

Prevailing IN PRAYER

"Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense"

PSALM 141:2



UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my only Senior Partner, my Ultimate Mentor, the Creator of Destiny and the Designer of the Future, the blessed Holy Spirit, whose grace and strength enabled me to write this life-changing book; to all the members of the Iron Pillar Intercessors Squad International; and to my twin brother, Engr. Emeka Longinus Udeh.

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications...” (Zechariah 12:10).

FOREWORD

Prayer aligns our will to God's will.

PASTOR UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

Udeh Tochukwu Livinus is one of the most exceptional characters I have ever known. He has sound wisdom; he is a teacher, a mentor, a prolific writer, and an intelligent and ardent lover of God who detests injustice and all forms of oppression. We have known each other from our mother's womb and grew up together from childhood to adulthood. We have done several works together as twin brothers, from high school to the universities. While searching for his purpose, he passed through difficult and dark moments that sharpened and defined the course of his life. These experiences birthed most of his written works, which are read by many today.

This Holy Ghost-inspired book, *Prevailing in Prayer*, is meant for all believers in Christ Jesus who understand the place of prayer in their walk with God. *Prevailing in Prayer* reveals that prayer aligns our will to God's will. It is a cry for help amid daunting situations in life. Prayer gives us the confidence to believe that God cares, preserves, protects and supplies all our needs, which form part of His will for us. Praying God's will is simply letting our will be lost in His will. Line upon line, each page of this book reveals God's mind for us when we pray. It also unfolds the various hindrances to a believer's walk in prayer.

This book is packed with thought-provoking and undiluted truth from God's word. Right words are keys to unlock heaven's gate. To prevail over circumstances and the devil's devices, prayer must be strategic and aimed at specific needs, an idea the author develops in Chapter Eight. Moreover, one need not go to a pastor or a seer to access the throne of grace for help in time of need. The veil is torn for all to have access to the divine throne in difficult moments. Udeh Tochukwu is among the few believers in Christ who believe in emptying all they have for their generation. This book simplifies his thoughts on the most potent way of receiving answers to prayer from God. Anyone who cares about improving his communication and walk with the Holy Spirit will find this book inspiring and pleasant to read. There is no better place to begin discovering revealed truth than the pages of these inspired thoughts.

ENGR. EMEKA LONGINUS UDEH

PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA

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TRUE FACTS ABOUT PRAYER

1. Prayer is an open line to heaven.
2. “Are your problems bigger than God, or is God bigger than your problems? Our biggest problem is our small view of God. That is the cause of all lesser evils. And it’s a high view of God that is the solution to all other problems.” (Mark Batterson, *The Circle Maker*)
3. “Just as our greatest successes often come on the heels of our greatest failures, our greatest answers often come on the heels of our longest and most boring prayers.” (Mark Batterson, *The Circle Maker*)
4. The solution to your problem is equal to the shortest distance between your knees and the ground.
5. “It’s not just where you end up that’s important; it’s how you get there. Goal setting begins and ends with prayer.” (Mark Batterson, *The Circle Maker*)
6. “Go home. Lock yourself in your room. Kneel down in the middle of the floor, and with a piece of chalk draw a circle around yourself. There, on your knees, pray fervently and brokenly that God would start a revival within that chalk circle.” (Gipsy Smith, as quoted by Mark Batterson in *The Circle Maker*)
7. Prayer enforces the will of God in action and hastens the delivery of miracles.
8. Prayer silences the accuser, and the anointing of God answers your critics.

9. Prayer puts the enemy out of business and sets the limits and boundaries within which he operates.
10. Prayer is the only requirement for your survival and for the maintenance of daily victory.
11. “You can’t pray for open doors if you aren’t willing to accept closed doors, because one leads to the other.” (Mark Batterson, *The Circle Maker*)

CHAPTER ONE

Pray with Confidence

Prayer should not be regarded “as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty.”

E. M. BOUNDS

You know that He is able; so come to Him in prayer with holy boldness.

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:14–15).

When a child asks his father for anything, he does not tremble before him; he asks because he knows that his father is able, capable and well able to provide. He believes that whatever he asks will be duly and undoubtedly provided if he is a legitimate son. Confidence is simply the belief that one places in another; it can also be called trust. One step toward answered prayer is having this assurance that God is able to do it. If God cannot do it, who else in this world will do it? The Scripture says, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 John 5:14, NKJV). We should come to the point of trusting and not feeling alone. The answer will be either God telling you, “Yes, My son, I will do it,”

or “No, My son, I will not do it,” or “Wait, My son, until the appointed time.”

