were praying at home, something great began happening in the Catholic Church. The Holy Spirit descended on some of their loyal Christians and they too were on their turn excommunicated. We heard of this and all those who were driven away came and sought and joined us and together, we formed a sizeable prayer group.

The priests got in touch with our activities and due to jealousy; they went as far as taking us to court. They claimed that we were not religious but a band of rebels that had arisen against the political authorities. By this accusation, we were highly suspected by the security agents and all what we did was strictly monitored by the police.

We then withdrew ourselves into the bush for more prayers, asking the Lord to tell us what to do next. For one week, we had not yet received any answers from the Lord. A greater part of our group got discouraged and withdrew to their homes. Twelve of us persisted - eight men and four women with a firm determination of praying until God told us what to do next. We even decided that if God did not reply us, we would never eat, drink or go back to our houses. We continued praying for two days and on the third day, something astounding happened, and that was my death. I was neither sick nor was I in need of any medical attention. On the contrary, I was quite sound.

To others, I was dead. But to me, I was having quite a different experience. While in prayers, I suddenly saw two people walking towards us. They were huge and were dressed in bright white robes. They looked alike and were neither blacks nor whites. I was afraid. As they got close to us, they came and stopped by my side. I thought of running away but decided to stay on. I opened my eyes with the intention of looking at them.

I then closed my eyes again to continue praying. Immediately I closed my eyes, I saw them again very close to me. Of a sudden, they both touched me and said, "Stand up and let's go." They had very beautiful voices and were full of sympathy. Every time I tried to stand up to go with them, I felt myself as heavy as a cow. Then I said to them, "I really desire to go

with you but why am I so heavy?" They drew closer and removed something very heavy from me having the form of a coat.

This sort of a coat was thrown on the ground and I felt myself so light and was able to go with them. When this coat fell off from me, I saw my physical self falling down and it was at this moment that I died. But to me, I was still alive because I did not know that by pulling off that coat meant my dying physically.

What really impressed me on the way as I was walking with them was the process of transformation that my body underwent. I realised my body had become so beautiful and resembled theirs. I was so surprised and said to them, "So a beautiful body like this one exist! Meanwhile on earth we have very ugly bodies!" They laughed at length and then said to me: "Why do you say meaningless things? Your suggestions reveal that you are one who is not used to reading your Bible." They emphasised to me that if someone does not read his Bible, even if he has been a Christian for long and is very intelligent, he cannot know the secrets of God. "If you had the habit of reading your Bible, you would have known what 1 Corinthians 15:40 says:"

There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

We continued our journey until we got to a very nice city. In this city, certain things have earthly resemblance but most are quite different. As we approached, I saw a great light and our bodies became even more beautiful and radiant than before. I turned to look behind from where we were coming but everything was as dark as the night. I spoke and said to those with whom I was travelling, "When we left the earth, there was sun light, where then is the darkness coming from?"

They informed me that, "This obscurity is because the earth is full of evil." I immediately thought of my friends with whom I was praying. I then told my co-travellers that they should accompany me to the earth, having in mind the intention of withdrawing my prayer mates from that darkness. They mocked at me saying, "When we look on the earth and see people singing, dancing, playing and laughing, this brings us sadness. On earth, you think that you have light, but in heaven we see you in darkness. If you are now able to see this darkness, it is because you have come here."

After a moment, I saw a car approaching with three occupants. Surprised, I said, "Ah! There are also vehicles here as we have on earth." They went on to tell me that, "This vehicle is that which does transportation between heaven and earth, carrying people whom you on earth consider as dead. It is a vehicle that carries only saints. That is, true Christians. Those who die in purity and holiness. It does not carry pagans or those who die in their sins." I said to them, "I am a baptised Christian, why have I not been carried in it?" They told me, "First and foremost, this vehicle cannot carry a sinner like you; and secondly you have not finished your stay on earth. You have not come here definitely. You must still stay on earth, in your home."

While they were still talking with me, the vehicle came and by-passed us. And they said to me: "You see these three persons in this vehicle? They are those who have died on the earth without any sin in them. That is why the envoy of God has gone and collected them." As the vehicle was making its way, I heard people singing with beautiful voices. I asked them who the people singing with such charming voices were. And they said, "They are the people of this country."

