



An Intercessor's Pain

Dr. Kimberly K. Clayton

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this book to my daughter, Elise, who has been on this spiritual journey with me, even when she wanted to do other things! Elise, you sacrificed. I see it, but most importantly, God sees it too! Mommy thanks God for you and I know I am blessed that I could be trusted with a daughter like yourself! I may not have thought to ask God for His very best concerning you, but I sure thank God that I can be trusted with His very best!

I also dedicate this book to my grandmothers, Willene, Gracie and my bonus grandmother (Great Aunt) Mary. I have been extremely blessed to have praying grandmothers like you, that pray and intercede for me and love me the way that you do!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to acknowledge God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and The Holy Spirit for their unconditional love and patience with me. I am forever grateful for all that God has done for me. Thank You for bringing the right people at the right time into my life! God, I see you working in my life and I thank You for never giving up on me.

I am thankful for my earthly dad, Mr. Jones, who would encourage me not to give up and to keep going even when I was hard hit by circumstances in life.

To those of you who are apart of *It's Praying Time*, I thank you for your faithfulness to pray with and for me and Elise. You too have become a part of our spiritual journey and I honor you for that!

Lastly, to every Godly Intercessor who is still on their Wall of Prayer and maintains their Prayer Watch without fail! May you be encouraged and strengthened for the journey ahead and know that I salute you!

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INTRODUCTION

The times we live in have presented many challenges and difficulties. Sometimes, we have to admit that even intercessors face many adversities and shed many tears in their labor of love. I invite you to go on this journey with me to see what I have faced in my faith walk and when standing in the gap for others. It's my prayer that this book encourages you and motivates you to carry on with your prayer life and your call to intercede for others. Remember, PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS AND IT'S PRAYING TIME!

Let's make the most of every opportunity to win souls for Jesus Christ. The truth is eternity is closer for some than others. People are leaving this world at an accelerated rate and unfortunately people are leaving this earth in very tragic ways as well. We are not just living for this life, but we are surely living for the life to come. Let me encourage you to not delay in saying this Salvation Prayer. Please repeat this prayer from a sincere heart:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and I ask You for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I ask for the Holy Spirit to dwell in me, to guide me, and to teach me all things. I choose to trust and follow You as the Son of God and Lord and Savior. In Jesus' Name. Amen and Amen!

If you repeated that prayer with a true sincerity, you JUST GOT SAVED!!! I encourage you to read your Bible on a daily basis. You can download the Bible App at <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/>. It will bless you

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greatly to be able to take the Bible with you everywhere you go. It even allows you to download offline versions of the Bible so you can read it without internet access. This Bible App also reads the Bible to you, has devotionals, Bible study plans, etc. It's the first App on my smartphone! To help you understand the scripture, please get a paper parallel study Bible that has both the King James Version (KJV) and New Living Translation (NLT) or another version of your choice.

I am praying with you because getting saved is just the first step. Reading the Bible every day is the second step and the third step is to pray and ask God the Father to lead you to a church home where you will be planted, rooted and established in the Word of God. Be sure to find a good church home that teaches and preaches the Bible without watering it down. Many churches are still working for the Lord even if the doors of the church building are not physically open yet.

Lastly, if you repeated the Salvation Prayer and got saved, please email me at itsprayingtime2020@gmail.com so I can pray for you and encourage you along your spiritual journey. You can also email your prayer requests and I would be glad to stand in the gap for you.

Chapter 1

NOT LIKE THIS!

There are times in life, as I pray, when I don't understand why the prayer was not answered in the way I thought, prayed and believed God for. There is an agony when I don't get the results I prayed and fasted for. Tears were shed when I prayed and gave it my all but my loved one passed away. It felt like the wind was knocked out of me, the next breath was like an eternity. How could this be? I got down on my knees and prayed with faith, boldness and urgency. I sought God for a miracle, yet it seemed that day would never come. As I grasped and clutched my chest, saying, "Lord, have mercy on me. Please don't let this be so," my heart broke and ached. How will I recover? How will I go on? Learning to love God in the bad times is a challenge I must embrace, for how can I stand in His presence with any hate? Is my heart filled with too much compassion? Oh, how I cry out, "NOT LIKE THIS!"

"Gone too soon" is what I say when I see innocent babies, children, teenagers, and young adults leaving this world in such tragic and senseless ways. We live in times when we need Almighty God to remember our children. If ever there was a time to turn back to the Lord, now is that time. I pray that we return to Father God with repented and sincere hearts for straying from Him, for repeated disobedience, for relentless pride and rebellion in our actions, words, and unfortunately in our hearts that are so far from Him. Why do our children have to suffer in such painful and tragic ways?

Someone once said to me, "When you see how bad it is getting in this world, aren't you glad they are in a better place?"

I replied, "I'm glad they are in a better place, however, I am not okay with the way they are leaving this world!"

