



ENCOUNTER *The* SAVIOUR

Zacharias Tanee Fomum

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PART ONE

A TESTIMONY OF SALVATION

“My name is Ajime Moses. I come from the Northwest Province of Cameroon. I count it a privilege to let you know how I came to know the Lord Jesus; to let you know how, for many years, I lived in sin, thinking that I was a Christian.

I will just hint you very briefly on something about my family background. I come from a polygamous family. My father had eight wives, and he made one of the greatest mistakes of his life by bringing in another one. This new wife was brought to him by his brother. She had been married to a certain court clerk, and I do not know what happened, but they got divorced. When my father’s brother heard about this woman, he went and got her for my father, as a challenge, so that my father might marry the wife of an educated man. She was illiterate herself.

When this woman came into the compound, everything changed. My father’s heart went to her and she was the one in command. My father started driving away his other wives, one after the other. My mother was the first to be sent out. She left when I was four or five years old. When I think of it now, I remember how painful it was every day to see my mother being insulted. She just had to leave, and my father drove her away, and after that, the next woman. Finally, two women were left and the last woman chased the other one away. Since the children of this other woman were already big, she went and lived with them. Now I had to live with my father’s last wife. She never had a child of her own. Living with her was hell on earth.

Another thing to mention is that I grew up at a time when there was a lot of food. But there were times I could go for three days without food. Often I lived by cracking and eating palm kernels. My mother's relatives did everything to take me away from my father so that I could live well. My father also encouraged me to go and stay with some aunt, but I refused. I decided to stay and die with my father. I loved him and knew that if I left him, I was going to lose something in life. So, in spite of all the suffering, I stayed with him. He himself got so frustrated that he took to drinking. He and this last wife fought every week. I am not exaggerating, it was every week. The woman came back from the market drunk, every week, waiting to fight with my father. In my frustration, I, too, started looking for company.

One thing in a polygamous family is that people are in camps. My mother had only one child, me, because all her other children had died. I had an elder step-brother who, each time everybody went to the farm and we were left with him, he subjected us to his own discipline. He initiated us into sexual immorality very early. In fact, we were too young to know what it was.

In the afternoons he would take girls, lay them down, and put us lying face down on them. We would stay there and start crying. Then he would come and beat us up. Things went on in this manner for a long time. We did not even know what he wanted of us. With time, however, we got initiated.

When I was about six years old, now in the primary school, I got into a very embarrassing situation. My village was a route-way to the big Bali market, and there was a stream running through it. Women used to come and take their bath in this stream on their way to the market. One day, my elder step-brother took me to that stream. When these women came and saw us, children, they did not think there was anything the matter, so they undressed and began to bathe.

There was a lady who was particularly pretty. So I turned to my elder step-brother in the vernacular and told him, "How I wish I were given this one." These were women from the neighbouring village, so this particular woman heard what I had said. She jumped out of the water, and gave me the beating of my life.

I have just said this to show you some of the difficulties I had, without a mother at home and with no care. But somehow, by the grace of God, the chief of the village arranged that I should go to the palace. In the palace, I was a very obedient child, very close to the chief, and carrying water to place in the special place where he bathed.

The chief had a sorcerer who came regularly and, as I was close to the chief, there was a time I could even interpret in sorcery. But with all this, I was never absent from Church. One of the reasons why we went to Church was because we were sure to have some clothes on Sunday. This is because we grew up at a time when there were not many clothes. You barely covered your nakedness, and the rest of the body remained bare. But on Sundays, you found a woman who could give you some loin cloth to put on for that day, and give it back to her. This encouraged me to go to Church. Also, in Church, I found some company.

I went on in this way and, by the grace of God, I found myself in secondary school. When I got to secondary school, I intensified my religious life. In college there were the rules; you could not go out when you liked, etc. So I got very active with the Sunday school movement, so as to have a way to go out on Sundays. Some of us chose Sunday schools that were very far away from school. By virtue of belonging to a Sunday school team, we often had very special permission to go out on Saturday, sleep and come back on Sunday evening. The missionaries believed that we were there for Sunday school. But then we went for bottle-dance on Saturday night, and then

Church in the morning.

When I look back, it was quite a pitiful sight. I remember that in Church there was somebody with a stick who used to wake up people who were sleeping. When you slept, he woke you up with the stick. And, people slept! Of course, we had been for bottle-dance in the night. This kind of life continued for a good length of time.

In college some people came to preach. Sometimes I was quite embarrassed when somebody came, zealous to preach, and was asking that people should confess their sins in public. I used to wonder, asking myself, "Is he God? Why should he be asking that we confess our sins in public?" But as students, we just stayed quiet.

Then I went to High School, and from there to Ecole Normale Supérieure to train as a teacher. There we had a scholarship. In a sense, we were paid to go to school. We each received thirty-five thousand CFA francs every month. It was then that we just launched into sexual immorality, wasting our lives. By the grace of God, I was posted to Yaoundé and, for the first time, in the Church where we were going, I heard somebody seriously preach the Gospel.

But before that, we went to the same Church with a lady called Prisca Fomum. Each time I went to visit her, she asked whether I was saved. I got very angry. We were in the same Church, and she had the guts to ask me if I was saved, saying that she was saved. I had myself preached very many sermons before.

While in High School I had preached, saying that it was on the last day, that God would separate the sheep from the goats and that the Bible said all of us had sinned and so nobody could know in advance, whether he was saved or not. Each time this lady asked me whether I was saved, I was very troubled.

But somehow I would brush it off.

In April 1977, I heard the Gospel. I heard the preacher preaching, naming the sins I had been living in. He said that if a man had not repented of his sins and invited Jesus Christ into his life, and received assurance, he was sure to go to hell. It put a question mark to my own Christianity. For somebody who had been baptised and was taking the holy communion, it was troubling. I had left High School with a good testimonial, recommending me to other Churches. But that day when I heard the Gospel, I could not resist. I decided that same day to confess my sins, all the sins that I knew. Somebody came to counsel me. I prayed with the person and invited Jesus Christ into my own life.

It happened as if it was a joke. Soon, I started enjoying what was difficult to describe. For the first time, within three months, I decided to read my Bible so as to know what was inside. I read the Bible through, and discovered that many of the sermons I had preached were not in the Bible. There was a statement I often quoted, believing with all my heart that it was in the Bible. It was that God helps those who help themselves. I had also heard my own pastors preach and say so. But I was shocked that I did not see it in the Bible. In my reading of the Bible, I had a number of things I wanted to find out whether they were in the Bible, but I did not see them.

I was enjoying my Christian life. There were many other people who had been saved before me. These were helping me and I was enjoying the whole thing. But suddenly the preacher changed the tone of the preaching. We usually went for Bible teaching, and at that time he was teaching on what he called Restitution. I do not want to get into the doctrine of it, but he asked that those who were serious and wanted to take God seriously were to go back home and confess their past sexual activities to their wives, in detail. I was embarrassed. I was already enjoying my Christian life, and suddenly

this bomb came.

Very many questions came into my mind. I told myself I had believed and God knew that it was true. So I left, making up my mind not to come back. The assignment was too difficult, taking into account my past sexual involvement. But on the way as I was going home, I was asking myself – “Do I really want to become a Christian? If so, what am I then wanting to hide?” The preacher made it very clear that you cannot say that you have Jesus in your heart and keep sitting on a chair that you stole, or sleeping on a stolen mattress or on stolen sheets, or keep wearing a shirt that you stole. He said all those things had to go. It required stark honesty.

So I got home, and that day I could not do the assignment. I tried in the night, wanting to wake my wife up to confess to her. But I feared what would happen. So I left it. The days were going, and the day of the next Bible teaching was coming. The other thing is that I loved these Bible lessons very much because they were helping me a lot. I began to be troubled, and I took a decision and told myself, “I have decided to be a Christian and whatever it will cost me, I will go the full way.”

