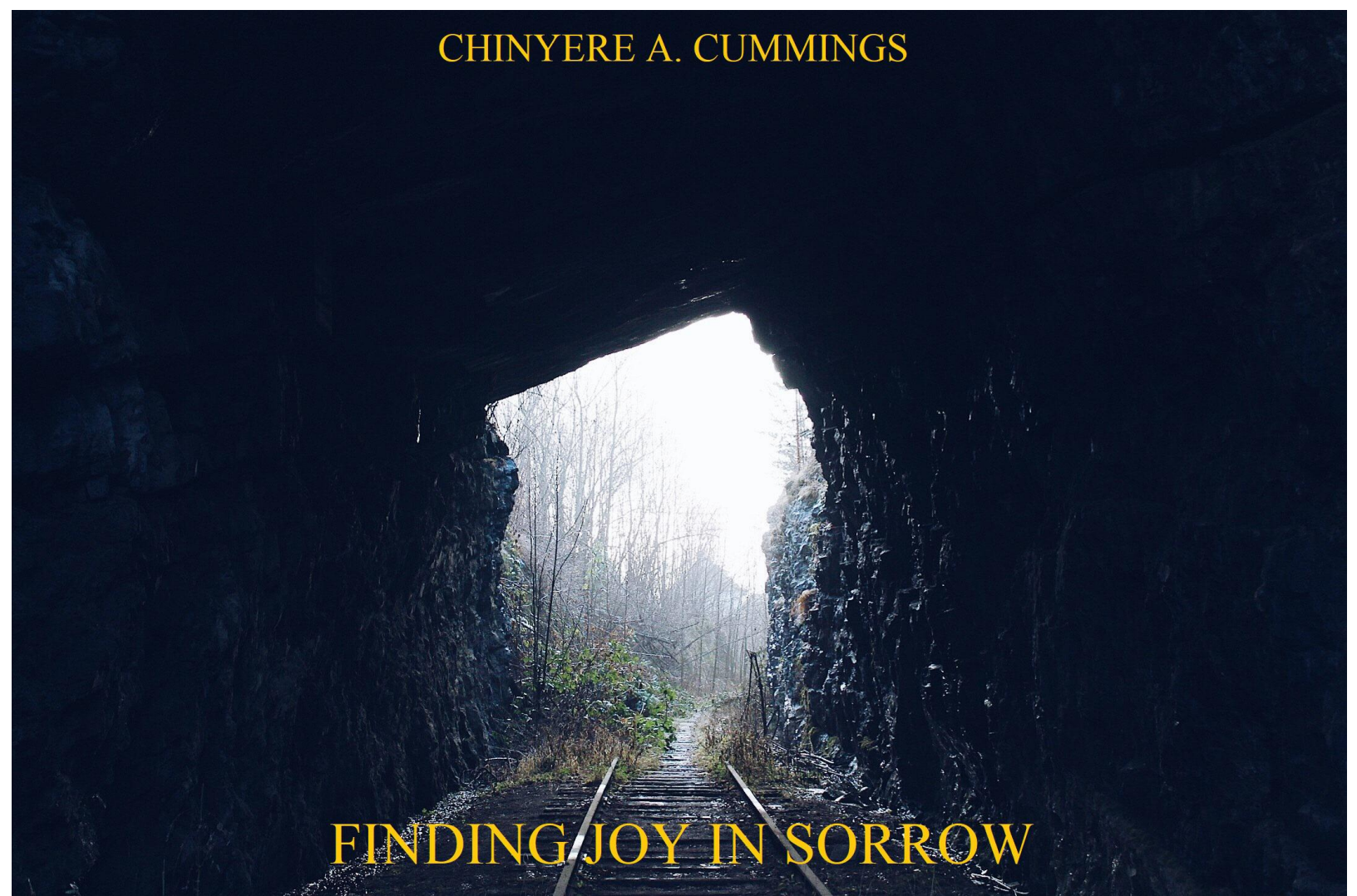


CHINYERE A. CUMMINGS

FINDING JOY IN SORROW



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IN
SORROW

BY
ADA CHINYERE CUMMINGS

DEDICATION

**I Dedicate this book to God the Father
through his son Jesus Christ who sent his
Spirit to indwell me and make this book
a success to his glory.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**I will like to acknowledge my husband and my three kids for being there for me.
I will also like to acknowledge Evang. Martins Igba and Ijeoma Awurum for
doing what the Lord will have them do to the success of this book. I pray for the
peace and love of God to always remain with them, in Jesus name. Amen.**

