

7 KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL PRAYER

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I would like to thank all my family without whose help this book would never have been completed.

Firmly, I dedicate this book to my wonderful and precious wife, Monique, my best friend, and mother of my children for her sacrifices and advice at my side.

My cherished children

My grandchildren: Our sons-and-daughters' in-law.

All my children generated according to the will of the Lord; and members of the CAREMS Ministry, and the Church of Christ.

My gratitude goes to all colleagues in the ministries for whom I have a tender affection.

Jean TSHIBANGU

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FOREWORD

The “Value” of a man does not depend on his age but on his personality and abilities to act efficiently. That is the case of the author of this book who evolves in Christian book business, has shown his fluency over time through his various books published during this 21st century. On his journey including time as intercessor, before answering the call to the Ministry of teacher of the Word of God, he held the position of Pastor in a modest and powerful Church in Great Britain.

Knowing how to pray effectively is one of the most important things a believer can ever do in his Christian life. It is clearer evidence that a believer cannot be successful in fulfilling God’s purpose in his life if he does not comply with divine requirements. The topic being addressed here: *The Seven Keys to a Successful Prayer* appears to be a tool that will help readers enhance his relationship with the source of life and implying his rules to unleash his blessings.

It is believed that athlete cannot be crowned unless he fights according to the rules. Similarly, Christian can receive the answer to his prayer only if it is done in accordance with God’s principles. I went carefully through earlier drafts, not only correcting typos, spelling, and grammar, but also offering stimulating and helpful suggestions. I understood the depth and insights which characterize this book. As you read this book, you will quick understand that Jean takes you where you were supposed to be, the knowledge of God and His will so much you can live a victorious life. It is an exciting and fantastic book which gives the insight of the essential principles and their practical implementation to live in real relationship with God for the prayers to be granted:

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I strongly recommend the readers to take time and browse these pages that comprise the bulk of this book.

Dr TAIWO ROTIMI

Jean TSHIBANGU

Acknowledgements

It took me two years to put in writing all I wanted people of God to know about how to get into the heart of God to unleash His blessings.

I owe a deep of gratitude to David Smith who was the first to go through the draft and make his pertinent comments.

I would also recognize Pastor Tony Rotimi amongst those who helped me editing and formatting this book to give it the shape it presents today. I really appreciate his patience with me during the time of cover drawing as I must change it many times.

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INTRODUCTION

I would like to lay down a foundation for understanding the topic by recalling a remarkable Word of God taken from apostle Paul to his beloved son Timothy:

Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. (2 Timothy 2:3-5).

As I was feeling more and more a desire to write, God inspired me to explore this crucial topic in regard with prayer. Indeed, looking onto everyday situations that we are going through, we realize that they always contain a strand of information which can be carefully exploited and analysed, in one way or another, and undoubtedly lead to solving the problems in our lives.

As Christian, we find ourselves in front of unresolved issues that apparently discredit the quality of a Minister of God. When believers go through stressful issues that persist in their lives and thus drive them to despair, when all things seem as if they are shipwrecked, servants of God are unwittingly made victims; accused of being unable to assist them. Some believers manage even to leave the Churches searching a powerful man of God who could help them get comfort and consolation they need.

We have witnessed many heated conversations between embittered and disappointed believers with strong reactions

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from the Churches and their leaders. Those believers consider that real miracles no longer exist, and men of God are powerless in healings and miracles realm. I found myself with such believer/member of given Church who was talking to others about the struggle he was going through. He insinuated that he was discouraged because since he is attending his local church, he was not convinced that God is present in the Church. Suddenly one of the fellow members replied:

“I think you are right; our pastor is not anointed and therefore doesn't have the power of Holy Spirit.

“Another came to me one day and said:

“Pastor, in the last two days Lord continues to speak to me concerning our Church. He told me that He is prepared to bless us, but the containers in which He can pour His blessings are not pure.”

Another came and said: Pastor, I am testifying what God has done in my life. “I've been going through hardship for fourteen years, but when I came to this Church, God has manifested His glory, and I have the answer to my request.”

Notwithstanding these three positions mentioned above, without evading others that went straight to my mind as a kind of inquiry; thus, I understood that there is still a need to prepare a teaching in response to the concerns of the members of our Church. Then, the Holy Spirit inspired me to go beyond a simple teaching as it is found a little limited to only my Church; and a question arose as to how I could reach as many as those who are not members of our Church, but who are experiencing the same issues? I decided to write this book while I continued to teach those who were at my fingertips. The first scripture which motivated my concern was James 4:3 that says: “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

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Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He said: “He who believes in me would do even bigger things than I did”. Before I was given the message, I was in prayer for the Sunday sermon; the Lord inspired me to preach about the fear of God, especially the book of Deuteronomy Chapter 4, and tenth verse 10 which Moses recalls the message of the Lord: Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.”

The fear of God is one step far away from the prayer. Writing to the Philippians, apostle Paul exhorts them:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is nearby. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (4:4-6).

