

April Questions / Answers

**The following questions are taken from emails and are printed below exactly as I received them. Names and contact information have been removed. The answers are in note form (sorry for any of my grammar errors) to be studied through. You'll have to examine each Scripture below to see the points. Please be mindful that there are often circumstances and details to every question that could potentially change the answer (there are generally no blanket answers to Bible questions).*

1. "Sir, in my denomination, every year election is conducted, where the leaders of the church are change either annually or bi-annual (changing of offices like; secretary, wardens, etc). My confusion is, I learnt that every one has his/her calling according to biblical teaching, will this changing of office not make some to abandon their real callings, looking at the bases of churches we are having?"

- There is a lot to say about what you have written and asked. I will not try to say it all, but rather try to write enough to get you to start on the right path. I will simplify my answer, but there is much depth we could go into. I also know there are cultural differences in Nigeria and some of that has influenced what is going on religiously. Culture does not and cannot be allowed to pervert the truth (**Colossians 2:6-23**).
- Having any church, aside from the one body of Christ, is wrong. There is only one body/church that belongs to Christ (**Matthew 16:13-18**, **Ephesians 1:22-23**, **Ephesians 4:4-6**, **Colossians 3:15**, and **Hebrews 3:1-6**). Denominationalism is the wearing of other names and that is wrong (**I Corinthians 1:10-13**). Jesus is the Savior of His body, the church; not any denomination (**Ephesians 5:23-25**).
- Jesus is the sole head of the church (**Colossians 1:12-18**).
- The Scriptures authorize qualified men to be appointed (NOT ELECTED) to be shepherds in the Lord's church by faithful, local evangelists (**I Timothy 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:5-9**). Those men are to shepherd the flock they are among (**I Peter 5:1-4**) according to the doctrine of Christ (**Hebrews 13:7** and **II John 1:9**). There are deacons to be in place if they are qualified (**I Timothy 3:8-13**). Evangelists are in place after properly being taught themselves (**II Timothy 2:2; 4:1-5**).
- There is no authority in the Scriptures for elections to be had for offices in the body of Christ for any reason. There is no Scriptural authority for a secretary, a warden [a supervisor], etc. These things are additions to the Scriptures, making them sinful (**Proverbs 30:5-6**, **Acts 5:29**, **I Corinthians 4:6**, **Galatians 1:6-9**, **Revelation 22:18-19**).
- I am not sure what you are meaning by "callings" according to what you think are biblical teachings. We each have natural abilities granted to us by our Heavenly Father (**I Peter 4:11**). We are to put those to appropriate Scriptural usage in the carrying out of His will (**Matthew 25:14-30**, **Mark 4:33**, and **Luke 12:35-48**). There are other things you could be meaning. I will leave that for you to ask a follow-up concerning if you so choose to.
- Please, let me help you leave denominationalism and I can help you from afar in finding or establishing a sound, local congregation belonging to Christ. We first have to start with you obeying the Gospel properly. You have my information if you want to do so. We have to have a long conversation for me to fully know what you need taught and how we can go about having you follow what the Scriptures teach about proper conversion.

2. "There are many things I will like for you clarify for me but first the important doctrine is about heavenly vision in Acts 26:19. Is this how preacher know what to preach?"

- If you are looking to learn and live what you learn (**Luke 11:28** and **James 1:21-27**), I will be more than willing to teach you. That is my work (**II Timothy 4:2**).
- **Acts 26:19** is in a context wherein the Apostle Paul is describing how Jesus appeared to him (**Acts 26:1-32**). The original event is recorded in **Acts 9:1-22**.
- What happened to Paul will never happen again (**I Corinthians 15:1-8**).
- During the first century, prior to the word of God being completed, the Apostles were led by the Holy Spirit directly (**John 14:25-26**, **John 16:12-13**, **Acts 16:1-10**, **I Corinthians 2:1-13**, **Galatians 1:10-12**, and **Ephesians 3:1-5**). They did not have to think about what they were going to teach or say (**Matthew 10:16-20**).
- The evangelists then, and now, are supposed to teach what was revealed through the Apostles (**I Corinthians 4:17** and **II Timothy 2:2**; cf. **Acts 2:42**).
- If someone claims today to be led by the Spirit and to have a spiritual gift of knowledge, you KNOW they are lying. The Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of an Apostle's hands (**Acts 8:12-24** and **Acts 19:1-7**). There are no Apostles today. Furthermore, the gifts of the Spirit were always intended to be temporary until the perfect law of Christ was fully revealed leaving us with faith, hope, and charity (**I Corinthians 12:3-13:13**; cf. **James 1:25**).
- For preachers today, we must study, rightly divide the word, live it (**II Timothy 2:14-18**, **I Timothy 4:11-16**, and **II Peter 3:15-17**), and teach it carefully to honest seekers. We have to understand the great judgment upon us whom are preachers (**James 3:1**). There is no supernatural help involved.

3. "Where did Moses prophesy about Christ being a prophet?"

- If you read **Deuteronomy 18:15-19** you can know this is about Christ by referencing **Acts 3:18-26**. This was also briefly referenced by Stephen (**Acts 7:37**).
- Jesus used Moses and the prophets to preach His identity (**Luke 24:27** and **Luke 24:44**). Paul preached Christ from Moses and the prophets too (**Acts 28:23**).

4. "Is it a requirement for all people to be baptized, to be put under water, to be saved? Does Church membership have a large part or small part of our being saved?"