That night, I allowed my wife to sleep. In the night I woke her up and, to her shock, I called familiar names as my sex partners. If I were calling the names of too distant women, she would have been less shocked. But then, a good number of the women were her friends. I trembled, and then said, “Well, God, it is You who said these confessions should be made, so I will make them.” I took time and told her everything, everything about my sexual life. I did not hide anything from her. Then I left the consequences to God.

That was not the end. When we went again to the teaching, there was still the teaching that one should not keep any stolen thing in one’s home, and that those of us who had girlfriends had to give back their pictures. The women I

could find near, I gave their pictures directly, accompanied by a Christian evangelistic tract. For the others who were not in town, I wrote letters, enveloped them with their pictures and Christian evangelistic tracts, and sent to them. Those I could not find, I just burnt the pictures. I kept no trace. We had been asked to keep no traces.

But that was not all. There was another case, a more serious one. I used to go out with somebody's wife. I had to write a letter to the man, give the details and make sure that the letter reached him. I did not know what would happen. But I had made up my mind, that either I would be a complete Christian or I would be none. I wrote the letter, begging the man to forgive me. And, as God would arrange things, the man himself had believed. So he took it prayerfully. But it was a shock to him. He could not believe that I had had such dealings with his wife, behind his back.

That was not the end of the story. Before I graduated from High School, one of the librarians, who was a relative of mine had called me and said, "Take advantage of my presence to take along some books." So he arranged it all, and during his turn in the library, I went and selected good books in biology, physics, etc, and carried them away. But with this teaching, I had no choice. I had to take those books back to the High School. I did so and wrote an open letter to the principal about what had happened to me, and begged him to forgive me. I told him not to make the letter a confidential matter, and that he was free to put it up on the notice board. As you can see, it was expensive, but I had made up my mind. Either I was a Christian or I was not. I wanted nothing to stand on my way. After that I went on in my Christian life.

In the Civil Service, I had been appointed a Provincial Chief of Service, but now as a Christian, when I took up service, I traced back some money that had to be paid to the state coffers some fifteen years back. I think it was about eleven million five hundred thousand CFA francs. I wrote a letter and

had it signed by my boss, asking the people to pay the money. The people were shocked. They had been thinking it was a forgotten thing. The file had been closed. They tried to arrange with me, but I said, "No."

When the money was ready, I went and got it myself and brought it to my boss. He thanked me for the work done. Then he said to me, "This money is ours. Where shall we put it? There are no records anymore. We shall own this money." He removed two million and gave me. I knew that it was wrong, but I had some needs at the time. So I took the money, used it, and came to Yaoundé. One day during Bible teaching, the message came out talking about Civil Servants who were thieves. The teacher even specified that some of those civil servants were sitting right there in the hall. It hit me to the heart.

Then the preacher said all such should stand up. This was another blow for me. Fortunately, as God would have it, I had some money. I was prepared to sell everything I had. I went and looked for the money and went to Bamenda, where my boss was still working. I begged him to forgive me because I had not told him the truth. I knew the government account where the money ought to have been paid. I told him I was going to pay back my share of the deal. I told him that I wanted to be right with God, and that I was sorry I had led him into error. He encouraged me and told me to pray for him. But he told me his conscience was clear because it was nobody's money.

I went and put this money into the government account and made a photocopy of the receipt. I still have it. Then I wrote a letter, attached it to it and sent it to my boss' office. This leads us to the last restitution I carried out.

At one time having found out that I was an only child, I had encouraged my mother to go out with other men so that I might at least have a younger

brother or sister. That was before I believed. When I believed, I wrote to my father in repentance, and told him all the things I had done. The apostolic pastor in the village used the letter and led my father to the Lord. In the last part of his life, my father was a believer in the Lord Jesus. He was a genuine believer and was persecuted by his family. His last wife persecuted him most specially.

My father used to do three-day fasts. The people of the village were angry, saying it was not possible for an old man to go for three days without food. They said during those three days he was surely eating people.

The point I am making is that when I became a Christian, I decided that nothing was going to stand on my way. To the best of my knowledge, I do not know anybody's thing I am keeping. As God will continue to reveal to me, I will get the things out. It is one way ahead. I am not turning back."

Jesus has the power to save. He has the power to change lives. He can change your own life. Maybe you are telling yourself that you have done so much evil that you can no more hope to change. Jesus changes lives. He is the One who changes lives. You may think that your restitutions are too many and too difficult to carry out. Cast yourself unto Jesus, then go and carry out the restitutions you must carry out.

How wonderful to abandon fornication and adultery, and to follow Jesus! How wonderful, to abandon sorcery and witchcraft and to follow Jesus! How wonderful to abandon the world and its offers of money and to follow Jesus! How wonderful to have your sins forgiven, and to have peace with God and with yourself! Yes, turn to Jesus.



PART TWO

Maybe you have had enough time to think about the Gospel you have heard before now, clearly preached to you. You simply want to give your life to the Lord Jesus. You have been waiting only to give your life to Jesus Christ.

You are burning to give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ. You are burning. You want to be saved immediately. You want to abandon all your sin immediately. You want to carry out restitution immediately. You want to be saved immediately. If that is your case, then you are ready.

You just want Jesus to come in immediately. You need no more preaching. You have heard and heard and heard.

You are ready to do like the person in the testimony of part one. You want to believe like him. You are tired, tired of sin. You have postponed believing for too long. You have heard the Gospel. You have seen the Gospel lived. You have seen people whose lives have spoken to you. You know that their Gospel is true.

You want to abandon all sin immediately: fornication, adultery, etc. You want to retribute immediately. God has already touched your heart many times. You have resisted so often, but now your power to resist is finished. You have given many reasons for not believing, but now your reasons are finished.

If that is your case, then you are proclaiming that sin is a tragedy, that even the smallest sin is a tragedy. You are saying that sin is the worst thing that ever happened to you. You are saying that sin has not given you one single blessing. You are saying that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. You are telling him, “Jesus,

You are the One I want. And I want You at all costs.”

Such readiness means that you do not only want to confess all your sin, but also to forsake all of it. It means that you want to follow Jesus with all of your heart, at any cost to yourself. You need to talk to God, in prayer. You need to tell him that you are coming to Him with all of your heart, that you are turning away from your sin with all of your heart. We will help you to pray. But it will be you praying. Talk to God with all of your heart. Repeat this prayer:

Lord Jesus, I have heard Your voice. I acknowledge that I am a sinner, that I have lived a life that is sinful. I have sinned against You in my thoughts, words and actions. I am a sinner. But, Lord Jesus, I have heard the Gospel. I have heard that You died on the cross for my sins, my sins which crucified You. Lord Jesus, I am sorry for all my sins. I repent of all my sins. Forgive me. Forgive all the evil I have done. Cleanse me with your precious blood. Come and dwell in my heart, and make me a child of God. This day I give my heart to You. I give my life to You, and I put an end to sin in my life. I will follow You. I will carry out the restitutions I must carry out. At any cost, I will be pleasing to You. Thank You for forgiving me. Thank You because now I am a child of God. Amen.

A SECOND TESTIMONY OF SALVATION

“My name is Jean Ngankwe. The day I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ, I had come to Church that day for that purpose. The first time I heard the Gospel, I did not believe, but I was quite convicted. It was in a Church hall, and I sat on the last but one bench. When the preacher asked for those who wanted to give their lives to the Lord Jesus, I knew I had to stand up, but I did not. First of all, I was afraid, and I did not know this group. But I had heard very many stories about those who preach. I sat down feeling hot. At one moment I found that I had held my bench, because I did not want to stand up. When I looked, I was sweating in my hands. But that day I did not

believe.

When I was going away, they gave me a tract and I read it at home. Then one Saturday evening, I took the tract and I read it again. This time I could fight with God no longer. Then in my room I knelt down and wanted to pray. But, not knowing how to pray, I waited for a long time. Then I decided to go and look for the tract. I wondered what I had to say to God. I begged Him to wait. I feared. I did not want to go to hell, and I found things very serious that evening. I only wanted God to let me be able to confess to Him that I was a sinner.

