

MOVING UP HIGHER
with
Joyce Meyer



For many years, I was an extremely negative person. I could walk into a room and pick out the one small detail that was wrong, like the wallpaper in the corner that was slightly peeling. I saw what was wrong with everything!

The reason for this attitude was that I had been abused for many years throughout my childhood, and I'd experienced a lot of disappointment. When Dave and I got married, I was 23 years old and I couldn't remember a time I had ever been really happy.

People who have had a tough time in life are often afraid to expect anything good because they don't want to be disappointed and have to deal with the pain it brings. But I know from personal experience that if you've lived with this mindset, you can make a change—with God's help—and live with hope!

I know this is true because

in John 10:10 (AMP), Jesus says, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]." If we will trust and believe in Him, we can have abundant life in Christ!

Believe It Before You See It
I sometimes say that we are the "show me" generation—we want to see it before we believe it. In fact, most of us have a hard time believing that God is working on our behalf until we see something happening with our natural eyes.

But that's not how God operates—He works behind the scenes. You may not see anything happening, but do you believe God is working on things in your life right now? Do you believe that He's got a plan to help your children, your marriage, or those things you've been praying about for years?

Jeremiah 29:11 says that God has a good plan for your life "to give you a future and a hope." In other words, God is looking

for an opportunity to be good to you!

Maybe it's hard to imagine yourself as a positive, faith-filled person, full of hope. If so, I know exactly how you feel! Some people are simply afraid to hope because they have experienced so much disappointment and don't think they can face any more pain.

But that's okay, because God is "the God of hope," and He wants to "fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises" Romans 15:13). With Him, it's never too late to start believing, anticipating, hoping and expecting.

The Truth About What Hope Really Is

One definition of hope is "a favorable and confident expectation."

I believe many times we take a passive attitude, deciding we'll just "wait and see" if something will change or "hap-

pen" to go well for us. But God wants us to expect on purpose. He desires for us to actively anticipate something good.

So...what are you expecting?

How do you talk about your future? What kind of attitude do you have about your everyday life? When you get up in the morning, do you think, Well, I guess I'll try to make it through another day. Or do you wake up with anticipation that today might be the day you receive your breakthrough?

It's interesting that when a woman's pregnant, we say that she's "expecting." And the further along she is, the more she anticipates what's coming.

My pregnancies were especially unique because I carried all four of my children approximately a month past their due date. My doctor told me I was the only woman he knew who stayed pregnant as long as an elephant.

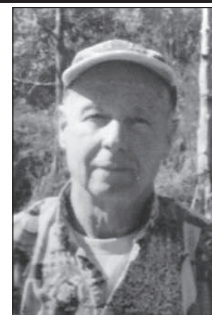
Toward the end of each pregnancy, I woke up every day and said, "Today is going to be the day—it has to be the day!" I had my suitcase packed and ready. I

was constantly double-checking everything and making sure things were in order, confident that my baby would come at any moment. Anytime I felt a twinge, I would think, There it is! It's coming!

This is exactly how God wants you to be with Him! He has an incredible plan for your life, and He wants you to anticipate that good things are right around the corner.

**Richard "Dick" Allen Parsons
1931-2017**

Richard "Dick" Allen Parsons, 86 of Myrtle Point passed away on November 4, 2017 surrounded by his family in Springfield, OR. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



Dick was born September 9, 1931 in Kokomo, Indiana, to Rufus and Arline (Barlow) Parsons. Dick was the second child out of nine other siblings, in birth order Rufus, Richard, Mary Jo, Max, Lawrence, Jim, Walt, Patty, and Vicki.

In October 1949 Dick joined the Army driving trucks, construction, etc and returned home in December 1952.

In 1955 Dick met a waitress in Cottage Grove named Alyce M. Hartgrave. On March 4, 1956 Dick and Alyce were married in Cottage Grove. They had four children, Leo, Kevin, Teresa, and Karmen all born in Cottage Grove.

Dick worked in the meat industry many years in Drain, Eugene, Portland, Coquille, and Myrtle Point. In 1974 Dick moved his family to Coquille, working at Coquille Pack several years as a butcher, then in 1977 Dick and his wife Alyce opened Arago Custom Meats a family ran meat processing business. In 1982 Alyce ran the business with their son Leo, while Dick went to fall trees.

Dick traveled several states falling timber living in his fifth wheel, with his dog Hobo, and working along side with his brother Jim. Dick loved falling timber and being in the woods! The last trees Dick fell was at 79 years old in his grandsons yard!

