



## **TERMS OF SERVICE**

**Last Updated:** November 11, 2025

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026

## 1. Acceptance of Terms

Welcome to Empower Bible Institute ("we," "us," "our," or "the School"). These Terms of Service ("Terms") govern your use of our website at empowerschool.co.za and all related services, features, and content (collectively, the "Service").

By accessing or using our Service, you agree to be bound by these Terms. If you disagree with any part of these Terms, you may not access the Service.

**IMPORTANT:** These Terms constitute a legally binding agreement between you and Empower Bible Institute. Please read them carefully.

## 2. About Empower Bible Institute

Empower Church (hereafter referred to as: Empower Bible Institute) is a registered South African ministry providing online spiritual education through:

- Weekly live video teachings and course modules
- Interactive learning materials and resources
- Student progress tracking and certification
- Community engagement and support

Our mission is to transform your live through biblical education through quality teachings and community connection.

## 3. Eligibility and Account Registration

### 3.1 Age Requirements

- You must be at least 18 years old to create an account
- Users under 18 may access content with parental consent and supervision
- We do not knowingly collect personal information from children under 13

### 3.2 Account Creation

To access our full services, you must:

- Provide accurate and complete registration information
- Maintain the security of your account credentials
- Notify us immediately of any unauthorized use
- Accept responsibility for all activities under your account



### 3.4 Prohibited Users

You may not use our Service if you:

- Have been previously banned or suspended
- Are located in a country subject to U.S. trade embargos
- Are prohibited from receiving our services under applicable law
- Provide false or misleading information during registration

## 4. Use of Service

### 4.1 Permitted Use

You may use our Service to:

- Access educational content for personal spiritual growth
- Participate in courses and track your learning progress
- Download provided study materials and resources
- Engage with the Empower Bible Institute community

### 4.2 Prohibited Activities

You may NOT:

#### **Content Violations:**

- Copy, distribute, or republish our educational content without permission
- Record, screenshot, or create derivative works from our videos
- Use content for commercial purposes without written consent

#### **Platform Abuse:**

- Attempt to hack, compromise, or disrupt our systems
- Create multiple accounts to circumvent restrictions
- Use automated tools to access or scrape our content
- Impersonate other users or Empower Bible Institute staff

#### **Communication Violations:**

- Send spam, harassment, or inappropriate communications
- Share personal information of other users without consent
- Engage in discriminatory, hateful, or offensive behaviour
- Promote competing educational services or platforms

#### **Legal Violations:**

- Use the Service for any illegal activities
- Violate any applicable laws or regulations
- Infringe on intellectual property rights
- Engage in fraud or deceptive practices



## 5. Educational Content and Intellectual Property

### 5.1 Our Content

All content on Empower Bible Institute, including but not limited to:

- Video lectures and teachings
- Course materials and study guides
- Images, graphics, and logos
- Text, audio, and multimedia content
- Software and platform features

Is protected by South African and international copyright, trademark, and other intellectual property laws.

### 5.2 Limited License to Use

We grant you a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to:

- Access and view content for personal educational purposes
- Download study materials for your personal use

This license does NOT permit you to:

- Redistribute or share content with others
- Create commercial uses of our materials
- Modify or create derivative works
- Remove copyright or proprietary notices

### 5.3 User-Generated Content

If you submit content to us (comments, testimonials, feedback), you grant us:

- A worldwide, royalty-free license to use, modify, and display such content
- The right to use your name and likeness in connection with such content
- Permission to use submissions for promotional and educational purposes

You retain ownership of your original content but grant us these usage rights.