When I found the prayer in the tract, I came back to my knees, prayed, and the Lord Jesus had mercy upon me. He was there, right there. I told him, "Take my hand and lead me every day as You want, until You come to take me when You come to take Your own," because I had read in a book that He will come to take His own. I was now full of joy, being sure that He had heard me. I stood up, very sure that my sins were forgiven and that if Jesus came, I would go with Him.

I wanted to sing, but I did not know a single song. I had left religious things so long ago that I could not remember even one song. In reality, I had never been the religious kind. I moved to and fro in my room like someone who was drunk. Not knowing what to do, I finally slept.

The next day was a new day. The first thing that stroke me was that I could not now execute the plans I had previously made for that day. I went out and stood at the veranda. I had a friend to whom I was quite attached, and I wanted to go to him, but I felt as though a great wall stood on the way to his house. I tried another place, but could not go. It was as if there were cramps in my legs and I could not go out. But then I said I was going to go to Yaoundé.

There was an opportunity to go to Yaounde to listen to the Gospel again. I said I must go and make public what I had already done in private. I told myself that those people should know that I, too, had given my life to Jesus. I was going to give my life to Jesus in public.

From Obala where I was, I took a bus, and came to Yaounde, in the place of the meeting. This time I did not come to believe, because I had truly believed. It was clear to me, but I wanted to make it public. I wanted it to be clear to every body. And one good reason for it was that I wanted to belong to those people. That is, I wanted the testimony of what I had done before God to be clear before them as well. So I came to Yaoundé, where the meetings were taking place.

Just before going to Obili in Yaoundé, I went to the village and told my parents that I now wanted to live the Christian life as it should be lived. They had always told me about the Christian life. They told me that it was very good. I did not know much. I had not yet read much of the Bible. Having told them, I returned to Obala the next day. Then I went to Yaoundé and straight to the meeting place in Obili.

I was one of the first to be there. It was not to listen to the message. I only wanted the preacher to preach and ask who wanted to give his life to the Lord Jesus. All the songs they sang that day did not mean much to me. I was not listening attentively.

Then the preacher came and began to preach. I was not listening attentively to what he was saying. I knew it was good and correct. I wanted him to get to the end and ask who wanted to give his life to Christ. I was the first to stand up. He told me to come forward. He asked the others who wanted to believe to come forward. That evening three people stood up to give their lives to the Lord Jesus. They, too, moved forward.

I had never been on a platform before. So I came and stood, looking around, a bit lost. The hall was full right to the back. Then the brethren began to sing and to sing. I felt as though the hall was shaking. Then they asked counsellors to come and take us for counselling. A brother came and took me, and sat with me.

My joy was so great that I only said “Yes,” to all he was saying. I was not quite attentive, for joy, because I had chosen Jesus in the private and had made my testimony public. I was more than happy. I listened to what the brother was saying with only half an ear. I was glad beyond measure.

That day I believed and I have not changed my opinion and I will never change my opinion. Jesus is increasingly sweeter. It is very many years already, twenty-three years, but if one were to begin all over, I would make the same choice a thousandfold. The exact day was Saturday 18th July 1981. I shall never forget it. All glory be to God!”



PART THREE

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no-one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.’ In reply Jesus declared, ‘I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.’ ‘How can a man be born when he is old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.’ ‘How can this be?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘You are Israel’s teacher,’ said Jesus, ‘and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No-one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life’ ” (John 3: 1-16).

The Bible says, “Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a

member of the Jewish ruling council.” He was a Pharisee. This means that he was Jewish to the core. He believed Judaism even with all his flesh, with every ounce of himself. The Lord gave ten commandments, the Pharisees added six hundred and nineteen, to make it six hundred and twenty-nine. Then they broke all of them. Pharisees were men abundant in laws and regulations and strict to the core. They were not light-hearted. They were very serious. All their lives were governed by their religion. They were people who lived to the best of their knowledge and by their consciences. They did not violate their consciences.

They believed the Bible - the Old Testament Scripture - with all their hearts. They believed that it was from God, and that it was of God. They tried to do everything that the Bible said. They were true. They were honest and committed. They were committed twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. Their religion was the total embodiment of their lives. They were not people who occasionally talked about God. To the extent to which they understood God, He was their all.

Are you committed? Light-heartedness is a tragedy. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a strict Jewish religionist. He believed all that the Bible said and he was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He was a teacher of the law, and he taught and taught. He taught the Jewish law of the Old Testament, which he mastered before he communicated it. He knew what the Scripture said. He knew what people ought to be. He was at his best.

But he had a problem inside. He knew what God said but he had no power to live it out. He knew the commandments of God, but he lacked the power to live them out. He could not live out what he approved and proclaimed with his mouth. He was one thing in his mouth, but in his heart he was another thing. There was a massive conflict between the man inside and the man outside. He believed one thing, but inside, he was another thing. That is what it means to be a Pharisee, a religionist - one thing inside and another thing outside. It is the

whole embodiment of hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is being one thing inside and another thing outside.

Who is a sinner? A sinner is the person who proclaims one thing outside, but is another thing inside. In the secrecy of a sinner's heart, he is another thing altogether. A sinner, a lost sinner, says one thing with his lips, but inside, he is another thing. He says one thing in public, but when it is dark, he says another thing. He puts one thing in the external, but in the depth of his heart, he opposes it. He proclaims publicly that he desires this or that, but he has totally different desires in the depth of his being. He is a fundamental hypocrite. The heart and the outside are in conflict. What he says and what he is are at war. What he sings or what he preaches and what he is inside are different. That is a hypocrite. We say once more, the sinner is a fundamental hypocrite. He is a pretender. He pretends to be sanctified, but inside he is rotten. Outside, all looks so well, but inside, he is rotten, corrupt, wicked.

On the outside he says, "No adultery, no fornication," but inside, if nobody will catch him, he can go to bed with a woman who is not his wife. That is a hypocrite. He can caress a woman to give her sexual fulfilment in hiding or he may allow a woman to caress him. That is a hypocrite. He masturbates. No one sees him, but he is giving himself sexual satisfaction. He is a hypocrite. He kisses a woman in secret, but he will not do it in public. He embraces a woman in secret, and/or squeezes a woman's hand in secret but will not do so in public and will not let anyone know he does it.

The characteristic thing about the sinner is secrecy, secrecy, secrecy. He is fundamentally a secret being. His very embodiment is secrecy. He caresses a woman's body, hands, back, face with desire – wishing he had her. Or he caresses a woman without desire, but only so that she is not frustrated. He does not even want to caress her, but does it just for her sake, in hiding.

He writes a letter to a woman that is only between him and that woman, no other man may see it. He says, “Read and burn,” but the angels have already photocopied the letter. It is kept in the sin library of heaven. It will be read on that day. There is a pet name for that woman, but her husband must not hear of it, or a pet name for a man that his wife must not hear. Why? Because the intimacy is cloudy. It is false, it fears the light. The Bible says – “Perish all that fears the light.”

The hypocrite cherishes a letter written by someone of the opposite sex that nobody must see. Hypocrite! The angels have seen it. God has seen it. It talks about the rottenness of his heart. Or, a visit is paid to a woman that no one should know about. He may say, “I visited some people - A, B and others.” He just hides that one name. Hypocrite! The inside is rotten. It cannot face the light

You receive a visit from a man or woman, but you will not let anyone know of it. You want to hide it, so you make it a secret visit. Secret, rotten. It talks about a rotten heart.

You read an immoral story. You watch an immoral film. You gaze at the picture of a naked woman. Or you look at some naked part that is exposed. You entertain an immoral thought. You imagine yourself having an immoral relationship with one woman or the other. You use immoral language, a word suggestive of immorality. You sing an immoral song or listen to one. You are a man but you always desire the company of women. You desire to talk about God only to women. You are corrupt. Your heart is rotten.