SYNOPSIS

We all, somehow, had been or still going through one tribulation or the other. If not gathered up by our very hands, then, the Lord is speaking, teaching, or training up minds in his own way to manage greater treasures. I should then say to the one in sorrow, pain or tribulation, to glory in his situation, so that the power of Christ may rest on him

To the one who is hungry, food is needed

To the one who is thirsty, water is needed.

Christ did not leave his heavenly abode for the righteous, but for sinners, that they may gain salvation.

This booklet is a soothing balm for the troubled heart, just to bring him to the knowledge that the Lord is ever present in every situation. The situation came for a purpose, and nothing happens without his approval, at his time, he, the Lord, will change it.

Do I need to sound this as a note of warning to all those passing through dire situations not to speak evil, but rather, give thanks? As it is said, "In every situation, give thanks" Well, putting our acts right, should be our watch word.

Thanks, and stay blessed as you read this booklet.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captive, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18-19.

“Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right-hand side of The Father. Have you forgotten the encouraging words which God speaks to you as his sons?

“My son, pay attention when the Lord
corrects you,
and do not be discouraged when he
rebukes you
Because the Lord corrects everyone
he loves
and punishes everyone he accepts
as a son.”

Endure what you suffer as being a father’s punishment; your suffering shows that God is treating you as his son. Was there ever a son who was not punished by his father? If you are not punished, as all his sons are, it means you are not real sons, but bastards. In the case of our human fathers, they punish us and we respect them. How much more, then, should we submit to our spiritual Father and live! Our human fathers punished us for a short time, as it seemed right to them; but God does it for our own good, so that we may share his holiness. When we are punished, it seems to us at the

time something to make us **sad, not glad**. Later, however, those who have been disciplined by such punishment reap the peaceful reward of a righteous life.’

The Lord says,
“I rebuke
and punish all whom
I love”

Heb.12:2,5-11,Rev.3:19.

FINDING JOY IN SORROW

This statement, to majority, seems certainly impossible; because they have allowed their sense of physical emotions for material things becloud their spiritual essence of existence. This, by all indication shows the absence of the Holy Spirit who brings about the strong will to accept the true teaching of our real spiritual existence with God the Father. It also indicates the presence of the evil one who has a stronger influence on the minds of those he has made weak by so much tribulation which he synthesizes with the fear of the unknown. Apparently, making less and so insignificant the presence of the Lord in their minds. At this juncture, one will begin to think whether God truly exist or maybe he exists somehow but has ceased to care for his children he created with so much love.

Some school of thoughts call it deism-‘the belief in a God who made the world but has no influence on human lives.’ These are mere canal talks from canal minded people. No one mortal can make anything that he can’t control or have influence over, how much more the immortal/divine God-The father who knew about existence before creation and made it to come alive? We are all mortals/created beings, who were given free volition to chose between good and evil with no limitation whatsoever but have a decided end waiting for the very one we choose. So, our very thought about God decides the amount of grace that hovers around us and keeps us in

fellowship with him. Good thought forms attract good ministering spirits of actions, while the evil ones attract evil spirits. The resultant effect varies: the wise can always work it out.

A thought or action contrary to God's law is only a calculated attempt from the evil one to make those who are not spiritually matured and even the very elect to turn to him for solace. Trust him, Satan the devil; he never relents in his desire to destroy the children of God. The moment you turn to him, he will make sure that you never lives his presence by given you all that your heart desires just to bring you to condemnation.