Our faith must come to the point where all we can say is, “If it had not been the LORD who was on our side...” (Psalm 124:1). God wants to do many more things for us, but we must develop the confidence that God is responsible for us.

Some believers profess faith with their mouths, but in their hearts they are unstable. They still doubt God’s ability, power and authority to handle their affairs. But we should understand that it is written, “... power belongeth unto God” (Psalm 62:11).

Whether it is in the heavens above, on the earth beneath or under the earth, God is in control of all the affairs of men. Nothing happens in this world outside God’s awareness. Most of us do not receive because our hearts first condemn us. When you are born of God, you have the confidence to access and inherit all the benefits due to you as an heir of the commonwealth of heaven. It is as though, when many believers climb up in the realm of prayer and reach the border of heaven, their incense is checked, and their hearts begin to panic because they know they are not qualified. So their confidence is shattered and battered, and finally their hearts condemn them. But the Bible says, “Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight” (1 John 3:21–22).

Confidence grants us access to the throne room of grace, where answers to prayers are decided: “In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him” (Ephesians 3:12). A man who services his car before embarking on a journey fears nothing, because he knows that everything necessary has been put in place before the journey begins. The driving force that makes believers look up to God and say, “O God, You are our Father,” is their confidence, which is generated at the place and time of salvation. Confidence is also the key

to persistence in prayer, because when God has done it before, your confidence rises with hope that He will do it again.

So enter your place of prayer today with confidence, casting off every fear, doubt, worry and unbelief. Your Father waits with open arms, His heart turned toward you, ready to answer every request you bring. His grace and love are inexhaustible and indispensable. Come believing! Come trusting! Hallelujah!

CHAPTER TWO

Pray According to His Will

Prayer is born out of desperation, and anything that makes us desperate for God is a blessing.

PASTOR UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

*“...if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us”
(1 John 5:14).*

It is not enough to have confidence in God while praying; we also need to know what the will of God is. Sometimes we are confident that our human father, a friend or someone else will do something for us, but on approaching that person we discover that his will at that moment is quite different from ours. His desire and demand do not match what we are asking for, and so our hope is battered. We should know that in the place of prayer, God’s will must prevail. Praying God’s will is the best prayer a believer can pray. When Jesus was teaching His disciples the principles and patterns of prayer, He told them to pray like this: “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

It is not about our will, it is not about our problems, it is not about our longings and desires, it is not about our dreams and aspirations in the pursuit of life and purpose; what matters is the will of God. When the will of God becomes the central hub of our prayers, answers come speedily. God wants us to pray His will; He wants to hear His will mentioned in the place of prayer. Too often we come and pray only what we feel and what we want, and some even hand God “lists.” God

is not a money doubler. He is not a magician. He is not a fool. He is absolutely and independently God. Whether He attends to your list or your will, He is still God and does not change His personality. The true sons of God are those who do His will and pray His will, and only their prayers will He hear.

Many people pray without understanding what God's will is for their lives at that moment. Maybe you are asking for prosperity, but God's will is for you to marry and settle down; so no matter how much dry fasting and praying you do, you cannot receive an answer to your prayers. Until you understand His will for your life and pray accordingly, you will continue to pray amiss. Some people are praying for scholarships, wives and so on, but God's will is for them to be healed of their sicknesses and diseases; some pray for favor and breakthrough, but God's will for them is to draw close to Him; and others pray for connections, even to travel abroad, when God's will is for them to be pastors and evangelists in His vineyard. So until you discover what the will of God is for your life, your prayer is still a noise to God and to His angels who stand in His holy presence. Jesus wanted to escape the experience in the garden of Gethsemane; He had the choice and the willpower to avert it. But He prayed to God, saying, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done" (Matthew 26:42).

Once the will of God is prayed for and prevails, then comes the answer to your prayers. When you do God's will, pray God's will and seek God's will, then your own will, too, will be done.

Prayer Points

Bible reading: Romans 12:1–2; Psalm 32:8; 37:16–23

1. Lord, let Your will be done in my life, my family and my career.
2. Renew my will, Lord, from day to day, that it may come into divine alignment with Yours.

3. Teach me, Lord, to do Your will, for You are my helper and my stay.
4. Lead me into Your truth, O Lord, and cause Your face to shine upon me.
5. Bless my inheritance and plead my cause, O God of my salvation.
6. Order my footsteps, Lord, lest I fall.