This exhorting word was the response to their concern as written in the book of Jeremiah 15, its verse 18 when they wondered: “Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails. Therefore, this is what the LORD says: “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this person turn to you, but you must not turn to them. “

Lord was prompt to answer their question. In Chapter 30 of the same book, verse 12, He said:

Your wound is incurable, your injury beyond healing. There is no one to plead your cause, no remedy for your sore, no healing for you. All your allies have forgotten you; they care nothing for you. I have struck you as an enemy would and punished you

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as would the cruel, because your guilt is so great and your sins so many (Jeremiah 30:12-14).

It is evident that the rupture of communion with God is the leading source of misfortune in the Christian life. In response, as a good Father, the lovely Lord calls His people to repentance. We find this when He spoke to His prophet:

This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: ‘Call to me, and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know (Jeremiah 33: 2-3).

Our God is full of good will and is ready to answer anyone who asks; invokes Him according to His principles. When Christ says: *pray without ceasing*; this is a perfect recommendation and exhortation. That means that prayer begins and does not stop at a moment because you are tired - or have received what you asked for. If you are tired, the devil does not get tired; he is fighting twenty-four hours out of twenty-four hours.

Let me tell you that Prayer is the breath of life for all God's children; it makes possible to thwart devil's attacks. In Job's experience, it is taught that the sufferings he went through were not caused by his sins; nevertheless, he did resort to prayer to understand what caused it to happen in his life. The Lord answered him by restoring him to his former state of prosperity. It is important to go to school and learn; not necessary a classic school but to stay at the feet of those who are anointed and given the authority to teach.

In human life, when a child is born, it is believed that one day, he begins to crawl, and finally, he will be standing up, and then he starts to walk; and then after the walk, the next step will be speaking. This child will begin to communicate his

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needs by audible and intelligible words. If at the age to speak, he does not speak in a clear way, his parents are worried. That is also the case for the Christian who accepts Christ as Saviour and Lord; he must be able to communicate his needs to God through the prayer. That is a kind of school.

My experience as a minister of God shows me that those believers who blaspheme God today are those who came to him to receive immediately, earthly things or even to find solution to a given situation such as healing, marriage, wealth, promotions; but they have no concern for respect of divine principles which govern the everlasting relationship which generates these blessings. The Bible says: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all things will be given over." Unfortunately, they have reversed this principle to the extent that they come to Church, not to seek the Kingdom of God, but instead the earthly blessings so that when they do not receive it, they give up, and begin to despise God, by denigrating men of God and blaspheming God and the Church. Our God is not 'a Waster'; He gives to those who belong to Him, those who walk according to His Commandments.

The weapon that the devil uses in Churches today is to deny the power of God the same way he enticed Eve in the Eden Garden, they endeavour to convince humanity that men of God are liars and adventurers. That is the strong message we get used to hear day by day, and around us, and today we are fully aware and cannot be affected anymore. People are moving in and out of our local Churches, while some others are simply giving up Christian life and choose the opposite camp trying new other experiences, and this finds the origin in this way of thinking. Those who are involved in these movements justify themselves by saying that they are seeking Churches where God is alive and able to respond to their requests. Experience has shown that to win; the athlete must fight

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according to the rules. If he does not respect the rules, he is disqualified. It comes to know these rules and put them into practice. What we say about the athlete also applies to the believer in Christ. Pastor is not a magician, but an instrument through which God communicates His blessings to those who rest their trust in Him. It is a problem of your own faith. Jesus insisted that your faith has done it. If we go back to Abraham's life, he was the father of faith. Did he operate miracles in his life? We know He prayed for Abimelech's family to remove barrenness God struck them because of tempting to take away Sarah. Abraham prayed, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his servants from barrenness, and after that.

Someone once remarked: "When you get caught on water in the middle of a raging storm, row for shore as though your safety depended on you, while praying all along as though it all depended on God." And Richard Mayhue concludes in his book *The Healing Promise: Life always involves the inexplicable combination of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility, Of the two, God will always be the determining factor.*" (p205) Miracles as healing are the works of the Holy Spirit, and the sovereignty of God and they do not depend necessarily on the Pastor: "You ask, but you do not receive because you ask amiss." God does not listen to our prayers if we formulate them with malicious intentions. It is like a person with paralysis who says: If the Lord heals me, I will put the world on my head to retrieve all the time I spent in inactivity. God will hardly meet such prayer. Check yourself and see if you are praying as God would want you to.

I would like to take the readers to understand that launching arrows on prime target "pastors "for the unanswered prayers is unfair - but rather stand and put in practice the implementation of the rules that I call the keys or foundations of answered prayers, on the one hand, and bear in your mind

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the sovereignty of God, on the other hand. There are people who have an idea that there are only preachers who can pray, and miracles happen. You can also pray, and God operates wonders and miracles.

The disciples went straight and asked Jesus Christ to teach them how to pray. In the Gospel of Matthew 6: 5-13, Jesus teaches them how to pray:

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen? Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, you will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors and led us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Learn how to pray if you want to pray effectively. To help you discover what you are and how you can receive what God has already unleashed, I gather all the information you need to know about the prayer and how you can enjoy your rights.

I will answer some questions that many ask when things turn to vinegar; when they are overwhelmed by both mountains of worries due to repeated misunderstandings, failures, and difficulties that destroy their lives, to the extent that they call into question the reason for their conversion. Does God exist? They ask. If He were alive, He would have answered our