



Most people would say they have goals and want to make progress in life. It's a natural desire, and there's nothing wrong with wanting promotion in various areas. But we need to realize that anytime we ask God to promote us, or use us in greater ways,

we're going to have to go through a time of testing and preparation to get there.

It's important to understand that God will never tempt us with anything evil, but He will allow — and even sometimes arrange — for things to happen in our lives that will challenge us and help us develop the character we need to successfully handle greater privileges and responsibilities.

James 1:2-3 (AMPC) says, "Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience." When we go through trials with a good attitude, trusting God to use them for our good, then they will work things out of us — immature behaviors and ungodly mindsets — and cause us to grow in our faith.

There are different kinds of tests that get us to the point where we learn how to do things God's way. One of the most common tests is the forgiveness test.

Forgiving people who hurt you, disappoint you, do something you don't like, or maybe even betray you is not easy. It's one of the most challenging things we have to learn to do as Christians because it can seem so unfair to just let someone get away with the injustice they've done.

I understand this very well because I felt that way when the Lord spoke to my heart about forgiving my father for the years of abuse that he put me through. But I came to realize that holding on to my anger was really just continuing to hurt me. I needed to be more concerned about myself and my relationship with God, rather than trying to make him sorry for what he had done. The truth is when you choose to forgive people, you're doing yourself a favor.

In Matthew 5:8, Jesus says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (NIV). And Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

It's so important for us to keep our heart right with God. When we do, we can hear Him more clearly, be a lot more sensitive to His presence and enjoy close fellowship with Him. And there is nothing we need more than the presence of God in our lives! God is the source of every good thing, and Psalm

16:11 (NKJV) says, "In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." I love Psalm 17:15, which says, "...I shall be fully satisfied, when I awake [to find myself] beholding Your form [and having sweet communion with You]" (AMPC).

If we are not pure in heart, we're sacrificing an intimate relationship with God because we'd rather harbor anger, bitterness and resentment toward others in our heart.

Everyone experiences offenses at times, and when we do, we have to be determined to do something about it with God's help. The Bible says in Proverbs 4:23 that YOU need to guard your heart...not that He'll send an angel to miraculously do it for you. So when you recognize that you're offended by something, you need to quickly take action, doing what God tells you to do to overcome it.

Mark 11:25 says, "Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop" (AMPC). This verse is saying that if we choose to hold on to unforgiveness, then God can't forgive us of our sins, and our intimacy with Him will suffer.

The best thing we can do when we need to forgive someone is pray for them, make the decision to forgive and "let it drop (leave it, let it go)." That means you stop talking about what they did, stop thinking about it and rehearsing it over and over in your mind.

The quicker you decide to let offenses go, the easier it will be; however, if there is a hurt that has been in your heart for a long time, it may take some time for you to get totally free of it. But you can do it — by God's grace — if you won't give up!

Jesus gave His life so we can have relationship with God, not religion. I want to encourage you to choose a pure heart, free of unforgiveness, so you can have a personal, intimate relationship with God that will fill you with His joy and prepare you to fulfill His good plan for your life!

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and *Seize the Day: Living on Purpose and Making Every Day Count* (Hachette). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide.

IN MEMORIAM



Patricia Irene Ronan 1939-2017

Patricia Irene Ronan, 78, of Cottage Grove died Feb. 25, 2017.

She was born Jan. 30, 1939 in Volga, S.D. to Howard Clifford and Ruby Iola (Ust) Evans.

She graduated from Centerville (S.D.) High School in 1957.

On Aug. 25, 1958 in South Dakota, Patricia married James Neil Ronan.

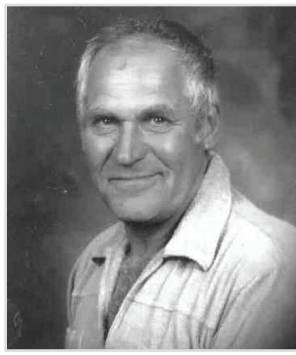
They were married for 45 years before his death in 2003.

