

LAGOS BIBLE CONFERENCE '23

THEME: COMMUNION WITH GOD

SYNOPSIS

In the words of the Shorter Catechism, “man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.” This statement directs the thoughts of man away from himself and focuses it entirely upon God who made him, sustains him and redeemed him.

Sadly, many in the church who profess to be Christians live for themselves and not God who ‘saved’ them. In an age of rampant man-centeredness in worship and life, we feel the need to remind the church of the goal of her existence via the theme:

Communion with God.

The aim of the conference will be to re-introduce the doctrine of communion with God, and to explore the rich communion that every believer has with God. We pray and hope for a revival of true heart (lively) religion and a decline of what J.C. Ryle terms *formalism*.

Our hope is that the conference will inspire in all who gather a desire to further cultivate the communion which believers are given to enjoy with the Father, pre-eminently in his love; with the Son, pre-eminently in his grace; and with the Holy Spirit pre-eminently in his comfort.

SESSIONS

Day 1

- 1 The Knowledge of God–The Foundation of our Communion:** This session will introduce the theme of communion with God and lay a foundation for the rest of the series. The session will emphasize the importance of this theme for the Christian life. | ***Ronald Kalifungwa***
- 2 Union with Christ:** This session will explore the doctrine of union with Christ and how it impacts our communion with God. As John Newton wrote in a letter to an inquirer, “Communion with God presupposes union with God. By nature we are strangers, yes, enemies to God; but we are reconciled, brought near, and become his children, by faith in Christ Jesus. We can have no true knowledge of God, desire towards him, access unto him, or gracious communications from him, but in and through the Son of his love.” | ***Murungi Igweta***

3. **The Goal of the Gospel:** This session expounds 1 John 1:1-3 to show that the goal of proclaiming Christ in the Gospel is communion with Him and the Father. | *Joseph Jacowitz*
4. **The Love of the Father and our Communion as His Children:** This session will expound 1 John 3:1-3 to show the marvelous love of God the Father revealed in the adoption of sinners for the goal of communing with them. | *Ronald Kalifungwa*

DAY 2

5. **How We Commune with God—Corporate Worship:** This session will explore the role of worship in our communion with God. The session will cover topics such as the purpose of worship, the importance of corporate worship, and the various elements of worship. | *Ronald Kalifungwa*
6. **How We Commune with God—The Word of God:** This session will explore the role of Scripture in our communion with God. The session will cover topics such as the importance of studying the Bible, the role of the Holy Spirit in illuminating the Scriptures, and the need for obedience to the Word. | *Murungi Igweta*
7. **How We Commune with God—Prayer:** This session will explore the role of prayer in our communion with God. The session will cover topics such as the purpose of prayer, the importance of perseverance in prayer, and the privilege of approaching God in prayer. | *Joseph Jacowitz*
8. **How We Commune with God—The Ordinances:** This session will explore the role of the sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper) in our communion with God. The session will cover topics such as the meaning and significance of the sacraments, their role in the church, and their relationship to our salvation. | *Murungi Igweta*

DAY 3

9. **The Indwelling Holy Spirit and Mortification of Sin:** This session will explore the work of the Holy Spirit in believers with a particular focus on the mortification of remaining sin and how this impacts our communion with God. | *Ronald Kalifungwa*
10. **The Communion of the Saints:** This session will explore (through chapter 27 of the 1689 LBCF) the communion believers have one with another as a result of their vertical communion with the Triune God. The session will cover topics

such as the importance of fellowship in the church, the nature of Christian community, and the need for accountability. | ***Murungi Igweta***

11. Persevering in Communion with God: This session will explore the challenges and obstacles that can hinder our communion with God, as well as the importance of persevering in this communion. The session will cover topics such as the role of suffering, spiritual desertion (Psalm 42), and the hope of glory that awaits us. | ***Ronald Kalifungwa***

12. Questions and Answers

Speakers: Ronald Kalifungwa (Lusaka Baptist Church, Lusaka– Zambia); Murungi Igweta (Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi–Kenya); Joseph Jacowitz (Christ Bible Church, California–USA); Austin Huggins (First Baptist Church, Florida–USA)

SEMINARS

Theology Sessions

1. The Heresy of Modalism | ***Austin Huggins***
2. The Subtle and Dangerous Error of Hyper Grace Teaching | ***Austin Huggins***
3. Strange Fire | ***Austin Huggins***

Family Sessions (for ladies)

1. An Excellent Wife (Prov. 31:10-31) | ***Mrs Kalifungwa***
2. Biblical Submission | ***Mrs Kalifungwa***
3. The Role of Women in the Church | ***Mrs Kalifungwa***

Dates: November 2 - 4