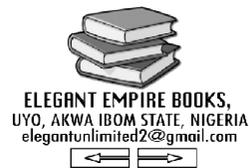




**YOUR
RIGHTS
IN LIFE**

by:
GODWIN AKPABIO



Your RIGHTS in Life

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GODWIN AKPABIO

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mfonobongakpabio@gmail.com

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Enquiries:
godwinakpabio137@yahoo.com
elegantunlimited2@gmail.com
0813-006-0648; 0705-646-6045.

Dedication

To GOD Almighty, the GIVER of rights and, and to those that are fair towards the poor, less privileged and the common man!

Acknowledgments

I give God the glory for yet another privilege given to me to come up with a literature of this sort.

I recognize and appreciate the different sources of information i have glanced through, such as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and other research materials and books.

Of particular mention are Magistrate L. S. Udonwa (ESQ.), Barrister Essien E. Essien of the

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I really appreciate my wife in her reading and creatively adding to the book side by side with me, and also her usual funs and jokes to release tension in the course of writing this book.

I appreciate my children and so many, for their encouragements and prayers to us in one way or the other to see to the writing of this book.

Finally, the Elegant Empire International is highly recommended for designing and publishing this wonderful masterpiece. May this book be a great blessing to so many in this generation and in the generations to come, in Jesus name. Amen!

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oreword

When the Reverend Godwin Akpabio gave me this book to write the foreword, a quick look at the title ignited my curiosity. As a reminder, the title of the book is “*Your Rights In Life.*”

The first thought was, can a person who is not a lawyer write on “*Fundamental Human Right?*” Then, I decided to read the contents of the book...

In the introductory part of the book, the author clearly emphasizes that life itself is

operational only in the midst of laws.

Quite emphatically too, he states in Chapter one that one's right is Life, Light and Privilege, using Biblical examples like the daughters of Zelophehad (*Genesis 12*); he stresses that knowledge of one's right leads to a more prosperous life. It is from Chapter two, that he highlights and recapture the basic rights of humans.

Similarly, according to Constitutional provisions, and being a theologian, he backs up his analysis with Biblical texts. On the whole, the author uses this portable book to bring to fore the analogy of human right and human existence.

He is a versatile writer!

Barr. (Mrs.) Idorenyin Eyo

Review

Simply written for the understanding of all. The book "*YOUR RIGHTS IN LIFE*" is a concise examination of the Fundamental Human Rights of the citizen viewed from the legal as well as the scriptural perspective.

Once you start reading, you loose appetite for other things until you finish... Then it makes your wiser and more secured.

Barr. Essien E. Essien

Introduction

The right to life, to live or exist and the privilege to enjoy these rights is given to all creatures by the Almighty God. Every living thing has its right for example: human beings as the higher beings and the crown of all creations, animals, birds, fishes, trees, creeping things etc. Hence, the human right laws for the protection of things like the forestry, animals, eco-systems, man and the land use decrees, etc.

The knowledge that you have the right to

Introduction

exist or live your life, and do your own thing or do other things is your power. Many do not know that they have such rights to act and live as other fellow humans and that they should exercise or defend them against an attempt of human violation or infringement of any kind.

God has embedded human beings with intelligence and the power to make laws that cover not just the realms of human existence alone but for the protection of the universe including the cosmic domain and sphere of activities. Today, technology has given man a faster pace of dealing with all these laws and rights governing his existence.

Those who masterminded the obnoxious slave trade saga of fellow human beings in those

Introduction

days have done a gross violation to the human right edicts and hence should tender continuous apology to those nations affected especially the black nations of Africa. The laws at the same time should not hesitate to deal decisively or take its rightful course on those who are still bent on trading on fellow human beings and infringing on the fundamental human rights in the form of human trafficking, child labor and other forms of this violation till today.

The need for living things to grow horizontally and expand vertically demands the freedom to exercise these laws and rights entitled to them. The formulation of the different laws for the protection of land, forest, fishes in the sea etc; is a welcome development. Growth itself is a

Introduction

problem if not checked by the laws and rights governing it. When God told the first man,

“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” (Genesis 1:28 - KJV),

He said that within the confine or framework of the operative principle of the concept of the bond and bundle of the laws and rights to life.

Chapter
01

YOU HAVE A RIGHT



The knowledge that you have the right to exist
or live your life, and do your own thing
or do other things is your power!

Your Right Is Your Life

Life is such a wonderful phenomenon or existence or mystery that demands a free environment to thrive void of any interference. The giver of life gave life with the right and the laws governing it to thrive. All lives have the potential rights from God and with divine provision to exist and prosper anywhere they are planted and succeed provided no one disturbs them.

Your Right Is Your Life

One then will never be in danger or novice of what to do to hasten life when he knows his right to life. The more you know your right to life and adhere to it, the more you are free and enjoy your life.

Joshua instructed the children of Israel,

“See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to

Your Right Is Your Life

other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and to possess.

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you, life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.

For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” (Deuteronomy 30:15-20 - NIV).