"They are singing in welcome of the new comers conveyed in the vehicle." I then told them, "Hurry-up so that they can also come and sing to me." They both said to me, "Even if you run, they can never sing to you because you were not transported in that vehicle." "I

don't care." I said. "Nevertheless, let's move faster so that I can see them and listen to the songs they are singing."

We began to run and at a little distance to the place, I saw a great country ahead of us. It had no beginning or end. It was greater and more beautiful than any of the most beautiful cities on earth. They said to me, "The country you are seeing is what you on earth call paradise. Only those who walk righteously can enter there. They come to rest here." But when we got to the entrance, I tried to enter, but my companions barred the way. Then they said to me, "Wait here."

From where I was standing outside, I saw someone from the middle of the city making his way towards us. He was a very tall and large person. I could neither see the limit of his size nor height. He came and stood in front of me and began to cry. He wept for a while and his tears were like drops of rain. After that, he spoke to me saying, "I saw you on earth praying with persistence. If you had the habit of praying like you did this last time, you would have always stayed in contact with us." I said to him, "So, when we pray on earth, our prayers reach you! Do you hear us?" "Yes." He replied. Then, I went on to ask him; "But who are you?" He laughed and then said to me, "You don't have any right to ask who I am."

I then changed my conversation and said to him, "When we prayed on the earth for more than one week, why did God not answer us?" He replied by asking me another question: "Why did you not want to be baptised?" I said to him we were already baptised. He asked me, "What baptism did you receive?" I said to him, "The priest who was baptising us took water in a cup and sprinkled it on each one of our heads three times saying, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'" He asked me, "So you think with that you accepted Christ as your personal Saviour and became a Christian?"

He asked me again: "Do you know how our Lord Jesus Christ was baptised?" I said to him, "I know that the Lord was baptised, but it is the way He was baptised that I do not know." He told me, "Our Lord Jesus was baptised in the middle of a great river known as Jordan. That is, baptism by immersion. If any person wants to follow Him, he should be baptised in the same manner."

He added, "If baptism were a matter of pouring a little water on one's head, then our Lord Jesus Christ would have invited John the Baptist to come to the house and baptise Him there. The Lord Jesus, knowing the importance of baptism by immersion went to the bush far away from town to meet John the Baptist in the Jordan River and be baptised of him. Therefore, to become a child of God and in order to have your prayers answered you must undergo baptism by immersion."

After this long explanation, he showed me two categories of Christians on earth - The Catholics and the Protestants. He went on to tell me, "On earth people care a lot about how they are called, but do you think God cares about your appellations? He looks on the true Christian. That is, the one who has accepted the Lord Jesus and who has assigned for himself the duty of not committing sin." When I looked at the Catholic group, I saw that they were many and were praying in unison.

In my mind, I was very happy and was saying within me, "There are many of them. They are really waiting and praying together." And I felt proud of this. But suddenly, I saw people coming with luggages on their heads. Everyone laid down his luggage and sat by it. This provoked me to ask: "You told me that these people are Catholics, why is it that every one of them is carrying a luggage?" He told me that, "They are Catholics who have come to pray. The luggages they are carrying are cigarettes, lies telling, sexual immorality, theft, murder..."

"Therefore, these luggages are sins before God?" I asked. He replied me: "From today, I am teaching you from my mouth. Know that no thief, no liar, no drunkard can see God." I said to him, "Our Lord Jesus Christ in the marriage ceremony in Cana transformed water into wine and people drank and were happy. Why then is it that the drinking of alcohol

is considered as sin before God?" He felt very sorry for me and then asked me: "Do you know the work of the one who is drunk? His work is sin. That is, from drinking the drunkard moves straight to commit sin. But when our Lord Jesus Christ transformed water into wine; among the invitees in the marriage who drank this wine, how many of them got drunk?" I answered by saying I didn't know.

He said to me; "Listen, if anybody on earth wants to commit sin, he should just go on committing them according to his lust. He should never say 'Our Lord Jesus did this or that.' Because the water that Jesus transformed into wine and all those who drank it never got drunk. Hence, all the invitees who attended the wedding ceremony at Cana having drunk this wine were full of joy and were all very happy. Instead of committing sins, they praised God. Thus, our Lord Jesus Christ did not make wine that intoxicates, but wine that incites joy."

