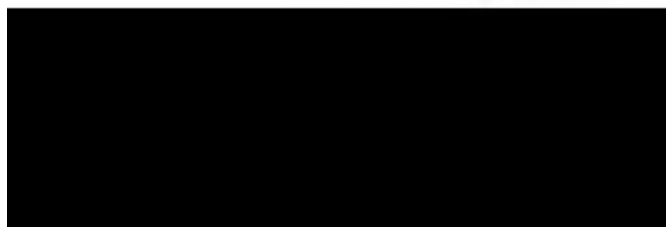
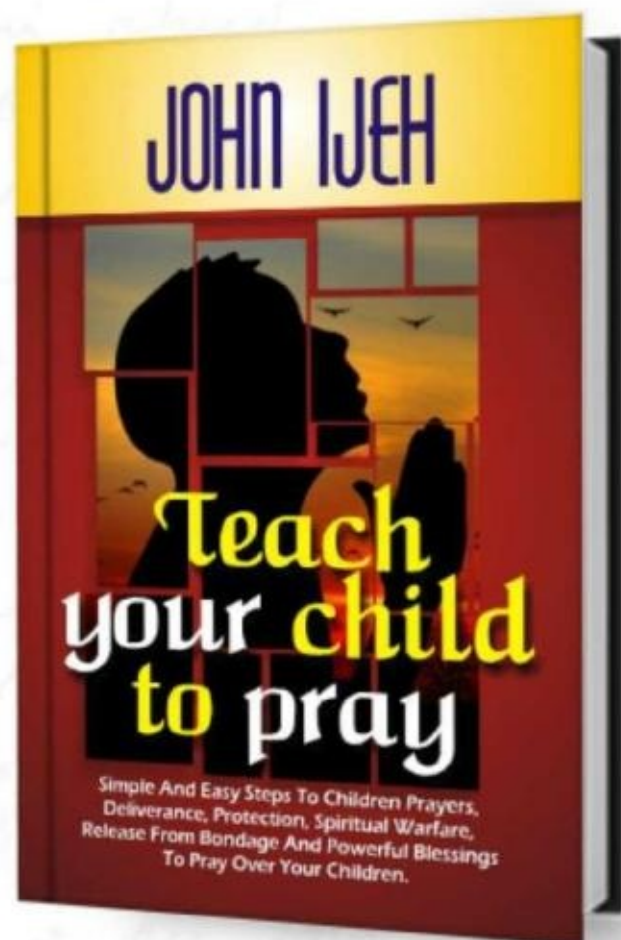
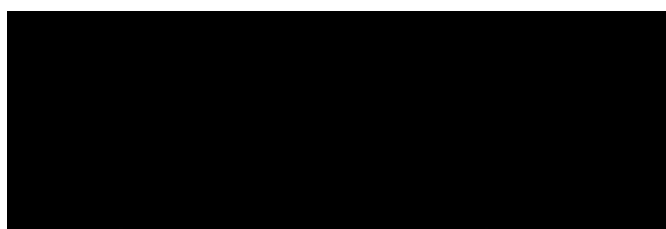


JOHN IJEH

Teach
your child
to pray

Simple And Easy Steps To Children Prayers,
Deliverance, Protection, Spiritual Warfare,
Release From Bondage And Powerful Blessings
To Pray Over Your Children.



TEACH YOUR CHILD TO PRAY

*Simple and Easy Steps to Children's Prayers, Deliverance
Protection, Spiritual Warfare, Release from Bondage
and Powerful Blessings to Pray over your Children*

JOHN IJEH

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INTRODUCTION

It is no gainsaying the fact that a lot of parents find it difficult to teach their children how to pray. To most parents, this is an uphill task. They would rather leave that to the pastors and church workers. That is their jobs after all.

Some parents even assumed, erroneously though, that their children will eventually learn how to pray in one way or the other. So, you hear parents say things like: we go to church every Sunday and they see the way the pastor or priest prays. I am sure they are learning from there.

Well, church can help in teaching your child the power and principles of prayer but church is supposed to supplement your effort and not to take up the whole project. You can't afford to outsource such a huge responsibility to a third party. A lot depends on your child learning how to pray.

The Bible has so much to say about children upbringing which I believe includes how to pray. Proverbs 6: 22 says to train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old or grown up, he will not depart from it.

This goes to show that whatever we inculcate in our children at a tender age, follows them in their adulthood.

