

Prisoner of Grace

An 'I Saw Jesus at Milton' Testimony

CHARLES MWEWA



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DEDICATION

To

Jesus Christ,

My Best Friend, Lord & Savior

CONTENTS

DEDICATION iii
CONTENTS..... v
AUTHOR'S WORD..... vii
I SAW JESUS..... 1
ABOUT THE AUTHOR..... 17
INDEX 19

AUTHOR'S WORD

It was around 2:00 a.m. on June 4th, 2013. I had a morning vision; I saw my Lord. It was a remarkable trance that kept me fixated on a self-managed divine video screen. In the next few pages, you will read about this encounter that I first reported in a prayer book I titled, *I Bow*.

There can never be a better description of that experience than to bow before Him and worship. It has since been my greatest honor for the Lord to have revealed Himself to me in that way.

Although, the written Scriptures still remain the most gracious way in which God, our Father, has revealed Himself through Jesus Christ, our Master and Savior, to humanity, on a personal level, I found the June 4th, 2013-experience to be only second.

To God be all the glory, Amen!

cm.

vii

I SAW JESUS

If there is one event that has had so much impact in my Christian life, it was in 1993 when the glory of God encompassed around me and a small whisper of God's voice said to me: "Each time you bow before me on the altar to pray, I shall hear you!" This happened in Livingstone, Zambia, when I knelt on my knees waiting for a Gospel Minister to place his hands on me. Even before the Man of God came to me, God's hand had already reached me first.

From then, a ministry of prayer was born in me. Since then, by the grace of God and for His glory, I have written on prayer and trained many intercessors and prayer warriors for the Kingdom of our Great and Glorious

God.

The second event, and the subject of this little book, is when the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to me in a dream on June 4th, 2013 in Milton, Ontario, Canada.

While I count myself most honored, though unworthy of the Lord's appearance, I, however, find myself reminiscing the fact that had I done certain things in the first place, it would have been unnecessary for the Good Lord to show Himself to me.

Since my Christian conversion in the early 1990s, the Holy Spirit had been speaking to me frequently through the Word of God. I had become so accustomed to His voice that I made no important decision without His assurance.

Between 2009 and 2012, I had a personal issue with the Lord. One would term it as a "desert experience." Just about everything proved harder and harder. My relationship with God, though still good, my soul never stayed at rest during those years.

Surely on numerous occasions I sensed that the Holy Spirit wanted to begin a conversation with me, but I inadvertently ignored Him. This, in my opinion, left the Lord with the only option available: To appear to me directly. This is the reason why

His appearing denotes not only the introduction of His grace themes in my life, but, in comparison to many saints who may be hoping that He does appear to them, a decry for faith on the believer's part. Rule of thumb is, it is better to believe than to see. That has also been the biblical rule of thumb.

One of the attributes of His Holiness is that He transcends all nature. His transcendental character connotes that He knows the end from the start. For God had predestined us:

For those whom He *foreknew*, He also *predestined* to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also *called*; and these whom He called, He also *justified*; and these whom He justified, He also *glorified*.¹

In other words, our God knew us before we were conceived in our mothers' wombs.² He then called us, and His callings and gifts are irrevocable,³ and God is determined to glorify us (to be with Him forever).

¹ Romans 8:29-30; see also Ephesians 1:5, Luke 12:32, Acts 13:48, Ephesians 1:11, Philippians 2:13, Romans 8:14

² Psalm 39

³ Romans 11:29

However, we are urged to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.⁴ And this is mostly accomplished through the study of the Word of God,⁵ among other things. The phrase “work out” here is the same we use in terms of exercising or training at a gym. And the Writer to the Hebrews gives a caveat:

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted of the goodness of the Word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subject Him to public disgrace.⁶

On its value, this passage hints on the possibility of losing one’s salvation. But, in the light of my encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, and of Holy Scriptures, the word “impossible” does not carry water. It is, however, impossible for men in themselves to bring someone back to the Lord. But what is *impossible* with men (people), is *possible* with

⁴ Philippians 2:12

⁵ 2Tim. 2:15

⁶ Hebrews 6:4-6

God.⁷

The idea is simple: No-one is beyond the redemptive work of the Lord, even if they have trampled the Lord’s blood. God will forgive and restore anyone who comes to Him by faith and in repentance.