Please take note of this:- There is no way the Evil one can get you if you have everything your heart desires from God. In the same way, there is no way the Lord will know how faithful you are to his service if you are completely contented. So in most cases, he allows the evil one to tempt you by inflicting you with problem he feels will debilitate you, just to know how dedicated and obedient you are to his service. Sometimes, he makes you so rich just to drift your mind away from God to frivolities. Be careful and embrace wisdom.

If you are being tempted and put through trials as a child of God, then **“consider yourself fortunate; for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure. Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way without failing. So that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. Happy is the person who remains faithful under trials, because when he succeeds in passing such a test, he will receive as his reward the life which God has promised to those who love him.”** James 1:2-5, 12.

Any life style you lead that is not in harmony with Christ's teaching and commandments, is most certainly going to lead you to destruction. Christ warns.

It is written in Rev. 3:19 saying, “I rebuke and punish all whom I love. Be in earnest, then, and turn from your sins. Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if any one

hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his house and eat with him, and he will eat with me.”

THE REAL BREAD

Undoubtedly, we are in a material world which implies the satisfaction of what the human body needs and what the mind desires, “Bread”. But we should not forget that in this present age, the Bread of Life supersedes the ordinary “Bread”.

The earthly “Bread” is a mere passing thing, but the Bread of life, is the one we need to have eternal life. I am not turning blind eyes to the fact that we need physical “Bread”, but most undisputedly, we need the Bread of Life/the Word of God/Christ Jesus so as to have life in abundance.

In John 6:30-33, 49-51, the people said to Christ, “What miracle will you perform so that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, just as the scripture says ‘He gave them bread from heaven’”

Jesus answered them and said, **“I am telling you the truth, what Moses gave you was not the bread from heaven; it is my father who gives you the real bread from heaven. For the bread that God gives is he who came down from heaven and gives life to the world.**

Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died. But the bread that comes down from heaven is of such a kind that whoever eats it will not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven, if anyone eats this bread, he will live for ever. I am the bread of life, he who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”

HOW TO PRAY AND ASK FOR YOUR NEEDS

The Truth

The word of God says in John 16:23-24 **“Verily, verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full”**

Most times, people’s prayers are not answered because they did not pray rightly. They neglect the precepts laid down by our Lord Jesus Christ or most often are ignorant of the meaning-to pray **‘in my name’** as Christ said. But because grace abounds, the Lord answers prayers from sincere hearts.

It is very correct to pray and ask for something and end it by saying in Jesus name. But this is not really the spiritual meaning of what Christ meant when he said pray **in my name**. Our Lord Jesus is more concern about our spiritual life with the Father than a mere physical existence. This is why he came to reconcile us back to the Father after we lost him in the Garden of Eden, when we (Adam and Eve) disobeyed him and obeyed the ministering spirit sent to watch over us.

The word of God in John 4:23-24 says, **“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”**

It is from this quotation I am going to draw my inference. The true name of Christ is that which existed from his Spiritual life with God the Father in heaven before he took flesh and became man on earth.

One will then ask, what is the real name of Christ? The scripture in Rev. 19:11-14, 16, says, **“Then I saw heaven open, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True; it is with justice that he judges and fights his battles. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and he wore many crowns on his head. He had a name written on him, but no one except himself know what it is. This robe he wore was covered with blood. His name is the Word of God. On his robe and on his thigh was written the name ‘King of kings and Lord of lords.’”**

Before explaining what **'in my name'** means, I will like to clarify the first part that says, **'He had a name written on him, but no one except himself knows what it is.'** This particular name that no one knows, will only be revealed to those who wins the victory; those who kept the teaching and commandments of God and overcome the evil impulse. It is written in Rev.3:12 saying, **"I will make him who is victorious a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will not leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from my God. I will also write on him my new name."** This new name is the name that no one except Christ knows.

Now praying **'in my name'** as Christ said, is doing the word of God: living right in truth and in spirit, keeping and obeying the teaching and commandments of God, living a Christ-like life of truth, love and justice. When you live in this way, the Father himself who knows and sees your heart will give you your heart desire. The scripture in Matt.6:33 says, **"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you."** This simply means doing the word of God; keeping Christ's teaching and commandments and he will do those things your heart desires. If you are faithful in keeping your part, he will be more than faithful in keeping his own part, trust me.