The outside is dressed with flowers, but the inside is rotten, dishonest, false, deceitful, full of lying, exaggeration. Your business bills are corrupt. Your judgments in court are corrupt. Your taxes are all corrupt. Your custom bills are corrupt. Everything about you is corrupt. Then you say, “God understands.” Yes, He understands that you are lost, that your heart is corrupt, sinful and false. Your

heart is corrupt, false, deceitful, lying, exaggerating, not true. Your heart hates the light. It hates the eyes of God. It hates the truth. It hates those who are of the truth.

The sinner fears the light and the truth. He is the fruit of pretence. Outside he is religion incarnate. He carries religion on his head, but is rotten and false inside. He is twisted. He is well-dressed in white outside, but darker than the night inside. But God looks at the heart.

In 1 Samuel 16:7 we read, “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’ ” Man looks at the outside and says, “Wonderful!” Man looks at religious deeds and says, “Wonderful!” God looks at the heart and sees the cheating, the gambling, the drunkenness, the lack of truth, the sin, the darkness inside. He sees the falsehood, the deceit, the duplicity, the greed, the anger, the pride and the pretence. The people look and say, “Wonderful,” but God looks and says, “False, counterfeit!” He knows it is a counterfeit man, child, preacher, singer; lacking truth in the heart.

God says, “I have rejected him.” Rejected because of the inner composition. God says, “I do not look at the outside. I look at the heart.” On the basis of the heart, a man is accepted or rejected by God.

Nicodemus, this religious man, knew that his inside was not correct, although the outside was fabulous. He knew that his religion was a massive lie because inside he was false, corrupt, counterfeit. That is that for Nicodemus. Is that you? Are you rotten inside? Do you have a fornicator’s heart? Do you have an adulterer’s heart?

But remember, God knows you for what you are. Lift up your hands and say to

God, *“God, You know me for what I am. I cannot deceive You. You know my secret motives, thoughts, acts, words, writings. God, You know my heart, I cannot deceive You.”* God knows your masturbation, pornography, immoral desires, looks and all that rot. The rot in you rises up and beckons God’s judgement because of your hypocrisy and pretence. You dare pretend before God. Whom are you fooling? Only yourself. You cannot deceive God. Only one person can be deceived - you. You know your heart. You know the extent of its corruption and deceit.

Have you been so false that falsehood has become the normal condition of your heart? Has your falsehood become so normal that you are no longer surprised? When you open your mouth, lies just flow out. Your conscience is seared. It does not trouble you anymore. It is as if you have lied and lied until your conscience has gone wrong. Your conscience now tells you that right is wrong, and that the wrong is right. Your conscience is now burnt. It approves evil, instead of condemning evil.

You have become like the man in the beginning of this book who said his conscience was clear. He had received bribes so much that his conscience was burnt, so that with nine million five hundred thousand, his conscience was clear. Have you practised immorality in your thoughts so much that you are ruined? You no longer call it fornication. You no longer call a fornicator’s thoughts fornication. You no longer call an adulterous thought adultery. You call it error.

But God says, “Adulterer, fornicator.” In the book of Revelation 21:6- 8, God says, “He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practise magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the

second death.”

The whole of this week and last week, I spent every moment I had alone thinking about eternity and about the rapture. I was thinking about the Judgment Seat of Christ, of heaven and of the lake of fire. I am shocked by how many people are deceived.

Listen, I did not write it. The Bible says all liars will be in the lake of fire. But there are people who are lying, but say they will be in heaven. Either the Bible has lied, and liars will be in heaven, or the Bible is true, and all liars will be in the lake of fire. Those who tell small lies and those who tell big lies will be in the lake of fire. Every liar, including those who lie for a joke, will be in the lake of fire.

The Bible talks of all liars. If you are a liar, you will go to the lake of fire. Every liar - professional and occasional liar - all of them, will be in the lake of fire. Anyone who says anything less than that is on the devil's side. Anyone who comforts the liar, telling the liar that he will not be in the lake of fire, is an angel of Satan. Why? Because the Bible talks of all liars. I tell you in the name of God, that every liar will be in the lake of fire.

1. Sexual liars,
2. financial liars,
3. business liars,
4. academic liars,
5. religious liars,
6. political liars

all liars will be in the lake of fire. No liar who continues to lie will escape the lake of fire. We insist that all liars will be in the lake of fire.

In Revelation 20:11-13 the Bible says, “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”

We may also say you will be judged according to what you have: looked at,

1. desired,
2. intended,
3. thought,
4. spoken,
5. gazed at, etc.

Furthermore, you will be judged according to :

1. whom you dressed for,
2. what you dressed with,
3. your values,
4. your tastes,

5. your attitudes,
6. your possessions,
7. your heart-dispositions, etc.

There is a record of everything about you. This is because the Bible says, “and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.” The library of God is very big. Angels are recording everything concerning every human being.

My beloved, your desires are being recorded.

Motives are being recorded.
Thoughts are being recorded.
Looks are being recorded.
Attitudes are being recorded.
Heart inclinations are being recorded.
Tastes are being recorded.
Values are being recorded.
Words are being recorded.
Deeds are being recorded.
Possessions are being recorded.

The Bible talks of the books. There is the book of life, and then the other books. People were being judged according to what was written in the books, according to what they had done. The sea gave up the dead in them. Those who die in a flood are not freed from the judgement. All the ships that sank with people, all the planes that crashed into seas, all of such are included in the coming judgement. Death and the dwelling of the dead will give up the dead that are in them and these will be judged.

When a lost person dies now, his body goes to the ground, but his spirit goes to the land of the dead and begins to suffer torments. Recently I read the book

Visions of Hell. It talks of a woman whom God took to hell and showed her what hell is. Sinners are already suffering in hell, or in Hades.

When a lost person dies, his body goes down, but his spirit goes to the land of the dead, of the lost, to begin to have suffering already. In the story of Lazarus and the rich man, the rich man was already suffering. Although the final judgement had not yet come, he was already burning. When an unbeliever dies, he goes to the land of the dead for the lost, and begins his punishment. He begins to have hell, while waiting for the final judgement.

Before the death of Christ, there was also paradise where when the righteous died, they would go to. It is also called the bosom of Abraham. But when Jesus Christ died and rose again, He carried paradise to heaven, so that when the believer dies now, he goes to heaven, into the immediate presence of Jesus. That is why Paul said he was torn in-between, either to stay and serve, or to go and be with Jesus, which is far better.

The believer does not go to paradise. Paradise has been transferred to heaven. It was paradise until Jesus died and rose again. When the believer dies, he goes into the very presence of Jesus. When the unbeliever dies he goes into the place of suffering and begins to suffer. All the sacrifices, and all the prayers people make on earth cannot change his destiny. When a man breathes his last, it is finished. Nothing done for him, and done on his behalf can alter anything. It is too late.

It is not true when people say that the dead come and talk to them or to others. It is demons who take the form of the dead in order to continue to hold people in subjection. The Bible says, "The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done." Those who have already gone to the place of suffering will only come to appear before the Judge. The lake of fire is the

second death.

About the book of life, when a person is genuinely converted, his name is written in the book of life. But if he does not continue with Christ, does not continue to walk with Christ, his name is blotted out. The reward is not at the beginning. If you come to Christ and then go back to sin and live in sin, your name will be blotted out from the book of life. “He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels” (Revelation 3:5). The Lord would not be saying, “I will never blot out his name from the book of life,” if it was impossible to do it. If once the names were written there they could not be blotted out, what the Lord has said in the passage above would be nonsense. The Lord is saying to the overcomers, that their names will not be blotted out. The names of the overcomers will not be blotted out.