This is conveniently illustrated in the story of the Prodigal Son.⁸ The Prodigal Son is a much more authentic story of God’s willingness to forgive and save than Hebrews 6:4-6 is. It is the quintessential story of grace.

In fact, the story of the Writer to the Hebrews is concerned with the Hebrews’ propensity for sanitising salvation by grace with salvation through performances (works). He is concerned that they would be attempting to pay for their salvation when the blood of Christ has paid for their sin. For salvation from sin and hell is purely and only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord.⁹

When the Lord did appear to me, however, it brought to light all that I had known about Him and His grace. This was an experience I never thought could ever happen to me while I still remained on earth, alive.

⁷ Matthew 19:26, Mark 10:27 and Luke 18:27

⁸ Luke 15:11-32

⁹ Ephesians 2:8-9

Since 2013, I had told it to very few people and I thought I should include it in the book called *I Bow* only in the preface. Even then, my unsaid prayer was more for record-keeping purposes than for publication.

The re-discovery of grace in the Bible, has caused me to pray differently and to look at life differently. I have had a total transformation in my belief and I can see more clearly into people's lives both near and afar. For the first time in my life, fame, power, money or seeking people's glory became secondary. The desire to love God more, became paramount.

The greatest revelation the Lord has given me is to “compare downwards” and each time I do that, I have felt so much for the weak, the vulnerable and those who may not have some privilege the majority share. For a while, I held grudges against a few people who I thought had treated me badly. After that encounter, all the grudges melted away. The Lord erased all that I had personally against other people; I began to see friends of those I thought were enemies. As the Bible commands, I “owe no man anything, but...love...”¹⁰

But more importantly, my prayer life

¹⁰ Romans 13:8

surged. *I Bow* was a result of that new surge of prayer. I had a new revelation of prayer. It became *grace-based prayer*. When I saw the Lord in that vision, first, I saw the futility of our defences, things we think we have achieved. Second, I stood before the Lord and nothing was hidden. So, I started to pray faithfully, recording all my prayers, and as I did that, I saw things about people only God could allow me to see. Things I never understood such as angels, demons, motives, and etc., had become very clear to me. And I started learning afresh what it meant to give God all the glory.

I anger for none-entity; I long to be nothing and to decrease so that only Him can be glorified. I seek nothing of self, and to be only a servant to both men (people) and God, is of higher honor to me than even leadership itself. I die daily that He may live in me and if the Lord wills, I want to remain insignificant before people unless otherwise fated.

Paul's ministry and writings were exemplified by grace, from Galatians written around c. 48 AD,¹¹ First Thessalonians (c. 49–51),¹² First Corinthians (c. 53–54),¹³ Second

¹¹ Galatians 1:3

¹² First Thessalonians 1:1

¹³ First Corinthians 1:3

Corinthians (c. 55–56),¹⁴ Romans (c. 55–57),¹⁵ Philippians (c. 57–59),¹⁶ Philemon (c. 62),¹⁷ Second Thessalonians (c. 51–52),¹⁸ Colossians (c. 62),¹⁹ Ephesians (c. 62),²⁰ First Timothy (c. 62–64),²¹ Second Timothy (c. 62–65),²² to Titus (c. 66–67).²³ In these verses, grace precedes both mercy and peace. The New Testament Pauline Theology is, therefore, one of grace. In essence, God has called us not because of our merit but in spite of it.

Coming to the vision itself, it was around 2:00 a.m. on June 4th, 2013. This was different from a dream. I was very much awake. Yet, I was not truly in control of my faculties. All my senses were intact. I knew where I was and I mastered my surroundings. I was aware of everything happening around me.

My dearest wife, Clarice, was sleeping besides me, and she was fast asleep. I could clearly see her beside me. Suddenly, a blanket of glory enveloped me. The earth gave way to

¹⁴ Second Corinthians 1:2

¹⁵ Romans 1:5

¹⁶ Philippians 1:2

¹⁷ Philemon 3

¹⁸ Second Thessalonians 1:2

¹⁹ Colossians 1:2

²⁰ Ephesians 1:2

²¹ First Timothy 1:2

²² Second Timothy 1:2

²³ Titus 1:4

a glorious expanse, and I saw the Lord Jesus Christ suspended in the firmament. Then I heard His voice once again, the same familiar voice we hear when we attend Church, the voice so familiar and yet so common that we can miss it. It was gentle yet so piercing that I knew it was TRUTH itself personified.