I understand that we have to die to enter into Heaven, yet I ask the Lord, why do people have to die in such heart wrenching ways? I cry out for dignity in death. Am I wrong to want peaceful deaths for people, especially those who are most vulnerable? How do we grapple with these untimely, tragic and senseless deaths? After all, the way people leave here impacts you and me. Will we continue to pray and stand up for what's right? Or will our hearts become hardened, bitter and cold even though what we are experiencing has already been foretold?

As an intercessor, I am charged with keeping the faith, to pray without ceasing, to thwart the plans of the enemy. Yet the pain I'm experiencing makes my heart heavy as I fall to my knees in prayer. I sow it in tears because there are no words in this language that can fully express the sorrow I feel right down to my soul. I keep the faith because although my heart is broken and my spirit is contrite, I serve the **one and only God** who can make me **whole**. How am I able to carry on with so much hurt, pain and sorrow?

I remind myself there is hope for today and tomorrow because, **Jesus lives**; therefore, I must keep living! Because Jesus is a man acquainted with sorrows. A High Priest who is familiar with all of my pains. I gain strength and comfort in knowing that Jesus promised me He would be with me even until the very end. Jesus asked His disciples when the Son of Man returns will He find faith on Earth? I had to stop and take time to ask myself why would Jesus ask this question? Yet Matthew 24:8 is surely an answer to this question and so is 2 Timothy 3.

Life has changed so much as we know it, yet it is clear we live in the last of the last and evil days. Who would be able to stand, especially without the power of the Holy Ghost? It's clear the furnace of suffering has been turned up and it will take faith to endure until the end. I'm reminded that my faith walk is not a sprint, but a marathon that requires spiritual, physical and emotional stamina to think with the end in mind, that through

Christ Jesus victory is mine! My fortified faith is not based on my circumstance, bank accounts, achievements, or events that happen in this world. My fortified faith is based on God Almighty alone and His Holy Words, who He is and what He says. I can take it to the bank and cash the check.

Write thoughts, scriptures and prayers that come to mind below:

Chapter 2

IN COVENANT WITH FATHER GOD

I can't help but think that maybe if I prayed longer, harder and stronger, the results would be better. I would celebrate the victory of answered prayer, not weep in heart wrenching despair. I whisper, "I just don't understand." I'm not asking anyone to fix my pain. This is a journey I have to walk by faith and not by sight. When I hurt like this, truth be told, there's not much anyone can say that will erase my pain or bring me the victory I long for so deeply. The Lord and I are on this journey. He is the comforter I need at this very moment. Sweet Jesus, how do I go on from here? Even though I bowed low and surrendered to God, what I knew did not go as planned. Will I continue to trust in God's unchanging and faithful hand?

That remains to be seen, that even in my grief, sorrow and heavy heart, I know the God that can ease my pain and bless me with a better tomorrow. I trust Abba Father to mend my broken heart and catch every tear I shed because our covenant is real. Our intimate relationship is real. We love each other through thick and thin, the good, the bad, in sickness and health, for richer or poorer. The bond we share cannot be broken, that's how we are wed with unconditional love in the best of times and times of despair. How would we know the depths of our love for each other if it were based on the good times only? When we love each other in the tough and bad times, that's substance, depth and not phony.

Our relationship grows stronger because there is no way out of this covenant relationship. We are betrothed to one another. It's give and take in this relationship. As I grow, I learn to take

the bad even when it is unfair, even when I don't understand, even when the pain runs deep, even when the tears flow and seem they won't stop, and even when it feels like my heart has bottomed out. I know my God will heal me beyond a shadow of a doubt. Father God will bless me with the strength I need to carry on. These pains and sorrows are not to break me but to cause me to bend and bow down low in the presence of Almighty God who has the power to take all my pain and transform it for His and my gain. Our partnership was never based on everything going my way. He promised me He would always be there, even until the very end. That He wouldn't forget me, He wouldn't leave me and my daily needs would be met. I know this pain won't last always. I trust God to ease my pain, mend my broken heart and strengthen me for the journey ahead.

I pray the Lord will help me to see He's working behind the scenes, healing me, and preparing me for the next assignment. Although the pain is too fresh, He promised me that even this will work for my good. OH GOD, He will help me to know that even when it doesn't look good, sound good or feel good, it is all working for my good according to Romans 8:28. There is a pain that runs deep and seems like it won't end, but I must remember that, even in this journey, with God, I won't break but I must bend. This agony, frustration and pain will come to an end...but I am reassured that Father God is with me from beginning to the end! I couldn't always see my way clearly, but His hand held my hand tight, and gave me strength when I had no might. *"He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength"* (Isaiah 40:29 NKJV). My tears and heartache are not in vain. They show the depths of my soul and the unwavering faith I have as I pray and believe it's already done.