The story of Paul illustrates this scriptural fact.

Paul was the only child of deacon and deaconess Madu. In fact he was named after his father so in the actual sense, he is Paul Jr. His parents were strong members of The Assemblies of God

Church. At his early age, his parents insisted that he joined them in prayers every morning and night. They equally took him to church and made sure that he prayed with other church members. He was always present at Wednesday prayer meetings. As a teenager, his parents made to join the prayer band of the church. Though he didn't find it funny praying all the time but he just obeyed his parents.

Paul later gained admission into a university in the eastern part of Nigeria. Two problems came up as a result of this: 1) The distance from Lagos where his parents lived to his school was quite far. That suggests that his parents can't always visit or look after him. 2) The school was notorious for cultism and other social vices.

Paul was on his own which means he could join any bad group ; not only that, the cult groups were recruiting by force . Anyone who refuses to join could be in serious danger. At this time, Paul had no choice than to remember what his parents had taught about the power of prayer. He quickly pulled out his prayer weapons and staged a spiritual combat against the nefarious monster of occultism.

Paul schooled in that institution for five years without ever being harassed by any of the cult groups. In fact he gave the testimony of how even the cult members were making sure that no one harassed him.

This was all because he was taught how to engage the forces of heaven through prayer.

Not only protection, Paul also testified of how God marvelously provided for him when he ran out of money and provision in school especially at such a time when his parents could not meet up with fees and other provisions.

CHAPTER ONE

MAKE A HABIT OF PRAYER

Have you ever heard the saying: if don't pray, you become a pray? That saying is true. Prayer releases the power and presence of God. Prayer is a means through which we fight our spiritual battles. Battles with demonic forces are not physical, they are spiritual wars. The Bible says that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against power, against the rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places Eph. 6:10

Prayer in a very simple definition means communicating with God. We can talk to God, and when we do, He hears us. He does not only hear us, He answers us. When He answers us, we receive the manifestation in form of deliverance from demonic harassment, breakthrough, healing and provision and so on.

Now this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us 1 John 5:4

God is not deaf neither does He reside in somewhat abstract space beyond the reach of man. He is closer than our closest friend. He is even sensitive to our thoughts and feelings. He hears when we talk to Him and He responds appropriately to our request. He is pleased when we talk to Him and He talks back to us. He does not leave us in the dark when call upon Him. He says: call upon

me God I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you know not. (see Jer. 33:3)

Prayer is one of the most unique ways of maintaining closeness with God. The habit of prayer will actually bring you into intimate relationship with God. When you maintain closeness with God, demons will not oppress you.

Why do we pray?

Actions are not always arbitrary unless one is insane. We do things with reasons. We pray because there are things we want to accomplish. If your prayer is without any reason, it may not achieve a definite result. There are several reasons why we pray.

We pray for relationship

Our desire to relate with our maker leads us into prayer most of the time. Prayer is a very good way of maintaining intimate relationship with God. There is something unique about having the assurance that you are in a relationship with God.

Communication is the vehicle through which we enrich and maintain relationship with other people. We are fulfilled when we talk to other people and have them talk to us. It is the same with our relationship with God. We feel fulfilled when we have a good relationship with God.

Constant communion with God helps us develop sensitivity which in turn exposes any demonic activities around our lives.

Simple Prayer for your child on relationship

Dear Lord, help me to know you and to relate well with you every day. Teach me to value my relationship with you and with other people.

May I forever walk in close union with you, this I ask in Jesus name, amen

We pray for need

Man is not self-sufficient. We have various needs some of which are beyond our power; consequently, we rely on God to meet such needs. It is important to teach your child to trust in God's ability to meet his or her needs be it spiritual, material or emotional.

Children naturally rely on their parents to meet their needs. It's important that, as a parent you explore that dependency to introduce him or her to the one who can supply all our needs. Let your child know that much more willing and able to meet his or needs than earthly parents

Simple Prayer for your child on needs

Dear Lord, your word says that you shall supply all my needs according to your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. I ask you meet my need(mention the need) I also ask that you supply the needs of my parents and loved ones in Jesus name, amen

Provision

What to eat, what to drink, what to put on, where to live, means to go about our businesses, our educational needs, social needs, material needs and spiritual need are all reasons why we pray.

We need God's provision in our lives; prayer is a means of making our needs known to God. Jesus taught us to ask the father to give us our daily bread or daily needs. There are so many things we can't get by our power; we need God to help us get them.

