

MOVING UP HIGHER

with
Joyce Meyer



Many years ago, when the Lord first called me into ministry, I felt Him prompting me to quit smoking. I had smoked since I was nine years old, and frankly, I liked it. My flesh did not want to quit smoking...and it was hard.

My husband, Dave, used to smoke, but when he decided to quit, he just did it one day with seemingly no struggle at all, which only added to my frustration. I, on the other hand, quit and started again multiple times before I was successful.

I had to "get it" that until I loved God and wanted to please Him more than I wanted to smoke, I was going to keep going back to it. And the key to loving God more than anything

and anyone else meant spending time with Him, getting to know Him and developing a close, personal, intimate relationship with Him.

See, the truth is you resemble whoever you hang out with. As I spent more and more time "hanging out" with Jesus, the more I began to resemble Him. And the more I became aware of the things in my life that were NOT like Him.

We all have attitudes, habits or mindsets that we wrestle with and want to change. But it's important to understand that on our own, we can't change our heart - only God can do that. So we have to learn to receive His grace, which gives us the ability to do what's right, in order

to successfully overcome the things that are holding us back.

This happens as we experience true intimacy with God because the more we know who we are in Christ - that we've been made righteous, or right with God, through His blood - the more we'll do what's right. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21.) It's not always easy, but God will never tell us to do something without giving us the ability to do it!

We also have to trust that God loves us and get a revelation that salvation is a gift we must receive, not something we can earn or deserve by doing good works. The truth is we could never do enough good things to earn God's love and forgiveness. When we really get this, we can cooperate with the Holy Spirit, who lives in our spirit and works in us to change us into the image of Christ (see 2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

I love what Galatians 2:21 says about the grace of God. In this verse the apostle Paul says, "I do not ignore or nullify

the [gracious gift of the] grace of God [His amazing, unmerited favor], for if righteousness comes through [observing] the Law, then Christ died needlessly. [His suffering and death would have had no purpose whatsoever]" (AMP). We desperately need the gift of God's grace to be made righteous before God!

This is how God's grace works in our lives: First, grace saves us, then grace changes us. A sinner is justified by grace, but sin is never justified. Some people think they can live any way they want to, and God will forgive them. But we should never take the grace of God in vain - sin can never be justified.

Honestly, if a person is truly born again and they love God and want to live for Him, they won't want to keep sinning. That doesn't mean they are suddenly perfect when they accept Christ as their Savior, but it does mean they are making a little more progress each day in their relationship with God. As 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, they

"are progressively being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory..."

The changes you're looking for may not happen overnight. I didn't quit smoking overnight. But I assure you that if you will come into close fellowship with God, it will do more to change you from the inside out than anything else in the world.

Don't think you can't fellowship with Him if you have sin in your life. If you have sin, humble yourself before God and receive His forgiveness. Be honest with Him (He knows it all anyway), sincerely repent and turn away from it, and trust Him to do in you what needs to be done.

Ultimately, the best thing we can do when we want to change is simply say, "God, please help me! I know You love me and Your Word has the power to change me. Help me receive Your grace and strength to do what's right. Thank You for Your faithfulness to me!"

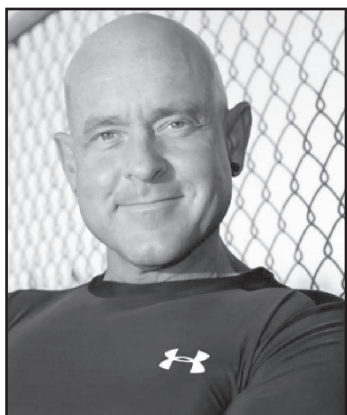
Jesus loves you so much. He

loves you just as you are right now, and He loves you too much to leave you that way. Don't settle for less than being everything He created you to be! Spend time with Him, and you will conquer the sin in 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 Unshakable Trust: Find the Joy of Trusting God at All Times (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.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

Bret Munk 1970-2018



Bret Aaron Munk, 47 of Cottage Grove, OR lost a long battle to depression on Feb. 11, 2018. Bret was born on Nov. 10, 1970 in Austin, TX to Ted and Linda (Mason) Munk. He graduated from high school and

attended the American College of Sports Medicine. Bret was a former technical writer and engineer. He was a life coach, personal trainer and the most amazing, very accomplished and well respected musician. Bret was an avid supporter of medical cannabis. He loved working out and pursuing a healthy lifestyle. He happily served as a new board member on the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Community Observation Team and South Lane Amateur Radio Association. He recently received his HAM radio technician certification. Bret married Layla Beth Vaughn on Oct. 17, 2006 in Shell Beach, CA. Bret is survived by his wife, Layla Munk,

Cottage Grove, OR; parents, Ted Munk and step-mother Janis, TX; daughter, Jazmyn Star Stroud and husband Kori, daughter, Chevelle Noir Munk all of Cottage Grove, OR; stepson, Wyatt Trader, Pendleton, OR; brother, Seth Munk, TX; and one grandchild on the way. He was preceded in death by his mother, Linda Mason and grandmother, Lillian Mason. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. on Feb. 21, 2018 at The Axe & Fiddle Pub, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove, OR. Memorial contributions may be made to gofundme.com/Layla-and-chevelle-recovery.com. Arrangements in the care of Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, OR.