I know God is real. I've seen the battles He's won. Nothing compares to the great battle-ax who fights with those who fight against me, who contends with those who contend against me. *"You are My battle-ax and weapons of war..."* (Jeremiah 51:20 NJKV). *"Contend, Lord, with those who contend with me; fight*

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against those who fight against me” (Psalm 35:1 NIV). As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil because Abba Father is with me (Psalm 23).

Oh, the pain I felt as those I loved and knew well passed away, yet I didn't grieve without hope. I will see them again because they died in Christ, and they will rise in Christ's eternal life too. *“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope”* (1 Thessalonians 4:13 NKJV). Am I selfish to want more time? Could I ever say enough to make sure they knew my love for them was real? Did I put enough quality time in with them that showed my love was sincere? Why is it that the thought of doing more for them surfaced once they passed away? Even when they told me, “Don't spend money on me, I don't need anything,” my heart desired yet to do more! That's why it is so important to make it count with people while they are alive, give them their flowers while they can smell them. Even when I didn't know them, my heart wept for their passing, I had great faith they would live...this is not the outcome I prayed for...I was looking for a miracle and so much more.

Did Jesus not weep when He saw Mary and the Jews crying with heartbroken grief when Lazarus died? *“Jesus wept”* (John 11:35 KJV). Again, I must challenge myself. Why did I think this journey would be without tears, pain and intense suffering? Even in Jesus' pain, He showed love, compassion and raised the dead. So, as I follow His example, I will do the same. Jesus is calling me higher and I pray He will help me to stay focused on that to come apart and be in His presence. With all the busyness life can bring, I pray He will help me to keep Him first in all things. That I am committed to the call of intercession, in the good and bad times, especially when the words don't flow like they used to. My tears, my pressing in, my moans and groans, and my divine utterances show my sincerity and dedication to show up to travail even when it seems the battle is lost. I did as instructed and prayed and did not give up. Even when I don't know what to pray, I can count on the Holy Spirit to intercede

on my behalf. *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered”* (Romans 8:26 NKVJ).

On this journey of intercession, the Lord has taught me the benefits of being faithful and consistent. As I am faithful to show up to pray, intercede and cry out, I can count on Almighty God to do the rest. He taught me when I do the best then He will give me a peace and rest to carry on. The battles I face can't always be summed up as wins and losses, but my obedience, faithfulness, consistency, and humility are far more valuable as I grow in my faith walk and call to prayer intercession. God's patience with me shows as He lovingly reminds me not to give up, to keep serving Him, and to keep praying. He asked me, “Can I have a little more time with you?” Abba Father desires that intimate time with me. I pray that He teaches me to desire that quality time too. That no matter what goes on in my life, I'm determined to give Him quality time day in and day out. No longer will I blend the quality time and prayer intercession time. I cherish the time when I can just sit at my Father's feet and listen for His soft, gentle and loving words. A time when He can comfort me even when it seems the pain won't end. I feel His loving arms wrap around me so I know beyond the shadow of a doubt I can face the day and all that it brings. A time where I can receive God's divine instructions, strategies and insights on what He needs me to do.

Determined on this leg of the journey that I won't get ahead of Almighty God (like so many others in Biblical times), I do not want to go anywhere without Father God. His leading is crucial and of utmost importance to me. I like how when my heart is heavy, that I can come simply in His presence and cast all my cares knowing when the conversation and fellowship is done, I have left my burdens there. *“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you”* (1 Peter 5:7 NKJV).

Jesus has been a constant friend to me. I thank Him for His patience with me as I grow to be a better friend to Him. I never

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have to worry that He will mishandle my heart or my pain. I can count on Jesus time and time again. I realize that what I've been looking for in others is really what I found in Him. *“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you”* (John 15:15 NKJV). Jesus is the best friend, the best confidant I have ever had! I value our friendship even more. I know I could never repay Him or work hard enough to earn my salvation, so by faith I am determined to be a better friend to Jesus than I have in the past.

When I feel overwhelmed, all I have to remember is that Lord Jesus is with me and Philippians 4:13 rings true in my life—**I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me**. This journey was never a solo design. It was always me and Jesus, even before time. So, since this journey is predestined, I don't have to fret. I can count on Jesus. Even when it looks like all is lost, it's not. This journey and Jesus have shown me that even when it seems at its worse, I cannot give up. I must hold on to this pain no matter how tremendous it may be. I will serve God's glorious purpose! I'm reminded that I cannot expect such glorious gain with little to no major pain. I pray the Lord forgives my unrealistic expectations as I choose to accept my reality and prepare for my destiny. I would rather face these last of the last and evil days with Jesus as my friend, confidant and Savior than without Him. I'm reminded that weeping may endure for night, but joy is coming in the morning (Psalm 30:5). So, no matter the season I find myself in, I am reassured that the valley season doesn't last always.

Write thoughts, scriptures and prayers that come to mind below:

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