

THE VISIONARY METHOD
For Christian Practice™

The
VMFCP Press

LOST IN
TRANSLATION

Mini-Book

VOLUME I

Father

Chinasom U Elekwachi

Foreword

The teachings of this book are not old nor new, but are simply of the Truth—the Truth in words that are easily understood.

“¹³ This is the end of the matter. All has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil. ~ Ecclesiastes 12:13-14”

In honor of the Most High God,
the Creator of Heaven, Earth and all that's in them.

May this mini-book grant wisdom, understanding and joy to all those who read it, so that in time it may lead them to become Your children. Thanks be to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.

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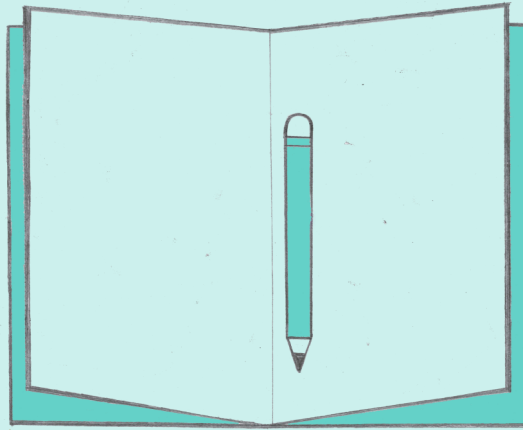
All Scripture quotations are true and faithful copies taken from the World English Bible Version published by Bible Domain Publishing 2016 (Public Domain Work)—ISBN-13:978-1530857654, and ISBN-10 1530857651.

This book is recommended for people aged 18+

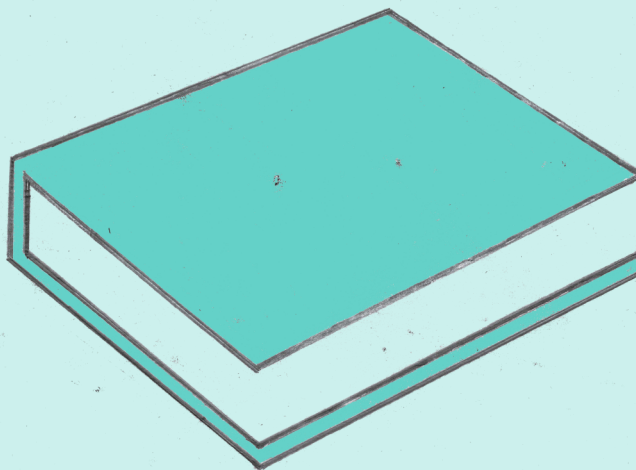
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Welcome to the **LOST IN TRANSLATION** **mini-book! This is what you will need to make the most of this mini-book...**



JOURNAL: Your journal will serve as a medium for you to engage with God. It's main purpose is for responding to this mini-book's questions and/or prompts, but you are also encouraged to use it for more i.e. you may use it as a personal journal as well. For example, you can write down your thoughts (good and bad things), speak to God in prayer about your thoughts, and then write and say a prayer asking for God's help and guidance and/or to give thanks. This can help develop your relationship with God.



THE HOLY BIBLE: This book provides evidence-based Christian instruction, but a Bible is necessary for your own reading, so that you are able to verify what is written (the Truth); Scriptures are needed for the activities; and it's important for Christians to become familiar with the Word of God—hopefully reading the Bible will become for your own further learning and entertainment.

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INTRODUCTION TO LOST IN TRANSLATION (LIT)

The Holy Bible is an ancient text, which has been translated countless times. Those who translated it, instinctively tried to maintain a sense of “holiness” or “highness” in its expression, and this expression has been maintained. As a result, the language and expressions that are used in the Bible translations of today, are far from the way that we speak, write and read, and so, even though the Bible is presented in our own languages, it can still present as unusual. This unfamiliarity of language and expression can be a deterrent to people, which is an unconsidered consequence of those who translated it.

However, it is normal practice for the Word of God to be written down/ translated, and the Bible even provides constant reminders of this fact, as it was what enabled God’s Word to be preserved and passed on throughout the ages of time: this is true in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. The Old Testament was simply copies of the Law of Moses (God’s commandments), and the New Testament is simply the Apostle’s (the Lords appointed servants) recount of the Lord’s testimony (story), and copies of letters that reaffirmed the teachings of the New Covenant, that were sent from the Apostles to the true churches of the Body of Christ (God’s churches that were across the world i.e. groups of Christian’s that were known to each other based on God’s divine coordination of His people. Acts 9:10-12, Acts 10:19-22).