There is security only for the overcomers. He says, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death” (Revelation 2:11). He who does not overcome will suffer the second death. I did not write it. I say this with great pain. The Bible says, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7). Listen, if you are joking with sin, joking with the love of the world, joking with the love of the things of the world, and expect to be in heaven, you are deceived beyond measure.

If those who overcome will not be hurt at all by the second death, the others will be hurt. If the names of those who overcome will not be blotted out from the book of life, the names of those who do not overcome will be blotted out. He says, “Only hold to what you have until I come.” If you abandon it, you have lost Him. If you abandon the narrow way, you have lost Him. If you go back to your sin, you have missed it all, totally. He who endures to the end will receive

the salvation of the Lord Jesus.

The Bible also says, because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall grow cold. The Lord Jesus taught about the wise virgins and the foolish virgins. By saying that they were virgins indicates that they were saved. They had come to Christ as their Saviour, because only that can make anyone a virgin. Of those who came to Christ there were the wise virgins and the foolish virgins.

Of the foolish virgins, the Lord said, “I never knew you.” Only the wise virgins made it. The foolish virgins were cast away. They disqualified themselves. If, like a pig, you go back to what you were delivered from, you are in the trouble of your life. It is the person who comes to Christ and stays in Christ who makes it. It is the person who receives Christ and follows Christ whole-heartedly to the end, who is truly converted. Judas also came forward. Judas also followed. But Judas also turned back and perished, and received a curse from Jesus.

It does not suffice that one day you stood up for Christ, and invited Jesus into your heart. If it ends there, you will perish. Having life is good. Continuing in life is a must. If not, you die. In 1973, we had a house at the campus in Makerere, Uganda. Where we stayed was not far from the hall of the women. It is a big nine-floor hall. One day around eleven a. m., my wife was walking past one of the staff houses, when she heard the cry of a baby. She bent and looked, and saw a baby. She called another woman, they picked up the baby, and rushed it to what was called the Sanyo Baby Home. My wife named the baby Lydia. When I came back from work, she told me the story. The next day we drove to that home, saying we had come to see Lydia. They checked. Lydia had died.

Having been born and thrown into that gutter, she had been poisoned beyond recovery, by the time she was picked and taken to that home. Lydia was born. Lydia had life, but Lydia also died. Anyone who pretends that Lydia is still alive because she was once alive is corrupt in his mind.

If you come and receive the Lord, but do not walk with Him, you will die spiritually. If you come and your name is written in the book of life, and you return to your sins, your name will be blotted out of that book.



PART FOUR

Coming back to Nicodemus, he knew that he was rotten inside, that all was not well. He knew that all the show did not reflect the condition of his heart. He wanted Jesus. He wanted to know, but the pride of being

a religious leader,

a member of the Sanhedrin,

a member of the highest religious class,

a teacher of the law,

a big man in the society, stood on his way. He was all that, but the inside was rotten. He wanted to have the answer to his problem, but then, “What will people say if they see me going to Jesus? Will they think that I am like the common people who go to Jesus? But then, what should I do?” He decided to go, but in hiding. So he went at night. We thank God that he went all the same.

Religious men are also very diplomatic. Nicodemus was well-educated. He had worldly finesse to the finish, and he knew the power of flattery. He knew that most people bow down and worship honour. He called Jesus Rabbi, as if to say, “I will knock Him down with this praise.” Are you flattered by honour? Then you of all men deserve to be pitied.

To some, if you name them without adding “Brother” or “Sister” to their names, you are in trouble. They stand up to introduce themselves, and say, “I am Brother this” or “I am Sister that.” If you do not include that title, you are in their bad

books. Some of these titles only mean that the person is distant from you. I hardly call my close collaborators by titles. One day as I was meditating before God, the Lord told me, “You are Zacharias Tanee Fomum, and that is how you will appear on that day. But because of the confusion in religious circles, I accept the title Professor Fomum in your writings.”

The word “Daddy” to refer to me is banished. You hear, “mama, mama, mama,” etc. These are all tricks of the devil. One sister said, “They call the other sister ‘Mama’ and only call me ‘Sister.’ In what is she more than me?” All those titles, ‘Dja,’ ‘Nini,’ etc, are banished in the Church and in our work worldwide. If not, they will become something one day. You just put a stone and then another on it until you produce a mountain.

The other thing is that we must stop mixing our cultures with the work of the Church. The title “Nini” is from the culture of the Widikum people and the Widikum tribes. “Dja” is from another tribe. Soon people may start asking, “Why have they not brought my own culture’s names into the Church?”

So Nicodemus called Jesus “Rabbi.” He wanted to flatter Jesus completely. That is what he had learnt. He did not stop there. He said, “We know you are a teacher.” He seemed to say, you are not like other teachers, “You are a teacher come from God.” He said something that could be rephrased thus – “You are a teacher with miracles. You are not like the others who just talk. You are a teacher from God.”

He thought he had finished Jesus. He did not know who he was dealing with. He was dealing with Jesus. In John 5:41 Jesus says, “I do not accept praise from men.” The Lord Jesus says, “I do not accept praise from men.”

Lift up your hand and say, “From this day, I reject all praise from men. I do not accept praise from men. I will not seek praise from men. I will not try to get

praise from men. I will not offer praise to men.” The Lord Jesus says in John 5:44, “How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?” Those who accept praise from men cannot believe. The praise from men destroys faith in the heart. Praise from men destroys the heart as the centre of faith. Praise from men destroys the faith receptacles in a man. Praise from men blocks a man in the heavenly ascent. Praise from men is destruction, and it is destructive. The more praise you receive, the more you sink spiritually. It is the worst thing you can do to somebody to destroy him. The worst thing you can do against a person is to tempt him with praise; so that he should receive it and fall.

The Lord was saying, “How can you believe if you receive praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?” There is praise that can be received from God alone. Such praise is reserved for that day. On that day we will know who was worthy of praise.

For those who are flatterers, there is a warning. In Job 32: 21-22 we read, “I will show partiality to no-one, nor will I flatter any man; for if I were skilled in flattery, my Maker would soon take me away.” If you want to die, go flattering people. You will die soon. Have you repented of the sin of flattering people? You think ill of them in your heart, but you sing their praises in front of them. You think evil about them, but you write good words to them. You may have to pay for it with your life. Those are the ways of the world. They are the ways of death. They are the ways of those who do not know God. Those who know God have abandoned those pathways, and abandoned them for ever. They are walking in increasing abandonment of those ways.

When Nicodemus thought that he had succeeded diplomatically, the Lord Jesus cut through his religion. He cut across human deceit, and hit the crucial issue of the day. His reply to Nicodemus was not, “O great Nicodemus, you have come. Great teacher, great member of the ruling council. Are you too seeking God?

Wonderful, these are good days! When people like you begin to seek God, then the nation is about to change.”

Is that your attitude? Flatterer! Is that your thinking? Worldly thinker! Jesus did not say, “I did not know that My miracles have reached your ears. Let Me tell you some more. On this day the blind saw. Then some other day I raised the dead. Nicodemus, did they tell you all this?” Jesus was not in for games. The Son of God is not in politics. He is not there to please men. He is not caught up with the transient. He is not caught up with the ranks of men and with ranks before men. He is not caught up with human rank, human positions, human titles, human elevations, academic, social, political or religious positions. They mean absolutely nothing to Him. He cut through to the thing that mattered: “I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

The new birth is from above. Physical birth is from below. Physical birth imparts the sinful heart. The sinner is born from below, from the earth, born of man. It is natural birth. Everything about him is natural. Physical birth is of this world. It leaves man unchanged.

The illiterate man is in his own class. The one who has done the primary school is in his own class. The one who did the Secondary School, the High School, the First Degree, and the other degrees, is in his own class. But do you know? All those levels do not change man one bit.

A thief in the village can steal like a villager. But the person who rises to be a Professor of the highest rank, if he is given money to manage, he will steal at the professorial level. He will steal so intelligently that there will be no trace. Even when billions will have disappeared the records will be correct.