## 6. Payment Terms and Refunds

### 6.1 Course Fees

Some courses or premium features may require payment:

- All fees are clearly disclosed before purchase
- Payments are processed through secure third-party providers
- Prices are subject to change with notice
- Applicable taxes may be added to your purchase



## 6.2 Refund Policy

- **Free Content:** No refunds applicable for free educational content
- **Paid Courses:** Refund requests must be made within 7 days of purchase
- **Digital Materials:** Refunds may be limited once materials are accessed
- **Extraordinary Circumstances:** We may offer refunds at our discretion

## 6.3 Billing and Subscriptions

For subscription services:

- Billing occurs according to your selected courses or modules
- No partial refunds for unused portions of courses

# 7. Privacy and Data Protection

## 7.1 Privacy Policy

Your privacy is important to us. Our Privacy Policy explains:

- What information we collect and why
- How we use and protect your data
- Your rights regarding your personal information
- Our compliance with applicable privacy laws

## 7.2 Educational Records

As an ministry with our educational institution, we:

- Maintain student records in compliance with FERPA
- Protect the confidentiality of your academic progress
- Provide access to your educational records upon request
- Retain records as required by educational regulations

## 7.3 Communications

By using our Service, you consent to receive:

- Course notifications and educational updates
- Administrative communications about your account
- Security alerts and system notifications
- Marketing communications (which you may opt out of)



## 8. Community Guidelines

### 8.1 Respectful Environment

Empower Bible Institute is committed to maintaining a respectful, inclusive learning environment. We expect all users to:

- Treat others with kindness and respect
- Embrace diverse perspectives and backgrounds
- Support fellow students in their spiritual journey
- Maintain appropriate language and behaviour

### 8.2 Religious Expression

While we welcome diverse expressions of faith:

- Content and discussions should align with our Christian educational mission
- Respectful theological discussion is encouraged
- Divisive or inflammatory religious content is prohibited
- Personal attacks based on religious beliefs are not tolerated

### 8.3 Community Participation

When participating in forums, comments, or community features:

- Stay on topic and relevant to course materials
- Respect the privacy of other students
- Do not share personal contact information publicly
- Report inappropriate behaviour to our support team

## 9. Service Availability and Technical Requirements

### 9.1 Service Availability

We strive to provide consistent service availability, but:

- Service may be temporarily unavailable for maintenance
- We do not guarantee 100% uptime or availability
- System updates may require brief service interruptions
- We will provide notice of planned maintenance when possible

### 9.2 Technical Requirements

To use our Service, you need:

- A compatible device (computer, tablet, smartphone)
- Reliable internet connection for video streaming
- Updated web browser or compatible TV interface
- JavaScript enabled for full platform functionality



## 9.3 Third-Party Services

Our Service integrates with third-party providers:

- **Vimeo:** For video hosting and streaming
- **Email Services:** For communications and notifications
- **Payment Processors:** For handling transactions
- **Analytics Tools:** For service improvement

These integrations are subject to the respective third-party terms and policies.

## 10. Suspension and Termination

### 10.1 Termination by You

You may terminate your account at any time by:

- Contacting our support team at [info@empowerschool.co.za](mailto:info@empowerschool.co.za)
- Following account closure procedures in your settings
- Providing written notice of your intent to close your account

### 10.2 Termination by Us

We may suspend or terminate your account if you:

- Violate these Terms of Service
- Engage in prohibited activities or behaviour
- Provide false or misleading information
- Fail to pay required fees (for paid services)
- Remain inactive for extended periods

### 10.3 Effects of Termination

Upon termination:

- Your access to the Service will be immediately revoked
- Your account data may be deleted after a reasonable period
- You remain liable for any outstanding obligations
- Provisions of these Terms that should survive will remain in effect

## 11. Disclaimers and Limitation of Liability

### 11.1 Educational Disclaimers

- **Not Accredited Institution:** Empower Bible Institute may not be accredited by traditional educational accrediting bodies
- **Spiritual Guidance:** Our content is for educational purposes and does not replace personal spiritual counselling



- **Individual Results:** Learning outcomes may vary based on individual engagement and circumstances
- **Theological Perspectives:** Our content reflects specific Christian theological viewpoints

## 11.2 Technical Disclaimers

THE SERVICE IS PROVIDED "AS IS" AND "AS AVAILABLE" WITHOUT WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose
- Warranties that the service will be uninterrupted or error-free
- Warranties regarding the accuracy or reliability of content
- Warranties that defects will be corrected

