

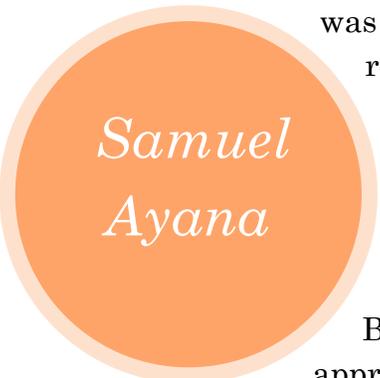
People of Faith



What's Your Agenda?

Have you ever met someone who was blind to a particular viewpoint simply because it did not forward their own agenda? Years can be spent living so close to the truth, but unable to see it because of the eyes we use. Dr. Samuel Ayana had spent hours studying the Bible to dispute Christianity. But only after he was challenged by a friend to read the Bible, allowing Scripture to stand on its own, did he discover that his life would never be the same.

With a Ph.D. in Scientific Atheism from Moscow's Lenin University, Dr. Ayana was a political leader in Ethiopia's hard-line Communist regime that fought against Christianity for 17 years. His job was to propagate atheism, until, in 1993, a heated political dispute with the president forced him to leave Ethiopia. He went to Nairobi, Kenya and eventually consented to a friend's invitation to attend church. After a few more visits to Emmanuel Church, Dr. Ayana met Betta Mengistu. It was Betta who encourage Samuel to approach the Bible from a new perspective. He is now active in church, teaching the Bible and proclaiming the very words he once worked so hard to discredit. God's Word can be transforming when one opens his heart, as well as his eyes, to the message.



Samuel Ayana

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” *Hebrews 4:12*



How does the way we read the Bible, change the way we are influenced by the Bible?



Share a time where, based on what you were going through, you saw a different message in the Bible?