THE VISIONARY METHOD

For Christian PracticeTM

The VMFCP Press

LOST IN

TRANSLATION

Mini-Book

VOLUME 2

WOMEN/WIVES SHOULD NOT SPEAK IN CHURCH

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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Cover Design: Chinasom Uzodimma Elekwachi **Illustrations:** Chinasom Uzodimma Elekwachi

Editor: Chinasom Uzodimma Elekwachi

Publication: 1 February 2021 (updated 12th July 2021)

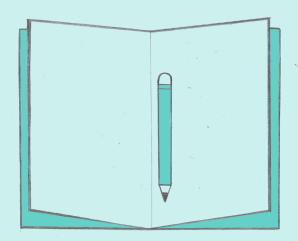
All Scripture quotations are true and faithful copies taken from the World English Bible Version published by Bible Domain Publishing 2016 (Public Domain Work)—ISBN-13:978-1530857654, and ISBN-10 1530857651.

This book is recommended for people aged 18+

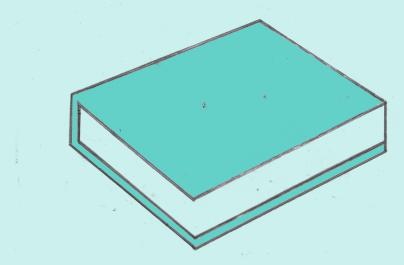
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Welcome to the LOST IN TRANSLATION mini-book! This is what you will need to make the most of this mini-book...



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.

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.

- **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, ² even as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word delivered them to us, ³ it 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; ⁴ that you might know the certainty concerning the things in which you were instructed.
- **John 20:30-31** ³⁰ Therefore Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but 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.

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 (1 Corinthians 14:34) 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 PBIT and bonus biblical literacy tips are provided at the end of the book to help make understanding the Bible easier for you.
- NOTE: 'The Gospel of Thomas' is referenced in this mini-book, and it needs to be made clear that 'The Gospel of Thomas' is full of metaphors that are not explicit in nature or sinful in meaning. This means that none of 'The Gospel of Thomas' Scriptures are contradictory to the Lord's commandments and I know this because (1) I can read and (2) it was granted to me to know such mysteries. Therefore, let it be known that metaphors should not be taken literally, and if you can't actually tell the difference between literal and metaphorical Scriptures then you shouldn't assume or pretend that you can read the Bible.

THE SCRIPTURAL INTERPRETATION OF '1 CORINTHIANS 14:34'

It is written in 1 Corinthians 14:34: <u>Let the wives be quiet in the assemblies, for it has not been permitted for them to be talking except in submission, as the law also says</u>. At first glance this verse appears to suggest that wives (women) were not entitled to speak or participate in churches that existed across Corinth. However, this verse is not what it first appears, and the way to begin to understand its true meaning is by checking the relevant verses that come before and after it (Tip 2, para-context).

- Relevant preceding verse: 1 Corinthians 14:22-24—²² Therefore other languages are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to the unbelieving; but prophesying is for a sign, not to the unbelieving, but to those who believe. ²³ If therefore the whole assembly is assembled together and all speak with other languages, and unlearned or unbelieving people come in, won't they say that you are crazy? ²⁴ But if all prophesy, and someone unbelieving or unlearned comes in, he is reproved by all, and he is judged by all.
- Following verse: 1 Corinthians 14:35—³⁵ if they desire to learn anything. "Let them ask their own husbands at home, for it is shameful for a wife to be talking in the assembly

Within the context of the Scripture, 1 Corinthians 14:34, the relevant preceding verses and the following verse identify the women/wives as unbelievers. This indicates that these women's husbands have received the Holy Spirit i.e. entered the Body of Christ (God's Spiritual Church), but the women themselves were unbelievers, who had not received the Holy Spirit. Hence, within the context of the Scripture, 1 Corinthians 14:34, the women were only sanctified

(holy) due to their marital status. This concept is written of in 1 Corinthians 7:14: 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in the husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy (Tip 3a, fact-checking). Therefore, when the Scripture, 1 Corinthians 14:34, is read in proper context, it follows that there would naturally exist a period of time between a couple where a sanctified wife would know less about Christianity compared to their Christian husband. Therefore, the Scripture, 1 Corinthians 14:34, is an instruction (command) written by Apostle Paul to the Corinthian church that encouraged the Christian husbands to inform their unbelieving wives about the Christian basics in their own time. A likely reason for Paul's instruction may have been to minimize the prolonging or disruption of church meetings due to unlearned wives asking questions about basic Christian principles in a disruptive manner; therefore, providing the logical context in which 1 Corinthians 14:34 was most likely written. This logical Biblical evidence-based conclusion also gives greater meaning to the following verse, 1 Corinthians 14:35. Collectively, the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 14:22-24 and 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, suggest that the Corinthian church had limited time to discuss and organize important matters associated with the Body of Christ, and as a result constant interruptions about Christian basics from unbelievers/ sanctified wives was an issue because it made meetings less productive. Hence, this issue must have come to the attention of Apostle Paul, and so, he simply gave an instruction that provided a solution to the problem of unbelievers disrupting the "flow" of church meetings.

