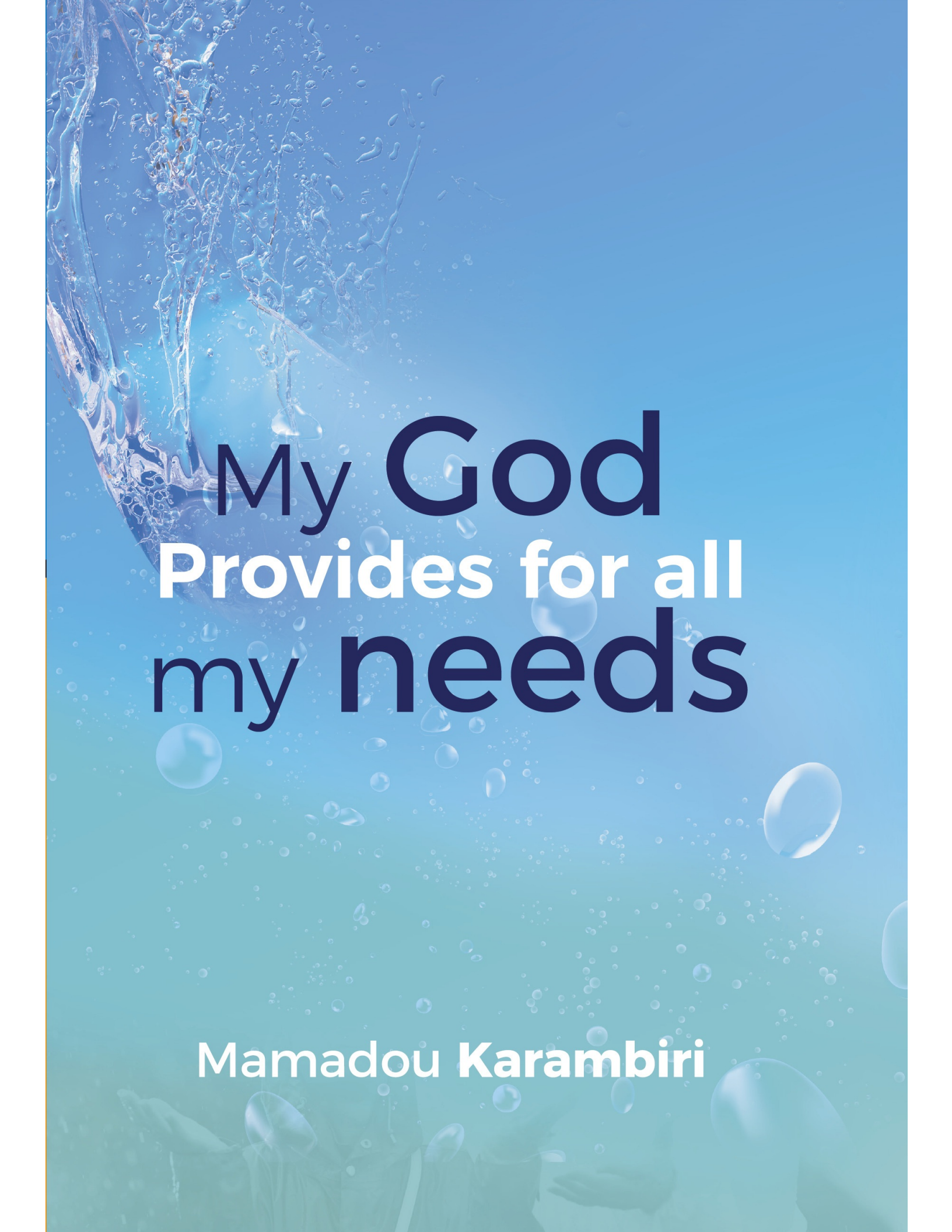




My God **Provides for all** **my needs**

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Unless otherwise stated, the biblical passages quoted in this book are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible, 1982.

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God bless you and multiply the seeds of love and self-sacrifice you have sown in His Name.

INTRODUCTION

Financial and material prosperity is a taboo subject in the Church of Christ, especially in French-speaking circles. The reason for this is that pastors, fearful of being accused of being only interested in the money of Christians or of being called manipulators or swindlers, avoid broaching the subject. It has to be said that in recent years, a number of black sheep have appeared in the churches, contributing by their actions to the mistrust of financial matters and to the discrediting of authentic servants of God.

As a result, many pastors choose to ignore or skim over certain biblical ordinances in their teachings, even though such ordinances are essential to the Christian's victorious walk. Instead of tackling the issue of financial prosperity and the divine principles that govern it head-on, they organize prayer sessions to ask God to bless his Church, knowing fully well that God does not deny his principles and that prayer in itself cannot change anyone's material and financial situation. In so doing, they prevent Christians from being blessed. I must confess that, personally, I hesitated for a long time to address the issue clearly, until God himself convinced me that I had to do so.