It is also written in Matt. 6; 25-27 saying, **"Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the birds of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are you not much better than they?"**

Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it? So do not start worrying: where will my food come from? Or my drink? Or my cloths, your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. Instead, be concerned about everything else with the kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things."

It should be clear to anyone who has the spirit of God in him that it is not necessarily ending a prayer by saying ‘in Jesus name’ that signifies praying ‘**in my name**’ as Christ said, but rather it’s doing the word of God; which is the name of Christ that is required of you. Let’s follow the spirit teaching and do the right thing. Many of us have prayed for so long with wickedness of heart and filthy minds and at the end, say, in Jesus name; but their prayers were not answered. It is quite a pity because, they have not really prayed in line with Christ teaching, ‘**in my name**’.

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Let us look at the other side of this **Truth**. Many of God’s children try to stay in line with Christ’s teaching and commandments, and also pray and ask rightly, but their prayers remains unanswered. One will ask why?

Our Lord Jesus taught us how to pray and ask in his name. He also taught us to persist in our prayer; peradventure our prayer was not answered immediately. But because of our persistence in asking, the Father will answer us.

Christ gave us an instance of what we should do by telling us the story of a friend in the midnight who needed his friend’s help because he had a visitor in his house that night and he had nothing to offer him. But his friend said, “**Trouble me not, the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee anything**” then Christ said, “**Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity, he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.**” Matt.11:5-8.

He also told a parable of the widow and the unjust judge to further buttress the need for persistence in prayer. The widow had worried the judge so much to vindicate her, so the judge said, “**I do not fear God or respect man, yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her right. If I don’t, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out.**” And the Lord said, “**Listen to what this corrupt judge said. Now, will God not judge in favour of his own people**

who cry to him day and night for help? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will judge in their favour and do it quickly.”

We should not relent in our prayer; the Lord will definitely answer us, provided we ask in his name by keeping his word.

LEARN TO BE THANKFUL

Let us look at the back side of this **Truth**. Some of God’s children have persisted so much in their prayer and asking, but the Lord did not answer: rather more troubles, sorrows and temptations reared their ugly heads even as they pray. Why, many will ask?

To these people, it looks as if God does not exist. But we should not forget something: the moment you decide to serve God: obey his teaching and commandments; you become an enemy of Satan. He will torment you to the extent you may start thinking of turning away from God. Be careful!

No matter the situation you find yourself: in sorrow, troubles, sufferings, even in sickness, stand firm in your faith; look around you or even right inside the problem, you will definitely find the face of God somewhere. The first thing you do when you find yourself in such a terrible situation is to soberly reflect on your past life and see if you have gone contrary to the commandments of God. Maybe you have done something against your neighbour or God. If the answer is yes, then make amendments: ask for forgiveness and make peace with both God and man. Seek the face of God and you will find him. If the answer is no, then be glad in your troubles because the Lord is ever present in and around you. In John 14:23, Christ said, “Whoever loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love him and my Father and I will come to him and live with him.”

The bitter truth of this matter is, sometimes, with the presence of God, the problem still remains. Do not forget the word of God in Luke 22:31 which says **“Simon! Simon! Satan has received permission from God to test all of you, to**

separate the good from the bad as a farmer separates the wheat from the chaff.” It is the evil one who is doing all this, just to make you abandon your faith and do his bidden and be condemned along side with him. And do not forget also, that it’s the Lord who gave him permission to test you, just to know if you are truly for him, be wise. It is written in 1 Peter 1: 6-7 saying “Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer. Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

No matter how bad the situation may be, look around, you will find the face of God somewhere. No matter how insignificant the joy you see when in pain or sorrow, thank God for it. Waking up every morning is not just because grace abounds, but it’s because you were favoured to see that day. Thank God for it. The people who did not see the glory of that day, may be more gracious than you are, but the favour of being in the land of the living from that day, was taken away from them. In the midst of sorrows, there is joy somewhere, so do not allow the evil one to blank off your sense of good judgment. Be glad at all time and praise God in all situation; he will definitely save you from all your troubles and bless you beyond measures. This, I say with all certainties: the Lord is ever faithful.