Protection

Another area we need God and for which we pray is our safety. We live in a world full of dangers. We cannot be careful enough. We need His protection from Satan and his agents. There are demonic arrows that fly by day and by night. There are both spiritual and man-made dangers.

Man is under attack from spiritual forces. The devil and his demons are all around hunting human-being with all kinds of weapons.

You need God to keep you safe from their onslaughts. The Bible says: The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe Prov. 10:18. Prayer is one of the ways man can draw God's protection upon his life. Your prayer can bring safety upon you and your loved ones.

Simple Prayer on God's protection

Dear Lord, I pray for your divine protection as I go out and come in. your word says that you will give your angels charge over me. Let your angels protect and shield me. I also ask that you will protect my parents, family and friends in Jesus name, amen

Guidance

Another reason we pray is for guidance. Man is limited in scope. He does not know what will happen the next minutes or the next day. He needs someone who knows the way to guide him. Man needs someone who knows everything to tell him or enlighten him on the thing he does not know. The only one who can do this is God himself. The scripture says: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your path (Psa. 37:1).

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eyes Ps 32:8

Guidance is very important to anyone who wants to fulfill God's purpose for his/her life. To receive guidance from God, you must pray.

Ask and you shall receive Matt 7:1. When you ask God to direct you, He will.

Some of the misfortunes we experienced in life are the result of not being properly guided. There are some mess and needless pains we have gone through in life because we did not seek guidance from God. Sometimes we yoke up with people who have no business being in our lives or have anything whatsoever to do with our lives.

Paul and the rest of the people in the ship bounded for Rome suffered shipwreck because the crew members refused to listen to him. He said. Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left fair heavens – you would have avoided all the injury and loss Act 27:16

That is it, injury and loss. These are always the results of not listening to guidance from God. Many people are nursing the injuries and loss they incurred from entangling themselves in relationship and situations God did not send them. If we asked God before we take any major steps, our lives would be better for it. We will avoid some injuries.

Well, I have good news for you; thank God you are not dead. Cheer up; God still has a lot in store for you. Take your injury and loss as a lesson. Let go of the past and brace up for the journey ahead. Paul said to the people. But cheer up. Not one of us will lose our lives even though the ship will go down (Act 27:22 TCB)

Your ship may have been wrecked (Your relationship business, job, ministry) but your life is preserved because there is something God has ordained you to accomplish on the face of the earth.

Paul was ordained to testify before Caesar in Rome (Act 23: 11) No ship wreck or attack of the enemy could stop him. Seek God's guidance before you take an important step.

Prayer for Guidance

Dear Lord, I ask you to guide me today and always. Let my steps be ordered by you and let all that I will do today bring glory to you and blessings to those around me, in Jesus name, amen.

We pray for defense

Prayer is also an instrument of warfare. We use prayer to fight against the enemy (devil). When we pray, we push back the invading forces of darkness against our lives. We use prayer to dismantle the citadel of demonic powers working against God's purpose for our lives.

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds II Cor. 4:3.

Prayer is one of the means through which we uproot every plant that our heavenly father has not planted in our lives. When we pray, we destroy the will of the devil and of the flesh and establish God's will for our lives.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. This is part of the content of the Lord's Prayer. Prayer brings down the hand of God to fulfill His will on earth.

Praying always

The Bible admonishes that we pray always. Prayer is such a serious business that the bible

says it should be done at all times. Why that? It is the weapons of warfare. You can't fight your wars effectively without an effective prayer life.

Prayer can be said anywhere and at any time. The length of time you pray is not as important as your consistency in prayer. Consistency is the key. You need to keep praying. The bible says that we should pray without ceasing. We are also admonished to pray all kinds of prayers. This simply means that there is nothing too big or too small to take to God in prayer.

A consistent prayer life will keep demons away from you. The devil hates prayerful Christians. He knows they are dangerous to his kingdom initiatives. They thwart his plans through their prayers. He tries all he can to stop them.

Prayer is too heavy for so many people but talking is not. Isn't prayer the same thing as talking? It is, but the difference is that there are forces that are frustrated by your prayer; your talking does not affect them in anyway. So, they fight to stop you from praying but not from chatting.

Pray about Everything

Some people believe we should not pray about everything. They believe that to pray about everything is to push the whole responsibility of your life to God. It is not. Talking to God about everything does not take away your responsibility.