Linda Quinlan 1941-2018



Linda Rae Quinlan, 76 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away Feb. 10, 2018. She was born March 19, 1941, in The Dalles, OR to William and Zella (Burnet) Schilling. Linda graduated from Cottage Grove High School and attended the U of O for two years. She was a reservations agent for Northwest Airlines for 30 years. She loved antiques, collectables and traveling the world. Linda married Earle Quinlan on June 27, 1975 in Honolulu, HI. She is survived by her husband Earle Quinlan, Cottage Grove, OR, daughter Lara Schilling and husband Van Synder, Eugene, OR, step-son Steve (Ann) Quinlan, Granbury, TX and sister LaVelle Schilling, Cottage Grove, OR. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, 2018, at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel with private family burial to follow at Fir Grove Cemetery, Cottage Grove, OR. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cottage Grove Humane Society. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Carolyn Trent 1931-2018

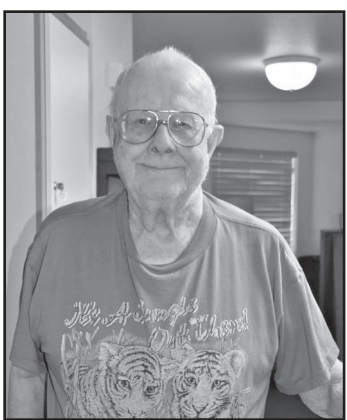


Carolyn Ruth Trent, age 86 of Coos Bay, OR, passed away Feb. 12, 2018. She was born Sept. 19, 1931 in Wichita, Kansas to Roy and Anna (Keller) Weaver. She married Donald Dean Trent March 14, 1966 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Carolyn worked various jobs for the airline manufacturers in Wichita, KS. She worked as an electrical technician for an engineering firm in Irving, TX, and in the cafeteria for the Cottage Grove school districts. Carolyn loved to crochet, quilt, pan for gold,

walk on the beach to look for glass, do hidden word puzzles, watch sports on TV, read mystery book series, collect Coke cans and loved bowling. More than anything she loved to do activities with her husband Don of almost 52 years. Carolyn was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary in Cottage Grove, Cottage Grove VFW, Rock Club, Past 45 Club and Gold Club. She donated to many charities, and spent many years in Girl Scouting and loved to camp. Carolyn is survived by her husband Don-

ald, daughter Paulanna Wilkenson, of Houston, TX; son Alan Trent of Colorado Springs, CO; daughter Anita Trent of Sachse, TX; son Donald Trent of Gaston, OR; brother David and wife Evelyn Weaver of Coos Bay, OR; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents and brothers Eugene and Benjamin Weaver. No services will be held at this time. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, OR.

Ray Alvin Franklin 1930-2018



Ray Alvin Franklin, Jr., 87 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away Feb.14, 2018. He was born April 12, 1930, in Devils Lake, ND to Ray and Mabel (Anderson) Franklin, Sr. Ray graduated from Devils Lake High School in 1948, then studied accounting for two years. He worked as an accountant for Libby, McNeill and Libby for 30 years in their Minneapolis, MN, El Paso, TX, Los Angeles, CA, Phoenix, AZ, San Mateo, CA and Chicago, IL offices. He enjoyed camping, hiking in MI State parks. He loved cross-country road trips in a VW bus or a station wagon and took his family to many national parks. He played the trumpet in bands and orchestras where-ever he lived. As he became less mobile his interest in auto racing grew to a deep interest in NASCAR. His organized mind took great pleasure in crossword puzzles and card games. Ray married Eunice Darlene Stockwell on Nov. 23, 1967, in Long Beach, CA and lost her to brain cancer on May 23, 1990, after 22 years. He continued to observe their anniversary until his death. Ray is survived by son Ray (Chip) (Linda) Franklin, III, San Diego, CA and Naples, Italy, daughter Karen (Ralph) Zeller,

Cottage Grove, OR, daughter Lorian (Darcie) Dunlop, Murrietta, CA, brother Gary Franklin, Kansas City, MO, and 6 grandchildren. A visitation will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018 at Smith Lund

Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, Or. Inurnment at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Cypress, CA. Arrangement by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.



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