It was first wide then narrow and then so direct that even when He spoke to millions of souls all over the world yet it was so directed on me.

It was Him, the Lord Jesus Christ.

It was Him the Savior of mankind. I needed no introduction. I instantly knew that it was Him.

It was Him, King of all kings and yet humble, servant-like and worthy.

I heard again His voice - yes, He is coming to judge our deeds good or bad. I saw his Judgment Seat, so true and yet so common as if I was with it each and every day.

I SAW AND HEARD THE LORD IN THAT MOMENT.

Some of the details of the encounter are revealed in *I Bow*. But suffice to mention that His voice is not any strange to those who read their Bible, especially the Gospels. I thought I was listening to the Gospels one more time. It solidified in me the truth that all that the Lord

had intended to say to mankind is already contained in the Word of God.

To whomever or whenever the Lord shall appear, He will not bring another message; all that is to be said has been said. It remains for us all to believe it and abide by it.

The reason we miss Him – although He cannot be missed – is that we tend to look for signs and wonders. Every soul born of a woman has heard His voice, whether audible or still and small, and yet we ignore it, we brush it off and keep on our own paths. The Lord is good to all, and wants, and, indeed, does speak to all.

Yes, when you have a strong feeling that the Lord wants to talk to you, it is true He does want to. And He is concerned about all that goes on in the world today. He does see and provides.²⁴

The encounter revolutionized my prayer life in the following ways.

First, I make personal prayers, a cry for my own soul.

Second, I make prayers we all pray or have prayed before at a subconscious level, petitions to God for the honor of His Word.

Third, I make various intercessions for the world – for example, each of the known 257

²⁴ See Genesis 22:14

countries of the world has been mentioned before God in *I Bow*. For the Church, I cry that it should come to the first love with the Head, who is Jesus Christ. The Lord's Church cannot be allowed to slacken in its mission; it must continue to grow in power – for the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.²⁵

Finally, and this is in a way a *proviso* to Matthew 6:5 and 6,²⁶ I have not intended the prayers I have made to be my expostulation of “my prayer life,” conception. Rather, a sharing on our common prayer experiences.

To God be all the praise, for many years, I prayed and led many prayer meetings, from Africa to North America. I have led in prayers, taught about prayer, and wrote books about prayer. I must confess that when it came to teaching the right way to pray vis-à-vis “public prayer,” we got it all up-side-down. Prayer is not supposed to be a bragging right; prayer is, primarily, a private affair between the humans and God.

The prayers I have written down, for

²⁵ See Matthew 16:17-19

²⁶ When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you....

example, those contained in *I Bow*, are private. They were publicized to encourage the saints in the way of prayer and to give glory to God. My prayer was that when the reader reads them, they would be moved by the Holy Spirit to have a much deeper prayer experience than I did. I prayed that God would use my prayers to draw people closest to Him. That remains my habit to date.

I have experienced so much of God since the encounter more than in my entire over 30 years-plus as a Christian. I have begun to see our double-standards: Some Gospel Ministers preaching for cash, some politicians ruling for the belly, and the world so in love with the flesh and self-love that it almost seems out of fashion with what concerns the Holy God.

Since the encounter, I have prayed and written prayers from a grace standpoint. I have, many times, come to the realization that I am weaker than most people. I need, needed and will continue to need God. I am, indeed, *a prisoner of grace*.

God is calling us back to a life of fervent praying - to pray for the world and to keep praying until He comes. I have decided to do all I can for God without the showings off of men, without pride or calling attention, but to the GLORY of His name only and alone. And

these prayers and meditation and mediations on behalf of the people to God must be made in secret, to be effective. Prayer must effuse the themes of the Bible and should be based on Holy Scripture.

Since I was saved, I have prayed hundreds of thousands of lines. But I had not recorded them. Since 2013, I have recorded most of my prayers. The only irony about writing down prayers is that we risk missing out on the blessings of the Lord. For the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded:

When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen [and heard] by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.²⁷

The only comfort we might derive from writing down our prayers is that they should inspire someone to a much stronger and more meaningful relationship with the Father. It is my prayer that they do.