God is interested in everything about our lives. There is nothing you cannot talk to Him about. If He took note of the strands of the hairs on your head, what makes you think He is not interested in the clothes you wear or the food you eat or the relationship you keep?

He desires to provide guidance in every area of our endeavors. He is interested in every of His

children's steps. The Bible tells us that the footsteps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.

He knows everything. He can do all things. This is what makes Him God. So, what do I have to lose by telling Him about how I feel the struggles of my life, my fears and even my greed and ambitions. After all, He knows about them without me telling Him.

So, telling Him about them just removes every sense of secret I thought that exists between me and Him.

The Bible tells us to make our request known to God Phi.4:6

Praying earnestly and sincerely about issues in our lives makes us less fretful about such issues.

You can talk to God about your lust and dirty desires. Your secrets are safe with Him. He is not a tale bearer or a busybody. He is a father and a friend.

Pray Anyhow

People always claim that they don't know how to pray. They are looking for a pattern that is more acceptable to God and one that guarantees a quicker answer. Good a thing, there are no such patterns. Whether you start your prayer with praises and giving of thanks or by outrightly asking for what you need may not matter as much as your faith in the God that answers prayers.

I am not advocating disorderliness in our approach to God. I am saying you need not know so much about prayer before you can pray.

Blind Bathemus didn't have to learn special Jewish prayer before he approached Jesus. He simply

shouted: Jesus son of David have mercy on me!
That caught the attention of Jesus and he got his
miracle. You can cry out for help and expect God
to hear you. He will.

CHAPTER TWO

MODEL PRAYER FOR YOUR CHILDREN

This book is about how to train your children to pray. Prayer is an exercise that people talk about most often but practice less often. So, for prayer, the expression easier said than done come very handy. Actually, it is easier to talk about prayer than to actually pray

Your children will learn to pray if they see you pray. Studies have shown that what you do before your children carries more weight than what you say to them. In other words, it will be easier to carry your children along in prayer than to just teach them the seven steps to effective prayer.

One of the dictionary definitions of a model is a successful example to be copied, with or without modification. Models are used in the Show Biz world to show us the picture of a perfect human being. They let us see that we must have flat tummy, look tall and beautiful as the ideal figure. They equally model the perfect walk and posture; letting us see the ideal way to walk and pose.

Well, that is for show biz. In our homes, we must model what we want our children to emulate. To model means to show example. We show our children whatever we want them to imbihe. If you want your children to always tell the truth, make sure you say the truth yourself. If we must raise children who can pray, we must show them

examples. We must model for our children what we want them to do. Studies have shown that children imitate their parents more than they follow their instructions. In other words, your children follow your life style more than they follow your words. The apostle Paul invites people to follow his life style.

For yourselves know how you ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you. 2 Thessalonians 3:7.

The apostles showed the people a prototype of what they wanted them to be through their life style. Be careful what you say or do before your children because they will reproduce exactly what they see you do.

I know a woman who has the habit of always kneeling to pray at a particular spot each time she returns from work or from any outing. The children started imitating what their mother was doing. They would return from school and kneel at that particular spot for few minutes. Since they didn't know what their mom usually say when she kneels there, they would just stay there quietly for few minutes. That goes to show how much our children imitate our actions. If you watch very carefully, you will observe that they use the words or the terms you use in the house. Most parents wouldn't have problem teaching their children how to pray if only they can pray themselves.

Modeling is an effective way of communicating our values to our children. One of the commendations God gave about Abraham is that He was sure Abraham would command or show his household the path of the Lord. He would both model and instruct his household in the way of God.

And the Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. Gen 18: 17-19.

The Lord wants us to model our godly values for our children that way the blessings of the Lord will continue in our families

HOW TO MODEL PRAYER FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Jesus modeled prayer for His disciples. Before he taught them how to pray, He first formed the habit of praying and made sure His disciples watched him do that. As a matter of fact, He didn't teach them prayer until they requested that He did so. He just kept praying and demonstrating faith and authority over the devil, nature and circumstances.

1: EXERCISE YOUR FAITH BEFORE YOUR CHILDREN

If you want your children to see prayer as a serious life principle, you must exercise your faith. Let them know that God is capable of granting any request. Begin by exercising your faith over little things. A man of God said he learned how to manifest the healing power of God by praying for his children when they fall sick. You also could do that. Pray for them to do well in school. Pray for God to protect them as they sleep or as they go to school.