After that I said, "Among the Protestants, it is forbidden to drink wine and smoke tobacco, why then is it that some of them have luggages like the Catholics?" He said to me, "Amongst the Protestants, there are many Christians that drink and smoke in hiding." I then said to him: "There are many denominations on earth. Please, show me the right church in which I can worship when I would have gone back to the earth in order to be sure of eternal life."

He then told, "First and foremost, you should know that there are quite two different things - following God and following a church. To follow God means putting His word in practice whereas, following a church means to clearly respect the laws of a church and not those of God. For example, you will find two Christians, one Catholic and the other Protestant. If the Catholic commits an act like drinks alcohol, the Protestant Christian will consider it as sin, but the Catholic on his part would say to drink alcohol is not sin because his church does not condemn the act of drinking."

"That is what I term following a church instead of following the word of God. Here, we don't care about your churches but what matters is following the Holy Christ." Then he permitted me to enter that wonderful country. He was a very great man. Inside, I saw so many people and all of them were happy and praising God. He said to me, "Look at this beautiful country. All those whom you see here are Christians – saints and without sin. That is what corrupts people where you come from. It is only in this country that one can come and rest. But no sinner can enter here." While he was talking to me, I was thinking in my mind how I would meet all the members of my family who had died and people of all colours and sex – black and white, men and women.

I saw something extraordinary. All of them had the same face and resembled each other, and were all in uniform – white robes. There were neither men nor women, black or white, great or small. Having foreknown my thoughts, he said: "Do not fool yourself in your thoughts. Here, there is no distinction based on colour, sex or height. All are the same. If someone dies on earth, whether such a one is black or white, man or woman, big or small, he leaves on earth what distinguishes him from others before reaching here. This helps him to be able to wear a new heavenly body. This beautiful country where these holy souls stay is temporary. The souls are waiting for the last judgment to enter their eternal home which is the New Jerusalem, a place of perpetual bliss."

Now, he said, "I will show you where all the sinners who died in the state of sin are found." We got to a place where there was a great swamp and its water had the colour of blood. On the other side of the swamp, there were people who were suffering and crying. Mosquitoes were biting them and they were scratching and beating themselves everywhere on their bodies without ceasing.

When I saw this, I was seized by a great sorrow and began crying also. My companion said to me: "Do not cry. What is important is to abandon sin and accept Christ as your personal Saviour." As he talked, I heard those people lamenting bitterly and saying: "Almighty God, it is better you remove us from this place and throw us into fire so that we

can be consumed completely than enduring this kind of suffering.” He said to me, “Listen to the cry of liars! They think that one day, they shall be thrown into fire where their bodies shall be completely ruined. What is certain is that all of them will be thrown into eternal fire. Their bodies will be burnt but they shall not die. And their suffering will be continued and more severe than what they are receiving now.”

I told him, “The Catholics say: ‘when one of us dies, we perform the requiem mass. We pray for the forgiveness of his sins and for his ascension to paradise.’” He asked me: “In which biblical passage is this procedure mentioned?” I answered, “I don’t know how to read the Bible, but what I know is that in the bosom of the Catholic Church, this procedure is rigorously respected.” He then told me plainly that it was false because it was not biblical. He said, “All those who practice it are in error because forgiveness and sanctification can be obtained only while one is on the earth and not in heaven. No matter the sins a man commits, if he sincerely asks for pardon from God while still on the earth, it will be granted him without any further form of procedure. But if he didn’t confess his sins on earth with a firm resolution of not going back to them again, if he dies while in this sinful state, even if his relatives pray from morning to evening, or make mass for ten years, forgiveness can never be granted him. He died a sinner and will remain a sinner to occupy the place reserved for sinners.”

After some time, he showed me fire and then said to me, “This is what you call on earth hell.” I saw a large well in which I perceived certain things like barrels. He went on to tell me: “These barrels that you have just seen play the role of preserving fire. This fire is not yet functioning but does exist. No sinner has yet been thrown into it because the moment has not yet come. As you have just seen, all the sinners here are enduring their suffering out of it. They are also waiting for the last day when the saints shall enter into the heavenly Jerusalem. It is at this moment that they shall also enter into this fire for all eternity.”