- **Exodus 32:15** - ¹⁵ *Moses turned, and went down from the mountain, with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand; tablets that were written on both their sides. They were written on one side and on the other.*
- **Deuteronomy 17:18** - ¹⁸ *It shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write himself a copy of this law in a book, out of that which is before the priests the Levites.*

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- *Joshua 8:32* - ³² He wrote there on the stones a copy of Moses' law, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.
- *Luke 1:1-4* - ¹Since many have undertaken to set in order a narrative concerning those matters which have been fulfilled among us, ²even as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word delivered them to us, ³it seemed good to me also, having traced the course of all things accurately from the first, to write to you in order, most excellent Theophilus; ⁴that you might know the certainty concerning the things in which you were instructed.
- *John 20:30-31* - ³⁰Therefore Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

So, the question is who translated the Holy Bibles which are in use today? And why did they write them in that way? The answer is highly affluent, influential and educated men of the past times; the men of learning and language who had a particular mode of expression that was limited to their social circles. Hence, it was written for and by people who most people weren't and are not. Furthermore, the Holy Bible has been copied and translated by such men from generation to generation, across cultures, sub-cultures and languages, and so, with these combined factors, many word choices or expressions appear to be lost in translation! The effects of time and ill-considered translation causes some verses to appear contradictory or out of context, but the truth is that they are not; as the true meaning of the Word of God always remains intact, but it's just that some of its expressions have become inconsistent and thus unclear. Hence, with continuous ill-considered translations of the Bible overtime the ability to understand or recognise the truth of the Bible has been diminished.

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However, there is a solution: you just have to know how to read the Bible as it currently exists. Hence, the 'Lost in Translation' mini-Book will help you learn to become more familiar with the Bible (improving your Biblical literacy) by providing you with evidence-based examples of Scriptures that have been "lost in translation" and interpreted using 'The Practical Bible Interpretation Technique' (the PBIT), which was created by this book's author, Chinasom Uzodimma Elekwachi. Hence, the Scripture (Matthew 23:9) that is interpreted on the next few pages of this book has been interpreted using the PBIT!

- **NOTE:** Biblical literacy is the result of dedicated Biblical study and the grace of God's wisdom. The combination of these factors brings the familiarity, knowledge and understanding required to read and interpret the Bible with greater ease, clarity and accuracy. 'The Practical Bible Interpretation Technique' and bonus biblical literacy tips are provided at the end of the book to help make understanding the Bible easier for you.
- **NOTE:** In the context of family, it is also fine to refer to one's husband as a variation of the word father i.e. dad or daddy.

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THE SCRIPTURAL INTERPRETATION OF 'FATHER'

The Lord said in Matthew 23:9: *Call no man on the earth your father, for one is your Father, he who is in heaven.* This seems simple enough to understand: for Christians, only God is to be referred to as Father, with the exception of your biological father, or an actual father-figure in the absence of a biological father. The concept of God being the Father of Christians is repeated in the book of Malachi (Tip 3B, cross referencing):

- **Malachi 2:10** - ¹⁰ *Don't we all have one father? Hasn't one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers?*

However, the Scripture Matthew 23:9 appears to be directly contradicted in Malachi 2:10. Furthermore, when you get to the book of 1 John, it seems what the Lord said in Matthew 23:9 is directly contradicted once again:

- **1 John 2:12-14** - ¹² *I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. ¹³ I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, little children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

So, what's the truth? The answer is that the word 'father(s)' is lost in translation, which is confirmed by identifying other uses of the word 'father' in the Bible (Tip 3A and 3B, fact-checking and cross-referencing). In the Old Testament, the word 'father' or 'fathers' is used many times, often to refer to one's ancestors, older relatives, and therefore older people. There are some examples of this from the Bible on the next page.

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- *1 Kings 11:43* - ⁴³ *Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in his father David's city; and Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.*
- *Joshua 24:6* - ⁶ *I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and you came to the sea. The Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and with horsemen to the Red Sea.*

Therefore, the above Scriptures clarify the true meaning of the word 'fathers' used in 1 John 2:12-14. The use of the word 'fathers' simply refers to older men of the Body of Christ (God's spiritual church). 'Young men' is plain in meaning and actually highlights the meaning of 'fathers' in this context i.e. older men. 'Little children' simply refers to all members of the Body of Christ, and describes men and women of any age who have received the Holy Spirit:

- *Galatians 4:5-6* - ⁵ *that he might redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as children.* ⁶ *And because you are children, God sent out the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!"*
- *Ephesians 1:5* - ⁵ *having predestined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his desire,*

However, in this case, 'Little children', is simply an indirect address to women of any age who have received the Holy Spirit, as the men were addressed directly. The reason for the use of this expression is unknown, but it may be related to the patriarchal nature of the past. Hence, it is now made clear that the command of the Lord about the use of the word 'father' in Mathew 23:9 was, and is not contradicted, but it was simply lost in translation!

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For Christian Practice™

**The Practical Bible
Interpretation
Technique**

**...and Bonus Biblical
Literacy Tips**

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The Scriptures used in this book are maintained in context i.e. random Scriptures are not put together to derive altered and/or incorrect meanings. Instead Scriptures that are related (linked) are brought together to explain or demonstrate the true meaning. This minimizes the risk of Scriptural interpretations that are contrary to God's commandments. 'The Practical Bible Interpretation Technique' is provided to help you read and understand the Bible.