When my children complain about anything, I usually begin by praying for them. For example, if any of my children complained about any pain, my first response more often than not is to pray

for him or her before any other thing. I want to show them that I believe in the power of prayer.

When you face challenges in your life or family, let your children see you pray about such challenges. Let them know that your first point of call is God before any other thing.

Just last night, we needed money and the people we worked for were not forth coming with the payment. I prayed with my family and told them that we will have money when we wake up in the morning and truly, in the morning, there was money. One of the people who were supposed to pay us had responded. Such exercise of faith is very necessary if you want to teach your children how to pray

God gave the children of Israel a model in training their children in Deuteronomy chapter six

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

God instructed the Israelites to practice their faith before their children as well as teach them to follow suit. They were to be consistent in doing so. Any lapses could be an avenue for Satan to invade their homes.

And truly, if you look at the account of the Israelites in the Old Testament, you will discover that their problem always emanate from genera-

tional gap. Once they neglect to carry their children along, it would be a matter of time before someone begins to bring foreign gods into their community.

And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD that he did for Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. Judges 2:7-12

Generational gap is created when parents failed to model their beliefs and values for their children. Of course, I am aware that there are a lot of things out there that are contending with the values you are trying to impart on your children. Our societal values are conspicuously contending with godly values but this is exactly the major treason why we need to be battle ready and adamant in our faith. The bible admonishes us to be strong and stable.

Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. 1Cor. 16;13

A lot of courage is required in modeling prayer for your children. You have to boldly exercise

your faith before them. Don't be scared that they might tag you 'old school'. They may, but one day they are going to need God, then they will remember the principles 'old school' parents taught them

BE CONSISTENT IN PRAYER

How consistent you are in your prayer life is more important than how well you can pray. Your children will learn better if they see you pray always than they would from your well-structured, well articulated prayer. Seeing you pray at meal time or at bed time will send a strong signal to your kids on how serious you take prayer to be.

I told the story of a woman who had the habit of kneeling at a particular spot in the house to pray each time she returns from work or from any outing. Her children watched her do that often and then started doing the same. Each time they returned from school or any outing, they would kneel at that same spot and pray.

In Deuteronomy chapter six, God told the Israelites to be consistent in exercising their faith and practicing their religion before their children. He instructed them to talk about the commandment as they walked on the road and as they stayed at home. He asked them to put it on their door posts and wear it as bracelets. By so doing, their children will naturally follow in their foot-steps.

It is not how long you pray but how often. It is good to tarry long in prayer. A lot of people have done that through the ages and came out with good results but you don't have to pray long for your children to know you believe in the power of prayer. Forming a habit of praying is all you need.

PRAY WITH THEM

Another way to teach prayer to your children is to pray with them. We live in a busy world where everyone is in a hurry to catch up. Most parents leave the home even before their children wake up in the morning. Some return when the children are already asleep. This busyness doesn't leave any opportunity for bonding let alone time for prayer. However, if prayer is important to you, then you must make out time to pray with them.

SCHEDULE A PRAYER TIME WITH THEM

It's important you schedule a prayer time with your children. Prayer actually should be an everyday thing but considering our busy world, most parents are not able to hold this every single day. It is imperative that you have time you meet with your children to pray.

For my family, it is Saturday morning. During the week we are always in a hurry to leave for work or school. I usually wake early for my own devotion but I can't wake the children at that time but on Saturday morning we all have a family altar. This has some advantages.

It gives a sense of seriousness to prayer

I said earlier that your children will take prayer seriously if you do yourself. The children will see it as a serious business if you inject some sense of urgency into the family prayer time. If you are sluggish or nonchalant about it, then you've just taught your kids that there is nothing serious in it.

Every Saturday morning I am always the first to come out and start calling the rest of my family members for prayer.

PUT YOURSELF INTO IT

When it is time for prayer, make sure you pray seriously yourself. Put yourself into the family prayer time. Let your children see that it is a big deal to you and it will become so to them.

Most parents and guardians make prayer time seem like a walk over or some minor religious activity. This is dangerous because your children will take prayer with levity. Show them that prayer is worth the time and effort.

MAKE THE FAMILY PRAYER SIMPLE

Your aim of praying with your children is for them to learn the importance of prayer. It will be ideal to keep it simple and straight forward. When it becomes complex and complicated, your children could be put off.