Dick enjoyed fishing, reading, keeping busy, and helping to teach his grandsons about working hard, and spending time with family and friends. Dick was very proud of his kids, and grandkids. The great grandkids were his love and delight!

Dick is survived by his Children, Leo D. Parsons of Bend, Teresa M. Fjeld, and Karmen C. Albertson both of Coquille; Grandchildren, Joshuwa, Matthew, Michael, Dusty of Coquille, and Ty of Bend; Great Grandchildren, Chase 3, Whitney 4 1/2, Karson 2 1/2, and Aubrey 2 weeks old; Sisters Mary Jo, and Vicki both of Aberdeen, WA Patty of Coos Bay, and Brother, Mikal of Cottage Grove.

Preceded in death are, his wife Alyce M. Parsons, second born son Kevin D. Parsons, father Rufus Parsons, mother Arline B. Parsons, brothers Rufus, Max, Lawrence, Jim, and Walt Parsons.

IN MEMORIAM

**Wesley Michael Meadows
2004-2017**



Wesley "Wes" Michael Meadows, 13, of Cottage Grove, OR passed away on December 6, 2017. Wes was born on September 4, 2004 in Eugene, OR to Virginia Sexton and Adam Meadows. He was a 7th grade student at Lincoln Middle School. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and anything outdoors. He was a lover of all things. He was highly interested in bull riding. He loved to ride quads, bikes, and anything extreme. Wes is survived by his parents, Virginia Sexton and Adam Meadows of Cottage Grove, OR; sister, Ashley L. Johnson, Vancouver, WA; sister, Samantha A Meadows, Longview, WA; grandparents, Susan and Thomas Madden, Creswell, OR; grandparents, Michael Sexton and Terry Lee Miller of Blue River, OR; grandparents, Wesley H. and Barbara Meadows of Aurora, MO; great-grandmother, Mary Barta, Creswell, OR; great-grandmother, Nora Miller of Pulaski, VA; great aunt and uncle, Beverly and Herb Fetter of Creswell, OR; uncle, Jason Barta,

Eugene, OR; aunt and uncle, Christina Sexton and Jake Parsons, Portland, OR; uncle and aunt, Tony and Heather Meadows, Kelso, WA; aunt and uncle, Jeff and Tammy Jenkins of Aurora, MO; and cousins, Nathan Fetter, Eugene, OR; Rhonda Garcia, Creswell, OR; Theresa Fetter, Creswell, OR; Alysha K. Meadows and Mathew Meadows of Vancouver, WA. A public visitation will be held on Friday, December 15, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

**Dillon Privitt
1995-2017**

Dillon Eugene "Tank" Privitt of Cottage Grove died on December 7 at the age of 22.

He was born on January 31, 1995 in Cottage Grove, OR to parents Paul Privitt and

Jeanne Gates. He was a self-taught mechanic, and had an innate talent for tinkering

on cars which led to his passion for driving. He was also a very creative artist, and used his love of cars and driving to draw fantastic pictures of cars and trucks. Dillon

is survived by parents, Paul Privitt and Jeanne Gates; and brothers Paul, Dustin, and

Silas. He was preceded in death by brother Benny Privitt in 1993. No service is planned.

Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove

**Helen Louise Reilly
1929 - 2017**

Helen Louise Reilly of Cottage Grove passed away on the evening of December 1st age of 88. She was born on November 7th, 1929 in Decatur Illinois to William "Roy" and Iva Kirkwood. Helen lived in Champaign IL, West Covina and Lake Elsinore CA before finally settling in Cottage Grove with her late husband Robert "Bob" Reilly. Helen was very active in the Cottage Grove community. She volunteered for many of the local service organizations. One of her favorite places where she volunteered was the Cottage Grove Hospital where she spent 20+ year providing assistance to the people who visited the hospital. She loved her community and talked often about all the volunteer activities she was involved in. She spent her life helping others and making friends in all the places where she lived.



Helen is survived by her daughter Vickie Robbins (Azusa, CA), son Phillip Cundiff (Goodyear, AZ), grandchildren Erin Robbins (Norco, CA), Cassandra Cundiff (Adelanto, CA), Mathew Robbins (Azusa, CA), Sara Cundiff (Wallingford, CT), Phillip Cundiff, Jr. (US Army Alaska) and four great grandchildren. The family held a celebrate of life on December 9, 2017 at her home in Cottage Grove. In lieu of flowers please donate to one of the many Cottage Grove community organizations in Helen's honor.

TUESDAY
Hanukkah Begins Dec. 12
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