- **1) UNDERSTANDING:** Make sure you understand what is written in a verse—you can compare different translations to get a clear understanding of its meaning.
- **2) PARA-CONTEXT:** Make sure that Scriptures are read in context—check a few verses before and after to gain an understanding of what is being referred to.
- **3)FACT-CHECKING & CROSS-REFERENCING:** Do not isolate verses and associate it with a singular or absolute meaning. The Bible should always be taken in whole, not part. This is done by fact-checking and/or cross-referencing...
 - A) Fact-checking: Finding out what God permits and does not permit under the Law of Moses (Old Testament) and New Covenant (New Testament) or comparing Scriptures to determine fact. Notably, not much changed besides the removal of general religious and cultural practices from worship, and the terms and conditions of each covenant.
 - B) Cross-referencing: Search for Scriptures that speak about the same thing, as the same information is often repeated in slightly different ways or words throughout the Bible. By cross-referencing verses you can be assured of their true meaning.
- **4) INTRA-CONTEXT:** When a Scripture is not repeated in other books, take it in context of that specific book or chapter.

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It should be noted that 'The Practical Bible Interpretation Technique' is only relevant to practically expressed Scriptures regarding Christian practice (how to live a Christian lifestyle according to God's commandments). Therefore, it does not indicate that the Bible should be interpreted practically, as such one note methods of Biblical interpretation do not work, because many Scriptures are metaphorical or refer to spiritual matters, which cannot be taken literally or interpreted practically. However, the metaphorical interpretations should support a Christian lifestyle in a way that is consistent with God's commandments. This concept can be explained by examining a metaphorical Scriptures such as Matthew 5:38-42.

- **Matthew 5:38-42** - ³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you, don't resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ If anyone sues you to take away your coat, let him have your cloak also. ⁴¹ Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks you, and don't turn away him who desires to borrow from you.

The Scripture Matthew 5:38-42 cannot be taken literally or practically because it is not helpful or conducive to personal wellbeing, the right to agency (choice) or the upholding of human rights. There is no evidence in the Bible that suggests that God endorses or supports the exploitation or harassment of people, however, it is written that the Lord supports the exact opposite of this, as the Lord says in Matthew 22:39: ³⁹ "A second likewise is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Hence, the Lord does not support the act of doing wrong or evil to another person. This then confirms that Matthew 5:38-42 is a hyperbolic metaphor, which is an exaggerated saying or phrase. As a hyperbolic metaphor, Matthew 5:38-42 conveys that Christians' should have the "patience of a saint", as the personal quality of patience provides the foundation for Christian character values such as not doing wrong or evil to others, especially if they have wronged you, which requires the qualities of tolerance, endurance,

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gentleness, and discipline, which essentially embodies the Biblical principle of love. Furthermore, although a Christian may have been wronged many times, their core values do not change, and so, Christians' persist in being helpful and compassionate according to good conscience. Hence, the choice of Christians' to have patience is what enables them to uphold the Lord's commandments without compromise. Therefore, Matthew 5:38-42 validates that Christians' are not weak, naive or pushovers who are to be marginalized, but it is the exact opposite: Christians' embody strength of mind, heart and of spirit, which is the essence of good character and a righteous soul.

- **NOTE:** 'The Practical Bible Interpretation Technique' (The PBIT) can help improve your Biblical literacy, but it should not be considered as instantaneous mastery or expertise, as Biblical interpretation is also influenced by the grace of God's wisdom (a gift of the Holy Spirit). Furthermore, familiarity with Biblical expression is the result of dedicated long-term study, which provides the knowledge and understanding required to read and interpret the Bible with great ease, clarity and accuracy.

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BONUS BIBLICAL LITERACY TIPS

- **BONUS TIP 1:** Some more modern Bible translations add meaning that can result in the obscuring or loss of correct meaning. i.e. AMP and Message Version.
- **BONUS TIP 2:** The KJV and NKJV versions include strange word choices that makes them confusing.
- **BONUS TIP 3:** Recommended Bible translations include the World English Bible, Revised Standard Version, English Standard Version, and The New American Bible.
 - **NOTE:** You will be surprised at your level of interest when you find a version that you prefer.
 - **NOTE:** The VMFCP and the author are in no way affiliated with the aforementioned Bible publications or publishers.
- **BONUS TIP 4:** The YouVersion Bible App allows you to compare Scriptures from different Bible translations—This is helpful for Tip 1 of the PBIT.
 - **NOTE:** The VMFCP and the author are in no way affiliated with YouVersion

JOURNALING ACTIVITIES

- Write and say a prayer to God about helping you to improve your Biblical literacy, so that you can better understand Him and His Word.
- Have a go at interpreting a Biblical passage using ‘The Practical Bible Interpretation Technique’.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, Chinasom Uzodimma Elekwachi, has a background in scientific research and experience in teaching and education, which are skills, experiences and knowledge that have contributed greatly to the creation of this book. This book contains Bible study commentary from the author's personal faith journals, which have been remodelled and stylized for the purpose of Christian education. The wisdom of this book is the result of many years of Biblical study, research and Christian practice (lifestyle)—all of which was given by the grace of God, so that many may come into His salvation.

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