For example, if a meeting has an agenda which sets out what is to be discussed or done by Christians within a certain period of time, and then non-core members (unbelievers/sanctified spouses) begin to act in a manner that disregards that set agenda; then it follows that the meeting becomes disorganized i.e. shameful. Hence, 1 Corinthians 14:34, infers that by Christian husbands taking the initiative to inform their unbelieving wives about Christian

basics at home, it would minimize the disruption of church meetings caused by the persistent asking of questions about "Christian common knowledge". Lastly, it should be noted that although the Bible often refers to men alone, the principles often address the reverse scenario i.e. the same concept would apply to a Christian wife and their sanctified husband.

WOMEN CAN TEACH AND SPEAK IN CHURCH

The Bible makes it clear that women have always been able to speak and participate in church, here is a Scripture that is evidence of this very act 1 Corinthians 11:5 (Tip 3a, fact checking):

- 1 Corinthians 11:5—⁵ But every woman praying or prophesying with her head uncovered dishonors her head. For it is one and the same thing as if she were shaved.
 - **NOTE:** This Scripture will be further explained later in this book for clarities sake

Hence, if a woman was able to prophesy in a Corinthian church, then she was able to speak in church. After all, the gift of prophecy comes from the Holy Spirit, which is a spiritual gift that is only granted at the Lord's (God, the Father's) discretion (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). This makes it clear that the Lord, the Most High God, has no issue with women speaking in church — because if He did then He obviously wouldn't grant women the gift of prophecy. Furthermore, by fact-checking (Tip 3a), it is revealed that although there are not many female prophets or authorities mentioned in the Bible, the truth is that there were some, which further clarifies that God has no issue with placing women in positions of authority. In regards to female saints (Christian women), it is evident that the Bible does not directly mention their specific roles, but it is clear that there were Christian women who had positions of authority within the Body of Christ (and its churches).

- Judges 4:4—⁴ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, judged Israel at that time.
- **Exodus 15:20—**²⁰ Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dances.
- Isaiah 8:3—³ I went to the prophetess, and she conceived, and bore a son. Then Yahweh said to me, "Call his name 'Maher Shalal Hash Baz.'
- Romans 16:1-2 I commend to you Phoebe, our sister, who is a servant of the assembly that is at Cenchreae, ² that you receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and that you assist her in whatever matter she may need from you, for she herself also has been a helper of many, and of my own self.
 - NOTE: Apostle Paul left a female saint named Phoebe in charge of a Roman church assembly. The most logical conclusion is that Phoebe trained under Apostle Paul and became an actual Apostle i.e. a Christian of authority who teaches. This then would have allowed Paul to fulfill other duties that required his immediate expertise.

Hence, God never forbade women from holding positions of authority, speaking in church or amongst Christians: it was and is a misinterpretation of the Bible based on centuries of underdeveloped Biblical literacy associated with not taking context into account and patriarchal bias. For example, even the Scripture 1 Timothy 2:11-15 refers to an unbelieving wife i.e. the sanctified spouse, and not women in general (Tip 3b, cross-referencing):

• 1 Timothy 2:11-15⁻¹¹Let a woman learn in quietness with full submission.

12 But I don't permit a woman to teach, nor to exercise authority over a man,
but to be in quietness. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 Adam

wasn't deceived, but the woman, being deceived, has fallen into disobedience; ¹⁵but she will be saved through her childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and **sanctification** with sobriety.

• NOTE: If an unbelieving spouse is complacent i.e. does not choose to live a Christian lifestyle then let's just say that the Lord has His ways of rectifying what is essentially a disadvantage to the Christian spouse i.e. the complacent spouse refusing to 'depart'. This is important to address in a time of divine judgement because it is known that unbelieving spouses are trying to take advantage of the Christian spouse's salvation. For example, complacent spouses are known to use sorcery on their partners in the effort to force a relationship by "charming" them and/or harm them using sorcery—the latter is most likely done for mammon (occultic blood money). Therefore, let it be known that the Lord, the Most High God, does not support fake relationships, instead He causes them to fail when the complacent spouse refuses to change or "leave".

To conclude, the Holy Spirit is the great equalizer between men and women in the Body of Christ, and this is because the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, is greater than that of men's (1 Corinthians 11:3, Galatians 3:28). Therefore, it follows that receiving the Holy Spirit is how a "female makes themselves male", as the Holy Spirit is greater than a man's spirit, yet it comes from God who is technically a man. Regardless, the concept of a "woman becoming a man" or vice versa, is not to be taken literally because it is simply a spiritual metaphor that refers to women receiving the Holy Spirit (pg.8). Hence, it follows that under the New Covenant a woman can do what the unwise would consider a "man's job", but people forget or do not understand that God looks at the heart (moral conscience) and character; not appearances (1 Samuel 16:7). Therefore, when the Lord, the Most High God elects, or rather appoints specific individuals to take up official positions in the Body of Christ, let it be known that He chooses them for a good reason.