## 11.3 Limitation of Liability

TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW:

- Our total liability shall not exceed the amount you paid for the Service in the past 12 months
- We shall not be liable for indirect, incidental, special, or consequential damages
- We are not responsible for damages caused by third-party services or content
- You assume full responsibility for your use of the Service

## 12. Indemnification

You agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Empower Bible Institute, its officers, directors, employees, and agents from any claims, damages, losses, or expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising from:

- Your use of the Service
- Your violation of these Terms
- Your violation of any third-party rights
- Any content you submit or share through the Service

## 13. Dispute Resolution

### 13.1 Governing Law

These Terms are governed by the laws of South Africa where Empower Bible Institute is registered, without regard to conflict of law principles.

### 13.2 Dispute Resolution Process

For any disputes arising from these Terms or your use of the Service:

1. **Direct Communication:** Contact us first at [legal@empowerschool.co.za](mailto:legal@empowerschool.co.za) to resolve the issue



2. **Mediation:** If direct communication fails, disputes may be resolved through mediation
3. **Arbitration:** Remaining disputes shall be resolved through binding arbitration
4. **Class Action Waiver:** You agree to resolve disputes individually, not as part of a class action

### 13.3 Jurisdiction

Any legal proceedings must be brought in the courts located in the jurisdiction where Empower Bible Institute is registered.

## 14. Changes to Terms

### 14.1 Modification Rights

We reserve the right to modify these Terms at any time. When we make changes:

- We will post the updated Terms on our website
- We will update the "Last Updated" date at the top
- We will notify users of material changes via email or platform notification
- Continued use of the Service after changes constitutes acceptance

### 14.2 Notification Process

For significant changes to these Terms:

- Email notification to all registered users
- Prominent notice on our website and platform
- Reasonable time period before changes take effect
- Option to terminate your account if you disagree with changes

## 15. Miscellaneous Provisions

### 15.1 Entire Agreement

These Terms, together with our Privacy Policy and any other posted guidelines, constitute the entire agreement between you and Empower Bible Institute regarding your use of the Service.

### 15.2 Severability

If any provision of these Terms is found to be unenforceable, the remaining provisions will continue to be valid and enforceable.

### 15.3 Waiver

Our failure to enforce any provision of these Terms does not constitute a waiver of our right to enforce such provision in the future.



## 15.4 Assignment

You may not assign or transfer your rights under these Terms without our written consent. We may assign these Terms without restriction.

## 15.5 Survival

Provisions that by their nature should survive termination (including intellectual property, limitation of liability, and dispute resolution) will continue to apply after termination of these Terms.

## 16. Contact Information

For questions about these Terms of Service, please contact us:

### **General Inquiries:**

Email: [info@empowerschool.co.za](mailto:info@empowerschool.co.za)

Subject: "Terms of Service Inquiry"

### **Legal Matters:**

Email: [legal@empowerschool.co.za](mailto:legal@empowerschool.co.za)

Subject: "Legal - Terms of Service"

### **Student Support:**

Email: [support@empowerschool.co.za](mailto:support@empowerschool.co.za)

Subject: "Student Support - Terms Question"

### **Mailing Address:**

Empower Bible Institute, Cnr Lizard Street &, Willem Cruywagen Street, Akasia, Pretoria, 0155, South Africa

**Response Time:** We aim to respond to all inquiries within 2-3 business days.

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## Acknowledgment

By clicking "I Agree" or by accessing and using the Empower Bible Institute Service, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these Terms of Service.

### **Empower Bible Institute - Transform Your Life Through Biblical Education**

**Website:** [empowerschool.co.za](http://empowerschool.co.za)

**Email:** [info@empowerschool.co.za](mailto:info@empowerschool.co.za)

*These Terms of Service are designed to protect both Empower Bible Institute and our students while fostering a positive educational environment. We encourage all users to read and understand these terms fully.*

