

## A Review of Daniel Ndukwu's *Understanding Prayer Without Error*

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*Understanding Prayer Without Error* is the first published book of Reverend Daniel Ndukwu – a young, dedicated and focused servant of God in the Diocese of Niger Delta of the Anglican Communion. The book reveals the author as a man with a divine capacity to impact a generation in dire need as well as a passionate believer in the transforming power of prayer and on the assertion that what bullets are in the hands of a soldier, prayer is in the life of a believer. This also calls to mind the discerning aphorism credited to John Stephen Pippert – an American Reformed Baptist Pastor and Chancellor of Bethlehem College and Seminary who stated that “Until you know that life is war you cannot know what prayer is for.”

The book *Understanding Prayer Without Error* is a ninety-nine-page insightful piece produced by Chika Prints, Yenagoa. The graphology and artistry of the cover page portray a humble personality communing with God in His holy presence, intent to receive answers to his prayers without being in a hurry to rush out. Let me confess that since I laid my hands on this unequivocally loaded book, I found it difficult to let go until I read the very last word. It is indeed a timely revelational treatise divinely projected to enable Christians to have a solid understanding of the true meaning of what the Bible calls “effective fervent prayer.” This is quite significant in view of large-scale ignorance of the concept,

precepts and principles of prayer in contemporary times. This level of ignorance and perplexity, the author believes, have confined many Christians to an unfortunate state of dismay and disillusionment in their relationship with God, and on the other hand enabled numerous self-appointed and self-anointed prayer vendors, prayer contractors and prayer distributors to flourish at the detriment of the gullible. The disease of ignorance remains a debilitating one to whoever has it irrespective of portfolio or paraphernalia. The book has the capacity and active ingredients to cure the diseases of ignorance and confusions emanating from prayer issues. Reading and meditating through the book would enable Christians to pray and receive divine results, not unnecessary dissipation of both spiritual and physical energy without positive outcome.

In emphasizing the value and relevance of the book to Christians, the articulator of the foreword and Bishop of the Diocese states: “Understanding Prayer Without Error is a compendium of what prayer is in the light of the word of God. Prayer remains the only surer way to communicate with God. Often times, several people pray in error or outside the will of God” (iv).

The author believes that praying without having an understanding of the will of God as enunciated in the word of God could turn out to be a wasted time because a positive answer

cannot be guaranteed. This implies that our prayers can only be answered when they are presented in consonance and conformity with the word, purpose and time of God. The author compares praying in error to trying to start a car that has no fuel or engine oil in it. He vehemently maintains that in life if one continues to do the right thing in the wrong way and with a wrong method, one will continue to get wrong results.

*Understanding Prayer Without Error* has a total of nine chapters beginning with the first chapter captioned “Understanding.” This chapter situates the entire book in the appropriate scriptural context and foregrounds other critical prayer-related issues in subsequent chapters. Elaborating on both the semantics and etymology of the word “understanding,” the author stresses that the word is key to victory not only in the place of prayer but in life generally. He states:

... understanding is the power of prayer, understanding is the key to unlock every door, be it spiritual or physical. Understanding is all we need before we go to the place of prayer, reason being that through understanding you can rule your world; through understanding you can control your nation with prayer. A man of understanding is that man that will do great exploits in life... a man that has understanding has solved half of his or her lifetime problems, but when you lack it, your problems will be multiplied. (5)

The captions of the subsequent chapters include: What is Prayer? The Organogram of Prayer, What is Error in Prayer? Kinds of Errors in Some Christian Prayers, Understanding How to Pray Without Errors,

What Error in Deliverance Prayer Is All About, How to Handle Deliverance Prayer Without Errors, and Finally, Fire for Empowerment and Power for Battle. In the discussions of these chapters, the author effectively handles the issues of prayer with biblical precision and clarity, consistently highlighting the immeasurable power and solace obtainable in the place of prayer. For him, prayer remains the most potent weapon in the arsenal of the Church and of individual believers in facing the numerous battles of life. A prayerless Christian, he maintains, is a powerless and vulnerable Christian in the face of endless Satanic projections, provocations and temptations. Those who diligently study the book will definitely be exposed to the weapons of the Christian spiritual warfare and could have the privilege and grace of retrieving delayed blessings and experiencing a restoration of what Satanic cankerworms and palmerworms have devoured from around them.

In conclusion, Reverend Daniel Ndukwu deserves maximum commendation and encouragement for possessing the discipline and obedience which it takes to pen down such laudable inspirations and revelations. It is comforting to say that in an era of immense commodification and commercialization of prayer as occasioned by avarice and materialism, a voice of reason and clarification has emerged in the form of this significant book on prayer; a material which would serve as a sailor’s compass or a builder’s plumbline in this regard. It is a book that should of necessity be made a vital component of personal and family libraries of Christians who

desire to pray in line with God's word and  
purpose to receive answers.