One of the reasons many people find prayer uninteresting is because it is presented as something that is difficult and strenuous and that requires special skills. Prayer is not a brain surgery neither is it a rocket science; it is simply a child talking to his father. Parents don't count the grammatical blunders made by children in an attempt to interact with them. They just listen patiently and respond with love and care.

My son is fond of asking me for almost anything that crosses his mind. He is just three but at some point he has asked me to buy him a car. A child of three doesn't need a car but it's not bad to ask that of your father. When my son asked me for a car, I did not scold him. I just told him he will get that when he turns eighteen. The innocent boy agreed and asked for candy which I immediately bought for him. The car and the candy are the same to me. They are simply requests from my son. The difference is that he is big enough to get the candy but needs a little

more time to get the car. But daring to ask is a demonstration of his faith in his daddy's ability.

God doesn't scold us because we asked of something from Him. Neither does He answer us because of the posture we assume during prayer. Don't make religion out of it. It should be as simple and as easy as it can be.

TEACH THEM TO PRAY ON THEIR OWN

We have talked about family prayer. Children can learn a lot through family prayer. But it is important also for them to learn to pray on their own. When mum and dad are not present, a child should be able to pray on his or her own.

When you teach children to pray, you are playing a vital role of introducing them to Jesus Christ. You are also at the same time reinforcing their relationship with God. God commanded us to pray so we could communicate with him directly. Making our children comfortable with praying will help them understand that God is always near and accessible.

I believe that one of the greatest gifts you can give your children is to help them develop a daily prayer life. When you teach a child how to table and lay down his or her problems before God, and to seek His wisdom and guidance, you have given that child a wonderful treasure and a gift of a life-time

We train our kids to stand on their own in life. As a matter of fact, all we are putting into our children spiritually, mentally and physically is for them to stand on their own. Independence is the goal of a child's upbringing. No parents want their children to continue to depend on them even as adults.

It is imperative that they know how to pray on their own anytime and anywhere.

I have seen families where parents can pray but children can't. Perhaps, in such families, prayer was presented to the children as daddy and mummy's business. The children never saw prayer as something very important in life.

There are also cases where prayer has been made to look like a burden. So, as soon as the child gains a measure of independence, he or she doesn't want to carry the burden any more. Some people were made to see prayer as a torturous exercise –an uphill task or climbing a mountain to meet a God who has the record of every bad thing you have ever done. If that is what prayer looks like in your family, then don't expect your children to love it.

CHAPTER THREE

SHARE TESTIMONIES ABOUT PRAYER WITH THEM

Nothing reinforces our faith more than testimonies. We are always encouraged whenever we hear what and how God did a miracle in the life of somebody else. We are more apt to trust God for healing, deliverance or provision just by listening to some one's testimony in that area.

Form the habit of telling your children what God has done for you or another person through prayer. This is very simple. No testimony is too small to convince a child of what God can do through prayer; just make sure they are real testimony.

Sleeping and waking up soundly is a testimony. Travelling and returning safely, cure from minor ailment, succeeding in an endeavor are all testimonies we can share with our children to encourage them to trust God and to pray to Him.

WHY IS TESTIMONY POWERFUL

Testimony has very powerful effect in teaching people about spiritual things. It is almost like employing stories in teaching children a concept. When we hear what another has accomplished, we are spurred to believe we too can accomplish that. Telling our children about what God has done for us or other people through simple prayer will encourage them to pray.

Testimony reinforces God's faithfulness to man.

When we hear of what God has done for another person, we are assured that God is still faithful to His promises. The numerous evils and atrocities going on in our world make people to doubt the faithfulness of God. Some people are not sure God still answers prayers but a simple testimony about what God has done will go a long way in clearing such doubt.

Your children need to hear such testimony often. Let them know that God is and ever will remain a faithful God.

Testimony assures us that God hears us when we pray.

One of the things that make prayer uninteresting is the fact that some are not sure the person they are talking to is even listening. When you pray, it seems as if you are just speaking into the air. It's not exactly the same as when you talk to a friend and hear him or her respond instantly. It takes faith to believe God is listening. Even the greatest men of God can't claim to hear God each time they pray. Several times prayer looks more like ritual but a bit of testimony will help our children know they are not speaking into the air.

Jesus assures us that when we pray, God hears; He not only hears but answers also. There are some Bible passages that attest to this. You will do well to show your children such Bible portions.