She enjoyed camping, fishing, and luncheons with friends. She always welcomed family and friends with open arms, and was "Mom" to her children's friends.

Survivors include two sons, Kelly Ronan of Cottage Grove and Lonnie Ronan of Drain, a sister, Kathy Anderson of South Dakota, a brother, Howard Evans of Reedsport, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Neil Ronan in 2003, and her son, James Kevin Ronan in 2006.

No service is planned. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.



Kenneth Richard Perini 1929-2017

Kenneth Richard Perini, 87, of Cottage Grove passed away at home of natural causes on Friday, Feb. 17, 2017.

He was born Sept. 13, 1929 in Anlauf, Oregon to Bill and Lela (Kelley) Perini.

Kenneth graduated from high school in Drain, Oregon. He served two years in the Army as a radio repairman. He also spent his working years as a logger and operated Perini's Feed & Seed as the store owner.

His hobbies included hunting, fishing, and farming, and he spent his retirement years enjoying time with friends and family. He was a Shriner and a member of both the Masonic and Elks Lodge.

On June 17, 1956 in Cottage Grove, he and Jerrie Culvey were married. They had 60 years of marriage together.

He is survived by his wife, Jerrie Perini, son, Scot (Pam) Perini, daughter, Julie (Keith) Giarrusso, step-sister, Karen McKay (Gary) Wallace of San Antonio, Texas, five grandkids and nine great-grandkids, all of Cottage Grove, two nephews and one niece.

He is preceded in death by his sister, Juanita Hensley, and step-brother, Chuck McKay.

At Kenneth's request, no service will be held. A Celebration of Life is to be held later. Cremation is in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel & Crematorium. Memorial contributions may be made in Kenneth's name to Signature Hospice of Eugene, 2620 River Rd., Suite 300, Eugene, OR 97404.



Bill Huffman 1951-2017

Bill Huffman, 65, of Cottage Grove passed away

March 2, 2017.

He was born April 7, 1951 in Eugene, Oregon to Ray and Lorraine (Pace) Huffman.

Bill graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1970, and then went to Lane Community College's main campus.

He married Loreen Wright on July 10, 1971 in Reno, Nevada.

Bill drove dump truck for Bohemia, Inc., then chip truck, then dispatching chip trucks, then back to the woods driving log truck for Koos Logging.

Bill joined The Lemati Gang in 1974 and had a leading roll in the bad guys, called Wee Willie. He performed until 2000 until the falls became too hard.

Bill is survived by his wife of 45 years, Loreen Huffman of Cottage Grove, two sons, Ray and Adam Huffman, both of Cottage Grove, a brother, Gary Huffman of Cottage Grove and three grandsons that he enjoyed teaching to fish and hunt. He was always in his element when he was in the woods, hunting and camping with friends.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the VFW Post in Cottage Grove. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

Andreason's
CREMATION
& Burial Services

Family Owned

\$693

"the affordable alternative."

24-HOUR PHONE 485-6659

320 N 6th Street, Springfield www.andreasons.com




GRANTS
HEARING CENTER

Free Hearing Screening
Same Day Appointments Available

www.grantshearing.com 1498 E. Main St., CG
541-942-8444

Smith-Lund-Mills
FUNERAL CHAPEL • CREMATORIUM
People you know, people you trust.™

Funeral & Memorial Planning
Cremation Options
Monuments & Memorials
Cemetery Options

123 South 7th, Cottage Grove, Oregon
541-942-0185 • www.smithlundmills.com

Something New is Coming...

Are you a subscriber?
Visit www.cgsentinel.com
or give us a call at 541-942-3325
to get your subscription started.

The News & So Much More

Find Local Garage & Estate Sales
In Print & Online Today!



Get the in-depth local news coverage you need,
plus more of what you want, right here in your local newspaper.

Cottage Grove Sentinel

In Print & Online | [Subscribe](#) | [Renew](#) | [Gift](#)

541.942.3325 • www.cgsentinel.com

Cottage Grove Sentinel

116 N. 6th Street • Cottage Grove, 97439
(541) 942-3325
www.cgsentinel.com