There was a believer who taught Science at the University. One day he resigned from the University. He said, “I cannot stay in the University anymore. I am

going to preach the Gospel. I am tired of producing intelligent thieves. The way they cheat and steal marks, they will do the same with money.”

Do not be troubled. If you are lost having the First School Leaving Certificate, you will still be lost when you get the Ordinary Level Certificate. After the Advanced Levels, the First degree, the Master’s, etc, you will still be lost. It is only that you may be more lost, because you may be deceived into thinking that you are something, whereas you are only decaying more and more. You may now have greater arguments to justify your unbelief, and to hide your sins. You may now take an injection and sleep with every man and not be pregnant. You may have a very slim stomach, but you are the toilet to which thousands of men have gone. Education has only helped to prepare you for the lake of fire.

Natural birth produces the natural man, with a natural heart - rotten and corrupt - with natural religion. Natural religion is man’s natural effort to reach at God on his own. It makes man boast of what he has done. All these qualify a man for the lake of fire. It does not matter what the religion is. The man is lost. So Jesus said to him that unless he was born from above, he could not see the Kingdom of God.

A man is born from below to end in hell. He is born from above to end in heaven. He is born from below to end in the lake of fire. He is born from above to end up in heaven. Unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

What Jesus said confused Nicodemus. So he asked, “How can a man be born when he is old? Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” He was asking Jesus whether an old man like himself should enter his mother’s womb and be born a second time. This man had studied, was a teacher, but in the ABC of eternal life, he was zero. All that Jesus said confused him totally. The natural mind cannot understand the things of God. This is because

they are spiritually discerned. Are you asking:

1. How can I be born from above?
2. How can I have eternal life?
3. How can Jesus come to dwell in me?
4. How can my sins be forgiven?
5. How can I have peace with God?
6. How can my rotten heart be replaced by a Christ-filled heart?

Jesus' answer to Nicodemus was, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and of the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." When your mother gives birth, being flesh herself, she gives birth to a son or a daughter of the flesh. The Holy Spirit is Spirit so that when you are born of the Holy Spirit, you are spirit. When you are born of your parents, you are flesh. When the Holy Spirit comes, and brings the life of God and that life of God is born into you, then you are born from above.

You are either born from below, or born from above. There are two types of people in the world – those who are born from below and those who are born from above. A human father and a human mother produce a natural man, with a rotten heart and a beautiful religion, all fit for hell.

We all come into the world as natural men, far from God, rotten and fit for the lake of fire. It does not matter how religious we are. This is because religion cannot change the heart. You can wash the hands and the feet or the whole body, but you cannot wash your heart, and God looks at the heart. There is nothing that any human being can do, that can change his heart.

A preacher went to Obala (a town in Cameroon), and one man went to the meetings. He told him, "You cannot be saved. You can read some Psalms to comfort yourself, but you cannot be saved." That man packed his things and was sleeping in the Church house. The preacher still told him, "Even if you sleep here all your life, you cannot be saved." I want to tell you, natural man cannot save himself. May God give you the revelation of this truth.

Natural man cannot save himself. He can gather all the religions in the world, and belong to all of them, or whole-heartedly belong to one, he will still be lost. No man can save himself. No religion can save any man. Whether the religion is two thousand five hundred years or five thousand years old, it cannot save.

Religion consists in a man trying to get to God by himself. Some people make very little effort. Some make no effort. Some make a lot of effort. Whatever efforts they make, the heights are in the heavens, so they cannot get to God. Religion is like somebody trying to jump and reach God. If they say, "Jump," we shall all jump, but to different heights. Some of us will jump very high, but none of us will get to God. No one will even get to one hundred metres or even fifty.

Through religion, all have failed and all are lost. There is no hope for any man. You can change religions, but it will be to no avail. All the efforts of man have failed, and can take no one to heaven. All who are born from below will perish if that is all they have. All the religions, all the sacrifices, all the human efforts will lead only to death.

Jesus says a man must be born from above. The life of God must be imparted to the natural man from above, from God. Unless you are born with a birth that comes from above, you will perish. This is where Jesus comes in. Jesus Christ brought that birth from above to earth.



PART FIVE

Jesus Christ, who is from heaven, brought to earth the birth from above. Say with me, “Jesus Christ, who is from above, brought the birth from above to earth.” He alone did it. He alone is from above. Many religious leaders with their religion tried, but Jesus Christ alone came from above, bringing the life of God to earth. Jesus Christ alone came from heaven, bringing the life from heaven to earth. He is alone in His class. He is not a religious leader. He is a Life-Giver.

There are the religious leaders, and there is Jesus. The religious leaders come to teach you the ways of religion. They give you very many laws, to help you to fail faster. We saw that God gave the ten commandments, the Pharisees added six hundred and nineteen to make six hundred and twenty-nine. Then they broke all of them. Religions only give you laws, so that it may be very evident that you have failed.

In fact, I congratulate religious leaders on failing sincerely. They tried. They wanted to improve man, but they only gave man that which is natural, that which is of earth. Jesus Christ who was from the bosom of the Father, came from heaven,

not with a law

not with laws

not with commandments.

He brought the life of God. He alone brought the life of God. In comparing Him with the first Adam, they say the second Adam was a life-giving Spirit. Jesus

Christ came to bring life, the life from heaven, to bring heaven to earth, to bring God to man. He came to give you God, to give you Himself. He came from heaven right down to earth and brought God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, right to you. He is the life-Giver the Life from above, the Life of God. He came to prepare people who will go to heaven to spend eternity there. He brought the life of God from heaven to earth, to give it to those who, by receiving that life, will qualify to go to heaven, and spend that heavenly life with God.

The Bible says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). God did not say, “Try to get to heaven. Jump high. Try harder. Get more religious. Keep more laws. Add more laws, and keep them, and keep them as accurately as you can. Become stiff in your keeping of the laws, so that you do not bend to the left or to the right.”

He knew that such thinking would only lead to hell. So He came, and brought life from above. Not the law from above, but life from above. This Nicodemus knew the law, but did not have the life. Listen, your conscience must be telling you that you have failed. All your life, thoughts, words and deeds tell you that you have failed. The many times you have made new resolutions for the new year, which are all broken by the end of January, tell you that you do not have the power to change yourself. If you are honest, you will tell yourself, “I do not have the power to change myself. I know what is good, but I do the wrong. I cannot change myself. Religious laws have not helped me.” No, they have not helped you now, and they will not help you in the future. You need the life from above. You are powerless.

Your problem is not your education. Go for the First School Leaving Certificate, the Ordinary Levels, the Advanced Levels, the First Degree, etc, but they will not help you. Changing towns or countries cannot help you. It may only make

you worse and increase your pride, with the rot that has filled your heart.

The Gospel we preach says the blood of Jesus can wash the heart, and remove all these things. That is why Jesus said unless you are born of water... (water representing the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus). But it is not enough to take the sins away. You can stop sinning but still go to hell. If from today you never sin again, you will still go to hell. This is because a sinner, first of all, has to handle the sins of the past which stand against him and will continue to stand against him, unless something is done about them. And, only Jesus can wash them away, in response to the sinner's repentance.

It is not a matter of having sinned or not. Where, then, is the problem? The problem is in the absence of the life from above, because it is only the presence of the life from above that guarantees the fact that you will go to heaven. It is this life from above that gives you the life from heaven. It is not stopping sin that makes you a child of God. Stopping sin is good, but it does not make you a child of God. God in Christ must come in. The Bible says that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. God must come in, and that is why Jesus came. God was in Christ, in His death on the cross, and in the blood that was shed to cleanse sin.

You must invite Jesus to come in. He does not come in uninvited. He is not a thief to break doors and enter. When you pray and invite Him in, He comes in. By His death on the cross, He did the cleansing from sin. But in the new birth, Christ comes in. The life from above, the life of Christ, must come in. When it comes in, all changes. Going to hell is finished, and there is now only one way open: heaven. Christ now fills the heart. When He comes in, He brings in both the life and the power from above.