Testimony gives us healthy expectation

People naturally expect what happen to others to happen to them. This is because we can attract what we hear and see into our lives whether good or bad. When we hear of what God did for other people, we can expect Him to do same for us.

Jim Reeves in his song: It is no secret what God can do, says: what He's done for others, He will do for you.

God is able and willing to do for you what he has done for others. This is so comforting. When I hear what he did for my brother, friend or neighbor, I know that I am the next in line.

The testimony of others is like reading or listening to success stories on your career path. When you hear of how people succeeded in the same field you are in, you will be encouraged to push harder.

Tell your children stories of how other kids like them have received answers by praying just simple but sincere prayers. We have numerous stories of kids receiving answers to prayers.

A group of children in a certain community needed a space to play football and were having difficulty securing such space. Meanwhile, there was this huge mountain that was just there occupying space. One of the children decided one day to pray a simple prayer.

God remove this mountain for us, we want to play ball. This boy continued to pray this simple prayer every day. One day a construction company needed stone for their construction work and the same mountain happened to be one of the materials they needed for their work. In no time the mountain was leveled and the children had a space to play football.

You may call it a mere coincidence. Maybe, but to that boy, God had answered his prayers. That is enough to make him trust God for any other thing.

There are several such testimonies you can share with your children to encourage them to pray.

CHAPTER FOUR

GET OTHERS TO HELP YOU

We can't teach our children everything we want them to learn; other people will have to help us. Don't be shy to ask for such help. There are so many people who will be more than willing to offer such help. If it is important for us to send our children to school so that other people can help us in training them to become useful and successful in life, we can equally welcome other people's input in training on one the most important skills they need to combat life circumstances.

WHERE TO GET SUCH HELP

Such assistance are readily available on asking. The first place to look to for such help is your local church. I assure you there are many people in your local church who can do that. You can start by asking your pastor or church leader for help. If he or she is not disposed for such service, I am sure he would recommend someone else from the church.

Children workers are also another place to look to. Those who work in the children's department already have the training in dealing with children on such issues. It wouldn't be that difficult for them to teach your children simple prayers.

A friend or family member could also be of a great help. The person doesn't need to be a professional child psychologist-just someone who is

willing and able to teach your children simple prayer.

CHAPTER FIVE

MODEL PRAYERS TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

Here are some simple children prayers that you can teach your children. Some of the prayers have been for ages but they are for children. I have equally added new ones that you might find interesting and very helpful. The most important thing is for your child to learn the importance of talking to God.

Prayer of thanksgiving

*Father, we thank you for the night,
And for the pleasant morning light;
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that makes the day so fair.*

*Help us to do the things we should,
To be to others kind and good;
In all we do, in work or play,
To grow more loving every day.*

Prayer for wisdom

Dear Lord, help me today and always to make the right decision and choices. Help me not just to know what is right and wrong but also to choose the right all the time. I pray that you guide me by your wisdom in all I do, in Jesus name, amen.

Traditional Children's Bedtime Prayer

This well-known prayer for kids comes in many variations. Here are three of the most beloved renditions:

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.*

*May God guard me through the night,
And wake me with the morning light. Amen.*

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
May the angels watch me through the night,
And keep me in their blessed sight. Amen.*

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should live another day
I pray the Lord to guide my way. Amen.*

Prayer for protection

*Dear Lord, I thank you because you are everywhere.
Your angels are all around me and therefore the
enemy will not harm me. I pray that I will always
remain under your protection no matter where I
find myself, in Jesus name, amen.*

Child's Evening Prayer

*I hear no voice, I feel no touch,
I see no glory bright;
But yet I know that God is near,
In darkness as in light.*

*He watches ever by my side,
And hears my whispered prayer:
The Father for His little child
Both night and day doth care.*

Prayer for friendship

*Dear Lord I thank you for the gift of friendship.
Help to be a good friend to all the friends you bring
into my life, in Jesus name, Amen*

CHAPTER SIX

POWERFUL PRAYERS FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Children are special and precious gift from God. They are not mere coincidence or biological accident. They don't come because we know how to produce them. They are sent by God as gifts to be treasured and cherished. There are challenges that come with having children. A lot of parents and guardians are scared when it comes to raising kids but thank God for the gift of prayer. Through prayer, we can partner with the one who gave us the gift. So, when the challenges of life come along, know that you have a weapon that is effective, tested and trusted; we have the gift of praying for children we know and love, and those around the world who may be facing difficult times.

