



We all go through hard times in this life and have issues we need to deal with. While it's not easy to face challenges or things that have caused pain, it can actually help us if we let God use them to do a good work in us.

James 1:12 (AMPC) says, "Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who is patient under trial and stands up under temptation, for when he has stood the test and been approved, he will receive [the victor's] crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him."

This verse is talking about how going through difficult times and resisting temptation to sin tests and tries us, revealing our true character. It prepares us to pass our tests so we can be promoted and move forward in God's plans for us.

It's time to stop running from things that are hard, that we're avoiding or putting off because we just don't want to confront them. I'm talking about issues like debt, an addiction, poor health due to bad habits, unhealthy relationships, messes caused by bad choices that have led you to live in self-pity...or anything else that is making you feel guilty, frustrated and weary.

Maybe you've been living with a broken heart—an emotional wound—that's been bleeding for way too long. Perhaps you have an anger issue, bitterness, or insecurity that causes you to be easily offended and hard to get along with.

Whatever your "issues" are, they are not just hang-ups, weaknesses or things you have to live with. They are giants coming against you in your walk with Christ. And as a believer in Jesus, you don't have to live with any giant—you are a giant killer!

Confront Your Giants

In 1 Samuel 17, we read about David, the shepherd boy who conquered Goliath, the Philistine giant who was oppressing the Israelite army. David's brothers were soldiers, and his father sent him to the battlefield to take provisions to them. When he heard about Goliath, David asked, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (v. 26).

It bothered David that these Israelite men of God were standing around, letting Goliath intimidate them, so he said, "I'll fight him!" But King Saul didn't think he could defeat the giant.

So David told Saul how he had killed the lion and the bear when they came after his sheep. Then he said, "And this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God!" (v. 36).

You've probably heard the story: he took his slingshot and five smooth stones, "ran quickly toward the battle line" (v. 48), and killed Goliath. David used what he had and ran toward the battle—not away from it. God blessed him and made him a giant killer, and He wants to do the same thing for you!

Learn the Best Strategy for Battle

The first step in confronting your giants is making the decision that you won't live with them any longer but you will trust God to help you do what you need to do to be free of them. Your attitude should be: I am a giant killer, and I'm not running from my problems anymore. I'm going to take responsibility for the messes I've made and stop making excuses to avoid them. I'm trusting God to show me what I need to do, and by His grace, I'll do it!

Remember that we are partners with God: We have a part to do and He has a part to do. He won't do our part, and we can't do His part. When we do what we can do, He will always do what we cannot do. But we have to be willing to obey His direction, doing what He shows us to do.

The next step is to study the Word; look up every scripture in the Bible that addresses the issue and meditate on each one. Write them down and put them places where you'll see them often. Pray and ask God to help you apply His Truth to your life. It can also help to read books about the subject, and if you need it, get professional help, like counseling.

As you spend time with God, praying and studying Scripture, He will work in your heart, healing your wounds, strengthening your faith, and showing you how to move forward to overcome your giants.

The truth is, you don't have to live defeated, with a broken heart and emotional pain. Make your mind up today: "I'm not going to get stuck in the past and give up my future because of something that hurt me. I can't go back and undo it, but I can go forward in Christ. I will have a whole heart and be healed because Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. I am a giant killer!"

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-CD series Don't Panic: Living Worry Free Every Day! You can also contact us to receive

our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Ladies, join Joyce Meyer for the 35th Annual Love Life Women's Conference September 21-23 in Saint Louis, MO. For more information, go to www.joycemeyer.org/lovelife.

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. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Delores Lynn Chamberlain Reddick 1949-2017



Delores Lynn Chamberlain Reddick died February 21, 2017. Delores was born to John Jeremiah Chamberlain and Mary Ellen Bryant in Monmouth, Oregon on January 11, 1949. Growing up in Monmouth and Salem, she made life long friends, and left long lasting impressions as an avant guard lover of the arts, and an intellectual, even as a young woman. In 1960 she shook JFK's hand as he campaigned for President at the Oregon state fair. Her adventurous life continued when she went to San Francisco to attend design school and became deeply involved in political activism, at one time meeting with Muhammad Ali prior to his 1968 speech on civil rights and against the Vietnam War. In SF she married Charles Edward Davidson and they had a son, John-Paull Davidson in 1971. In the 1970s, she became a nurse and settled in Bend, Oregon where she again made many lifelong friends. Lynns long career in Nursing led her to the Cottage Grove Hospital in the 80s where she met and married Warren Reddick. Together with Aaron, Warren's son, and John-Paull, they built a modernist home in the country. Lynn was an active member of the alter guild in the Episcopal Church, and enjoyed exploring religious theology in many Episcopal retreats. She was an active volunteer, working in the local food bank, and as an English language instructor. An avid art enthusiast, she curated art in local galleries with her venture, The Reddick Gallery. She also had a small business called I'm Not Martha in which she did catering and wedding planning. Her family and friends remember her as a truly "one of a kind" personality with a brilliant intellectual mind, artistic flair, an uncompromising strength of mind, the life of the party, a "dancing fool" and a daring chef always aiming to wow her guests. She will be missed. As in one of her favorite songs, "Midnight Train to Georgia" and after her long battle with illness, she is now residing in "a simpler place in time". She is survived by her sons Aaron Reddick and John-Paull Davidson, grandchildren Risa and Anne Davidson and Evan Reddick, and her sister Jane Pennington, niece Mai Lin Forsman and grand-niece Jae Lynn Shin. Her memorial will be held at St Andrews Episcopal Church March 18, 2 pm. A wake will be held at her residence in Cottage Grove at 4:30pm. The family asks donations be made in her name to either St. Andrews Cottage Grove Episcopal Relief or the Cottage Grove Humane Society. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

IN MEMORIAM



Glen Edwin Strawn
1927-2017

Glen was the beloved son, brother, husband, father, step-father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great grandfather, uncle, cousin, great-uncle and a wonderful friend.

He is preceded in death by his parents, George and Edna of Idabel Okla., and his siblings, Louise, Doreen Reed, Darwin, Howard and Morris Dale Strawn.

He is mourned by his loving brother, Kim Strawn of Lyons, Oregon, who is his living sibling.

Glen had four wives in his life: Bettie Jane Hester, Billie Loretta Adams, Helen Coffman Williams Strawn and Theresa Strawn. He was father to two sons, Billy Huff and Larry Strawn, who have both passed. He was step-father to six children and one adopted son that he lovingly raised with his wife of 58 years Helen. His step-children, Wynell Wheeler of Idabel, Okla., Leon Williams and Joann Butler, both of Cottage Grove, have passed. His living step-children are Bonnie Ellis and Sue Bailey

of Cottage Grove and Kay Dennis of Anchorage, Alaska. His adopted son, George Strawn, resides in Texas. He has may grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews, cousins and friends in multiple states including Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Oklahoma, Oregon and Texas (possible more).

Glen was a truck driver and master mechanic of big rigs. His nickname was Toolbox.

Leeroy Thompson was Glen's lifelong best friend who was at his side to his last breath.

Glen was a kind and caring man that will be missed by the many people who knew and loved him. Arrangements under the care of Bunch-Singleton Funeral Home, Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

Death Notice

George A. Alm Jr., 83, of Cottage Grove, died Feb. 27. No service is planned. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

BIRTHS

Raul and Jaime Reyes of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby girl on March 10 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

Kendall and Torrin Torgrimson of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby girl on Feb. 27 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

Amanda and Kevin True of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby boy on Feb. 14 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

Isis Cruz Rodriquez welcomed a baby boy on Feb. 9 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

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