There is nothing that man can do. Even the power to take away sin is from above. You cannot take away your sins yourself. Even the power to hate your sin

is from above. Natural man cannot hate sin. Natural man can only love sin. The power to hate sin is from above. When Jesus Christ comes in, He brings both the life from above and the power from above: the power to love God, the power to love heaven, the power to love the things of heaven, and the power to hate sin.

An unbeliever cannot hate sin. He may hate the consequences, but he loves sin. It is such that if he can safely commit sin without the consequences, he will commit it. An unbeliever can only hate the consequences of sin. He cannot hate sin. To hate sin, Jesus has to come in. Only a believer can hate sin. We say this emphatically – only the one into whom Jesus has entered and dwells can hate sin. He hates sin, not for its consequences but for what it does to Jesus. So, even if he could sin and not be caught, he would not sin. His problem is not the consequence of sin. His problem is the act of sin.

The one who is born of God hates sin. As he grows in the new life, he hates sin more and more, even if no one were to catch him and even if there were to be no consequences. This is because this new nature of Jesus is totally revolted by sin. When Jesus Christ comes in, you find yourself just hating sin. Even if you are not taught, the new nature in you is opposed to sin. So, consequence or no consequence, when Jesus Christ comes in, there is a bend away from sin. If sin is on this side, there is a bend on the other side, towards Jesus. You do not need anybody to catch you. Inside you, there is a life from above, that makes sin a stranger. It is such that if you fall into sin, you want to get rid of it as fast as possible, and not go back there again.

There is a road in town (Mokolo), where in 1982 someone hit my car from the back. For the rest of my driving life I never passed on that road again. When Jesus has come in, do not go back where the devil got you to sin. You do not need somebody to tell you. Like in my case, you begin to think that every driver in that place is mad, that his brakes may not work and he may hit you, and so you take another road.

When Jesus comes in, he comes to bring heaven and the joy of heaven, the liberty of heaven, the life of heaven, the peace of God, the healing from God and the deliverance from God. We say without apology, that everyone in Christ has enjoyed better health than he or she had before coming to Christ. Everyone in Christ has better health than before. In Christ, everything begins to evolve in the direction of God. Everything begins to work towards heaven. Things get better day by day.

When Jesus comes in, it is not a philosophy or a doctrine. It is life. It is an encounter and more than an encounter. It is not that He just comes, you touch Him, and then you go home forever. No, you come, you embrace Him and then with Jesus, life is wonderful, yes, it is wonderful. You let Jesus in, He changes everything. He comes to stay forever. He does not come and then leaves you for a holiday. He comes forever.

He comes as the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ said, "I will give you another Comforter, to be with you forever." When Jesus Christ comes, He has come forever. He will never leave you. When you fall down, He lifts you. When you err, He corrects you. But He has come forever. When the road is too rough, He carries you on his back, and carries you through the difficulty. That is why the life He gives is called eternal life. It is not only unending. It is a life that grows in quality increasingly.

It is not something you can do yourself. Even repentance is a gift of God. The power to come to Christ is a gift of God. The power to continue in Christ is a gift of God. The power to love God is a gift of God. The power to hate sin is a gift of God. The power to read the Word is a gift of God. The power to meditate is a gift of God. The power to pray is a gift of God. The power to fast is a gift of God. The power to give to God is a gift of God. The power to serve God is a gift of God.

All that you need to do is to receive. You cannot receive too much. The life of God in you is God's gift – "For God so loved the world that he gave." He gave His Son. That gift is for you. Today, that gift is offered to you personally. Even if you were the only sinner on earth, He still would have come for you. God is not caught up with numbers. He will do for one sinner what He would do for a billion sinners. Jesus is for you in person. Lift up your hand and say, "Jesus is for me. He came for me. He died on the cross for me. He loves me."

If a young man sees a young girl and says, "I love you. I want to live with you forever. I promise to love you forever. All my life, I will give to you. All that I have, I will give to you. I promise to love you forever," the girl may turn her back. But the boy has loved her and promised her everything. If the girl does not respond positively, that love will never be consummated. You, too, must be able to respond to the gift of life from Christ.

All is God's doing. But it must be received. If it is rejected, if Christ is rejected, the love of God for man cannot come to fulfilment, and man is the loser. Therefore, the sinner must receive God's love embodied in Christ. God has given you ears and you have heard. He has given you a mind, and you have understood. He has given you a will; you must decide. He offers you a Saviour, and you must receive Him. Wherever you are, whoever you are, God has offered you salvation, full and free, in the Lord Jesus.

If you do not receive Him, you cannot have His salvation. All that He has done for you and intends to do for you, will be nullified, just as that girl who has rejected the love of the boy. But if the girl says, "Take me to be yours right now," then there is union.

Now we invite you to turn to Jesus Christ and to say, "Jesus Christ, I come to You." If you are a sinner, and want Jesus Christ to come into you, turn to Him now. You want Him to possess you and to work out this wonder in your life. You

want Him to bring into you the life of God, bringing you to heaven. You want him to give you the life from above. Turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord is waiting for you.

All that you need is to be willing to turn to Him. He will give you faith. He will give you the power to repent. The Lord is waiting for you. He wants to give you the life of heaven. He has singled you out. He will not cast you out. Are you old, young, a man or woman? Turn to Jesus. We bring you an invitation from Jesus. Come just as you are. Come with all your sins. Jesus knows how to handle sin. Do not say you are too bad.

Let the life of God from above enter you. Let the power from above come into you. Let the Saviour from above come to you. Now is your hour. His arms are wide open. Jesus loves you. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Put your hands on your head and say, "Lord, this is the day of salvation. I do not want to miss this opportunity of my life. I will not pretend. I will not postpone. I will not raise foolish questions. Jesus is the Saviour. I need Him now. I am going to receive Him now. I will not lie about my need of Him. I lay hold of my Saviour. I am done with Satan forever."

You can accept your destiny in Christ, or you can reject it and perish. It could be too late for you to turn to Christ, if you do not turn to Him now. You could postpone and experience the fatal crossing. But if you perish, you would have chosen perdition on your own. The devil may tell you some other thing, but listen to the voice of Jesus. Jesus sends you the appeal of God's love. Look at the cross of the Lord Jesus. Do not jump over the cross and go to the lake of fire. Choose the bosom of Jesus. Dare you choose hell? Save yourself from the wrath

of God. Some day your heart will be asking: “What did you do with Jesus?” Neutral you cannot be.

Now, we want you to talk to God in prayer. Pray as below or say a similar prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your love for me. Thank You for sending Jesus Christ to save me. Heavenly Father, I have tried to save myself. I have tried religion. I have tried to be good, but I have remained a slave to Satan. Heavenly Father, today, I acknowledge that I cannot save myself and that Jesus Christ alone is my Saviour. I accept the death of Jesus Christ on the cross to save me. I repent of my sins. I turn my back to sin now. I turn my back to lying. I turn my back to sexual immorality. I turn my back to idol-worship. I put an end to going to witch-doctors. I turn to You, Jesus.

Lord Jesus, save me. Lord Jesus, save me now. Lord Jesus, cleanse me with Your blood now. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins, come now into my heart and make me a child of God. Come and dwell in my heart. Lord Jesus, I believe in You. You are the only Son of God. You are my Saviour. You died for me. You were buried. You rose again from the dead, and You sit at the right hand of the Father, for me. I give You my life. Be the Lord of my life and lead me. I will follow and obey You.

Lord Jesus, thank You for forgiving me. Thank You for cleansing me by Your blood. Thank You because now I am saved. I am a child of God. Thank You, Jesus. Amen.



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Thank you!

Zacharias Tanee Fomum

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VERY IMPORTANT!!!