After this he told me: “Take this stone and throw it into this well and you will see what will happen.” When I threw the stone, I heard a wild crackling noise like that of thunder. In panic, I ran and fell backwards thinking I had been engulfed by the monstrous fire. This made me to cry a lot.

He said to me: “When you are told on earth to pray and avoid committing sin, you say they are telling you stories. Meanwhile God has sent you pastors, evangelists..., some coming from far to preach you His word. Yet you only prefer to abide in evil. From today you have seen with your eyes and heard with your ears. If you continue to live on earth in sin, it is fire that is waiting for you here.”

After these words, he led me to a place where only children were found. There were many children. Among them were some happy ones. They were playing, clapping their hands and blessing the Lord. Others were sad and had their hands crossed. I asked: “Why are some happy and others sad?” He answered, “Those who are sad are those who were killed by certain people on earth. Amongst them are those whom their mothers killed in abortion. Others were killed during war or during profane sacrifices. Etc”

In all these cases, each child was holding in hand the object with which he or she was killed. He said, “Therefore, if you killed twenty children, they are waiting for you here with the instrument with which you killed them. If you used drugs to remove a pregnancy no matter how young, know that you killed a child and that child is waiting for you here. On the last day, everyone will see all those to whom he did some good or some evil.”

After this explanation, he took me to a place where many documents were kept. He then said to me, “It is here that everyone’s works on earth are registered from birth to death.” There were two ways. One led to hell and the other to paradise. He told me, “Everyone on earth whether Christian or pagan who dies must first pass here. Reaching here, if you didn’t know how to read, you will eventually start to read just like one who studied while on earth.

If your eyes were blind, they will immediately open so that you can see your acts committed on earth. It is from the works done on earth that one is condemned or justified.”

I did not know how to read but when I entered that place, I began to read. I saw my files in front of me carrying my name “Mama Domitile.” In the following pages I saw what I had been doing and saying on earth from birth until the day I followed my companions. I was following the story of my life in the same manner just as one watches a film or television screen. All the words every one of us say and all what every one of us do are well filmed and registered respectively.

Any person who dies being a thief, an adulterer etc, will see himself doing the same act. When I saw all what I did, I felt very ashamed and tried to remove my eyes from them by either looking up or down, to the right or the left. But every where I directed my eyes, those images accompanied them. I started crying. He told me, “On earth, you cannot hide anything from God. Everything is seen and registered here.”

“All those who struggle to commit sin in hiding be it in the day or in the night, should know that everything is known and seen in heaven. Everyone has his file which registers everything he does.” I asked him this question: “Now that all my sins have been registered here, what should I do in order to obtain forgiveness for them?” He told me that, “The forgiveness of God can be obtained only while on earth. While here, one waits for two things which are condemnation or justification; sadness or happiness.”

I cried out and pleaded that he should send me back to the earth so that I can sincerely seek for the forgiveness of my many sins. While I was pleading, he showed me the earth and it was full of darkness. In the midst of this darkness, I saw animals walking in mud and eating garbage, quarrelling and making a lot of noise. He asked me: “What have you seen in the midst of this darkness?” I answered “Animals having the shape of pigs.” He told me they were not pigs but human beings. That is, those who are not Christians. They are just like pigs on earth. Even if a pagan eats well, dresses well and occupies a high position in the society, he still resembles a pig. He hasn’t got any value before God.

Again, he showed me in this darkness something far off resembling the skin of a cow producing a foul odour. He then asked me: “What is that?” I said it was the skin of a cow. But he said: “No. It is not the skin of a cow but your own skin.” I was very surprised to see how my body had become. He then said to me, “While you have not even spent much time here, see how your body has become. On earth you eat well, dress well, you get jealous and take good care of yourselves considering yourselves as very valuable beings. But you have seen what your body has become a few days after your death.”

“It is good and better to heal your souls than occupying yourselves with your bodies which are mere dust. Here, we have shown you everything. When you return on earth, endeavour to communicate to others what you have seen. Do not be selfish with what you have seen and heard here.” Having given me this advice, he gave an order to others to send me back to earth.

In my mind, I was strongly saying that to return back to the earth to confess my sins would be good but seeing the darkness and the evil that covered the world, I did not want to return there again. I told them, “I kindly beg you to let me live with you because I am not interested in going back to the earth.” But they refused and forced me to take my body and return back to the earth. Having sniffed, I came back to life and immediately asked for water to bathe myself!