- One of the reasons for being baptized is to be free from repented of sins. Baptism is for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**), to have sins washed away (**Acts 22:16**), to be spiritually reborn after sin has brought spiritual death (**John 3:1-5** and **Romans 6:1-23**).
- Therefore, to be a candidate for baptism, a person must have sinned. To sin, you must be capable of understanding right from wrong (**James 4:17**). With that unquestionably being true, you must conclude that infants, young children, the mentally ill, etc. cannot be sinners. When a person is converted they are going back to the innocency of a child (**Matthew 18:1-4**). Consider that.
- There are things that must be done before a person can be properly baptized. For example, a person must be able to hear the Gospel to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His will (**Acts 8:26-37**). Thus, a candidate for baptism must be intelligent

enough to hear, understand, desire to obey the Gospel, and to continue thereafter as a disciple of Christ (**Matthew 13:18-23**).

- Prior to the process of conversion, a person must be able to CHOOSE to serve Christ above all other things (**Luke 14:25-33**). A person unable to do so cannot be baptized.
- Baptism also adds one to the body of Christ putting them in Christ (**Acts 2:41; 47** and **Galatians 3:26-27**). Is a person capable of being a member of the body of Christ with all of the expectations that includes (i.e. **Acts 2:42-46, Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 12:14-27, Galatians 6:1-2, Ephesians 4:15-16, I Thessalonians 5:11-14, Hebrews 10:23-25**, etc.). Can a person understand and accept the responsibilities that come with being a member of the body of Christ?
- Many times people just jump to Scriptures such as **Acts 2:38**. They fail to realize that the audience was Jews, people who had been taught the Law of Moses all their lives. Even with them, it was not a simple “hear, believe, repent, confess ... be baptized”. They were taught with many other words (**Acts 2:40**). Baptism begins a committed relationship in Christ that requires much understanding and thought. Baptism, becoming a new creature, is a whole surrender to the will of Christ (**Matthew 28:18-20** and **II Corinthians 5:14-17**). Someone who is, say, 25 years old and is autistic to the point he or she cannot care for themselves. Can he or she, that cannot live on his or her own, really understand that commitment and responsibility?
- Regarding church membership.... To be saved you must be a member of the church of Christ. Christ is the Savior of His body, the church (**Acts 2:47** and **Ephesians 5:23-27**). The saved are in the church/kingdom (**Hebrews 12:22-28**).
- Being part of a local congregation/church/body [all mean the same thing] is necessary for salvation to them that were lost as well. To be faithful; saved; you must obey all of the Lord’s will (**Matthew 7:13-23, Matthew 28:20, Luke 6:46, Hebrews 5:8-9, James 2:10-12, and II John 1:9**). There are many things you must do to please God that require you being a member of a completely sound; faithful (**II Corinthians 6:14-18, Ephesians 5:6-11, II John 1:9-11, and Revelation 2:14-16**) congregation. Consider the following as a few, of many that could be listed, of instructions that require you be a member of a local assembly of Christ (**Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 11:23-33, Ephesians 5:19, I Corinthians 16:1-4, Galatians 6:1-2, Ephesians 4:15-16, I Thessalonians 5:11-14, Hebrews 10:24-25, James 5:19-20, I Peter 4:9**, etc.

5. “The Holy Spirit is sent into the world, according to John 16, to glorify the Son. And he glorifies the Son by leading us to the Son and causing us to see the Son as the ground for our access to the Father 1 Thessalonians 1:5. So, should we pray to the Holy Spirit? Or is the receiving of the Holy Spirit mean he joins our spirit and we are one with him?”

- I would guess you are referring to **John 16:13-14**. The context is a promise to the Apostles for what was coming for them (**John 15:18-16:15**). You are twisting that! Twisting Scriptures comes with a price (**II Peter 3:15-17**).
- The Holy Spirit does NOT directly lead US to anything. The Holy Spirit directly led the Apostles. That is the context. As stated in question 2, that meant they were literally guided action by action and word for word (**Acts 16:1-10** and **Matthew 10:16-20**).
- You are also twisting **I Thessalonians 1:5**. The Gospel saves (**Romans 1:16**). After being taught by the Apostles, without any copies of the then not written New Testament, those taught were sealed with the Holy Spirit for confirmation of their salvation (**Ephesians 1:13**). Go here to see what that was like: **Acts 19:1-7**

- The Holy Spirit, as addressed in question 2, was given in the first century by the Apostles (**Acts 8:12-24**) to all whom obeyed the Gospel. The Spirit then gave them miraculous gifts that were never intended to be permanent (**I Corinthians 12:3-13:13**). They were even aided, as they did not yet have the Scriptures revealed, in learning (**I John 2:27**). This has all passed. If you had the Spirit leading you, you would not have to ask me any questions (again; **I John 2:27**).
- There are no Apostles today to give the Spirit. That makes the applications to any and all Scriptures about what the Spirit did directly to first century Christians a moot point. Lest one argue about Holy Spirit baptism, understand that such has passed as well (**Ephesians 4:5**; cf. **I Peter 3:20-21**). It only happened twice for very specific reasons that are no longer valid today (**Acts 1:8-2:4** and **Acts 10:1-11:18**).
- Those whom are obedient to the will of the Lord access the Father through Christ (**John 14:6**, **Acts 4:10-12**, and **I Timothy 2:5**).
- There is no receiving of the Holy Spirit today. I know this is an often misunderstood subject. I am more than willing to spend more time directly with you, in studies, to help you understand it. If the Spirit were working today, as He did then, consider what you would surely be seeing (**Mark 16:15-20**).
- We are to pray to God the Father (**Matthew 6:9**, **Ephesians 5:20**, **Philippians 4:6**, **Colossians 1:3**, and **Colossians 3:17**).