If you have not yet received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, I encourage you to receive Him. Here are some steps to help you,

ADMIT that you are a sinner by nature and by practice and that on your own you are without hope. Tell God you have personally sinned against Him in your thoughts, words and deeds. Confess your sins to Him, one after another in a sincere prayer. Do not leave out any sins that you can remember. Truly turn from your sinful ways and abandon them. If you stole, steal no more. If you have been committing adultery or fornication, stop it. God will not forgive you if you have no desire to stop sinning in all areas of your life, but if you are sincere, He will give you the power to stop sinning.

BELIEVE that Jesus Christ, who is God's Son, is the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me"* (John 14:6). The Bible says, *"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all"* (1 Timothy 2:5-6). *"And there is salvation in no one else (apart from Jesus), for there is no other name under heaven given*

among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God...” (John 1:12). BUT,

CONSIDER the cost of following Him. Jesus said that all who follow Him must deny themselves, and this includes selfish financial, social and other interests. He also wants His followers to take up their crosses and follow Him. Are you prepared to abandon your own interests daily for those of Christ? Are you prepared to be led in a new direction by Him? Are you prepared to suffer for Him and die for Him if need be? Jesus will have nothing to do with half-hearted people. His demands are total. He will only receive and forgive those who are prepared to follow Him **AT ANY COST**. Think about it and count the cost. If you are prepared to follow Him, come what may, then there is something to do.

INVITE Jesus to come into your heart and life. He says, *“Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door (to his heart and life), I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me ”* (Revelation 3:20). Why don’t you pray a prayer like the following one or one of your own construction as the Holy Spirit leads?

“Lord Jesus, I am a wretched, lost sinner who has sinned in thought, word and deed. Forgive all my sins and cleanse me. Receive me, Saviour and transform me into a child of God. Come into my heart now and give me eternal life right now. I will follow you at all costs, trusting the Holy Spirit to give me all the power I need.”

When you pray this prayer sincerely, Jesus answers at once and justifies you before God and makes you His child.

Please write to me (ztfbbooks@cmfionline.org) and I will pray for you and help you as you go on with Jesus Christ.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zacharias Tanee FOMUM

1945-2009

Founding Leader,

[Christian Missionary Fellowship International](#)

(C.M.F.I)

Professor [Zacharias Tanee Fomum](#) was born in the flesh on 20th June 1945 and became born again on 13th June 1956. On 1st October 1966, He consecrated his life to the Lord Jesus and to His service, and was filled with the Holy Spirit on 24th October 1970. He was taken to be with the Lord on 14th March, 2009.

Pr Fomum was admitted to a first class in the Bachelor of Science degree, graduating as a prize winning student from Fourah Bay College in the University of Sierra Leone in October 1969. At the age of 28, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry by the University of Makerere, Kampala in Uganda. In October 2005, he was awarded a Doctor of Science (D.Sc) by the University of

Durham, Great Britain. This higher doctorate was in recognition of his distinct contributions to scientific knowledge through research. As a Professor of Organic Chemistry in the University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon, Professor Fomum supervised or co-supervised more than 100 Master's Degree and Doctoral Degree theses and co-authored over 160 scientific articles in leading international journals. He considered Jesus Christ the Lord of Science ("For by Him all things were created..." – Colossians 1:16), and scientific research an act of obedience to God's command to "subdue the earth" (Genesis 1:28). He therefore made the Lord Jesus the Director of his research laboratory while he took the place of deputy director, and attributed his outstanding success as a scientist to Jesus' revelational leadership.

In more than 40 years of Christian ministry, Pr Fomum travelled extensively, preaching the Gospel, planting churches and training spiritual leaders. He made more than:

- 700 missionary journeys within Cameroon, which ranged from one day to three weeks in duration.
- 500 missionary journeys to more than 70 different nations in all the six continents. These ranged from two days to six weeks in duration.

By the time of his going to be with the Lord in 2009, he had preached in over 1000 localities in Cameroon, sent over 200 national missionaries into many localities in Cameroon and planted over 1300 churches in the various administrative provinces of Cameroon. At his base in Yaounde, he planted and built a mega-church with his co-workers which grew to a steady membership of about 12,000. Pr Fomum was the founding team-leader of Christian Missionary Fellowship International (CMFI); an evangelism, soul-winning, disciple making, Church-planting and missionary-sending movement with more than 200 international missionaries and thousands of churches in 65 nations spread across

Africa, Europe, the Americas, Asia and Oceania. In the course of their ministry, Pr Fomum and his team witnessed more than 10,000 recorded healing miracles performed by God in answer to prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. These miracles include instant healings of headaches, cancers, HIV/AIDS, blindness, deafness, dumbness, paralysis, madness, and new teeth and organs received.

Pr Fomum read the entire Bible more than 60 times, read more than 1350 books on the Christian faith and authored over 150 books to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 5 million copies of these books are in circulation in 12 languages as well as 16 million gospel tracts in 17 languages.

Pr Fomum was a man who sought God. He spent between 15 minutes and six hours daily alone with God in what he called Daily Dynamic Encounters with God (DDEWG). During these DDEWG he read God's Word, meditated on it, listened to God's voice, heard God speak to him, recorded what God was saying to him and prayed it through. He thus had over 18,000 DDEWG. He also had over 60 periods of withdrawing to seek God alone for periods that ranged from 3 to 21 days (which he termed Retreats for Spiritual Progress). The time he spent seeking God slowly transformed him into a man who hungered, thirsted and panted after God. His unceasing heart cry was: "Oh, that I would have more of God!"

Pr Fomum was a man of prayer and a leading teacher on prayer in many churches and conferences around the world. He considered prayer to be the most important work that can be done for God and for man. He was a man of faith who believed that God answers prayer. He kept a record of his prayer requests and had over 50, 000 recorded answers to prayer in his prayer books. He carried out over 100 Prayer Walks of between five and forty-seven kilometres in towns and cities around the world. He and his team carried out over 57 Prayer Crusades (periods of forty days and nights during which at least eight hours are invested into prayer each day). They also carried out over 80 Prayer Sieges (times of near

non-stop praying that ranges from 24 hours to 120 hours). He authored the Prayer Power Series, a 13-volume set of books on various aspects of prayer; Supplication, Fasting, Intercession and Spiritual Warfare. He started prayer chains, prayer rooms, prayer houses, national and continental prayer movements in Cameroon and other nations. He worked with leaders of local churches in India to disciple and train more than 2 million believers.

Pr Fomum also considered fasting as one of the weapons of Christian Spiritual Warfare. He carried out over 250 fasts ranging from three days to forty days, drinking only water or water supplemented with soluble vitamins. Called by the Lord to a distinct ministry of intercession, he pioneered fasting and prayer movements and led in battles against principalities and powers obstructing the progress of the Gospel and God's global purposes. He was enabled to carry out 3 supra – long fasts of between 52 and 70 days in his final years.

Pr Fomum chose a lifestyle of simplicity and “self- imposed poverty” in order to invest more funds into the critical work of evangelism, soulwinning, church-planting and the building up of believers. Knowing the importance of money and its role in the battle to reach those without Christ with the glorious Gospel, he and his wife grew to investing 92.5% of their earned income from all sources (salaries, allowances, royalties and cash gifts) into the Gospel. They invested with the hope that, as they grew in the knowledge and the love of the Lord, and the perishing souls of people, they would one day invest 99% of their income into the Gospel.

He was married to Prisca Zei Fomum and they had seven children who are all involved in the work of the Gospel, some serving as missionaries. Prisca is a national and international minister, specializing in the winning and discipling of children to Jesus Christ. She also communicates and imparts the vision of ministry to children with a view to raising and building up ministers to them.

The Professor owed all that he was and all that God had done through him, to the unmerited favour and blessing of God and to his worldwide army of friends and co-workers. He considered himself nothing without them and the blessing of God; and would have amounted to nothing but for them. All praise and glory to Jesus Christ!



OTHER BOOKS BY Z.T. FOMUM

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