From that day on, I took the firm resolution of not committing sins any more. I immediately asked for the forgiveness of all the sins I had committed before. Whenever I see anybody committing sin, I pity him having so much sorrow in my heart because he does not know what is waiting for him in the hereafter.

MY CONCLUSION

Mama Domitile could have been of any religious background. But God used her background as a means to communicate the message of salvation not just to a category of people but to the whole of humanity. Every body needs to know the truth that leads to eternal life as well as avoid all wrong doctrines that bring damnation.

At the institutional level, I would say that most Protestant churches today do not meet the standards described in Mama Domitile's testimony. They too need repentance and to a larger extent, revival. Individually, you have known the truth that gives salvation. And the decision is yours to make.

Some people use tricks and violent means like murder, gang raping, torture etc to propagate or defend their religious beliefs. But it is clear that God who is holy, good and just cannot use such evil means to propagate Himself. It is therefore evident that the Evil force that is present in the world is the inspirer and propagator of such evil actions. Those who have been unwittingly manipulated and held captive by his power can also find deliverance in the power of Christ.

God created man and gave him freewill. And even though God knows that salvation can be found only in Him, yet He does not force anybody to come to Him. We have to make that decision. On the last day, you will stand before God as an individual to give an account of your life. And the decision you make now while still on earth of either receiving or rejecting God's grace through Jesus Christ will be the determining factor for your justification or condemnation. There is eternity in hell. But there is no eternal life in hell. Eternal life is to have life as God has it. It is to have life with all its abundant accompanying blessings to last forever and ever. Eternal life can be found only in God; and Jesus Christ is the only giver of eternal life to man. The decision you make in receiving Him as your personal Saviour is determinant in obtaining this eternal life.

Sin creeps into men's lives little by little and before they know, they are held captive by its power. But only Jesus Christ can set you free from the grip of sin and give you a permanent peace with God. Salvation is not a matter of chance. It is rather a matter of choice. The need for you to cry out to God for forgiveness and to invite the Lord Jesus into your heart to be your personal Lord and Saviour is imperative. The time to act is now. Right before you is the opportunity to secure for yourself a glorious and eternal destiny in heaven. Don't let the material things of this life, the pleasures and fascinations of the world, or the philosophies of men to blind you from the reality of eternity.

While some have chosen to doubt the existence of God, others do know Him and are in a harmonious relationship with Him. Many people spend their lifetime defending systems, ideologies and institutions even though such are on the sinking sand and shall meet with an utter end. But the important thing to do is to seek salvation. Since many have deceived themselves in thinking they are Christians when they are not, and since many have not yet known what it truly means to be saved, it is therefore important for us to know and follow the simple steps that lead to salvation. This has been put in an A, B, C, procedure.

ADMIT that you are a sinner and that by your personal endeavours you cannot be saved. *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

BELIEVE that Jesus Christ died on the cross to cleanse your sins so that you can inherit His righteousness. *"For with the heart man believes unto righteousness" (Romans 10:9-10a).* By believing, you are to depend solely on this work of grace to be saved.

CONFESS your sins to God through Jesus Christ. Also confess Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour and invite Him into your life. *"If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1John 1:9).*

DENY AND DENOUNCE the works of darkness and continue in a steadfast relationship with Christ. *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness” (2 Corinthians 6:4).*

God knows you. He loves you and wants to have a personal relationship with you. To make a decision for Christ, and receive His forgiveness is the most important thing that can happen to you. To make a prayer of commitment and receive God’s forgiveness, you need to pray to God if possible and preferably in a quiet place and make peace with Him in a prayer like the one mentioned below.

Most gracious God, I come to you this day in total repentance. I plead that you forgive all my sins (name those you can) and wash them with the precious blood of Jesus. I also accept and receive Jesus into my life to be my personal Lord and Saviour. Help me to live the rest of my life to please and serve You. This I pray and thank You for saving me through Your dear Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you have done this in sincerity, then know that God has forgiven you totally. Praise God, you are saved. Salvation is personal. So, do not allow anybody or adverse situations to influence you negatively on your decision. What you need to do is talk to God daily in prayers as well as obtain and study your Bible daily too. Where you worship matters a lot, because it can either help bring you closer to God or take you further away from God. Having known the truth, I counsel that you seek for a spiritual and committed spiritual church where its worshippers are truly born again Christians and prove to lead a righteous lifestyle.

