JOHN ONWUCHEKWA’S PRAYER WINS 2018 TGC BOOK AWARD

Six Additional Crossway Titles Named Runners-Up

WHEATON, Ill.—Crossway is pleased to announce that John Onwuchekwa’s book *Prayer: How Praying Together Shapes the Church* (Crossway, August 2018) has won the 2018 TGC Book Award in the Ministry category.

Each year, the Gospel Coalition awards winners in nine categories, including Public Theology & Current Events, Children’s, and Evangelism & Apologetics. The books selected are written and applied from a gospel-centered perspective, exemplify faithfulness to Scripture, encourage discernment in contemporary issues, and build up the church locally and globally.

In *Prayer*, part of the 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches series, Onwuchekwa emphasizes corporate prayer in the local church—not just as a tool in times of major crisis, but in all aspects of church life. He examines Scripture’s teaching on prayer, the early church’s example of prayer, and practical advice for individuals and churches looking to prioritize prayer.

“We—by which I mean we as Christians and church members together—should pray bigger and better and more biblical prayers,” writes Onwuchekwa. “In a sentence, that’s the goal of this book: learning how to pray better and more as churches. Just as our private prayer lives can be improved by God’s grace, so too can our corporate prayer lives.”

Available in both hardcover and ebook formats, *Prayer* has received commendations from Mark Dever (pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church), Thabiti Anyabwile (pastor of Anacostia River Church), Trillia Newbell (author of *Enjoy and Fear and Faith*), and many others.

Onwuchekwa also serves as the pastor of Cornerstone Church in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a contributor to *15 Things Seminary Couldn’t Teach Me* (Crossway, March 2018).

Six additional Crossway titles were named runners-up in their respective categories:

- *Remember Death* by Matthew McCullough (Christian Living)
- *Echoes of Exodus* by Andrew Wilson and Alastair J. Roberts (Popular Theology)
- *Expository Exultation* by John Piper (Ministry)
- *Lewis on the Christian Life* by Joe Rigney (History & Biography)
- *Can We Trust the Gospels?* by Peter J. Williams (Evangelism & Apologetics)
- *Therefore I Have Hope* by Cameron Cole (First-Time Author)
Justin Taylor, Crossway’s publisher for books, writes, “Given our admiration for and resonance with the theological vision for ministry embodied by TGC, we always find these awards especially meaningful. We pray that the Lord would use these recognitions to encourage more readers to take up these books and to let them shape life and ministry.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Onwuchekwa (MA, Dallas Theological Seminary) serves as pastor of Cornerstone Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

@JawnO

Founded in 1938, Crossway is a not-for-profit global Christian publishing ministry that publishes gospel-centered, Bible-centered content, to honor our Savior and serve his Church. Crossway seeks to help people understand the all-encompassing implications of the gospel and the truth of God’s Word—for all of life, for all eternity, and for the glory of God alone. Crossway is the global publisher of the ESV® (English Standard Version®) Bible, more than 1,000 Christian books, and an extensive list of gospel literature. For additional information visit crossway.org.

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WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT PRAYER

“I don’t know if I’ve ever read a book on prayer that left me feeling the entire range of human emotion—until reading John Onwuchekwa’s Prayer. Here is a human book—beautiful, poignant, funny, gritty, and pastoral. This book is better than a correction to our often languid prayer lives. There’s no guilt-based manipulation. Onwuchekwa writes like a fellow traveler, and as a fellow traveler knows what travelers need most: refreshment. Here’s a thirst-quenching encouragement to join together in seeking our great God. I pray every church reads Prayer together; it will change our congregations. Here’s a warm invitation to the entire church, beckoning the people of God to the wonders of prayer.”

—Thabiti Anyabwile, Pastor, Anacostia River Church, Washington, DC; author, What Is a Healthy Church Member?

“Prayer is an excellent book by my dear friend John Onwuchekwa. It is biblically and theologically rich. It is also real and honest. Want to get a corporate prayer meeting started in your church? This book is a very good start.”

—Daniel L. Akin, President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

“Everyone remembers that auntie or uncle who hushed our fears with the words, ‘Baby, we just gon’ pray on that.’ John Onwuchekwa is that voice for today, calling the church back to one of the simplest and most powerful tools in her arsenal—the habit of communal prayer. He doesn’t merely want to reawaken our atrophied prayer muscles; he invites us into the much harder work of reorienting our priorities so that they’re more in line with God’s. Onwuchekwa’s call to return to such ‘first things’ is an excellent start to seeing Christian communities moving in the same kingdom direction.”

—K. A. Ellis, Cannada Fellow for World Christianity, Reformed Theological Seminary

“There’s likely something missing in your church, something you haven’t thought much of and likely haven’t even noticed. It’s prayer. Onwuchekwa shares compelling, insightful, and biblical reasons why corporate prayer should be a priority for the church. What a privilege it is to pray together as a family—this is the vision Onwuchekwa casts for us. This book has the potential to transform not only individuals, but also relationships and the culture in our churches. I highly recommend it.”

—Trillia Newbell, author, God’s Very Good Idea; Enjoy; and Fear and Faith

“The early church moved forward in power because they were a praying church (Acts 4:31). If we today are so proficient at ministry mechanics that we can succeed without power from on high, we have failed. But if our churches today will heed this compelling call to prayer by John Onwuchekwa, we too will prevail against all earthly powers, for God’s glory!”

—Ray Ortlund, Lead Pastor, Immanuel Church, Nashville, Tennessee
“This is a thought-provoking book about the life of prayer in the local church. Onwuchekwa builds a theological framework and then gives tangible and practical solutions for fleshing it out. I’ve had the privilege of working with John over the last decade, and I’ve seen no one better able to take lofty concepts and present them in a way that is palatable for the body of Christ. This book is an outworking of his gift. He takes biblical principles and communicates them in an effective way. His work on this subject is a gift to the church.”

—Dhati Lewis, Lead Pastor, Blueprint Church, Atlanta, Georgia; Executive Director of Community Restoration, North American Mission Board; author, Among Wolves: Disciple-Making in the City

“What more could be needed by our churches than a revival of gospel-centered spirituality? And what more could we do to experience this revival than to recommit to nourishing communion with our Father through prayer? This is why I’m thankful for this exceptional book by John Onwuchekwa. It is an accessible, practical, and relatable guide to the depths of the enormous, glorious privilege of speaking to the God of the universe.”

—Jared C. Wilson, Director of Content Strategy, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Director, Pastoral Training Center, Liberty Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri; author, Supernatural Power for Everyday People

“I have a lot to say about this little book, because it’s so good. In fact, I think this is one of the best books in this series. Brief and well written, this book by pastor John Onwuchekwa looks especially at two sections of the Gospels—the Lord’s Prayer, and Jesus’s prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. Onwuchekwa shares significant observations that seem intuitive, but are also surprising. It is well illustrated, biblically faithful, and theologically accurate. This book is useful to think not only about when we should pray, but also about how we should pray, and even what we should pray about. It reintroduces us to the ignored topic of praying together at church. Hope-giving and inspiring, specific and practical, the whole book is sweetened by touches of humor. You and others could benefit from investing your time in reading this small book on such a grand topic.”

—Mark Dever, Pastor, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, DC; President, 9Marks