Praying for children is one of the most powerful things you can do as a parent, care-taker or as a concern and compassionate Christian.

Whenever you find yourself worried and overly concerned as most parents naturally do about the future of your child, turn to prayer and cast your burden upon the Lord

Prayers for God's Protection over my Children

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and huckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.
Psalms 91:3-6

"Father God, I thank you for your word and promises that never fail. I stand upon your word and ask for your protection upon my children today. I declare that they are safe and secure from any harm, injury, danger, destruction and death, in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. I ask that your angel will guide and protect them as they go out and come in, may you grant them the wisdom to stay out of trouble, in Jesus name. Amen

I equally pray for all the precious children all over the world. Bless every hand and effort that is being made to give them a good life and to guide them in the way of the Lord. May every evil work of child molestation, labor, trafficking, poverty and abuse be exposed and brought to an end. May they come to know that they are loved by you and may you be in their lives so that they would have a changed life and be able to change the lives of others in their communities in Jesus name. Amen

30 POWERFUL PRAYERS AND DECLARATION OVER YOUR CHILDREN AND HOUSEHOLD

- I speak over the lives of my children and my household that Jesus will reign in everything that concerns them, in Jesus name.

- Let my children and my house hold attract only good things in Jesus name.
- Evil friends and associates shall not locate my family in Jesus name.
- I declare that my family is secured from evil arrows that fly around my community, in Jesus name.
- My family is blessed as we go out and come in, in Jesus name.
- My family is created for signs and wonders and we shall manifest God's glory everywhere we go, in Jesus name.
- I declare the end of every affliction (mention the afflictions) in the lives of my children and family members, in Jesus name.
- Every house hold enemy sent against me and my children, be exposed and be defeated, in Jesus name.

I break every negative influence over my children and house hold, in Jesus name.

That seed of greatness that the Lord has planted in my children shall be used to glorify God and enrich humanity, in Jesus name.

Forces that destroy destinies shall not locate my house hold, in Jesus name.

I immunize my children and house hold from every sickness and disease, in Jesus name.

I call forth God's divine favor upon my house hold. Anywhere they are, favor will locate them, in Jesus name

- Let my children possess the gates of their enemies, in Jesus name.(Gen 24:60)

- Let every evil personality that has the contract to derail my children be disgraced, in Jesus name.
- I speak peace and comfort over my house hold, in Jesus name
- Let the power of extraordinary achievement come upon my children and house hold, in Jesus name.

I command every negative force that derails young people to bow before my children, in Jesus name.

- I separate my children from the scene of destruction and calamity, in Jesus name.
- I mark my entire house hold with the blood of Jesus. Evil shall see the blood and pass over them, in Jesus name.
- I declare that my house hold is a reservoir of God's blessing. Wealth and riches shall dwell in my house, in Jesus name.
- Let every power that has risen to afflict my children and entire house hold be disgraced, in Jesus name.
- My children will grow in the fear of the Lord. They shall be established in the wisdom of God and they shall be satisfied with favor, in Jesus name.
- The power that entices children into ungodliness shall be far from my family. The oil of the Lord upon my children shall cause them to resist every evil enticement, in Jesus name.
- I speak strength into the lives of my children. God's ability is upon them to overcome every stage of life's battle they face, in Jesus name.

- I break every influence of darkness over my house hold. The sons of wickedness are not permitted to afflict my family, in Jesus name.
- Let the grace for outstanding result come upon my children and house hold, in Jesus name.
- I forbid sickness and diseases in my house hold. God want us to be in good health, therefore, I proclaim good health in my family, in Jesus name.
- I bind every devil that causes obstacles on the ways of people. I forbid them from hindering the blessings of my family, in Jesus name.
- I declare that my children and entire house hold are blessed as they go out and as they come in. I and my house hold shall flourish in the land of the living. God's goodness and mercy encompass us at all times, in Jesus name.

TEACH YOUR CHILD T...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Ijeh is a dynamic preacher and teacher of God's word. He is the president of John Ijeh World Outreach. The Lord spoke to him on the 15th of December, 1997 to take His Word to the nations of the world and call God's people out of the world's captivity and satanic bondage. In response to this divine mandate, John ministers the word of God in churches, crusades, conferences and seminars and youth outreaches both within and outside Nigeria. He has also written several books. He lives in Lagos, Nigeria with his lovely wife, Mercy Ijeh and they are blessed with three children: Lovelyn, Praisel and Daniel.

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