In my own way, permit me to end by leaving you with a portion of scripture that summarizes the uncompromising principle about salvation: 2 Timothy 2:19.

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His.” And “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

This quotation emphasizes three very important truths:

- 1) That God knows those who belong to Him and are part of His kingdom.
- 2) That those who belong to God are in Christ.
- 3) That those who are in Christ are supposed to avoid sin.

Our God is good and gracious. As His child, (that is if you have repented of your sins and received Christ as Saviour) He shall always pardon whenever you ask for it in case you commit an error. May He continually bless you as you abide in Him.

QUESTIONS ON SALVATION

Questions on salvation are questions generally asked by people either verbally or mentally. Their answers have been carefully chosen from a biblical standpoint so that the seeker of salvation may be grounded in his faith and can equally help others to find the true salvation in Jesus Christ.

Question: What does it mean to be saved?

Answer: It is to be liberated from sin and its consequences in a spiritual and eternal death.

Question: Can man save himself?

Answer: Since man fell into sin, he became a captive to both sin and the devil. Man also suffers the consequences in a spiritual, physical and eternal death. Man therefore cannot save himself without the liberating power of God (Romans 6:23).

Question: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is the transgression or the disobedience to God's law. It is also the denial to acknowledge oneself as a sinner and thus not asking for God's forgiveness. Since the fall of the first man Adam, all of humanity is separated from God and has the sin nature abiding in them. Thus, all have sinned (Romans 3:23).

Question: Do good works give salvation?

Answer: No works of man no matter how good can make him saved. Man's self righteousness at its best is like filthy rags before God. It is only through the grace of God that is received through faith in Jesus Christ that one can be saved (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Question: Do all religions lead to God?

Answer: All religions do not lead to God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father (God) except through Me." Jesus is the only Saviour and Mediator between God and man. Religions teach man what he ought to do by himself to be saved. But the gospel teaches us what God has done to save man. We are saved only through the grace that is in Jesus Christ.

Question: Is Christianity a religion?

Answer: It doesn't matter how you consider it. The important thing is to know what it means to be a Christian. To be a Christian is to be a follower of Christ. It entails knowing the difference between the past as a sinner and the present as a new creature in Christ. It is a lifestyle guided by the principles of the Bible (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

Question: Are all Christians saved?

Answer: Every genuine Christian should be saved. But unfortunately, this is not the case. There are many who go to church but who do not yet have the experience of regeneration or a personal testimony of their salvation. So many are nominal and have neither separated themselves from sin nor from their sinful cultural practices that oppose the Bible. Unless they come before God in repentance, and invite the Lord Jesus to come into their lives and be their Saviour and Lord, they too shall be condemned (2 Timothy 2:19-21).

Question: What makes salvation possible?

Answer: In olden times, God demanded from man a strict and regulated lifestyle, coupled with the sacrifices of certain animals whose blood was to cover man's sins. But in the dispensation of grace, God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to be crucified on the cross so that His blood would pay for, and cleanse all of man's sins. Salvation is thus made possible only through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus (Ephesians 2:13-16).

Question: Can one be saved and know it?

Answer: Yes. Since no one is born saved, the day you get saved you know it even more than you know the day you were born. In fact, being saved is also described as being born again. It is an experience that assures you of your salvation and that you have become a child of God. If you doubt your salvation, then you better take the necessary steps to be saved (1John 5:13).

Question: What must I do to be saved?

Answer: You simply need to acknowledge the fact that you are a sinner before God. Then you ask God in prayers to forgive you of all your sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. Invite Jesus into your life to be your personal Lord and Saviour. Then take the decision to live to live the rest of your life to please and serve Him (Romans 10:9-10).