I would like to make it clear from the outset that this book is not about "spinning techniques" to make millionaires and billionaires out of Christians, no! The aim is to teach Christians how to depend on God for what is necessary for their daily lives without lacking anything. All the more so since, in the Scriptures, the Lord Jesus declares the following: *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?"*

"So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:25-33).

This passage shows us that Christians do not have to worry about satisfying the most basic needs, such as eating, drinking, and clothing. Our heavenly Father, in fact, gives these to birds, animals and plants which, however, do not have the breath of God like man. How much more will he not provide for the needs of men, especially those who are his children through faith in Christ Jesus!

The sad reality is that, despite the certainty of God's word which says: *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19), there are so many poor people all around us. That is why, through this book, I have come to share my personal experience on the subject of prosperity. I have been experiencing God's provision in every area of my life for decades, having learned the mechanisms by which God provides for all my needs.

CHAPTER I:

GOD IS MY ONLY SOURCE

Make a clear distinction between “the channels” and “the source”

To explain the difference between the source and the channels, I will use a natural example: a large farmer owned an apple orchard. Thanks to the high productivity of the trees and the sale of the fruit, this farmer became one of the richest farmers in his region. He then set about modernizing his farming by acquiring agricultural equipment, employing workers, and setting up a sales department to package and export the fruit.

The man's success lasted about ten years, but then he notice a drop in production. He ignored the problem and continued production, but the yield kept falling and the trees kept dying. After three years, almost all the trees died.

The reason for this situation is that this man made a serious mistake: he thought that fruit was his source of income, and he forgot to look after the trees. Over time, insects and termites attacked the roots of the plants without the farmer noticing. With dead trees, there was obviously no more fruit, so the farmer's wealth was only temporary.

In the economy of the kingdom of heaven, there are also rules. We have to distinguish between the product (the material and financial resources), the branches that bear the fruit (the channels) and the tree (the source). Suppose your resources come from your parents, your spouse, the State or your company and you are asked what your source of income is; you will naturally reply: My parents, my husband/wife or the company that employs me. But that is not true, because they are not your source of income, but rather your channels and instruments. What will happen to you when these people are no longer alive or if you retire?

This explains why some employees find themselves totally powerless and helpless when they lose their jobs, or why some pensioners lie on their deckchairs all day, miserable and despondent, waiting for their derisory pensions to drop every three months.

As men pass away, as companies fail and as the state sometimes reaches its limits, only God remains your true source. This is all the more true because the Scripture declares that *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning”* (James 1:17)

By taking the means for the source, some Christians have failed to care for their relationship with God. Their disobedience, doubts, and fear have become like termites that make them unproductive and keep them in need all their lives.

God is the creator of all things

The reason why God is our true source is that all things originate from him. The first sentence of the Bible says: *“In the beginning God created...”* (Genesis 1:1). The apostle John, taking up the creation story, said: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made”* (John 1:1-3). This biblical passage can be mathematically represented as follows: Word = God = creator of all things.

At the base of creation is God. He created the heavens and the earth, and he put above and below the earth everything that man needs to satisfy his needs.

God is the owner of all things

As the creator of all things, God is also the owner of everything; the earth and all its resources belong to him. They are not owned by the government, just as money is not owned by any central bank. God therefore rightly claims ownership. In Psalm 50, we read: *“Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you; I am God, your God! I will not rebuke you for your sacrifices Or your burnt offerings, Which are continually before Me. I will not take a bull from your house, Nor goats out of your folds. **For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine**”* (Psalm 50:7-11).

What about the underground riches? The answer comes from the

prophet Haggai: *“The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, says the Lord of hosts”* (Haggai 2:8-10). So it is with good reason that God declares in the book of Job: *“Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine”* (Job 41:11).

God is the provider

At the end of his teaching on the “Our Father” prayer, Jesus calls us to witness in these words: *“Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”* (Matthew 7:9-11).

As fathers and mothers, we do everything in our power to ensure that our children are protected from need. We feel proud when we can provide for all our family's needs. That is our responsibility. Yet even the most responsible parent is described in the Bible as wicked because of man's sinful nature, humanity having only been justified by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

It should nevertheless be emphasized that the “Our Father” prayer, as Jesus taught it, did not refer to the responsibility of the parent towards the child, but rather to this relationship with God who is a Father for those who believe in Jesus. The Gospel of John says in this regard: *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”* (John 1:12-13).

What kind of Father is he? God is a loving, good and perfect Father. If parents, though wicked, provide for their children without their having to fast and pray, how much more will the heavenly Father provide for his children? So, the question is: what prevents Christians from enjoying God's provision?

As I see it, there are two things:

The primacy of religion over relationship

From a biblical perspective, we are not “Christians”, a term attributed to the followers of Jesus by the people of Antioch in Paul's day, but rather “sons or daughters”, that is to say, we have a filiation with God through Jesus Christ.