AN EXPLANATION OF 1 CORINTHIANS 11:5

It seems helpful to clarify that it's a woman's choice to cover her hair when praying, whether at home or at church, as the Bible makes it clear that hair itself is a covering. Therefore, a woman choosing to cover her hair, whether with a hat or scarf, would only be done according to custom and personal choice:

• 1 Corinthians 11:13-16 — ¹³ Judge for yourselves. Is it appropriate that a woman pray to God unveiled? ¹⁴ Doesn't even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? ¹⁵ But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, for her hair is given to her for a covering. ¹⁶ But if any man seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither do God's assemblies.

Furthermore, the Scripture, 1 Corinthians 13:14, should only be taken within the context of its chapter (Tip 4, intra-context) i.e. long hair was not the normal custom for men in Corinth. In the same manner, long hair was not acceptable among the Levites of Ancient Israel in the time of Ezekiel (44:20), but the same commandment was not relevant to the Nazirites of Ancient Israel who grew their hair until the completion of their vow, which is described in the Book of Numbers chapter 6 (Tip 3a, fact-checking). For example, the infamously wayward Judge of Israel, Samson, was known to have 7 long locks of hair, presumably stylized dreadlocks, which he grew because he was raised as a Nazirite from birth. Hence, "long hair" was normal and acceptable for male or female Nazirites of the Ancient House of Israel (Judges 13—16 [16: 13-19]).

ANOTHER TOPIC THAT WOMEN MAY FIND INSIGHTFUL

The Scriptures 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-4 may appear to be limiting in terms of fashion and beauty, however, its not quite the truth...

• 1 Timothy 2:9 -10 - ⁹ In the same way, that women also adorn themselves in decent clothing, with modesty and propriety, not just with braided hair,

- gold, pearls, or expensive clothing, ¹⁰ but with good works, which is appropriate for women professing godliness.
- 1 Peter 3:3-4—³Let your beauty be not just the outward adorning of braiding the hair, and of wearing jewels of gold, or of putting on fine clothing; ⁴but in the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God
 - NOTE: In this verse, the importance of inner beauty is highlighted i.e. true beauty is defined by the inner self (intentions and motivations) and character that is grounded in love (gentle and quiet spirit). Regardless, it's okay to enjoy taking care of your appearance i.e. hair, beauty and fashion.

Overall, a love for hair, beauty and fashion is fine, but the Scriptures, 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-4, are simply reminding women that inner beauty is more important than outer beauty. Regardless, it is still okay to take an interest in your outer appearance, and so, it is fine to spend your own income of honest means on hair, whether it is braids; extensions; a cut or color; jewellery, makeup, clothing or other material things when you are able to purchase them by honest means.

Hence, it also follows that women (and men) who want to become Christian should not willingly participate in unsavory jobs such as exotic dancing (stripping) or escorting because they are contrary to the concept of modesty — as they are in the realm of willing prostitution (selling the body). In a similar way choosing to post overly sexualized or sexually explicit content of yourself on social media does not correspond to the concept of modesty at all. On the next page there are some modesty tips that are provided to help Christian women make choices about how they choose to dress.

MODESTY TIPS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

- Showing the bottom (bum) i.e. clothing should cover the bum. For further clarity, a "decent length" can be considered at least a hand length beneath the bum.
- Showing cleavage (boobs) i.e. women shouldn't show most of their boobs or wear clothing that exposes the lower—mid area of their boobs. However, where a neckline is low and features a detail that covers the lower-mid area then it is fine.
- Wearing underwear or lingerie as clothing, or displaying underwear purposefully.
- Not showing too much of the stomach.
- Strapless and off the shoulder tops are fine.
- Swimwear—"thong or G-string" bikini bottoms are not modest at all, but bikinis are fine to wear at the beach or when swimming.
- Activewear and sportswear— whatever is normal for participating in a
 particular form of sports or exercise is fine. For example, it is okay to wear
 a sporting crop top when exercising, but once again the general principles
 of modesty should be taken into account.

THE VISIONARY METHOD For Christian PracticeTM

The Practical Bible Interpretation Technique

...and Bonus Biblical
Literacy Tips

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.

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,

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.

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 World English Bible Website provides access to an online study Bible that allows you to compare Scriptures from different Bible translations, search words or phrases, and listen to audio versions of the Bible: https://ebible.org/study/
 - NOTE: The VMFCP and the author are in no way affiliated with The World English Bible or eBible.org

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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