SOME CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS

Assurance of Salvation: Know for sure that as soon as you ask God to forgive your sins through the blood of Jesus and as you invite Him into your life to be your personal Lord and Savior, He actually forgives all your sins and actually begins living in you right away. The promise for a full salvation is numerously stated in the word of God and as we believe in Jesus Christ, this assurance is further confirmed in our hearts. Many people are not sure of their fate were they to meet the end of their physical life on earth. Jesus told the repentant criminal on the cross, “this very night you shall be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:42-43). This is the very assurance He is giving to you and to anybody repenting of his or her sins. Know that you are saved and that if you died right away, you will go straight to heaven to be with the Lord for all of eternity. John the apostle says in 1 John 5:13 that he would like all those who have believed in the name of the Son of God (like you just did) to know that they already have eternal life abiding in them. Yes, you are saved Also read: John 1:10; 11, Rom 10:9; 10, 1John 1:9.

Prayers: The second thing a new Christian should take seriously is prayers. Prayer is simply communicating with God. Unlike the non-Christian who either prays to a false god or does not pray at all, the Christian child of God should develop the habit of talking with God His Father. Jesus, teaching us on how to pray in the book of Matthew 6:9-13, outlines a simple format which if studied will be very instrumental in our everyday prayers to God. Permit me to take a little space to outline the various components making up this teaching that is commonly referred to as “The Lord’s prayer.” Firstly, Jesus teaches us to identify God as our “Father.” Who is God to you? Your heavenly Father? Are you saved? Then we proceed to Hallow or worship God. We pray for the kingdom and will of God to be established on earth as in heaven. We also ask for our daily bread, implying our daily physical and spiritual needs. In prayers, we forgive our offenders for God to forgive us. Then we ask for God’s protection in all areas of our lives. Finally, we give God the glory in everything He accomplishes for us or through us.

Jesus, in teaching this prayer format was not answering to the disciples’ request on: “Lord, teach us a prayer.” But on, “Lord, teach us how to pray.” Those who only recite these verses in the name of prayers without really praying are actually not doing anything significant. Prayer is the only means we develop a true fellowship with God and is the source of the Christian’s strength. Also read: John 15:7, Mat 21:22, 1John5:14-15.

Bible Studies: The Bible is the written word of God and carries the fundamental will of God for our lives as individuals, the church and the world at large. Our knowledge of God can only grow depending on our knowledge of His word. It is therefore imperative to develop the habit of constantly reading your Bible and studying its various themes so as to be grounded in the things of God. In it you will know the mind of God concerning any single subject you wish to be enlightened on. Every moral or spiritual doctrine must be firmly backed by the scriptures because the word of God is the rock on which we stand. Also associate yourself with Christian groups where the Bible is studied so as to get the necessary assistance and basic knowledge you need. By reading our Bibles, we are committing ourselves to doing only what it says and not what man, or human philosophy might imagine. Read: Joshua 1:8, Psalms 119:105, 1Timothy 4:13.

Fellowship: Christians constitute a family otherwise referred to as the family of God or the “household of God” (Eph 2:19). Members of every family are expected to be together and have things in common. The Bible in Acts 2:42 speaks of the early disciples as such: “and they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.”

Fellowship here is simply your association with other Christian believers for the purpose of worship and growth in the things of God. You need to separate from the wrong fellowship to the right fellowship in Christ. After becoming a true Christian, you need to begin attending a church where the worshippers are equally born again Christians like yourself. A church where the truth is preached and practiced, and where the fruits of salvation can be seen in the lives of those who attend it. This is the spiritual milieu where your spiritual life can be in security. Still, you have to compare many of its practices with the scriptures to be sure you are not mistaken. Also read: Hebrews 10:25, John 10:16.

Baptism: The word baptism is derived from the Greek word “*baptizo*” and means “to deep,” “to immerse,” or “to bury.” To baptise thus means to deep, immerse or bury in water. Baptism in the Christian teaching is closely attached to salvation. E.g. Acts 2:38 says: “Then Peter said to them, **repent**, and let every one of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Mark 16:15, 16 says, “And he (Jesus) said to them, ‘Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature. **He who believes and is baptized will be saved**: but he who does not believe will be condemned.’”