On a second thought, it could be that the Lord has something to teach you and it is only best received when sober. It could even be that the Lord wants someone else to learn something from you: believe you me, if you fail to listen and that soul did not learn what he was supposed to learn from you, then you will be answerable to God. In any situation, be calm and pay attention to the Spirit teaching. You will definitely come out of it when the purpose for it is achieved. Be wise at all time. “But if you lack wisdom, pray to God, who will give it to you; because God gives generously and graciously to all.”

Look at the story of Job, the evil one received permission from God to tempt him by destroying all he has, but he did not stop praising God. When Satan saw that he did not cause God, he went back and ask for more permission to touch his body, the Lord permitted him again, but ask him not to touch his life. Satan went back and inflicted him with sores but still, he did not cause God; rather, sang praises to God. Then the Lord gave him even more than he had lost.

Apostle Paul was inflicted too by the evil one with the permission of God as he said in 2cor. 12:7-10, **“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from me. And the Lord said unto me, ‘my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in my infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecution, in distress for Christ sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong.”**

I am talking about finding joy out side your problems, but Apostle Paul found joy inside his problem; and the Lord delivered him from it. Be very sure that Christ is present in all conditions. This is the reason I say; find him-he is there, look for him-he is present. Today, I am telling you to be happy in all conditions of life and see if the Lord will not be proud of you and save you from it. You can only make the Lord move his saving hand to rescue you from your troubles, if you thank and praise him even in the midst of your pains and sorrows.

Be right with him and he will be right with you. The word of God in Isaiah 59:1-2 says, **“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that he cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins having hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”** Try to do what the Lord will have you do. The problem is not just to sin, but to insist on sinning. Do your part, and the Lord will definitely do his part. It may not be at the time

you want it, but the Lord will do it at the time he knows you needs it. So be strong at all time and steadfast in righteousness. Try to fix in ‘Thank you God’ in place of angry words against God. He is an ever merciful Father; he will for sure do more than you ask from him.

Hear what God says.....

**“When the time came for me to show you favour,
I heard you;
when the day arrived for me to save you,
I helped you.
Listen! This is the hour to receive God’s favour;
today is the day to be saved!” 2nd Cort 6:2**

I did not write this book because I just decided to, no, I did write it because the Lord asked me to write it. At first when the instruction came, I refused to accept writing it, because as at that time, my heart was very heavy, so I said to the Lord, this is not possible, so I can’t write it. As I said this, my husband who was beside me that early morning asked what I was talking about, then I told him. He said, ‘stop being stubborn and do as you are told.’

I said to him, ‘but I don’t know what to write, there is no how I can tell someone crying to start laughing. It is not possible.’ So he left me.

Three months later, the words of the Lord came to me again to write what he had asked me to write. At this point, I had no choice than to do it. As I pick up my pen to write that morning, the Holy Spirit directed and gave me all the verses in the Holy Scriptures to substantiate and buttress what I was asked to write.

Well, I do not know why I was asked to write on such a topic. It could be for my very self, or for you. What is important now is, I’ve done what I was asked to do. And what so ever that may be troubling you, I know that God the Father will do exceedingly more than your heart desires through his son Jesus Christ, Amen.

I am Ada Chinyere Cummings, I try my best not to be destitute of the traits of character the Lord esteems

I was born in a lovely town of Abba in Nwangele L G A of Imo state. I am called Ada Awurum by some close friends.

We all, somehow, had been or still going through one tribulation or the other. If not gathered up by our very hands, then, the Lord is speaking, teaching, or training up minds in his own way to manage greater treasures. I should then say to the one in sorrow, pain or tribulation, to glory in his situation, so that the power of Christ may rest on him

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If you have a comment, or a question to ask, send SMS to 08033502841, 08070970518. Or email me at ada@adachinyerecummings.com. May the lord bless you.