Your Right Is Your Life

Life has to do with knowing the rights and demands of it and doing them. Like students will want to abide by school rules and regulations so as not to be punished, life demands not just having knowledge of the laws and rights to it but by being able to obey them.

Drivers and road users or pedestrians must be able to observe the road signs anywhere around the world to avoid accident and being trapped by the traffic police.

Joshua put forward this conditional injunction to the children of Israel as a yardstick for possessing the land promised to them by the Almighty God on the bases of obedience. Real life flourishes and is at best when it is given to obedience and faithfulness.

Your Right Is Your Life

Long life and prosperity are the direct result and reward of a life given to obedience and the honor of God (*Ephesians 6:1-3*).

The Psalmist states,

“Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.”
(*Psalm 34:12-14 NIV*).

Real good life must never encourage nor support evil in the society but to encourage and support that which makes for peace.

YOUR RIGHT IS YOUR LIGHT

Light means the brightness given by the sun, a flame, a lamp, etc. that makes vision possible or

Your Right Is Your Light

something that produces light or Public knowledge or the way in which somebody or thing is regarded.

Spiritual light:

Jesus said,

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (spiritual life)” (*John 8:12*).

He also said to his followers,

“You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven”
(*Matthew 5:15, 15*).

The Word of God:

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (*Psalm 119:105*).

Your Right Is Your Light

Your light speaks volumes about you. It determines your level of awareness and people's regards of you.

As In Morality

This has to do with the right and wrong behavior and character. The power of one's moral consciousness in dealing with legal or moral justice or fairness in political, social and economic matters.

Light speaks of the moral consciousness to refrain or stay from sin.

The scripture says,

“Therefore get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:21-NIV).

Your Right Is Your Light

Also,

“My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.

For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way of life.” (Proverbs 6:20-23 - NIV).

Walking in the light of life demands knowing your right which involves a strict adherent or giving heed to parent's instructions. This is the real light of life to listen to instruction and to live a disciplined

Your Right Is Your Light

life and to be kept from the immoral woman. No true or sincere parent or teacher can ill-advice or give wrong advice to the children or students.

As In Ability

Your exercise of special ability or work not dependent on anyone else makes you a hero. One can do well what he knows best. In life there is what you can do best and better than anything else. Seek to know and do it. God has given that to everybody.

The scripture says,

“A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.” (Proverbs 18:16 NIV). A man's gift or work must always introduce him. “Do you see a man

Your Right Is Your Light

skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.” (Proverbs 22:29 - NIV).

As In Good Work

Jesus said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16 KJV).

What one is in life is seen in what work he does. Your work introduces you and where you come from.

Your Right Is Your Privilege

The right you have in life is your privilege a special right, hence one need not to mismanage the privilege he has in life. What you are is not of your own making.

It is bestowed to you by God - even if God uses anyone else to grant it to you, it is not of your making. The entire existence of man is surrounded by God's grace and His unmerited favor.

The privilege to live, acquire or own properties, or to own what ought to belong to others as your own, like God dispossessed the original Canaanites to grant their land to Abraham and his descendants - Israelites as promised to them and as their possession, (Genesis 12).

Zelophehad's Daughters Got Their Father's Name Retained

“The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clan of Manasseh son of Joseph. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Naoh, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah.

They approached the entrance to the Tent of meeting and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly, and said, Our father died in the desert.

He was not among Korah's followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his

Zelophehad's Daughters Got Their Father's Name Retained

own sin and left no sons. Why should our father's name disappear from his clan because he had no son?

Give us property among our father's relatives. So Moses brought their case before the LORD and the LORD said to him, "What Zelophehad's daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father's relative and turn their father's inheritance over to them"(Numbers 27:1-7 NIV).

The knowledge of your right and your power to act on it is your privilege to possess. Knowledge itself is one thing and the power to act

Zelophehad's Daughters Got Their Father's Name Retained

is another. Name is so important in life, and the scripture admits:

"A good name is better than fine perfume" (Ecclesiastes 7:1 NIV).

The daughters of Zelophehad were able to claim and retain their father's inheritance at the death of their father who had no sons to carry on their father's name.

A woman can act in the absence of a man in the family or anywhere, if she knows her rights.

Your Right Is Your Knowledge

Knowledge is the information, understanding and skills that you gain through education or experience or the state of knowing

Your Right Is Your Knowledge

about a particular facts or situation.

Life is like a school and those who pass well do so by learning. Learning is the art of gaining knowledge, understanding or skill by study, observation or inquiry. It is the foundation of all success.

Anything you must do well in life, you must start by learning. The greatest men that have ever lived were great learners.

The right to know is still a privilege given to every man by the creator hence the promulgation of the information freedom, the press and the writer's freedom by the government. Knowledge is power, what knowledge you acquire matters, godly or ungodly.

Your Right Is Your Knowledge

What one is and does is determined by what knowledge he gains. One can only go as far as his knowledge is in life.

Your right to know can take you as far as you can possibly go in this life including your right to ask, right to interact and associate, right to travel, right to defend your rights, etc.

One's speech, action and leadership skill or style is also determined by his knowledge or exposure.