Baptism is intended only for those who have truly repented of their sins or are in the process of repentance. That is why even John the Baptist refused baptising the proud religious Pharisees, demanding them to first of all produce fruits to prove they had repented (Mat 3:7-9). In this case, infants are never to be baptised because they are considered innocent and know nothing about repentance. They just need to be dedicated to God and taught to grow in the ways of God. At maturity when they repent and receive Christ as their personal Saviour, they shall then be baptised. It is also important for me to emphasize here that the sprinkling of water on the head or on any other part of the body is of no spiritual significance before God. It is not baptism. And even the right baptism (immersion in water) of an unrepentant sinner is equally of no spiritual value because as the command comes: repent, be baptised, then you will be saved.

Baptism is an exterior activity that demonstrates an interior spiritual reality. It signifies death, burial and resurrection. When we die to the old and sinful ways of life through repentance, we need to be buried (baptised), and then resurrect unto a new life in Christ. These are the steps our Lord Jesus passed through on the cross to save us from sin. This is what He submitted Himself to in the river Jordan, setting us an example to follow. This is equally what He has demanded us to do in order to be saved. This is clearly explained in the book of Romans 6:1-6 and verse 4 has it explicit: “Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

The new Christian believer who has just given his or her life to Christ should seek with joy for the opportunity to be identified with Him in baptism. This is the sign that seals your salvation. May God bless you as you do so.

The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is God and the third person in the Godhead. Jesus, teaching on the Holy Spirit said He was the next Comforter who was to come and be with the disciples after He (Jesus) had gone to heaven (John 16: 7). The Holy Spirit begins with people by convicting them of sin and leading them to receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour (John 16: 8). As you invite Jesus to come into your life, the Holy Spirit comes in to stay inside of you in His indwelling presence (John 14:15-17). The Holy Spirit’s work in the life of the believer is multi fold including: teaching you all truths, and reminding you of the truths you already know (John 14:26). He helps you to pray (Romans 8:27). He will help you to resist temptation and overcome persecution. And equally in moments of spiritual weakness He shall stand for you (Romans 8:26). He shall continually testify to your son ship, that you

are a child of God and will enable you to be an effective witness of the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:14-16).

As you grow in the Lord, you shall come to know how the Holy Spirit can empower or anoint you for the supernatural. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed in 1 Cor. 12:4-11 and any believer with faith can and should reach out and receive from God and allow God to use him or her in any way as the Bible describes. Here, spiritual guidance is needed. It is important for every believer to recognize and develop a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. He is God and our Helper in our Christian journey here on earth. He is the channel through whom the multiple graces of God reach us. And He blesses and guides us in whatever way He wills in accordance with the plan of God for our lives.

Consecration: When we give our lives to Christ, it is because we recognize we are filthy sinners and in need of God's cleansing and forgiveness. After having then been forgiven by God, we are then expected to live our lives in a consecrated or holy manner before Him. Your body now becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit, and you are expected to keep your body free from sexual contaminations in all illicit sexual relationships outside a heterosexual marriage relationship. You are to keep your body free from wasteful contaminants like drugs, strong drinks, tobacco etc. These are not laws but a simple purity lifestyle. As for your soul and spirit, God wants you to dedicate your heart to Him alone. You are thus to separate from the worship of idols and false gods; and from participating in superstitious traditional and cultural practices that oppose the Bible. Separate from everything that has to do with the occult or any other form of spiritism. Seek the spiritual help of your Christian leaders.

As we live our Christian lives consecrated to God alone, the Bible says we become vessels of honor in the Lord's hand, fit and prepared for noble use. Read 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Rom 12:1; 1Thes 4:3-8; 2Tim 2:19-21.

Christian Service: We are saved to serve. Every child of God is supposed to be involved in activities that are geared towards the growth of God's kingdom. We do not do good works to be saved but rather as a demonstration of our faith and gratitude to God. Faith without actions is dead (James 2:17). Paramount on our Christian responsibility is our need to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others in a personal and direct manner. All other activities that we undertake as Christians should be aimed directly or indirectly at seeing souls saved. It is therefore your immediate duty and privilege to begin to know how God can use you in the areas of your talents in conformity with His will for you. As you serve God, know that He alone has the best rating for your works based on your motives and quality of service. On the day of reckoning, He shall reward you openly. Be glad as you get committed in the things of God. Also read: Eph 2:10, John 15:5.

Please do not keep this booklet only to yourself, but share it with your friends, relatives and neighbours so that they too can come to the knowledge of salvation.

Abide in Christ and eternal life shall remain your portion.

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