I am inspired by the song, *No Higher Calling (Down at Your Feet)*²⁸ by Lenny LeBlanc and

²⁷ Matt. 6:5

²⁸ Down at Your feet, O Lord, is the most high place
In Your presence Lord

CHARLES MWEWA

Greg Gulley, particularly the line, "...no greater honor/ than to bow and kneel before your throne." Indeed, I find no greater calling and no higher honor than to bow before His Throne of Mercy and pray. For the lower I go, the higher He must get.

I pray that as you read this little *testimonium*, the Kingdom of God will be established, the goodness of the Lord may be found, the presence of the LORD should manifest, and the glory of the Father must be the end:

O, the infinite wisdom of Christ Jesus, the
Leader
His supreme prudence in world harvest
His beauty, unmatched – Lily of the Valley,
Rose of Sharon
His tremendous creativity in creation, yet Man
of Sorrows
O, Merciful High Priest, Messiah who is
Prince

I seek Your face, I seek Your face
Down at Your feet, O Lord, is the most high place
In Your presence Lord
We seek Your face, we seek Your face

Chorus

There is no higher calling, no greater honour
Than to bow and kneel before Your throne
I'm amazed at Your glory
Embraced by Your mercy
O Lord, I live to worship You

PRISONER OF GRACE

A Nazarene, yet King of all kings
He has overcome, O Lord God Omnipotent
And His name is above all names.

To Him, and Him alone, like all the saints
who believe do, I do bow. May the glory of
God outpace our frail human pride. May, first
and foremost, grace be multiplied among all
those who love the Lord and His appearing.
And may mercy and peace, in that order, be
ours now and forevermore, through Jesus
Christ, our Lord.

Amen!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Charles Mwewa (LLB; BA. Education; BA. Legal Studies; Cert. Law; DIBM; LLM Cand.), *a prisoner of grace*, is a Dad, author, lawyer, educator, and moral and social influencer. Mwewa is the author of 35 books and counting in all genres – fiction (novels), non-fiction and poetry. Mwewa, his wife, and their three girls, reside in the Capital City of Ottawa, Canada.

INDEX

A

Africa, 11
angels, 7
appearing. *See* appearance

B

Bible, 6, 9, 13
blood. *See* Jesus Christ

C

Canada, 2, 17
Christian, 1, 2, 12
Church, 9, 11
Clarice, 8
Colossians. *See* Paul
compare downwards, 6
Corinthians. *See* Paul

D

demons, 7
Down at Your Feet. *See* Lenny
LeBlanc or Greg Gulley

F

faith, 3, 5
Father, 11, 13, 14
forgive, 5

G

Galatians. *See* Paul
glory, 1, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15
God. *See* Father
Gospel Minister, 1
Gospels. *See* Word of God
grace, 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15
Great and Glorious God. *See*
Kingdom
Greg Gulley, 14
gym, 4

H

Hebrews, 4, 5
His Holiness. *See* Father
Holy Scripture. *See* Bible
Holy Spirit, 2, 4, 12
honor, 7, 10, 14

CHARLES MWEWA

I

I Bow, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12
intercessors, 1

J

Jesus Christ, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13,
15
Judgment Seat, 9
June 4th, 2013, 2, 8

K

King. *See* Jesus Christ
Kingdom, 1, 14

L

Leader. *See* Jesus Christ
Lenny LeBlanc, 13
Lord. *See* Jesus Christ

M

Man of God. *See* Gospel
Minister
Master. *See* Jesus Christ
Matthew, 5, 11
Merciful High Priest, 14
Messiah, 14
Milton. *See* Ontario, *See*
Ontario
motives, 7

N

Nazarene, 15
New Testament. *See* Paul
North America, 11

O

Omnipotent, 15
Ontario. *See* Canada

P

Paul, 7
Pauline Theology. *See* Paul
petitions, 10
prayer. *See* prayers
prayers, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13
predestined, 3
Prince, 14
prisoner of grace, 12
Prodigal Son, 5

R

repentance, 4, 5
Romans. *See* Paul

S

salvation, 4, 5
Savior. *See* Jesus Christ, *See*
Jesus Christ
Scriptures, vii, 4
signs and wonders, 10

PRISONER OF GRACE

T

Thessalonians. *See* Paul
Throne of Mercy, 14
Timothy. *See* Paul

V

vision, 7, 8
voice, 1, 2, 9, 10

W

Word of God, 4, 10, *See* Bible
work out. *See* gym

Z

Zambia, 1

Proof